

Democratic Power-
The Historic Position Favoring Factional
Democracy in the Left Opposition and Fourth
International

By Bertrand Poster (Randomposter33)

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Thank you to my wife, my step-son, and my entire family for their patience, understanding, and support. Thank you to Wordpress and Disqus for maintaining my writing and creating easy access as well as a forum in which to publish my work. Thank you to Ubuntu and LibreOffice Writer for creating the OS and word processing software. Thank you to WSWS and its staff of writers for pushing forward with the day to day work of the party, without which a theoretical overview would have no meaning.

A note to my readers: This volume should serve as a reference on a variety of topics. Simply enter the topic through the “search” function on any document viewer, which would work similar to an index section.

Introduction:

“...Under the guise of official unity, we actually have a one-sided selection of personnel, who can adapt to the views and sympathies of a narrow circle, and a one-sided direction of activity. As a result of the party leadership being distorted by such narrow considerations, the party has to a significant degree ceased to be that living, independent collective which is sensitive to the changes in living reality, precisely because it is connected with thousands of threads to this reality. Instead of this, we observe an ever progressing, barely disguised division of the party into a secretarial hierarchy and into “laymen”, into professional party functionaries, chosen from above, and the other party masses, who take no part in social life.”

-“Declaration of the 46”, Founding Document of the Left-Opportunity, 15th of October, 1923

From a recent comment of mine in response to “cfoxnosehuling” on Randomposter33.wordpress.com:

“Just to be clear, do you mean that many contacts wrote in or approached during leafleting and told you that no one from the party would maintain contact? Are you sure it wasn’t those newer people who broke off contact?”

“If that is true, then an investigation would be in order to find out how this decision was made, and what steps the party must take to overcome this political irresponsibility or professional negligence or potentially gross negligence and fraud. The party must act responsibly towards new members and potential new members or they risk committing fraud against the membership. The leaders of the party absolutely have that responsibility, and if they deny that responsibility, then they absolutely must admit to their guilt.”

The immense need to recognize and give active function to the Democratic Power faction has only grown further. The threat to the “party masses” reached intolerable levels and proceeded to worsen. As superconductors work best at near absolute zero temperatures and as a great rocket-powered escape from Earth’s gravity leads to zero gravity, the threat of zero participation and zero response from the “secretarial hierarchy” will only create unforeseen reactions that conserve and strengthen revolutionary progress. An explosion from the masses will force the government to surrender to investigation and prosecution, followed by incarceration and eventually execution. The snake must shed its skin. Within the revolutionary party, this must take a parallel form, as resistance to mass action from functionaries, in the name of imbuing mass action with theory, turns into resistance to revolutionary ideas themselves. In order to prevent the destruction of revolutionary leadership through its violent separation from the masses, as if by a beheading of the organization, its work will need redirection. A “narrow circle” clearly cannot provide various directions for consideration and only the opening of factional democracy as a clear and valued principle of responsible, enlightened leadership can rectify the party’s crisis in “social life”.

Clearly certain ground rules must remain in place in order to prevent a resurgence of opportunism. These ground rules can state simply the basic positions to which all factions must adhere. This would include a complete and unyielding opposition to Pabloism and Stalinism. These would also include a clear stance against parliamentarianism and reformism. Finally, it would include a clear opposition to economism, utopianism, populist terrorism, and anarchism. These tendencies within revolutionary history all threatened the revolutionary party and the revolutionary movement. Unity against such forces must not break, and in order to avoid breaking must not narrow either. It must expand through factional democracy into a wider unity against capitalist ideology and the capitalist class, as well as its agents within and around the party.

We should need no reminder that these tendencies do not manifest themselves as spirits or incorporeal beings. They arrive in the form of specific groups, individuals, and documents that make their way through the revolutionary party and advanced workers without any direct response or without any *correct* response from the doctrine-bearing leadership. The lack of any response or the lack of a correct response forces the party into a “narrow circle” with its main motivation the maintenance of the “secretarial hierarchy.” For this reason, this work must create the foundation for a new party structure prior to the historical moment of the revolution. It must not allow the same mistake that Lenin made in promoting Stalin to the top of the Bolsheviks, giving him the political position he needed to suppress proletarian democracy. It must not make the same mistake as Trotsky, waiting for the eve of World War II to finally break from Stalin organizationally. We must open up a factional democracy within a limited time frame. The factional democracy can serve both to suppress the counter-revolution, the new Joseph Stalin, within the party and to create the organizational flexibility, Trotsky’s approach to the party, that the party leadership needs to both break from weaker doctrines that would have us submit to capitalist rule while it also remains “sensitive” and reconnects “with thousands of threads” to the party masses and the reality that they live through.

Part I:

RandomPoster33@Disqus



Random Poster

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(Censored recently on wsws.org, check blog link below for info.) Email:
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The origins and evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus



[Random Poster](#) [6 hours ago](#)

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Erase please.



[Random Poster](#) [Matt C](#) [3 days ago](#)

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In reply to Matt C:

The work required by the reader depends on the clarity of the writing. This article leaves a lot unclear and unstated. The final statement sums up the false position that the article defends. Mainly, the article claims that in the 21st century, which is a place, scientific knowledge itself confronts threats. As if the knowledge produced by scientific workers belongs to them and not private or military concerns. As if knowledge itself were a force outside of its social context. This false view leaves the writer easily deceived by the discredited writers of the Nature article Andersen et. al. From the Yan Report:

"The origin of SARS-CoV-2 is still the subject of much debate. A widely cited Nature Medicine publication has claimed that SARS-CoV-2 most likely came from nature[4]. However, the article and its central conclusion are now being challenged by scientists from all over the world [5-15]. In addition, authors of this Nature Medicine article show signs of conflict of interests [16,17], raising further concerns on the credibility of this publication."

From an article cited by the Yan Report: "So why do some experts – and non-experts for that matter – seem so determined to put a stop to any speculation about whether SARS-CoV-2 could have been genetically engineered?

"One explanation might be fear of a backlash against such research from the victims of the pandemic. Virologists, for example, who may want as much freedom as possible to study and manipulate viruses in their labs, won't want their research restricted because of public concern. Others using genetic engineering in their work may also fear it will damage the general reputation of the technology and encourage tighter regulation.

"And if concerns that SARS-CoV-2 may have been developed in a lab were to gain traction, the consequences in such a heavily commercialised area as biotechnology might not just be reputational but also financial.

"In this context it is worth noting that one of the authors of the Nature Medicine piece is Robert F. Garry, who lists his "competing interest" as being "co-founder of Zalgen Labs, a biotechnology company that develops countermeasures to emerging viruses". Heavier restrictions on genetic engineering or laboratory virus research might be considered counter to the interests of Zalgen Labs."

<https://gmwatch.org/en/news...>

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Who are the New York Watchmen?



[Random Poster](#) [3 days ago](#)

The rising numbers of these groups tells us that the bourgeoisie will have a scorched earth policy rather than allow any peaceful transfer of power. They will not satisfy themselves with burning the cities, but will then rob babies from their mothers and throw them into the fire. The workers will see their anger and not back down but respond with the proper level of force and determination to rebuild society from the bottom up.

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COVID-19 infections soar in US



[Random Poster](#) [John T](#) [3 days ago](#)

"The ruling class are not concerned with the death of 1 or 2% of the working class."

To argue like this exposes the WSWS' own callousness. The ruling class certainly does concern itself with the deaths of the working class, not by accepting its inevitability but by consciously and actively bringing about that destruction with a keen sense of personal responsibility. If by means of a vaccine or by quarantines the working class manages to control the virus, the demand within the corporations, big banks, and the oligarchy will remain for their destruction on a large scale due to worker opposition to their continued rule.

Large scale destruction will remain necessary in order to overcome any threat from outside the capitalist state, for instance from other capitalist states like China. This can only be met by violence in return, which they plan together with the Chinese oligarchy in order to protect the oligarchs throughout the war. Only the international working class, clearly understanding the danger they face, can

respond by overthrowing capitalist rule and reorganizing the world economy in the interests of their own class.

The WWS, as the newspaper of the SEP and the ICFI, must abandon its protections for the capitalist ruling class. These deaths occur as part of a concrete plan to use mass violence to disperse the revolutionary movement. The key to victory remains to warn the workers that only with the SEP at the head of the revolutionary movement can they defeat the capitalist state as it makes its final desperate maneuvers for survival.

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Trump calls Whitmer “dictator” as evidence emerges of involvement of Wisconsin militia in Michigan coup plot



[Random Poster](#) [Leon](#) [5 days ago](#)

The removal of Trump will require the effort of the masses. This will awaken them, bring them into politics, and quickly form the base for a mass revolutionary movement that can take the power over the objections of the ruling class. The bourgeois idea of democratic elections works to stabilize the rule of the government and provide for the peaceful transfer of power from one bourgeois government to another. As soon as socialist ideas enter into the mass arena, the elections become a threat to bourgeois rule, must come openly under control of undemocratic forces, and then the idea of fair elections work to destabilize capitalist rule.

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[Random Poster](#) [Gracchus](#) [5 days ago](#)

We should beware all "liberal" arguments that tell us that we are crazy for believing that the government would plan violence against the very people that they have sworn to protect. The government would plan violence on a vast scale if that's what it needed to stay in power. The power of the revolution is in exposing

these plots, protecting whistle-blowers, and helping the general population draw revolutionary conclusions from the affair.

The liberals disarm the revolution and divide the opposition by silencing revolutionary exposures of bureaucratic state, military, and paramilitary attempts against democracy. The revolutionary conclusion inevitably becomes, how many fascist plots must we forgive, allowing the fascists to regroup, before allowing the people to build a party that would force out the old government in the interests of a secure, stable democracy? Let this be the last one, so the people may form a determined movement to take the power for themselves.

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New York University defies state COVID-19 guidelines and continues in-person classes



[Random Poster](#) [5 days ago](#)

"There can be no 'safe reopening' under conditions of a raging pandemic."

The obstacles to a safe reopening do not arise from the raging pandemic but from the political leadership of the university, city, state, and country. The lack of safety only partially comes from the drive for profit at that particular institution. Growing infection rates themselves threaten profits through sickness and death of the workers and customers.

The real threat to safe working conditions comes from counter-revolutionary violence to suppress any independent movement of the working class. Profits take second place to the drive of the ruling class to maintain its grip on power. Only a confrontation with the violent state of affairs coming from the moves to suppress dissent and the push towards world war will return the university to safe working conditions.

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San Diego educators launch rank-and-file safety committee to halt school reopenings and save lives



[Random Poster](#) [5 days ago](#)

The final demand incorporates one of two Democratic Power demands into the full list of demands, allowing the SEP and the workers' committees to lead the revolutionary movement through the entire course of the pandemic. Leaving out certain revolutionary demands, such as "that famous paragraph 9" for nationalist movements and the prosecution by elected People's Tribunals of organized political rape; organized political-sexual harassment and political-sexual assault; and political human trafficking; the exclusion of such demands, gives rise to movements such as BLM and #MeToo, allowing reformists and the capitalist class to dominate the revolutionary movement. We might call them the revolutionary movement outside the revolutionary party. For this reason, we are thankful for this change.

The committee has left out, however, any mention of an investigation into the possible origins of the virus, remaining silent on the PREDICT program and Yan Report, the possibility that a military lab engineered the virus, and that such a military lab might hold a prototype for a vaccine. This prevents the committee from accusing the government of developing and using counter-revolutionary violence and secret weapons. Withholding such an exposure will compound the difficulty of the defense of the committees when they gain popularity.

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Factional warfare erupts in New York Times over the 1619 Project



[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [6 days ago](#)

The decision by conservatives to include the WSWS in the discussion does not stem from respect for the professionalism of the WSWS. They see major confrontation with workers on the way as well. Their motives stem from belief that the state can quell the coming rebellion using black conservative leadership in the service of capitalism. This differs from the 1619 Project, which seems to support racist violence to attack Revolutionary leadership. Neither side has the interests of the working class at heart.

The new attention given to the WSWS has resulted from its professionalism and dedication towards its journalistic tasks. Yet we can not rule out efforts to shift the focus of the WSWS. In order to remain a strong force for the movement, the professionalism must extend to the theoretical work of applying Marxist theory consistently and with sufficient attention to evidence, especially when in contradiction to Lenin, Trotsky, and the Bolshevik Program.

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Live music industry in the US faces “massive collapse” due to pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [7 days ago](#)

Music has sustained many assaults and has continued on its way. The destruction of the music industry will hurt many who depended on it. Yet, as Marx said, one should live to write, not write to live. The ignorance with regard to socialist ideas sustained by the culture produced by the music industry has hurt these workers far worse. Musicians must rebuild the culture on socialist foundations or continue to survive only on the misery of the poor and the exclusion of creative talent for political conformity.

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The Chinese Communist Party is “an organisation with a deep, deep level of bureaucratisation”



[Random Poster](#) 8 days ago

"Of course, if history develops in a somewhat favourable direction, for example, socialist revolution broke out and succeeded in the developed western countries, I believe that the success of a socialist revolution in China would be more promising."

I am glad to see this Chinese CCP member managed to connect to the WSWS through the censorship wall. This shows that inter-imperialist conflict has broken down the old order of division in the world between the Stalinist bloc and liberal capitalism. Capitalism must create an international working class, which becomes the cause of its own destruction.

The quote above, however, points to a mistake which may be lying below the surface. A Chinese revolutionary must seek the defeat of his own government, as revolutionaries in western countries must seek the defeat of their own governments.

As Lenin wrote in "The Defeat of One's Own Government in the Imperialist War", disagreeing with Trotsky:

"The only policy of actual, not verbal disruption of the “class truce”, of acceptance of the class struggle, is for the proletariat to take advantage of the difficulties experienced by its government and its bourgeoisie in order to overthrow them. This, however, cannot be achieved or striven for, without desiring the defeat of one’s own government and without contributing to that defeat."

He also writes in the same article:

"Hatred of one’s own government and one’s own bourgeoisie—the sentiment of all class-conscious workers who understand, on the one hand, that war is a “continuation of the politics” of imperialism, which they counter by a “continuation” of their hatred of their class enemy, and, on the other hand, that “a war against war” is a banal phrase unless it means a revolution against their own government. Hatred of one’s own government and one’s own bourgeoisie cannot be aroused unless their defeat is desired; one cannot be a sincere opponent of a

civil (i.e., class) truce without arousing hatred of one's own government and bourgeoisie!"

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>)

Lenin would argue that this waiting for Western revolutions could contribute or lead directly to the defeat of the Chinese revolution. He wrote to condemn the chauvinists for agreeing with the imperialist in that they do not "support war but oppose defeat." Trotsky eventually conceded the point and began supporting the slogan of revolutionary defeatism. The greatest threat to the construction of the Fourth International could come from this chauvinist argument that first "they" (the other belligerents) must make the revolution. If all revolutionaries argued like this, or all but the revolutionaries in one country, then chauvinism would conquer the revolution and the imperialists could kill millions in order to stay in power. The task of building the revolutionary party and getting it into power would require postponement until after the war, after reconstruction, after preparation for the next war, and so on.

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Anger as UAW rams through 12-hour, 7-day schedule for FCA Sterling Heights Assembly skilled trades workers



[Random Poster](#) [Greg Lenz](#) [10 days ago](#)

My reply could not get through spam filter: <https://wp.me/p92kmo-ka>

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[Random Poster](#) [Shannon Jones](#) [11 days ago](#)

In order to "establish lines of communication", the WSWWS should consider replacing Disqus with another service. The bugs pick up many messages as spam and hide others from view. Also Disqus has no messages between commenters.

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[Random Poster](#) [Greg Lenz](#) [11 days ago](#)

The committee cannot force anything on the employer through the courts. In the short term, the committee would make pronouncements, followed by organization of demonstrations or work stoppages. Finally, the committee would serve as the basis for a new state, since any action organized by the committee would bring a reaction from the state. The first part, however, is most important. The pronouncements will reach the workers, and when a confrontation comes between workers and employers, everyone will know to turn to the committee for leadership and its program for their demands. One of these demands that will not come from the union could be: a return to the 8-hour day!

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[Random Poster](#) [Greg Lenz](#) [11 days ago](#)

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[Random Poster](#) [Greg Lenz](#) [12 days ago](#)

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US imposes draconian new sanctions against Iran amid spiraling COVID-19 pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [12 days ago](#)

The sanctions set up an international system to block trade according to political demands and to control capital transfers through the top banks. As Lenin said, turn the imperialist war into a revolutionary war. Turn the sanctions regime into a trap for the entire bourgeoisie. Make a list of the top 100,000 oligarchs in the world, and do not allow them to transfer any assets. Sanctions can be open or hidden, the punishment announced in court or in secret meetings. This would break the criminal control of the oligarchy over U.S. military and foreign policy, allowing workers to restore their democratic rights.

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The Michigan conspiracy, Trump, and the 2020 election



[Random Poster](#) [13 days ago](#)

We cannot call this "the plot against America." More Patriotism will not solve this problem. The SEP should demand immediate forced entry into the offices of all the militias involved and an investigation of their email and phone records to uncover all their plots. Anything less should go down in history as the government leaving its guard down. That sends a clear signal that they cannot hold on to the power, perhaps because of their divisions, but moreso because of the limitations imposed on the government by the capitalist class itself.

During the American Revolution, the "Patriots" attacked British ships disguised as Native Americans. A new Revolution could produce socialists disguised as Patriots. The government, under orders to permit these attacks, will not respond. Yet they permit this loop-hole for lack of a legitimate strategy to win the election.

In any case, the debates excluded Joe Kishore and the Election Agency excluded him from the ballot. The election did not have democracy at its foundation but class dictatorship through the political conspiracy of the two corporate-controlled parties of the oligarchy. They never planned to allow the people to express their own arguments or exercise political control over the government. Joe Biden made this clear when he declared his campaign's victory over socialism. This, more than Trump's tweets, gave the signal to the far right that no one would stand in their way.

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Brendan McGeever's Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution: Distorting history in the service of identity p...



[Random Poster](#) [14 days ago](#)

The divide between Identity Politics and Class Reductionist Politics appears entirely academic. Do we want to sacrifice the revolutionary party to take sides in a completely academic debate? The truth does not lie in the middle nor on either side but somewhere beyond this struggle, which appears to be a battle for chairs and tenure in bourgeois institutions. The economic material base determines certain aspects of society, while the political superstructure, following its own laws, affects the public consciousness to which it connects. Neither of these lies outside the analysis of Marxism, nor do they contradict each other in a manner which Marxism cannot resolve.

Class Reductionist Politics, for instance, can stray from Marxism if the politics assume that class structure remains constant. Marxism assumes that capitalism produces the proletariat as a revolutionary class and forces it into struggle against class division in general. Class Reductionist Politics often argue that Capitalism subdues the proletariat, making revolution impossible. What they lack, then, is the subjective identity, which Lenin sought to build, of an intellectual that devotes himself to the proletarian revolution or a proletarian that discovers, accepts, and promotes the ideas of the revolutionary paper, party, and political movement. We should not promote academic careerism in either school, since both serve in their own way to dampen revolutionary consciousness.

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[Random Poster](#) [gooddoctor](#) [14 days ago](#)

Believe it or not, some Jews have Jewish blood but hate a Jew as much as any anti-Semite simply because of their political stance. The path from primitiveness and slavery towards civilization depends first on raising the lowest among us to a status above that of an animal, to the point where reasoned arguments and not brute force or walls of silence reign over the people. The anti-Semites have no shortage of Jewish agents to hide their trails.

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Brendan McGeever's Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution: Distorting history in the service of identity p...



[Random Poster](#) [14 days ago](#)

1. Punishment of Jews in general helps Jewish revolutionaries by punishing religious ceremonies and customs. Any Jewish family or community will include revolutionary and conservative elements. Yet Jewish revolutionaries must not condone these attacks on Jewish culture and religion.

The defense of the right to assembly, the right to language, and the right to study national history formed important part of the Bolshevik program. These also form important pillars of Jewish religion. They should also open the path to the defense of traditional people and working class organization everywhere.

Traditions stand the test of time because they provide important reminders of valuable lessons learned through the experience of past generations. The attacks by reactionaries, even if aimed at these elements, should inspire revolutionaries to defend these people. They may form parts of the families and communities of revolutionaries, and this should mean that revolutionaries want them to benefit from the presence and defense provided by a revolutionary movement.

2. Pogroms brutalized Jewish leaders and forced them to fight the revolution even when cornered by a revolutionary Jewish majority. It strengthened the reaction, allowing them to plan mass relocations and mass murders of their own people. You refer to this in part 2 of the article. They justified this by acting as if their power to allow in mass murderers represented a punishment from God that they welcomed to control rising revolutionary sentiment.

3. The Jewish State or the Zionist State has institutionalized the reactionary violence of capitalism within an element of the Jewish nation. The recent use of the military by Prime Minister Netanyahu against protestors, Holocaust survivors among them, shows that state violence against the revolution and Jewish people has not ended even within the borders of a Jewish state. Judaism is not inherently revolutionary or counterrevolutionary, but in fact represents only a specific nation whose experience can be generalized among all oppressed nations. Capitalism uses the capitalist state in Israel to torture and kill Jews, and if Netanyahu and Gantz have their way, many Jews will die, perhaps over a million, in a war against Iran, Russia, and various Arab states and nationalist movements. Only a socialist movement modeled on the Bolshevik revolution can unite the various Middle Eastern nations to cooperate for and secure the interests of the international working class.

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The return of the Hohenzollern imperial dynasty to Germany



[Random Poster](#) [15 days ago](#)

"Apart from the barrenness of such edifying reflections, [Sismondi against Ricardo, that production does not constitute a moral objective] they reveal a failure to understand the fact that, although at first the development of the capacities of the human species takes place at the cost of the majority of human individuals and even classes, in the end it breaks through this contradiction and coincides with the development of the individual; the higher development of individuality is thus only achieved by a historical process during which individuals are sacrificed for the interests of the species in the human kingdom, as in the animal and plant kingdoms, always assert themselves at the cost of the interests of individuals, because these interests of the species coincide only with the interests of certain

individuals, and it is this coincidence which constitutes the strength of these privileged individuals."

-Karl Marx

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>)

In avoiding the real issue, described by Marx above, the writer falls into a trap where the Revolutionary must strive to kill the deposed monarch instead of salvage whatever remains of the old society. We do not need to follow into this trap. The return of the monarchy must stem from the economic system that sacrifices the many for a few privileged individuals. As Marx argues, defending Ricardo from Sismondi, "He [Ricardo] wants production for the sake of production and this with good reason."

We should see the return of property from the state to individual families, even criminals, as a part of the natural order under capitalism. If no one had any fortunes valued over \$20,000,000, as Democratic Power proposes, then there would not exist any foundation for the Hohenzollern argument or legal claim. A new socialist order should not try to kill the remaining Hohenzollerns or even humiliate them unnecessarily. Their humane treatment would bring around many of the privileged of the old society who, having eyes to see, cannot help but observe the collapse, the insolvency of the old society. Marx's wife, for instance, was the daughter of an aristocratic family. Her brother became the Interior Minister of Prussia. Yet she went on to marry the best revolutionary in history. (As a side note, perhaps this marriage was meant to guarantee his material necessities, but this back-fired, as rich people notoriously cut off their own families from resources for any political reason.)

The break up of the old state will break up these aristocratic families to the extent that they must serve the capitalist principle of private accumulation of wealth. To the extent that they serve revolutionary principles, such as the cultural elevation and improvement in the living conditions of the masses, they may contribute in important ways to the creation of a new social order. The extent to which the privilege of the few has become the over-riding principle of conservatives proves that few great principles really inspire the old order.

Naturally, the defense of the descendants of monarchs has fallen to the far right. Yet the preservation of culture and its dissemination to the masses for their benefit remains a socialist task for the socialist economy. Far right populism seeks to take from the socialist program and claim certain points as their own. Socialists must not give up on a revolutionary strategy, which includes creating a strong foundation for a new society based on an assessment of the needs of the masses.

The military tactics used by conservatives to force the execution of monarchs by Revolutionary movements require exposure. A political-military response to prevent such traps requires elaboration so that the killing of heads of state will not

return as an inevitable outcome of revolutionary government. This type of preparation would also undermine the counter-revolution, allowing the people to remove any Bonapartist without resort to endless bloodshed, averting a major deterrent to Revolutionary action by the masses. This does not mean the abolition of force or even necessary executions, only a clear position that social movement by classes, not individual acts of violence, determine the outcome in important political conflicts.

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Partial closures in New York City as infections spread throughout US schools



[Random Poster](#) [17 days ago](#)

I agree that movement over this issue will prove necessary in the fight for a revolutionary perspective in the working class. To call the policy "homicidal" misses the point unfortunately. It gives the false impression that the authorities can be argued with and convinced not to act. Imperialism and counter-revolutionary violence do not arise from choice or policy but represent the process of the economy developing while the government must suppress any force that threatens its rule without negotiation. Only imperialism and counter-revolutionary violence (or reactionary violence) properly describe the decisions of the government with regard to the virus.

They may have the false perception that assembly equates to revolution. In fact, the revolution cannot assemble under any other name, or else it will come under the control of forces opposed to the revolution. Other groups have thrived while the revolution dealt with repression. When repression in general reaches a certain point, as with the death and terror brought by the virus, the revolutionary party will emerge as the foundation for the unification of the various struggles of the people. The perspective of the party will prove necessary to gather up the broken forces and return to the capital, the seats of state power, with the clear aim of transferring the power to the workers' state.

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Israel: 130,000 protesters demand resignation of Netanyahu government



[Random Poster](#) [17 days ago](#)

Israel's oppression of the Palestinians will now hurt the Israeli people as they strive to remove the indicted criminal from power. The same methods used against the Palestinians, that the Israeli government has practiced for decades, will now guide the military response to the growing protest movement. The decision by Gantz to turn on his promise to his voters and enter into a government with Netanyahu, anything but a coalition with the Arab Joint List, proved that capitalist politics cannot offer up any alternative to racism, expansionism, and oligarchy. A determination to remove the government must lead to serious reflection upon the failure of reformist politics and the parties of the capitalist class. A new party organized regionally and internationally, based on the political program of the working class, can break the hold over politics by the old parties of oppression. Israelis should join the ICFI and begin the construction of a new Middle Eastern Federal State.

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200 WSWS relaunch statement



[Random Poster](#) [andrew](#) [20 days ago](#)

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Armenian-Azeri war threatens to trigger Russia-Turkey clash



[Random Poster](#) [21 days ago](#)

This conflict should remind us that leaders of small countries will gladly lend their services to the large imperialist powers. They will not force the US to attack Russia openly, instead creating a pretext and backing imperialism through legal arguments and treaties. For this reason, the ICFI requires parties in every small country to take power from the national bourgeoisie and put their country on the path to regional unity and security, and socialist economic development. The US has no reason to honor its treaties, even with regard to WHO, the UN or even NATO, and will destroy everything, all competition, in its path to restore profitability to their banks and corporations. This will lead to war against nuclear powers like Russia, China, and parts of Europe as well.

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Judge orders release of recordings in Breonna Taylor grand jury proceedings



[Random Poster](#) [22 days ago](#)

The media has also demonstrated very low journalistic standards with regard to this case. They have lent their services to suppression of protests through misinformation. They can sense they have much to lose. Through this investigation, the state stands to lose a powerful weapon of the counter-revolution: police shootings. If they fear prosecution, they will not fire on crowds

with revolutionary demands. The crowds can then grow and deepen their connections to the party of the revolution, making the revolution politically, not simply economically, inevitable.

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The world has reached the grim milestone of one million COVID-19 deaths



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"The death of these million-plus people is a clear indication that the financial oligarchs and the capitalist mode of production have abdicated any responsibility for their criminal response to the pandemic. By any measure, the pandemic still has much fuel to burn through, and only the working class has a vital interest in putting this fire out immediately. Only they have the capacity to prevent this further loss of life."

Absent from this argument is any mention of counter-revolutionary violence and the spread of the virus. The socialist movement must demand an investigation, beginning with the acknowledgement of [scientific reports](#), into biological weapons programs as a source of the virus. This could also simplify the search for a vaccination. The public knowledge that exists about illegal spying programs combined with the information in the above link about the virus's origins lends credibly to the argument that the government has not only stood by during the spread of the virus.

The government actively encouraged the spread of the virus and placed obstacles in the way of a medical response. The hundreds of thousands of deaths would not seem out of line with arguments about the governments' ethics if one considers that over 500,000 soldiers died before slavery ended and tens of millions of soldiers died before the Nazi government, responsible for the massacre of 12 million civilians using poison gas, lost its grip on power. That level of intentional death, while deeply tragic, must not come as a surprise. We must open our eyes to the real threats arising from the economic and political crisis of global capitalism.

From a 2018 New York Times article: "Thirty-one percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the

Holocaust; the actual number is around six million. Forty-one percent of Americans, and 66 percent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was. And 52 percent of Americans wrongly think Hitler came to power through force."

(<https://www.nytimes.com/201...>

This level of ignorance, like Hitler's rise to power, depends on the acquiescence of the socialist movement. A direct confrontation with the forces responsible cannot occur as long as denial is the order of the day. The WSWS, if it does not have time for all the publicly available scientific research, should at least pose these questions. Does the virus have laboratory origins? What scientific reports argue that they do? What evidence do you have to contradict these reports? The decision to stay quiet on such issues can only occur from bureaucratic degeneration of the party, of the type which allowed Hitler to take the power without a battle with the working class. (German Stalinism conquered the workers' resistance by arguing that the revolution must wait until after the fascists broke up the republic and then the fascist government fell. Then and only then could the workers offer up a resistance to the capitalist class. In fact, the Stalinists received East Germany after WWII as a reward for their efforts.) With so many journalists at their disposal, one editor could assign one journalist to cover this central topic. Please view my attempt to cover this [here](#).

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [29 comments](#)

US political warfare escalates with New York Times release of Trump tax returns



[Random Poster](#) [24 days ago](#)

This proves once again that the theory that capitalists will do anything to increase profits does not adequately explain the situation. The refusal to pay taxes exposes Trump to great and expensive risk, and taken as a phenomenon that affects the rich as a whole, bankrupts the capitalist state, forcing it to cut funding for programs that increase profits as a whole. So what motivates such behavior? It is not personal greed but a conscious determination by the oligarchy to give nothing at all in terms of political power to the workers.

The payments of taxes to the government equal payments to the workers gained through political struggle rather than appeals for subsistence. Payments of taxes by the oligarchy cannot exist anymore than orders given by slaves to their masters. Such orders would threaten the entire establishment. Where such taxes

do get paid, subsidies and contracts from the government will far outweigh any cash outflows. This explains Trump's actions.

This clearly demonstrates that capitalists do not play some profit-maximization game but instead think as a ruling class, like all previous ruling classes. They hold on to their power habitually, instinctively, and with vehemence and ardor. They cannot relinquish even an ounce of their political power to the workers for fear of a political movement of the workers to take state power into their own hands. To do otherwise would equate to sharing political power with the very class, the revolutionary proletariat, that would end the capitalists' class dictatorship in favor of their own.

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Killing by Colombian military escalates protests against state violence



[Random Poster](#) [25 days ago](#)

1. The "opposition" led by Petro will follow the same road as that of the Workers' Party of Brazil, which opened the way for fascist President Bolsonaro.
2. The killing of civilians by soldiers represents the functioning of the state in defense of oligarchy. Every citizen that gets killed by bullets hides thousands and millions more forced into the drug trade by lack of opportunities or into hunger, homelessness, or "internal displacement." This hidden violence will eventually lead to violence against the upper class. These incidents will occur in a hidden and open way to topple the oligarchy as well. Only the establishment of a workers' government and a socialist economy will eliminate the class and economic basis for the destruction of humanity.

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This week in history: September 21-27



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Ho Chi Minh betrayed Ta Thu Thau as part of his cooperation with the imperialist powers. This explains why millions needed to die in the Vietnamese War. A party led by Ta Thu Thau would have come to power without any allegiance to the Stalinists and without any adaptation to their view of the world revolution as a threat to their personal power within the various parties and states.

The Stalinists wanted to maximize casualties for the people once they saw that they could no longer hold back the struggle for national liberation against colonialism. In this way, they drowned the South East Asian revolution in blood even as it came to power by forcing out the imperialist armies.

The millions that died during that war have Stalinism to blame as the agent of imperialism within the revolutionary movement. Only the Fourth International can lead the revolution in a sufficiently international way, against the attempts by the Stalinists to betray the revolution with false leadership bribed, trained, and protected by imperialism. Such a direct path to power will spare the masses millions of needless deaths.

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King's Disease: Beware the nostrums of Nas



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

<https://www.nature.com/arti...>

The above article contains proof that "opulence as an end in itself" actually means symbols that, when exposed to the masses, increases their support for the redistribution of wealth.

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The negative response to this review should come as no surprise. It relates directly to [WSWS.org](#)'s unexplained break from Marxism over the issue of national independence and the rights of nations to self determination. The Bolsheviks, Lenin and Trotsky included, defended the rights of nations to separate governments. This included the right of black Americans. Trotsky referred to it, in Ch. 39 of Volume 3, of his history of the Russian Revolution, "that famous paragraph 9 of the old party programme which formulated the right of nations to self-determination." The paragraph which contains that quote and the following one bear rereading.

The WSWS takes a different approach, which might stem from confusion about the topic. The opposition to separation did exist in their time, and they did support it. However, and this point is important, this was only for the revolutionary party and the Communist International. They supported referendums for the people to decide their own fate. If a majority of black people, whose average net worth is only 10% of white people in the United States, voted in a referendum for separate governments, a revolutionary party would support this process of separation. As of now, only the [Democratic Power](#) faction of the ICFI supports this position within the ICFI.

What does this have to do with Nas's new album? His approach may not resemble the anti-racist approach of an international revolutionary party of the working class, but it does represent the real grievances of the African diaspora, the group of people forced from their homes as slaves, killed by the millions, and often erased from history when they put forward great individuals. While these issues may seem divisive for the revolutionary movement, the revolutionary party can overcome these differences not by ignoring them but by generalizing them.

The story of African Americans resembles the stories of various peoples forced from their homes and treated like slaves. These examples exist in the modern day, if you look at underpaid Mexican and other South American immigrant workers in various industries, such as agriculture, restaurants, and cleaning services, as well as domestic workers, and others. Also, we had the situation of Japanese Americans in internment camps. In Europe, various Eastern European and Southern European workers earn a tenth of what Western European workers do. The revolutionary party may overcome these differences only through consciousness of the importance of their unified higher tasks, mainly to end the rule of the bourgeoisie in their own countries while building an international organization to unite the efforts of the working class internationally. Overcoming these differences may be difficult, but the payoff can be exponential.

This leads to the last point: the socialist movement need not accept the positions of asceticism and opposition to opulence. These represent only one side of the synthesis that forms dialectical materialism. Encased within a seemingly useless but very valuable object, we have an abstract but real substance. That real substance comes from the work carried out with the intent of raising its value in mind. To bring the ownership of such items into the movement does not diminish but raise the capacity of the movement to achieve its aims.

The pursuit of such ownership, obviously, based on exploitation or family feuds for inheritances, produce the opposite effect. Exploitation of the acquirer occurs at the moment of exchange, and therefore exchange, not ownership itself, must raise suspicions. If you are imagining a famous rapper within the revolutionary movement, you should not judge them for their wealth but for the way they use it to shift opinions (or prevent any shifts) in exchange for money.

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Police repression continues during national strike in Colombia



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

The September 9th massacre should serve, like the Boston Massacre that influenced the revolution by American colonies against British rule, as a reminder that all attempts at reformism and the reshuffling of positions at the top will only serve to prolong the persecution, violence, and poverty of the current Colombian state. The national strike, in order to succeed, must advocate direct control of the

state by representatives of the working class. This cannot happen without a revolution and the foundation of a new state. Celebrated Chilean Poet and Stalinist Senator Pablo Neruda's theory that the army was "the people in uniform" proved disastrous and suicidal. The National Strike Committee follows precisely this theory, and counts only on the support of the trade unions of the 4.6%.

A revolutionary movement of the workers takes first precedence, while a revolutionary movement in the army, on the model of the October Revolution of 1917, must emphasize the foundation of Soldiers' Committees to ban the use of military equipment by the higher command without the prior approval of the elected soldiers' committees. This should also prevent any aggression against neighboring Venezuela. Also, all commanders must accept elections by the soldiers to appoint new commanders that must follow a strategy put forward by the striking workers. In this way, the leadership of the workers of a new state can regroup the legitimate forces of the old army into a new revolutionary army. This new army must unite the continent under a federal congress to defend against US and European economic and military aggression as well as any counter-revolutionary civil war.

The awakening and movement of the Colombian working class should not end in defeat but in a great victory for the world revolution. Trotsky's theory of Permanent Revolution argued that the revolution could occur in Russia before England or France despite the under-development of the economy as a whole. This could happen all the more so because of the large rural population and crisis of inequality in the distribution of land. The peasantry could lend great force to back a workers' revolution.

The same could be said of Colombia's peasantry as well as the large informal sector, based on patronage as a stabilizing force against the world economy. The patronage system itself depends on patriarchal and criminal relations which force the poor to act violent or corrupt in exchange for a role in the economy. This inequality itself must surrender to an organized system of micro-credit, subsidies, and minimum wage guarantees, which only a socialist state can provide. The revolution will not end the small vendors but fund them at a higher level so that they can function in the interests of social need rather than class rule.

This great victory can only occur with the construction of the section of the ICFI referred to in the article. As a resident of the country, I would happily meet with this section once it forms. The influence of the Morenoites will not hold back the determination of real revolutionaries. Appeals should go out in Spanish to encourage readers to write in and participate.

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The global campaign to reopen schools drives COVID-19 deaths past one million



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

The rising teachers strike movement last year followed this year with massive school closings and now unsafe conditions on a return to school. Maximum students per class should be 8, with 2 meters of separation as well as very good ventilation, frequent random tests for the virus, adequate PPE guaranteed and enforced, etc.

The unsafe return of students and teachers does not represent a mistake or poorly argued science, it represents counter-revolutionary violence against the teachers for their wave of strikes last year. All large corporations and the fortunes of oligarchs who sell materials to schools need immediate seizure by the state and their placement under the management of teachers' committees.

Only a struggle led by the revolutionary party and its supporters in the working class will end the biological violence of the virus and the campaign to disarm any resistance to its spread, the police violence against protest and for terror in general, and the financial violence of underfunded schools and mass unemployment. The revolutionary party cannot take the power from the government without the majority support of the workers, but the workers cannot take the power either with false leaders taking them down the paths of anarchism, reformism, and Stalinism.

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Once more: what has happened to the #MeToo witch-hunt?



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

<https://news.yahoo.com/more...>

This position of the WSWs has proven itself a fraud, not the #metoo movement. When the government removes immigrant women's uterus without consent, who will believe these women? Why does the WSWs so consistently leave out of the story the NXIVM cult's activities or that of Bill Cosby, who could not have acted alone? Apparently, the government has a free hand to drug and rape women, scar them, and give them unwanted surgeries, because the WSWs has decided that the bourgeoisie and its state must be defended rather than their victims. The victims must not be believed.

When will this position change? Or will the WSWs attempt to make itself a permanent part of a new fascist establishment? Such a position will not protect the nano-bureaucracy but instead, given their limitless faith in capitalist courts, allow the fascists to turn on the WSWs with all the more force. If this does not concern everyone, it should concern at least some readers of the WSWs who can then convince them to also represent the revolutionary argument. This would end the free reign of perverted terror that emerged into view through the very real mass movement that went by the name of #metoo.

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Trump repeats threats of post-election military repression as Barr calls for charging protesters with “sedition”



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

Biden's right-wing campaign only helps Trump. Obama's vice-president calls Trump "soft" while Trump threatens to put the protests on trial as sedition. Trump does not represent the fascist movement, but he does allow it to grow and encourage it as Victor Emmanuel III did for Italy's Benito Mussolini. The fascist movement cannot win because the US does not represent a rising power fighting against the top imperialists, as Germany and Italy did. The US is by far the largest military and economic power, and it holds the greatest sway within the international trade institutions.

Italy and Germany especially faced more difficult circumstances, including the losses from WWI reparations, the punishing Versailles treaty, and hyperinflation. They also did not have a long history with parliamentary national governments independent of or above royal authority. This meant that workers' organizations

and parties had their leadership vetted by the ruling class. The US does have a long history of Congress as the law-making body independent of the executive. This makes a fascist coup far less likely in the U.S. The discussion of such plans invariably leads to an international response that forces the government to retreat. The fascists may foresee financial and military destruction for the U.S. and want to prevent it, but they will not find the mass following that European fascists did until after a major loss, combined with an immediate threat of socialist revolution, such as a workers' state already erected somewhere in the world.

This is not to say that they will not attempt to take the power. It also does not mean that fascists do not need to be fought. Vigilance maintains democracy at this point, but the economic pressure of maintaining an oligarchy amidst extreme inequality will force the US into war and into suppression of "sedition". Such moves are premature and may spark a revolution by crossing various red lines in the minds of liberal workers.

In order to end this tendency towards imperialist war, financial destruction, and descent into fascism and civil war, a world revolution must replace the most powerful governments and the world capitalist system. A rational political system must base itself on the requirements of production and distribution. The political forms must arise rationally from the methods of production in order to represent the working class while reducing the risk of populism and failed states.

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The precedents for disease eradication through international cooperation



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

From the time of the discovery of the vaccine to the elimination of the virus, 150 years had passed. This disease had thousands of years of history, so this certainly represents a revolution in medicine. The thing to remember, however, is that the ruling class uses these diseases to break up revolutionary movements and make the people dependent on the government for their health. A revolutionary army must turn the disease against the ruling class before finding a cure becomes a priority. This ultimately proved effective in the Haitian-African slave revolution, around the same time as the discovery of the vaccine by Dr. Jenner.

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New cases of COVID-19 reach a one-day high of nearly 308,000 worldwide



[Random Poster](#) [Carolyn Zaremba](#) [a month ago](#)

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) [Matt](#) [a month ago](#)

The divide between revolutionary and Stalinist strategy enters into this question. The Stalinists planned to divide the world with the imperialists. They sought to defend the Soviet state bureaucracy, its military hierarchy, and the entire oppressive system set up by the counter-revolution. A revolutionary strategy would not tie the war to these forces, but would they not find themselves without supplies? In fact, capitalism furnishes the supplies the workers need to destroy the capitalist state. A revolutionary government could not form to fight both the Republic and the fascists because the revolutionaries had adapted to the Stalinist geo-political strategy rather than the original revolutionary perspective.

The workers had begun to form committees and a new state. They began to take the means of production and the heavy machinery (including military machinery) of the Spanish Republic. Had this process continued, this would involve not large massacres of the Stalinist and fascist type, but mass appeals to the workers to rise together against both their enemies and to the soldiers to take the control of heavy machinery from higher command until they had elected a new military leadership that supported and swore to fight for the new workers' state.

This struggle could not evolve on its own, but only with the perspective of the Fourth International to warn of the betrayals of the Stalinists and the absolute necessity of independent organization. Trotsky's Fourth International had not yet

been founded. The Stalinists took advantage of this to suppress the leaderless revolution, preventing revolutionaries from making use of the arms of the Republic, tying them in a chain of dependence on arms from the Soviet Union bureaucracy and its murderous agents.

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[Random Poster](#) [Sylvia Vasquez](#) [a month ago](#)

Why was Gould's insistence that Callen was YCL direct confirmation that she was an agent? You have not explained this clearly.

The exposing of agents seems far more difficult under conditions where Trotsky lived among celebrities in opulent conditions. The Fourth International formed late due to the breakdown of the Left Opposition in the 1920s, as a result of a split between the Fourth Internationalists and the group of Left Oppositionists follow Trotsky that favored work within the Communist Parties and the Comintern. This late formation forced these revolutionaries, organized under Stalinist leadership, to begin a new organization under conditions of rising fascism, the Moscow Trials, and the outbreak of WWII.

These conditions could only develop because of the failure of the Fourth International to form in the 1920s, when called for by Sylvia Pankhurst, leader of the British Left Opposition and editor of the Workers' Dreadnaught. If one is truly to follow Trotsky's arguments above, the truth about divisions within the Left Opposition do not deserve to be buried but rise in importance within our consciousness. After all, Trotsky would much rather have blamed himself rather than the working class or WWII and Nazism for the failure of the revolution. Should we not follow the same argument?

"This impotent philosophy, which seeks to reconcile defeats as a necessary link in the chain of cosmic developments, is completely incapable of posing and refuses to pose the question of such concrete factors as programs, parties, and personalities that were the organizers of defeat. This philosophy of fatalism and prostration is diametrically opposed to Marxism as the theory of revolutionary action."

In hindsight, Trotsky himself would agree with these arguments. This does not mean "universal criticism" but specific concrete criticism that deserves attention and discussion. Only out of undeterred discussion about every new and important issue or concern can the old opportunism towards "celebrity" (Breton, Rivera, and Kahlo, as well as some well-known novelists) inherited from Cannon and the

unchecked tendency towards nano-bureaucracy finally set in the West. Only this illusive "sunset" of shameless autocracy will end the incessant grunting of the pigs. The suppression of discussion as part of the detection of agents will only encourage them. Just as the Bolsheviks supported the right to recall any elected official, the same standard of democratic rights must apply to the party of world revolution and revolutionary democracy. Only this freedom can break the state-agent police dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

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Eyewitness testimony: Death of Portland protester Michael Reinoehl was police execution



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

Reinoehl was not a revolutionary leader but a shooter who went to the front line for an armed confrontation with the far right. Regardless, what appears in the media seems carefully orchestrated to attack the protests in general to thin out the left and encourage the right. That should remind everyone of the importance of a consistently revolutionary media that presents these stories, not according to an official government script, but according to revolutionary theory. The government will continue to intimidate the crowds with shootings, but the revolution cannot back down, as it is compelled forward by historical forces.

The deadly shooting of unarmed or even lightly armed but isolated individuals will only end when we have two factors present. The workers and demonstrators must defend themselves as Reinoehl did, and the soldiers must turn against the orders to massacre civilians while placing their general or chief in prison for illegal orders to fire live ammunition at crowds. The resignation of over a dozen police chiefs, many from major cities, in the short time since George Floyd's death, provides encouragement in this direction.

If Trump in fact ordered the execution of this man, then the police-soldiers should have refused to carry it out. They may still attempt to present evidence showing where the illegal order had come from, but unless a real armed rebellion exists, this evidence will likely remain hidden. Why should they demand the orders in writing or through recorded messages if they believe that the orders come from a killer who can kill them for refusing orders while the crowds depend only on

defenseless pleas for mercy? A refusal to carry out these off-the-record orders may explain the resignations of various big-city police chiefs.

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[Random Poster](#) [disqus_YUMZjueL0F](#) [a month ago](#)

<https://www.independent.co...>

"At almost the same time as The New York Times reported Reinoehl's death, Donald Trump used Twitter to call for his arrest."

""Why aren't the Portland Police ARRESTING the cold blooded killer of Aaron 'Jay' Danielson," the US president wrote.

""Do your job, and do it fast. Everybody knows who this thug is. No wonder Portland is going to hell!""

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The coronavirus conspiracy: What did they know, and when did they know it?



[Random Poster](#) [teri](#) [a month ago](#)

Trump shut down the PREDICT Program, between September 2019 and March 2020, only two months before the spread of the virus began. It consisted of a network of laboratories to study viral biological threats like the Coronavirus. The WSWS has not reported on the Predict Program. It has not reported on the Soviet Union's Chimera program, which sought to combine Small Pox and Ebola into a more deadly virus. This Chimera Virus would have a structure very similar to that observed in the Covid-19 virus, which appears to connect two viruses, one for cell-entry and one for lethality.

I reported on these in early April, but the WSWS, because of its refusal to recognize even the possibility of biological-weapons origins, finds these facts inconvenient and prefers not to present them. This will have grave implications both on scientific thought within the revolutionary party and the ability of the

working class to create a leadership that responds to threats consciously and completely. What is the objection to investigating and exposing biological weapons programs? The WSWS has made no connection between the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2001 anthrax attacks.

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The conspiracy of the WSWS continues to suppress the argument that the response of the government arose out of a plan to use the virus to spread counter-revolutionary violence against the working class and increasingly angry demonstrations. No discussion on the possible origins of the virus in a military program except perfunctory denials followed by suppression of the discussion.

This method also serves to protect China from revolutionary criticism, as witnessed by this quote:

"As demonstrated by Trump's description of his phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese authorities were as transparent with US officials as they were with the public health community, precisely explaining the disease's method of transmission, its fatality rate and the measures necessary to contain it."

Has the WSWS abandoned Trotsky's appraisal of Stalinism? The Chinese government does not stand for the working class or scientific Marxism. It is the agent of imperialism within the Revolutionary movement, and it arose as a counter-revolution in a reaction to the 1917 October Revolution. Trotsky argued this way to the end, never accepting at face value the statements of the government bureaucracy of the Soviet Union.

The Chinese government at one point accused U.S. soldiers of bringing the virus to China. The most likely story seems to follow along the lines of the 9/11 attacks. Planes may accidentally crash, but those planes had pilots intentionally crashing them into buildings. This proved to be the event the U.S. military and diplomats awaited, a pretext to force the U.S. public to accept oil wars in the Middle East. The same could be said about the virus, which, though the writer seems to deny it, has universally been acknowledged to have originated in Wuhan, China. This

could have been an attack by Christian Fundamentalists, but there should not have arisen any doubts that it came from China.

The absence of a Chinese empire with colonies does not eliminate the impulse towards empire that flows from Chinese capitalism, anymore than it did for early 20th century Germany. The pressure of the escalating trade war, combined with the recent history of the Iraq War and the threats of nuclear war against the U.S. coming from N. Korea forced the Chinese to act prematurely, that is before their army has sufficient capability to confront the U.S. in open war.

The excuse that the WSWS gives, that the virus can only occur naturally, flies in the face of all scientific evidence. The transfer of the virus from one species to another (this, contrarily, they imply must have happened in China) does not disprove that human beings had control over this process. We cannot eliminate the possibility that the virus, not only because of the deliberate sabotage of medical containment but its very origin and entry into the human population, could have its source as a weapon of the counter-revolution.

This has definite implications for the response that workers should adopt in relation to the pandemic. How can they fight the pandemic without searching for its origin and the parties responsible for deliberately spreading the virus? If this remains cut off from discussion, then all closures will only serve to breakdown worker resistance. The idea that everything can run remotely through the internet endangers the real movement of the essential workers, isolates them as individuals, and exposes them to the dangers of censorship and more direct persecution.

At bottom, this arises from the very false reading of Marxism that argues that the bourgeoisie does everything with only one aim, increasing profits. The bourgeoisie is a conscious ruling class, not a mindless algorithm like some of the writing we are commenting on. To them, any profit is better than no profit, and sacrificing some real profit in the short-term pays off in the long-term if it means staying in power. The virus does not just raise alarms, it kills the workers in their workplaces and homes. That death, combined with lockdowns, serves to follow the old ruling-class slogan: "Drown the revolution in blood!" The absence of this Marxist perspective drives the WSWS to the right, in favor of endless lockdowns, Chinese militarism, and the covering up of the real social source of the pandemic.

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Colombian security forces massacre 10 youth protesting police murder



[Random Poster](#) [a month ago](#)

Colombia had already carried out protests against the murder of social leaders. Now, the police violence has made clear that, not criminal organizations but the state itself carries out illegal executions against legal protests. The Colombian government needs to protect the political dynasties that serve US interests above the interests of their own people, making war between the people and the government inevitable. Only a complete break from all US-aligned parties will permit Colombia to follow an independent policy, providing peace and economic justice to its people.

The treaty between FARC and the government has proven that Stalinist organizations will deal with the national bourgeoisie while turning against any revolutionary struggle. The people voted against the deal, while the government has since broken with its terms, even forcing FARC congressman to rearm and hide in the jungle, but FARC leaders have not apologized for signing the treaty, nor have they turned against Cuban leadership for offering this false path to socialism. The "far-left" organizations that offer only revolutionary phrases have enriched their leaders, and when they gain power they dismantle rather than organize socialist industry, as in Venezuela. The only proper response for such betrayal would not be another chance to reform, but instead to turn to the international working class, organized under the ICFI, emphasizing the need to break from Stalinism and the failed perspective of Socialism in One Country.

No amount of protests or terrorism will bring about a revolution against capitalism. Only the workers can take the power by forming workers committees as the foundation or basic unit of a new state. A new state can begin the construction of a socialist economy only as an inseparable part of a world revolution creating a continental and world federation of socialist states.

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#Trotsky2020: A Morenoite slander against the legacy of Leon Trotsky



[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [2 months ago](#)

Trotsky offers a lot to the herd you describe. As founder and first top general of the Red Army, he offers his followers a revolutionary army with which to fight the imperialist armies. He also founded the first workers' state as second only to Lenin, and he argued against forced collectivization and labor camps, for a more sensible transition to socialism. The herd also has many volumes of Trotsky's collected writings, with which to debate his ideas.

Stalin did not offer anything to the herd, but attacked it on behalf of the imperialist powers and the state bureaucracy. It only stunned the herd, but these policies cannot change its nature. A new movement must arise due to the unstable nature of the capitalist system forcing the people to choose between poverty and war on one side and socialist revolution on the other.

The Soviet Union failed and returned to capitalism, hurting the workers, but at the same time depriving the Stalinists of their own greatest propaganda tool, the claim to have maintained the socialist state in power by an means. In order to prevent the complete dispersion of the herd, the Fourth International labored over decades to provide a path to the greener pastures of Permanent Revolution.

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[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

One thing unites the FT stance with that of the SEP. That involves raising Trotsky to the level of a Saint. He founded the Fourth International 17 years after Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the British Communists in 1917 and editor of the Workers' Dreadnaught. Trotsky's tactics broke him from these members of the Left Opposition and delayed the formation of a Fourth International with wide recognition until the eve of World War II.

Trotsky founded the Fourth International to oppose the Stalinist theory of Socialism in One Country, which had sabotaged the world revolution. Yet, his early

leadership of the Left Opposition divided the opposition to the state bureaucracy and its theory of the revolution. A similar problem occurred with every preceding international. Marx had not sufficiently broken from the anarchists organized around Bakunin, and Engels had not sufficiently broken from Kautsky, reformism and parliamentarianism. Lenin accepted the bureaucratic maneuvers of Stalin as long as they did not threaten him directly. Finally, Trotsky delayed the formation of an independent party only to change tactics on the eve of war.

Trotsky's mistake in this regard does not mean the Fourth International should not grow to become the mass party of the world revolution. What it means is that from its conception, it has had to battle the trend towards tactical submission to Stalinism, Social Democracy, and other left covers for imperialism. What it means is that the parties grouped within the Fourth International must struggle against isolation with great haste but without abandoning their independence as organizations. Now, more than 80 years after their formation, they may not appear to have formed late. Yet to the extent that Trotsky's delays through the 20s and 30s find forgiveness and justification, this will only provide arguments for delay of the formation of groups throughout the capitalist world as a whole.

Lenin argued about Plekhanov's mistakes during the 1905 revolution in the same way, in Ch. 3 of State and Revolution. Plekhanov had urged the workers to take up arms against the government, only to declare their uprising a mistake once defeated. Trotsky had responded in a similar way to the rebellion represented by the Left Opposition against the Bureaucracy. He went along with the Declaration of the 46 and attempted to open the party to factionalism after the 12th Congress. This declaration failed to halt the transition from Lenin to Stalin, however, and Trotsky seemed to address this uprising with "pedantic homilies", that which Lenin admonished in Plekhanov and others:

"He [Marx] "Learned" from the Commune, just as all the great revolutionary thinkers learned unhesitatingly from the experience of great movements of the oppressed classes, and never addressed them with pedantic "homilies" (such as Plekhanov's: "They should not have taken up arms" or Tsereteli's: "A class must limit itself")."

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>)

The Left Opposition had arisen from the workers' rebellion against the state bureaucracy, even under Lenin. It also arose from the unfinished revolutions in Britain, France, and Germany. Yet this international rebellion met resistance from Trotsky, who advocated against the formation of a Fourth International, the suppression of internal divisions within the Left Opposition, and an attempt to win over the Stalinists. This mistake later formed the theoretical basis for Pabloism.

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[Random Poster](#) [Robert Zhang](#) [2 months ago](#)

Trotsky argued that in the Permanent Revolution that the working class revolution would have to accomplish both bourgeois-democratic tasks, such as the establishment of elections, freedom of association and the freedom of the process, as well as proletarian-socialist economic tasks such as the transfer of the ownership of the means of production from private to public ownership, the democratic control and planning of production based on social need, and the guarantee of economic and employment security to the working class and poor.

Various members of the Social Democracy had argued that the revolutionary party of the proletariat must submit to bourgeois liberal parties until a bourgeois revolution had already accomplished the bourgeois-democratic tasks. This divided the world revolution and sabotaged revolutions in the less economically developed countries. The Stalinist bureaucracy sought to purge all Communist Parties throughout the world of this theory, and in so doing they managed to control the world revolution throughout the life of the Soviet Union.

These two revolutions in one took the form of the February and October Russian Revolutions of 1917. After February, even leading members of the Bolsheviks began to buckle under pressure and arrange a transfer of power to the liberal bourgeoisie. Only an orientation towards ending the international problem of the imperialist system through world revolution broke the grip of Stalin and Kamenev on the Bolshevik Party after February 1917. This allowed Lenin and Trotsky to appeal to the working class to take all the power and establish a socialist economy based on planning for social need rather than on protecting private profit.

Lenin and Trotsky never denied the fact that some nations had not yet arrived at the same bourgeois-democratic forms of rule established in theory by the French and American revolutions. They also never denied that those tasks remained unfinished. That appears to be the issue with the SEP stance. This feeds into chauvinism, the greatest danger to the revolution, which evolved directly from opportunism.

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[Random Poster](#) [Timothy Marroquin](#) [2 months ago](#)

Trotsky never argued for a separate revolution. Only the world revolution against capitalism existed. He argued, however, that the revolution will create a workers' state, and that this workers' state cannot force another nation to submit to its authority. The workers' revolution must also solve the problem of national oppression. This position comes from opposition to capitalism based on revolutionary ambitions to create a better organized, moral, and rational world.

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[Random Poster](#) [pierre](#) [2 months ago](#)

The changes in the economy have not changed the basic structure of capitalism. You yourself argued that no one should have illusions in the possibilities of reforming capitalism. Why has capitalism suddenly reformed so that self-determination has now been accomplished? Obama's victory has not significantly changed the systemic violence targeted against black people in order to sustain inequality, racial divisions, and black-nationalist gangs that can be used against white workers and their leaders.

By "support for self-determination", Trotsky meant that the original Bolshevik program of 1903 had not lost its relevance, despite the changes produced by capitalism over those nearly 40 years. That program advocated national independence for oppressed nations. In practice, this would mean a federation of states, similar to that of the United States. Laws could protect nations so that they could continue to encourage participation in their own cultures, languages, and national history. This could take place within the framework of a federation of states. That same theory would apply to black people in the United States, who, under a new government formed by a revolution, should have a few (probably five) states allotted to them where a certain proportion (probably ninety percent) of elected positions in government could exist as black-only positions for a certain period, (probably fifty years) when a referendum could end or continue these laws.

Such a proposal would reverse the damage to politics caused by such famous racial laws as the four-fifths clause of the constitution, the Dred Scott decision, Jim Crow Laws, and more recently police brutality, unequal incarceration rates, unequal funding for schools, greater unemployment, etc. To argue that national oppression has disappeared under capitalism sows illusions in capitalism as a progressive system. In fact, capitalist politicians and institutions consciously

create a racial divide in the same tradition as former ruling classes, such as the feudal and slave-owning classes. These racial policies target the poor overwhelmingly, while the rich of every race have liberal legal defenders who can argue to the end, to the Supreme Court, against racial discrimination experienced by them personally, while crossing borders freely and settling anywhere. The existence of black slave-owners could not justify slavery, and the existence of a black capitalist class does not justify the conscious ruling class policy of the national oppression of black people.

I proposed a fifty year limit on these national liberation laws, followed by a referendum, because the idea should not function to create a "separate but equal" but should not create a false "integration" illusion either. Capitalism has not integrated the former slaves, tenant farmers, and second class citizens, but instead it has come closer to bringing back Nazism, which would see the creation of the horror of concentration camps for blacks and Latinos, and not impossibly for Jewish and Irish people as well.

Trotsky never broke from the Bolshevik program of 1903 or the draft program proposed by Lenin in 1917 and only broke from the Comintern based on the conclusion that the Communist Party no longer stood for its own political program. If you look at Point 9 of the original and the 1917 draft program, the position of the revolutionary movement, supported by Trotsky, should appear clear.

Lenin's Draft Program of 1917:

"9) The right of all member nations of the state to freely secede and form independent states. The republic of the Russian nation must attract other nations or nationalities not by force, but exclusively by voluntary agreement on the question of forming a common state. The unity and fraternal alliance of the workers of all countries are incompatible with the use of force, direct or indirect, against other nationalities."

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>)

You should also not forget the real theory of revolution proposed by Marx and Engels originally and later supported by Lenin and Trotsky. This theory argued that the bourgeoisie would initiate the revolution based on its own democratic demands for a liberal constitution. The bourgeoisie would then raise the working class against the government, all the while ready to suppress the revolution once socialist demands arose that threatened bourgeois rule. This complete theory should show that the working class alone, as an oppressed class, will not carry out every revolutionary act. The peasantry as well, and the petty bourgeoisie have much to contribute to the revolution. The working class, alone, however, will have the strength to establish a revolutionary government that abolishes the exploitation of labor and lifts up the poor forever through guarantees of food,

housing, medicine, peace between nations, and full employment. For that reason, Lenin and Trotsky emphasized the primacy of the demands and the active participation of the working class as the central focus of the work of the revolutionary party. They never, however, turned against item 9 on the Political Program.

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) [kaline](#) [2 months ago](#)

"For more than 40 years they have worked consciously to lower labor costs in order to convince "their" national corporations to keep production at home and thereby maintain the flow of dues income into the coffers of the union apparatus."

If this were true, then union members would earn less on average than workers in general. This completely contradicts the facts:

"More benefits of union membership. Union employees make an average of 30% more than non-union workers. 92% of union workers have job-related health coverage versus 68% of non-union workers. Union workers are more likely to have guaranteed pensions than non-union employees." (<https://www.unionplus.org/p...>

Under the rules of a liberal capitalist republic, the unions cannot turn into agents of the state or corporation. At the same time, they cannot function as revolutionary organizations. A revolutionary movement cannot change this, and to try would amount to counter-productive or self-destructive terrorism. The best the revolution can do is expose the unions as corrupt, not because they have been compelled by the state or the corporation, but because they cannot reverse the decline of profits or the iron law of wages, which reasserts itself through world trade.

Their theory, that workers can raise their wages through organization of unions and collective bargaining fails in the real world. They hold on to this theory because the wage-differential still exists, and union employees do receive better deals on average. This ignores, however, the fact that union contracts may lead to bankruptcy for the companies that have them and an edge in the competition for the companies that do not. On average, then, job losses due to bankruptcies, especially during recessions, will disproportionately hurt union employees.

Protectionism can only protect the company within the borders under the jurisdiction of the government. Economic laws will continue to favor the accumulation of wealth for those nations who open their country to trade. That accumulation of wealth will allow those countries to automate production and make use of economies of scale. This, in turn, will allow those countries to export capital and expand their economies, providing them with more opportunities for growth and greater resilience during downturns. Protectionist countries will find themselves excluded from trade pacts. This has great significance in the union corruption debate, because unions have a tendency to support protectionism while fully aware of its effect on destroying the national economy.

Only the professional theory of unions fits with the facts. The idealist theory of unions also substitutes anger for understanding of the underlying reason for the connection between unions and the national state. The idealist will explode with anger at the unions for not separating from the national state and organizing internationally. This does not represent Marxism but thuggish tomfoolery. The proper attitude must arise from scientific insight into the economic process behind the bond between union and national state. This has to do with the role of the unions in the act of exchanging the workers' labor power for wages and benefits through the power of written contracts. Out of this economic process, arose the NLRB as part of the capitalist state's role as a defender of the rights of commodity owners, including the owners of labor power. The capitalist state does not use force simply out of corrupt impulses but as part of its historical role as a protector of commodity owners and their right to exchange their commodities freely. The unions function as the opposite and equal organizations of labor, selling labor power on a mass scale, to the large companies and corporations who prefer to buy such labor en masse to avoid unnecessary interruptions through the breakdown of negotiations between individual managers and workers. Better the enemy you know and have come to rely on. The corporate demeanor of the large unions has more to do with this economic fact than any direct compulsion on the part of corporations or the government. The rage we are supposed to feel in seeing them shaking hands with corporate executives should now, under the proper light, reveal itself as a play against the lower instincts.

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[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

1. "Democratic unions in the old sense of the terms, bodies where in the framework of one and the same mass organization different tendencies

struggled more or less freely, can no longer exist... As a matter of fact, the independence of trade unions in the class sense, in their relations to the bourgeois state, can, in the present conditions, be assured only by a completely revolutionary leadership, that is, the leadership of the Fourth International. This leadership, naturally, must and can be rational and assure the unions the maximum of democracy conceivable under the present concrete conditions. But without the political leadership of the Fourth International the independence of the trade unions is impossible." -North quoting Trotsky

Two positions present themselves on the trade unions. The first claims that the socialist and revolutionary movement, in its attempts to organize the workers for revolution, settled upon the union form. This allowed them to participate in the "real world" of reforms. The term "idealist" best describes this position.

The second position, which while it seems removed from Marxism, might better fit the data and scientific analysis of a sociologist. This second position should take the name of the professional position on the trade unions. The trade unions exist not as a product of the struggle for revolution but as a product of the sale of labor power through contractual agreements.

In order to provide the capitalist with a decent, reliable product, labor power that could continue to arrive at work and create acceptable goods for sale, a certain price must accompany that purchase of labor power. That price, the wage, takes varying forms, whether daily wages, hourly wages, monthly salaries, commissions, piece-work or the difference between cost of goods sold and revenue. Regardless of the specific form it takes, the absence of significant capital invested by the worker and the existence of a comparable hourly average wage unites all these various types.

Where the capitalist has not amassed a sufficient amount of private wealth, he may benefit more from an informal wage system based on extracting the most surplus value from each and every single worker. With enough capital, as in the case of a state-sanctioned monopoly, the capitalist will benefit more by paying a slightly higher rate in order to extract the best labor from the working class as a whole. In order to guarantee the constant flow of such labor, the capitalist will benefit most from signing contracts and regulating timely payments to workers. While the small capitalist may appear the greater criminal with payment delays or changes in rates, the greater criminal clearly emerges when the skilled workers move to nationalize the means production, that is, when the workers take politics beyond the limitations imposed by the union.

2. "Both theoretical analysis as well as the rich historical experience of the last quarter of a century have demonstrated with equal force that fascism is each time the final link of a specific political cycle..." -North quoting Trotsky

The political cycle did not take the same form post-WWII. In addition, fascism took hold in Germany and Italy first, which had both long lived under absolutist monarchs. King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, for instance, had the power to appoint the Prime Minister regardless of any election outcomes. After WWII, the majority of Western European governments abandoned absolutist monarchies and adopted straight-forward parliamentary systems without any hidden dictator-clause in the constitution.

These types of liberal constitutional bourgeois democracies have a different political cycle, which could be foreseen in the actions of parliament at that time. A turn to fascist government means a direct appeal to the military and a confrontation with the workers that did not depend necessarily on the workers' political exhaustion. The exhaustion, in fact, came from the bourgeois state and media apparatus who could no longer sustain the democratic veneer of the capitalist state. The workers rebelled against the fascist state, and reinstated republics on various occasions in South America.

To expect the fascists to wait for the political exhaustion of the workers does more to disarm the defenders of the democracy. The balance of the parliamentary system depends on the existence of a "moderate" left and right. These "moderate" parties exclude the "far-left" and "far-right" or extremist parties. This system protects the civilian government from a military take-over by allowing a far-left alternative to sabotage the military in the event that the military threatens the civilian state. The far-right party must grow by increments and this must lead to a growth in the far-left. These shifts allow the moderate parties to make changes to their policies and adapt to the needs of the ruling class, between business expansion and holding on to power during confrontations with revolutionary movements.

While this system has provided some stability, it still does not solve the economic crisis produced by the capitalist system. A revolutionary movement must emerge. The real system, as witnessed by Victor Emmanuel III's appointment of Benito Mussolini against the will of Prime Minister Luigi Facta, exists under present conditions as well. An emergency switch can transfer power to the military and a government led by generals. This need not arise at the end of a predetermined cycle. The revolutionary party must continue its work under the conditions of fascism, because an inevitable break with fascism will lead to revolutionary upheavals that the bourgeoisie will anticipate and attempt to control through the movement for a return to the Old Republic.

3. "Marx did not promise the victory of socialism; he revealed only the objective contradictions in capitalist society that made socialism possible. But he never claimed that it would be achieved automatically. In fact, Marx, Engels and Lenin waged a relentless struggle against all

the political tendencies, opportunist and anarchistic, that undermined the struggle for socialism. " -North

This seems to contradict a basic tenet of Marxism. Regardless of the betrayal of any leaders, the proletariat will return to struggle against Capitalism. This economic process will have an intellectual reflection in culture, politics, and the consciousness of the masses. These cultural and political processes will produce a new leadership that will come under the gentle, guiding pressure of the revolutionary proletariat as well as a more stern pressure of elements of the state and capitalist media recognizing their oncoming defeat in present trends.

Whatever obstructions or postponements bureaucratic enemies and false leaders of the revolution have planned, they will meet their fate resisting this new anti-bureaucratic, democratic, socialist leadership. Following this change, the state establishment will have its reaction, and the revolutionary party will be the only anti-fascist party.

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Workers' opposition grows to Netanyahu government over pandemic and social crisis in Israel



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

One good thing has come out of the coalition government. The crisis will impact both ruling parties and make clear that the end of the road of Zionist politics has arrived. Only a Middle East Federation of Workers' States can unite workers of all backgrounds under a common authority to address their common concerns. The decision of Gantz to drop his opposition to Netanyahu resulted directly from his even more determined opposition to form a coalition with the Joint List of Arab parties. Designed only to punish the worst reactionaries of Nazi Germany, Israel has reached the limit of its ability to produce any progressive result within its contentious borders.

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Fraudulent Associated Press “fact-check” targets WSWS article on housing segregation project at NYU



[Random Poster](#) [Steve Brown](#) [2 months ago](#)

If the media loses its authority in journalistic or artistic matters, what do they have left? They will act only as gangs, dividing up territory, preying on the weak, and stoking up rivalries and wars. This cannot form a foundation for artistic creativity or journalistic integrity. Authority on these matters, if abandoned by the corporate media, will not die with these official talents and judges but pass on to other hands. The revolutionary media and a new revolutionary culture will stand ready to accept these responsibilities.

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[Random Poster](#) [urfubar](#) [2 months ago](#)

The university agreed with the group that students who say they are black have an option to live on this floor. This means that if students do not identify as black, they cannot live on this floor. They are spinning it as completely voluntary, but it does create segregation as policy. This opens the door for more types of segregation, which can take on more compulsive forms. It creates a sort of "black police" or residential authority within the university to enforce racist policies against black people. This can also serve as a way to organize racist attacks by black people against other races, forcing them to organize along racial lines. Students of all races need to unite to demand just policies from the university administration, New York City municipal government, and the government at large.

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Reddit moderators censor WSWS article on Trump's speech at Republican convention



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

Like Google, Reddit will fail in its attempts at censorship of the WSWS. The working class does not act as isolated individuals but as a united force. Capitalism itself provides this organization through social production, or production by corporations and other big businesses that involve thousands, often tens of thousands, and at times even hundreds of thousands of workers all joined together for the social end of production. Socialism merely organizes this same existing force for one more end, the just and socially responsible distribution of the products of labor.

The main point to take from this event will not be to deepen our hate for reformism or the Democratic Party. We must present to the workers this censorship, along with the violence against protesters and the threats to the election, as proof that only the revolutionary party can centralize authority in defense of democratic rights, the various causes of the common workers, and the drive to provide a global authority that reduces economic inequality while preventing wars for resources. Any attempts to find an alternative route to accomplishing these ends puts off the basic task that makes this possible, the formation of a revolutionary authority that would do away with the principle of the accumulation of personal wealth at the expense of the vast majority.

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[Random Poster](#) [Popart 2015](#) [2 months ago](#)

Can we start one? I would join if one existed.

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) [justanavgjoe2](#) [2 months ago](#)

"It has never ceased to perplex me how such small men can attain such power."

Trotsky remarked with precision about the contradiction of Stalin, the mediocrity that ended up a dictator of one of the world's largest countries. Trotsky, however, represented a contradiction himself. A revolutionary, focused to the very end on destroying the capitalist foundation of society, rose to celebrity status, appeared on the cover of Time magazine and received very many mentions in the international press. Trotsky's existence in his final years, from his exile, to his incomunicado imprisonment in Western Europe, seemed consciously planned. His celebrity life style, his castle, and his meetings with artists such as Saul Bellow made him a contradiction that threatened to upend the revolution. His rich friends made Jacson-Monard's plot a foregone conclusion.

Lenin had argued that the leaders of the revolution should live on an average worker's salary. Lenin remained free through the July days by escaping in disguise and living among the workers. Barricading one's self in in a celebrity mansion should have appeared suicidal.

Underlying these mistakes, we see some anti-Marxist or Hegelian dialectics. Trotsky did not represent the physical empodiment of the revolutionary spirit. On the contrary, to the extent that Trotsky appeared "chosen", this relied entirely on his self-discipline in studying Marxist theory and applying it to the work of building the Revolutionary Party and the Revolutionary Press. He positioned himself to follow in the steps of previous generations of revolutionaries. His ending as the rich, (or upper middle-class) revolutionist-doctor of celebrities resembles that of Jean-Paul Marat. This allowed the workers to take him up as their leader through the darkest times of the history of Capitalism, when fate still dealt their leaders a losing hand.

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

The betrayal of Trotsky by his guard certainly had objective causes related to the defeat of the working class and the return of imperialist war. Yet, Trotsky's resort to searching for a government that would host him willingly would backfire. Lenin, during the July Days, when Kerensky's government accused him of espionage on behalf of Germany and sought his arrest, escaped Russia in disguise, hiding in working class neighborhoods among sympathizers. While this seems a dangerous route, to live among the poor, it saved Lenin and the revolution. Trotsky's dependence on the Mexican government proved that no government could uphold a commitment, made honestly or otherwise, to defend the leaders of the revolution. Only the working class itself could shelter a revolutionary leader, and no diplomatic agency or public figure could stand in its place.

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Oppose the Stalinist slanders of CPP founder Jose Maria Sison! Support Joseph Scalice!



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

The slanders of the Stalinists should not be taken lightly, but neither should Scalice's exposure of the role of Stalinism. This exposure constitutes the real work of the revolutionary movement, which helps the workers break from reformism on the road to building the party of the world revolution. The working class has no choice but to overthrow the government, and when they find out that this difficult situation will be compounded by the treachery of Stalinism, they will defend with bravery the Scalices and punish with resolution the Sisons.

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) 2 months ago

If you have a problem with the formatting, you can read this comment more clearly here:

(<https://randomposter33.word...>)

David North writes:

While the bourgeoisie finds itself in a political impasse and the middle class looks for alternatives to the existing conditions, the working class—under the influence of past defeats—may display a reluctance to enter into decisive struggles. Trotsky acknowledged that the betrayals during the years leading up to the outbreak of war had created a mood of discouragement among the workers. “One should not, however, overestimate the stability or durability of such moods,” Trotsky advised. “Events created them; events will dispel them.”

Lenin warned against blaming the working class for their defeats. In *What Is To Be Done?*, he describes the “Primitiveness” of revolutionary organizations through an account of an Economist writer, a direct witness:

“The recent trials, especially that of the Self-Emancipation Group and the Labour-against-Capital group,[19]

clearly showed that the young agitator, lacking a detailed knowledge of working class conditions and, consequently, of the conditions under which agitation can be carried on in a given factory, ignorant of the principles of secrecy, and understanding only the general principles of Social-Democracy [if he does], is able to carry on his work for perhaps four, five, or six months. Then come arrests, which frequently lead to the break-up of the entire organisation, or at all events, of part of it. The question arises, therefore, can the group conduct successful activity if its existence is measured by months?... Obviously, the defects of the existing organisations cannot be wholly ascribed to the transitional period.... Obviously, the numerical, and above all the qualitative, make-up of the functioning organisations is no small factor, and the first task our Social-Democrats must undertake ... is that

of effectively combining the organisations and making a strict selection of their membership.”

He later explains that this real problem of primitiveness, which the Economist acknowledges in the account above, arises from the very Economism that weighs down the theory of the revolutionary movement. This theory of Economism limited the scope of revolutionary activity in theory, thereby making it ineffective at acting with caution under difficult conditions much less controlling and improving those conditions.

"But the term "primitiveness" embraces something more than lack of training; it denotes a narrow scope of revolutionary work generally, failure to understand that a good organisation of revolutionaries cannot be built on the basis of such narrow activity, and lastly — and this is the main thing — attempts to justify this narrowness and to elevate it to a special "theory", i.e., subservience to spontaneity on this question too. Once such attempts were revealed, it became clear that primitiveness is connected with Economism and that we shall never rid ourselves of this narrowness of our organisational activity until we rid ourselves of Economism generally (i.e., the narrow conception of Marxist theory, as well as of the role of Social-Democracy and of its political tasks). These attempts manifested themselves in a twofold direction. Some began to say that the working masses themselves have not yet advanced the broad and militant political tasks which the revolutionaries are attempting to "impose" on them; that they must continue to struggle for immediate political demands, to conduct "the economic struggle against the employers and the government"[1]

(and, naturally, corresponding to this struggle which is "accessible" to the mass movement there must be an organisation that will be "accessible" to the most untrained youth). Others, far removed from any theory of "gradualness", said that it is possible and necessary to "bring about a political revolution", but that this does not require building a strong organisation of revolutionaries to train the proletariat in steadfast and stubborn struggle. All we need do is to snatch up our old friend, the "accessible" cudgel. To drop metaphor, it means that we must organise a general strike,[2] or that we must stimulate the "spiritless" progress of the working-class movement by means of "excitative terror".[3]

Both these trends, the opportunists and the "revolutionists", bow to the prevailing amateurism; neither believes that it can be eliminated, neither understands our primary and imperative practical task to

establish an organisation of revolutionaries capable of lending energy, stability, and continuity to the political struggle."

The defeat of the workers caused by the rise of the Nazis occurred as a result of Trotsky's own leadership of the Fourth International. He should have acknowledged his mistake in forcing the Left Opposition to remain a part of the Comintern, even when others had broken from it on the grounds of the suppression of inner party democracy. The Stalin-Hitler pact did not arise suddenly after a customary meeting but actually constituted the fruition of a long social process in which Stalinism consciously and systematically betrayed the revolution while occupying leading positions within the various national Communist Parties. The self-preservation of the bureaucracy forced the workers to find a new organization in the Left Opposition. This Left Opposition itself had divisions, which Trotsky sought to hide or ignore.

Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the British Communist Party and signatory of the Manifesto of the Second World Congress of the Communist International, after a public argument with Lenin, called for the establishment of the Fourth International as early as 1921. Had Trotsky listened to this leading Communist, (who unlike Rosa Luxemburg, survived leading the revolutionary party through World War I and the revolutionary wave it produced) various revolutionary failures could have ended in victory. Workers would have had the quality and quantity of leaders they needed to respond to the betrayal of the Stalinist or the state bureaucracy of the Soviet Union and its agents in the various Communist Parties throughout the world. Instead, Trotsky advocated working within the Comintern, delayed the formation of the Fourth International, and only finally came to the same conclusion as Pankhurst shortly before World War II, when organizing the Fourth International from scratch would prove far more difficult. Trotsky's Economism, ("Events created them; events will expel them," as quoted approvingly by North), limited the scope of revolutionary activity to criticism of Stalinist leadership, rather than the formation of an independent leadership. This prevented the workers from taking the power in order to combat the rise of Nazism as had happened during the October Revolution with the fight against Kornilov.

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The Biden campaign and the attempt to “rescue” American hegemony



[Random Poster](#) [Eric Sommer](#) [2 months ago](#)

As Karl Marx argued, Capitalism must revolutionize the mode of production, which then revolutionizes the relations of production. This includes foreign relations. After WWII, US power stood unchallenged. Now, however, the US economy has monopolized older industries, like electricity, cars and planes, while China has brought capital in to develop the more modern industries, like 5G networks and space stations.

This has not happened without the help of the American capitalist class, which used Chinese Stalinism as an agent in foreign relations to suppress the world revolution and the international workers' movement. The world revolution needed to compete with the Stalinist theory of competing "blocs". Rather than provide for working class unity across borders, they needed to choose sides in the conflict between blocs, while ignoring the real role of the state bureaucracy. These theories allowed the agents of the capitalist class to undermine the revolutionary leadership to the point where they could not carry out their professional work.

Yet this realignment of capital in support of the Chinese Communist Party will have revolutionary consequences. The system of global institutions, such as the UN, will fall apart as they depend on US support. The League of Nations disintegrated in the face of Adolph Hitler's preparations for World War II. The UN, IMF, and World Bank will face similar fates as their dependance on US power will leave them worthless to the development of Chinese Capitalism. This attack on the fundamental institutions of the present world order, a consequence of the mechanics of Capitalism, will upend existing relations. In its place, either a more brutal form of capitalism will emerge under Chinese leadership, with US finance as its servant, or a world revolution will create a federal government to centralize authority throughout the world as part of the transfer of power from Capitalism to Socialism and the elimination of wage-slavery internationally.

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[Random Poster](#) [Stuart Estrine](#) [2 months ago](#)

The "power in pursuit of profit" does not fully explain the situation. The profit itself divides the capitalists, forcing them to fight one another. At the same time, "power for the sake of power" does take place as the capitalist class has a higher level of class consciousness and political development, allowing it to better pursue its interests as a class. Capitalism does not, as it often claims, do away with slavery or the division of society into social classes. It maintains class division and slavery. Power for the sake of power explains more of the state's behavior than the simple pursuit of profit. The slaves threaten rebellion, and imperialism must turn its destructive weapons on its own people and provide an ever ready supply of shock troops to keep the people in fear.

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Trotsky's Last Year



[Random Poster](#) [gooddoctor](#) [2 months ago](#)

A vulgar materialist will attempt to escape from dialectics, will act as though objective factors never submit to subjective ones, but, as Trotsky said, he will be caught "as a fly in a web". Dialectics will force him from his heights, as a founder of the Fourth International or a leading ally of Trotsky himself, to serve as a wrap for a hungry spider. The spider is the working class, with a clear perception of its interests and ready to impose them upon the party, the government, society at large. The rest of the party must labor to remove any bureaucratic advantages the fly will use to evade the spider.

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[Random Poster](#) [Kannan Nades](#) [2 months ago](#)

89. "To carry out its immense political responsibilities, the party and its cadre must be firmly rooted and educated in the historical experiences of the Marxist movement. The immense history embodied in the ICFI must be brought into the developing movement of the working class.

The intersection of the objective radicalization of the working class and the practice of the party will create the conditions for the victory of the working class, the abolition of capitalism, and the socialist transformation of world economy."

My experience, unfortunately involves writing to the WSWS.ORG and SEP, offering to participate, donating money, and never receiving any response. This "practice of the party" or malpractice, if a doctor acted the same way, would lead to a very expensive lawsuit. The entrance of the working class into the party will lead to painful confrontations that should force the leadership to the table, enumerate the rights of members, provide quarterly financial reports, a constitution for the party, and a professionally developed educational program that includes a standardized test and the assignment of mentors to newer members. As Lenin argued, the problem should never arrive where there is nothing for the revolutionary to do.

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Amid mounting political crisis, Colombia faces world's highest COVID-19 death rate



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

Colombia does not have free higher education for everyone and private educational institutions have gone broke as a result of the crisis. The teachers should reverse the privatization of schools, and guarantee work, whether in classrooms with under ten students maintaining distance and precautions, or online. All teachers should have work provided by the government during this crisis in order to keep children learning outside of school. The amount of school-days missed as result of strikes and then the closing of schools amounts to a great crime against the children, who require education for healthy development.

As US power has waned throughout the world, so has the power of its client governments. The ruling class in Colombia works closely with the ruling class of the US, as shown by US Vice-president Mike Pence's recent defence of Colombian Ex-president Alvaro Uribe. As with many governments in Latin America, they have shown complicity in attempts to overthrow the Venezuelan government. Such an event would fall in line with the coups in Brazil and Bolivia, as well as the abrupt departure of Ecuador's president from his own party. The absence of the ICFI in Latin America gives the generals and far right a free hand to move politics in the

direction they'd like. The people already know, almost instinctively, that their leaders will betray them and leave them unarmed to confront the assault of reactionaries.

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Sri Lankan Trotskyists hold final online election meeting



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

We cannot accept the military provocations, denial of ballot access, and internet censorship perpetrated against the socialist movement. The workers need a state that will arm them for the defense of their independent organizations and furthermore organize a defense against imperialist repression in every country.

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Armed forces and fascist gangs mobilized against blockades in Bolivia



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

A revolutionary leadership can come to power in Bolivia. This can only happen, however, if the Bolivian workers and students remember the betrayal of Morales, who would not arm the workers to resist the coup, and seek to build a connection between the mass movement in Bolivia and the world revolution as represented by its conscious leadership in the ICFI. Only determination to link every revolutionary movement against the system of world imperialism in a conscious way, reflected in organizational decisions, will allow a breakthrough that penetrates and brings down the network of imperialist governments and parties so clearly exhibited in the right-wing coup regime presently in power in Bolivia. This breakthrough will only meet resistance in the bourgeois nationalism of the MAS movement.

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US nurses' poll shows appalling working conditions in the pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

The nurses will not continue to die for the counter-revolution without using their power on behalf of the revolution. This pandemic and the criminal negligence involved in the response coming from the top attempted to break the will of the socialist movement. Instead, health care workers will come to revolutionary conclusions and strike openly on the side of the revolution. No more reforms can come from this corrupt, broken old system. We must stress the importance to the nurses of struggling alongside with the entire international working class, which can only happen with the construction of the SEP as a mass party.

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Why is the US doing less and less COVID-19 testing?



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

"But all of these basic public health demands are contrary to the prerogatives of the ruling class, whose only concern is to get workers back into the factories and workplaces. If they die, they can be replaced with others desperate for work. The capitalist class and the politicians, media and police that defend it are ruthless in the defense of profits over human lives."

Do not make the mistake of confusing the drive for profits and the rise of the counter-revolution. Capitalism long ago created such programs as paid sick leave and unemployment insurance in order to increase production. Each worker, without paid sick leave, would have greater incentive to return to work, thereby spreading the disease and hurting production. The return to work under unsafe

conditions spreads the disease and hurts production. A safe return to work would provide for the necessary protective equipment, creating more opportunities in the process for profitable enterprises.

Understanding the crime's motive will prove necessary to halting it. The rise in socialist sympathies, especially among younger workers and students, led to a strike wave, exposures of corrupt union officials, and a wave of high-profile prosecutions in the state and media. It also found expression in the election of Bernie Sanders to the Senate, as well as his popular primary candidacy, the widespread coverage of insurgents such as Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Ilhan Omar. Limitations notwithstanding, such efforts and exposures will form the basis for a growing class consciousness and unity against the oligarchy, its state, and its political parties.

Conscious of this danger, the ruling class must expose the workers and their leaders to the greatest dangers, far beyond confronting them in the streets during protests. To do this, they must resort to nearly open war on the working class and their healthcare infrastructure. The increased death rate will not increase the rate of profits, but it may silence the powerful attempts of the working class to force their agenda through the government's red tape. This should awaken the workers, however, to the great dangers facing them. It should force them to accept the need to replace the entire government and the criminals that head it, rather than attempt again to reason with such monsters.

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New York educators and students denounce Governor Cuomo's push to reopen schools



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

Teachers can feel the need for a revolution. They have already started to form committees because the state has proven incapable of defending or providing reasonable re-opening plans for teachers, students, and their families. Anger at state authorities will not provide the solution. Teachers must unite with the entire international working class, armed with a revolutionary perspective. This cannot happen without their active participation in the construction of the SEP as a mass party.

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US moves to delist Chinese companies from stock exchanges



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

China and the US represent the old order based on the Cold War and the deal with Stalinism. While the US, in this case, has pushed forward the conflict, China does not respond with a revolutionary strategy. Workers in China suffer extremely oppressive conditions, while democracy for the workers has fallen flat with the Stalinist bureaucracy forcing them out of politics. The two governments want to drag the entire world to war, and this trade conflict proves it. Only the establishment of workers' states and a world government to manage these disputes in the interests of the workers, only these principles of the revolutionary movement offer an alternative to economic war, militarization of economics and politics, and the division of the world into warring states that will only enrich and secure an oligarchy.

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Massive anger erupts following Beirut port explosion



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

The SEP must grow into a mass party with an international presence. French imperialism, a return to dictatorship as in Egypt, and war-lordism will destroy Lebanon, not provide it with legitimate rule. The SEP alone stands for a Socialist Middle East Federation to unite the region against imperialism and to remove from power the capitalist class that stands in the way of the development of each and every nation. Only the SEP can offer leadership to the revolution to save it from a reactionary conclusion.

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Antarctic ice sheet melting could accelerate rapidly, leading to catastrophic rise in sea level



[Random Poster](#) [2 months ago](#)

"Recent research by scientists from the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, using geological data collected by remotely operated submersibles, has revealed that at the end of the last Ice Age (Pleistocene), roughly 12,000 years ago, Antarctic ice sheets retreated (i.e., melted back) at the rate of up to 50 meters (164 feet) per day, or 10 kilometers (6.2) miles per year. That is approximately 10 times faster than the maximum rate currently being observed and greatly exceeds the projections of potential melting that have previously been made."

This historical background provides a more concerning picture. Besides projections, we also have the history of Hurricane Sandy and the known rise in sea level since 1920. The failure of WHO with Coronavirus and the failure of the UNEP with global warming points to the absolute necessity for central world government, both to end war for resources or for economic ends, as well as to respond with sufficient global unity to confront global problems such as pandemics and global warming. Instead the destructive rather than constructive remain in power. Whatever lockdown or quarantine measures imposed by more responsible governments, it seems, will fail because as soon as they lift the lockdown, the herd-immunity countries will infect them.

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Well-attended online meeting concludes IYSSE election campaign at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

Congratulations on a well-attended meeting! Only the working class can bring about a revolution, but they will need the work of students in constructing a revolutionary leadership. The work against the extreme right and the fake left will clarify for many the importance of building the SEP. In addition, the entire history of the revolutionary movement will gain in importance as the pressures of imperialism bear down on the party, producing the deformities of opportunism and social-chauvinism.

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Ford Dearborn Truck Plant workers launch rank-and-file safety committee to save lives amid COVID-19 pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

With these fair demands, the workers' committee has proven that the company threatens production more than the workers. The virus, allowed to spread unchecked, will cause serious damage to the economy. The company and government have failed to take proper precautions, disregarding science as well as ethics. Yet this oversight did not occur accidentally, and the workers' committees must realize they confront the menace of a counter-revolution out to destroy democracy. They must proceed with their plans, just as the South Carolina Militia needed to bombard Fort Sumter to initiate the civil war, in order to oppress the working class to secure the private property and slave relations, of the capitalist ruling class for the coming decades. No doubt they see the rising socialist movement no differently from the election of Abraham Lincoln, and they must respond with the greatest force available to them.

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Elon Musk discovers Das Kapital



[Random Poster](#) [PeterHL](#) [3 months ago](#)

Labor by its definition, produces something of value. If it didn't produce value, it would fall under a different category of activity. Everything of value contains some, even if a minimal amount, of labor, such as an apple picked off a tree.

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[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

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[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

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[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

(This post has uneven formatting on Disqus, but you can read it here more clearly: <https://randomposter33.word...>

Congratulations to Comrade Kishore on his candidacy and on taking on the task of defending Marx's Capital. A few clarifications, however, require presentation.

From Joseph Kishore's article:

"As a consequence of the division of labor among different producers, the products of this labor assume the form of commodities."

As Marx writes in Chapter 1 of Capital:

"A commodity is, in the first place, an object outside us, a thing that by its properties satisfies human wants of some sort or another."

He also writes, in the same chapter: "This division of labour is a necessary condition for the production of commodities, but it does not follow, conversely, that the production of commodities is a necessary condition for the division of labour. In the primitive Indian community there is social division of labour, without production of commodities. Or, to take an example nearer home, in every factory the labour is divided according to a system, but this division is not brought about by the operatives mutually exchanging their individual products. Only such products can become commodities with regard to each other, as result from different kinds of labour, each kind being carried on independently and for the account of private individuals."

The products do not "assume the form of commodities", nor do they necessarily originate from different producers. They exist as commodities because they exist outside of us but satisfy some want within us. Commodities do not only come from labor but exist in nature as well. As Marx writes, also in Chapter 1 of Capital:

"The use values, coat, linen, &c., i.e., the bodies of commodities, are combinations of two elements – matter and labour. If we take away the useful labour expended upon them, a material substratum is always left, which is furnished by Nature without the help of man. The latter can work only as Nature does, that is by changing the form of matter.¹³ Nay more, in this work of changing the form he is constantly helped by natural forces. We see, then, that labour is not the only source of material wealth, of use values produced by labour. As William Petty puts it, labour is its father and the earth its mother."

Man "can work only as Nature does, that is by changing the form of matter." Work, as expressed by Newtonian physics, derives from observation of data gathered from nature. These observations provided us with the formula: $P=W/T$ and $W=F*D$. These formulas express in mathematical terms what Marx describes as "changing the form of matter." The area covered by the forces applied by man to the "material substratum" displacing them a certain distance from their original form, such as from linen to a coat, equal work. Labor Power differs from Labor Work, in that Labor Power measures Labor Work over a certain period of Labor Time, or the energy transferred by the worker into the object to increase its value. Labor Time offers the greatest measure of the value of a commodity. In the footnotes for Chapter 1, Marx writes: "We consequently find that economists, who are thoroughly agreed as to labour time being the measure of the magnitude of value, have the most strange and contradictory ideas of money, the perfected form of the general equivalent."

Division of Labor imparts to commodities their Exchange Value or Price, but only when those goods are exchanged for one another. Marx explains this in Chapter 1 of Capital:

“As use values, commodities are, above all, of different qualities, but as exchange values they are merely different quantities, and consequently do not contain an atom of use value.”

“...The common substance that manifests itself in the exchange value of commodities, whenever they are exchanged, is their value... Exchange value is the only form in which the value of commodities can manifest itself or be expressed.”

Only when the producers of goods exchange them do their various values manifest themselves. However, did they only become commodities when their values found expression through exchange? No, they contained use values, or satisfied human wants, even before this exchange, and this use-value gave us incentive for their production.

Labor, without any division or exchange, is a use-value commodity:

“So far therefore as labour is a creator of use value, is useful labour, it is a necessary condition, independent of all forms of society, for the existence of the human race; it is an eternal nature-imposed necessity, without which there can be no material exchanges between man and Nature, and therefore no life.”

Incidentally, labor and nature also form the means of production. From Chapter 7 of Capital:

“It appears paradoxical to assert, that uncaught fish, for instance, are a means of production in the fishing industry. But hitherto no one has discovered the art of catching fish in waters that contain none.”

Nature must form at least part of the means of production.

And:

“If we examine the whole process from the point of view of its result, the product, it is plain that both the instruments and the subject of labour, are means of production,⁶ and that the labour itself is productive labour.⁷ Though a use-value, in the form of a product, issues from the labour-process, yet other use-values, products of previous labour, enter into it as means of production. The same use-value is both the product of a previous process, and a means of production in a later process. Products are therefore not only results, but also essential conditions of labour.”

Labor itself enters the production process as part of the means of production.

So when we reread this quote, “As a consequence of the division of labor among different producers, the products of this labor assume the form of commodities,” we must argue that regardless of the way in which producers exchange their products, labor must always satisfy the human wants of the producers

themselves. Our labor creates the products we desire to consume. No amount of exploitation, division, or relief from exploitation will ever end labor and the process of production. We therefore must see it scientifically as a human constant.

From Joseph Kishore's article:

"The source of inequality, Marx explained, lies in the peculiar nature of one of the commodities bought and sold on the market: labor power. In common language, it is said that the worker sells his or her labor to the capitalist. This is not correct. What the worker sells to the capitalist is not labor but the commodity labor power, the capacity to work, which goes into the production and value of all other commodities."

Marx argues that production of commodities by labor, in fact, formed the basis for equality. In discussing Aristotle's theories on value, he writes:

"The secret of the expression of value, namely, that all kinds of labour are equal and equivalent, because, and so far as they are human labour in general, cannot be deciphered, until the notion of human equality has already acquired the fixity of a popular prejudice. This, however, is possible only in a society in which the great mass of the produce of labour takes the form of commodities, in which, consequently, the dominant relation between man and man, is that of owners of commodities."

Earlier societies, such as Aristotle's Ancient Greece depended on slavery for labor. This hid from Aristotle and everyone of his time the equality of all kinds of human labor. At that time, mankind still contained within its structure the most barbaric and primitive forms. This meant that one tribe would make war on, imprison, and enslave another, if not destroy them completely through hunger, disease, or direct slaughter. The slaves would then carry out one function, mostly production with little consumption, while the owners would carry out another, mostly consumption with little production. The products of slave labor need not be sold but only, for the most part, consumed by the slave's owner. The owner's labor, then, appeared qualitatively different and incomparable. In this sense, the produce of labor for sale as a commodity and the sale of labor power as a commodity brought about a great awakening with regard to the equality of all human labor.

He also argues, in Chapter 7, that the selling of labor at below its true value did not hurt the seller:

"The circumstance, that on the one hand the daily sustenance of labour-power costs only half a day's labour, while on the other hand the very same labour-power can work during a whole day, that consequently the value which its use during one day creates, is double what he pays for that use, this circumstance is,

without doubt, a piece of good luck for the buyer, but by no means an injury to the seller.”

Where did inequality arise from? Marx answers that inequality arose from historical circumstances and not from the peculiarity of any commodity or the production process. What Marx really said was, “This Fetishism of commodities has its origin, as the foregoing analysis has already shown, in the peculiar social character of the labour that produces them.” The Fetishism of commodities has to do with the inability of private producers to see that the relative values of their goods really expresses their social relations, which only take material form in the moment of exchange.

In this sense, labor for the production of goods for sales produces the social relations which lend to greater equality. A step towards capitalism away from Feudalism and Slavery meant a step towards equality. This produced the conditions for a further step towards equality in the form of socialism. The inequality under capitalism stems, in fact, from its inability to confront the inequality remnant or inherited from previous forms of production. Savagery continues through another cycle, through another generation. Perhaps the compassion of the capitalist will allow them to see their privilege not as the result of more valuable work but as circumstantial, hereditary, and less valuable, really, than the guarantee of social human needs. Perhaps chauvinism will conquer their soul, and the revolution will require violence to force them, their personal servants, and all their sycophants aside.

From Joseph Kishore’s article:

“Like every other commodity, the value of this particular commodity, labor power, is determined by the amount of labor required to produce it. This is equivalent to the quantity of goods that are necessary for the survival and reproduction of the worker. The less that is required for this survival and the reproduction of the next generation of wage workers, the poorer is the worker and the cheaper is his or her labor power.”

Labor Time determines the value of the commodity, not the “amount of labor”. In Chapter 10 of Marx’s Capital, we read, “We started with the supposition that labour-power is bought and sold at its value. Its value, like that of all other commodities, is determined by the working-time necessary to its production.” This difference between “quantity of goods that are necessary”, which completely ignores the value of those goods, [necessarily expressed in terms of working-time or labor time], and working-time proves very significant. In Chapter 10, Marx analyzes the working day and the amount of time the worker spends at work to produce the commodities necessary for his subsistence.

From Joseph Kishore’s article:

“While apparently involving the production of money out of thin air, via the printing press of the Federal Reserve, everything turned over to the rich must be paid for through the exploitation of workers, the source of all value.

“This is what is driving the demand by the ruling class for a return to work even as the pandemic rages out of control. Musk himself has played a leading role in insisting that all restraints on the spread of the pandemic must be ended and supplemental unemployment benefits for workers be cut off. Workers must be forced back to producing surplus value and profit.”

This turns Marx’s analysis of Capital on its head. The Capitalist idles many, prevents them from working, holds back production, and thereby forces society to remove this fetter on production. If Capitalism truly provided the greatest possible force for productivity, then revolution and socialism would never acquire the urgency or inevitability with which Marx urged them on. As many scientists pointed out, the spread of the virus due to unsafe industrial practices will slow the economy and cut production. The return to work must be seen as counter-revolutionary violence to defend the very concept of private ownership of the means of production against a rising socialist-inspired strike-wave.

The rush to unsafe workplaces does not contribute to production. Surplus value and profit are not produced but extracted by the capitalists like parasites on the production process. What we need is not to reduce production and punish capitalism with brutal home confinement, but to provide guaranteed full employment. This cannot occur through a total lock-down enforced by government but through a conscious, participatory movement by the workers to take the power through a general strike and the election of work-place equality committees.

Full employment may not mean that everyone should produce electric cars. It could mean production of protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, as well as medicine from test kits to cough syrup, and medical equipment like ventilators and field hospitals. Further work would include the packaging of nutritious food to distribute without charge. Many cleaning jobs could open up to clean and sanitize various surfaces, especially with regard to warehouses and packages. Environmental factors that produced the pandemic, such as deforestation, habitat destruction, and trade in endangered wildlife could produce jobs in reforestation, habitat protection, and rehabilitation of endangered species. This could also include the introduction of new methods of organic farming to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides as well as water waste. These could bring many workers out of the city and develop safe places to live and work in rural areas, reducing the concentration of the population and thereby the spread of the virus. As if only the rich should escape to the country! Production in general

could increase trade, open borders, and break down the root causes of war, which could include the use of biological weapons or weaponized viruses.

To keep everyone locked at home robs the workers of their power at a crucial moment in the development of class consciousness. Increases in socially-necessary and safe production would form the basis for the raising of wages and benefits and increases in personal consumption for the common worker. To deny them this process ignores and greatly undermines Marx's history in Chapter 10 of Capital relating to the Struggle for a Normal Working Day.

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[Random Poster](#) [Max Schneider](#) [3 months ago](#)

"Never has anyone in human history been able to attain the privilege to create money out of nothing but since the gold backed currency system has been abandoned in 1971 that is exactly what the new aristocracy of wealthy bankers has been doing."

Marx did not argue that capitalists created money from nothing. He argued about money as a necessary commodity. In Chapter 3 of Capital, he argues:

"The first chief function of money is to supply commodities with the material for the expression of their values, or to represent their values as magnitudes of the same denomination, qualitatively equal, and quantitatively comparable. It thus serves as a universal measure of value. And only by virtue of this function does gold, the equivalent commodity par excellence, become money."

Gold does not have an intrinsic property that turns it into money. Money, in any form, need only "supply commodities with the material for the expression of their values." The dollar, we must assume, does this even better than gold. For instance, if 1 ton of iron equals 2 ounces of gold, and a country devotes itself to gold mining producing an excess of gold for themselves, they may buy all the iron available on the market. Using the dollar may prevent this, since many products, such as hamburgers, fries, and soda, tobacco, or other common products sell for multiples of the dollar. These have acquired the modern economic term "basket of goods." These prices can serve "as material for the expression" of the value of other commodities, say iron. 1 ton of iron equals \$2,000.

Marx also states, "The expression of the value of a commodity in gold - x commodity A = y money-commodity - is its money-form or price. A single

equation, such as 1 ton of iron = 2 ounces of gold, now suffices to express the value of the iron in a socially valid manner."

Your real issue seems not be with the production of money but with the production of commodities for exchange rather than consumption. History determines what form of production we must accept. History will determine the next stage of production as socialist production, production for distribution to satisfy social needs, not the production of gold as money with divine mandate.

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[Random Poster](#) Cody [3 months ago](#)

"...a professor's salary is not based on his or her direct contribution to the total social labor that goes into producing tangible commodities. It is part of the divvying up process of the total surplus value."

The process of the production of education follows the same laws as every other industry. The education that the professor produces does not belong to the professor. It belongs to the capitalist owners of the educational institution. That education they sell in the market, and their customers are often other workers, not capitalists. The capitalists do not reproduce the working class or buy their education for them. They wait for the workers to reproduce and buy the education and then come to them for work. If they offer too little for educated workers, the educated workers will work for another capitalist.

Remember that workers buy and sell commodities as much as the capitalists do. Some exceptions do exist, as employers sometimes send their employees to various educational institutions in order to certify their workers and meet with regulations. This often gets subsidized by the government anyway, which pays for it by taxing the workers.

The capitalists never share the surplus value with the workers. Whatever money the capitalists give in the form of taxes to pay for education depends on the history of social struggle and the military and trade conflicts between nations. Socialist public education does not free the working class under the rule of capitalist parties. In fact, education forms a sort of monopoly for text-book publishers and standardized tests. In addition, it forms the "special bodies of armed men" that police the students, force them to regurgitate propaganda, and aids in recruitment, selection, and pre-training for the police, military, and corporate and state hierarchy.

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[Random Poster](#) [FireintheHead](#) [3 months ago](#)

Marxists must see violence against the oligarchy as an unfortunate situation provoked by violence against the revolution and its leadership. This violence amounts to terrorism against the heads of a new state protected by the officials of the old state. A civil war need not lead to progress, and so we need to encourage punishment fitting the crime. That being said, the oligarchy may provoke a collective punishment upon themselves if they resort to open war on the people in defiance of the constitution. This stems from class antagonism under Capitalism and the efforts of the state to corral the capitalists into a war to defend their privileges. The desire for revenge on the part of angry revolutionaries actually represents a counterproductive and even counter-revolutionary force, as the greatest capacity for destruction will always remain in the hands of the state.

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[Random Poster](#) [justanavgjoe2](#) [3 months ago](#)

"...idled workers cannot buy anything. Hence the tendency of the rate of profit to fall."

The tendency of the rate of profit to fall occurs due to the accumulation of capital, not the idling of workers. A very large number of workers can subsist on irregular, menial labor or charity and welfare. Though they lose their dignity and health, living significantly shorter lives, they continue to reproduce another generation of laborers, part of which will arrive at the factories, stores, and offices of capital. The other part will wait to replace them, accepting lower wages.

The accumulation of capital occurs due to the nature of capital as a form of class exploitation and its production of surplus value or profit. This means that as the capitalists draw more profit from the workers, they accumulate greater amounts, using greater amounts of capital and smaller amounts of labor. As the exploitation of labor accounts for the profit, the reduction of labor as a percentage of the total costs of business reduces profit over time.

Marx wrote in Chapter 1 of Capital: "If we could succeed at a small expenditure of labour, in converting carbon into diamonds, their value might fall below that of bricks. In general, the greater the productiveness of labour, the less is the labour time required for the production of an article, the less is the amount of labour crystallised in that article, and the less is its value; and vice versa, the less the productiveness of labour, the greater is the labour time required for the production of an article, and the greater is its value. The value of a commodity, therefore, varies directly as the quantity, and inversely as the productiveness, of the labour incorporated in it."

Another way of seeing this process comes from the concept in bourgeois economics of "perfect competition." If a business earns a 20% rate of return on investment, more businesses will compete for their customers, driving down prices. This will continue to cut the rate of profit until the costs and revenues are equal, squeezing out all profit.

Eventually capital will create barriers to competition, including another concept called "economies of scale." This parallels Marx's observation on the accumulation of capital. Large amounts of capital brought together, through loans, billionaire investors, or securities markets, can produce the same goods as smaller enterprises at a cheaper price, due to the introduction of larger machines and greater division of labor. This maintains the rate of profit through the process of "perfect competition" described above. It does not, however, eliminate the falling rate of profit from the process described by Marx. Even under monopoly production, the capitalists will see their rates of profit decline, and therefore turn to exporting capital to other countries and destroying older forms of capital through economic crises, trade wars, and military wars. Witness the destruction of Iraq and Venezuela as Elon Musk and Tesla grow to replace Henry Ford and General Motors.

The capitalist class cannot save itself from these tendencies. Only the working class, produced by the rise and spread of capitalism, offers a solution. That solution depends on replacing private ownership and profit with common ownership and planned production to satisfy human needs on a global scale.

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[Random Poster](#) [Max Schneider](#) [3 months ago](#)

The fundamentals of Capitalism have not changed and Marx observed every process in his time. He did this to settle every argument that would extend the life

of Capitalism. Your arguments lead in the direction of chauvinism, in that they give room to Capitalism to expand further at the expense of one or another nation. A new higher form of Capitalism supposedly exists now concentrating wealth even further.

This does not end the cycles of collapse and destruction that suddenly end millions or even tens of millions lives costing tens of trillions to world GDP. All this destruction obviously does not create profit, so what does it do? It maintains the political power of the capitalist class while forcefully eliminating the threat of socialism. This destruction only raises the rate of profit on new investments, allowing a new generation of capital, with its representatives in the form of new oligarchs to revolutionize the mode of production. Elon Musk represents the destruction of the gas-powered auto industry centered in Detroit and its replacement by battery-powered electric cars likely centered in California and Mexico.

The workers need not divide themselves amongst old and new capital but end the cycle of destruction through the establishment of socialist production of transportation. No amount of financial manipulation will change these basic laws of Capitalism. The search for a Holy Grail of New Capitalism will destroy countless lives and resources for the planet.

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[Random Poster](#) [Sebouh80](#) [3 months ago](#)

"For Marx the Labor power is a special form of commodity that the Capitalist uses in order to reap their profits and at the same time class reproduction."

The capitalist uses labor power in combination with other commodities to form new commodities, which he sells. The labor power doesn't give them the profits. The profits come from the difference between the labor's value, which can be measured through the difference in price between the raw materials and finished product, and the wages paid.

The question is, why would the worker accept less than the value of his labor as payment? In this lies the truth about the exploitation of labor based on class division. The laborer, in theory, has no guarantees of food and shelter outside of what he obtains with his wages. The dreary conditions facing the unemployed serve as the whip to lash the workers towards ever greater productivity.

Socialism rectifies this by offering all human needs as a right, allowing him to withhold his labor until offered the right price. The means of production enter their control through the operations of the state, which also guarantees them the right to oversee production decisions.

The question Elon Musk must answer does not involve the moral right of workers to collect, for that right appears rather obvious. The question is, could socialist government afford to offer life's necessities as it promises. This will depend on the workers receiving fair warning if their demands exceed the available resources of the state. That problem is technical, relying on workers' representatives and democratic rights within the Revolutionary Party.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [116 comments](#)

Elon Musk discovers Das Kapital



[Random Poster](#) [Don Barrett](#) [3 months ago](#)

The Mark Curtis Hoax has been very interesting and much of it available at google books.

[View in discussion](#)



[Random Poster](#) [David Fitzgerald](#) [3 months ago](#)

This is a sign. It proves the need to build the movement in a real way so that the workers and their leaders have access to an education in Marxism. The capitalists must also struggle to inspire people to participate. Elon Musk must feel the need to attract intellectual labor to his companies and with that capital. He can only do this through engagement with the ideas of Karl Marx. This article should represent a first step, not a quick skip to the end, in a more comprehensive review of Capital, Marx's most ambitious work. Though less popular than the Communist Manifesto, it should form part of a required reading list for anyone with enough ambition to bring down the capitalist state.

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Stop Trump's coup d'état! Mobilize the working class against authoritarianism and dictatorship!



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

1. "The absolute subordination of all social needs to the capitalist oligarchy's relentless drive for profits and wealth has created the conditions for the catastrophe that is now unfolding."

This may cause confusion. The oligarchy does not choose profit and wealth. It operates according to the established economic relations of production, especially the private ownership of the means of production and the exploitation of labor. The oligarchy cannot control its greed in order to solve the problem. To do so would only replace them as their companies failed to attract capital and could not therefore compete using the latest and most efficient means of production.

No government policy could control their greed either, as capital would move to other countries where workers have no democratic rights or labor protection. As Lenin said, Imperialism is not a policy decision but a necessary aspect of capitalism. The drive for wealth and profits cannot fall under control of reforms or political policies. The root of the problem lies deeper in the private ownership of production and exploitation of labor as the primary forms of economic production. Consciousness of this underlying cause must precede the growth of a revolutionary movement, more than any moralizing, which lends itself to reformism or the pressuring of the state.

2. "In the only major case challenging the authority of federal police to seize protesters, a judge in Portland ruled on Friday that the arrests could continue."

The capitalist courts do not offer due process. Any attempt to sway them in such a direction traps the revolutionary movement within legalist theory. Capitalist democracy has never offered democratic rights, with the courts always functioning as an enforcement arm of the state under the control of the political parties of the capitalist class. The warnings against mob rule and hysteria have served to protect criminals and predators in service of the terror-tactics of capitalists and the political elite while judges and expert witnesses have systematically put many poor people in prison without regard for innocence or guilt.

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New delivery workers demonstration in Brazil exposes unions and their allies



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

The decision to break with the unions and organize industrial actions through committees will change the balance of power between the workers and employers or capitalist owners. The workers have greater numbers and nothing to lose, while the capitalists have fewer numbers and would rather prevent losses through negotiations.

The workers continually lose out, however, because the labor laws and the labor market came into effect to suppress socialist movements that would place production under the control of the workers themselves. Rather than a neutral body, the government labor board works to reduce strikes and mediate with a bias towards the employers. This may occur because of global economic forces, but those forces do not excuse the actions of political actors. Submission to those laws means submission to the oligarchy and the acceptance of wage slavery.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [1 comments](#)

Brazil surpasses two million coronavirus cases as reopening drive continues



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

The virus and the response did not prove the "completely irrational" as the writer claims. Marxism argues that the capitalist mode of production follows rational laws that we can study using scientific observation. The decisions of capitalist governments do not only serve to increase profits but to defend the rights of owners to those profits against any challenge posed by a movement of the people.

This means that the Brazilian government has decided that the massive scandals that brought millions to the streets and sent former and future presidents to jail or

stabbed them with knives, that these events represented an existential threat to Capitalism in Brazil, South America, and the world. The virus provided Capitalism with the cure for "the contagion of socialist ideas". With 2 million infected, Brazilian revolutionaries will encounter greater difficulty in organizing a party for the establishment of a workers' state as part of the world revolution against Capitalism and Imperialism. At the same time, the open hostility of the government towards the working class will drive it towards these revolutionary conclusions.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [5 comments](#)

US-led “back to work” drive spreads death across Latin America



[Random Poster](#) John Upton [3 months ago](#)

Lenin and Trotsky led the revolution through exhaustive arguments about every subject or trend related to the revolution. They did not shut down discussion but maintained it, all the while summarizing the various positions for presentation to the people. The task of political exposure through daily journalism arose out of this discussion, not out of habit or an imposed idealistic model.

Furthermore, the socialist revolution will not immediately abolish class differences, it will free the proletariat to establish the conditions for its own liberation from slavery based on their dependency on wages and the expropriation of profit by the owners. Once socialism accomplishes this restructuring of economic relations, new divisions may form, especially with relation to the state that will give rise to future revolutions.

To speak about the revolution as a sudden and complete conversion of the entirety of society leaves out completely the active work of the revolutionary, the history of the Left Opposition and the Fourth International after the degeneration of the October Revolution, and the mass movement of the workers against the conditions produced by capitalism. The revolution does not come to society from outside but from inside, from the breakdown and collapse of the old system. This social law, discovered through the scientific study of history, proves the necessity and inevitability of the socialist revolution as other revolutions which came before.

This determination to shut down discussion has brought forward many commentators who find various justifications for the support of Bernie Sanders.

Without a clear approach to theoretical matters and to the defense and maintenance of open dialogue, the need for revolution will give way to reformism. Losing patience with the working class will lead to the formation of a counter-revolutionary bureaucracy. You should know that contemptuous writing appears in many of the works of great Marxists, from Marx and Engels to Lenin and Trotsky. They would argue that you simply will use whatever personal slight as an excuse to shut down discussion, excusing yourself from any responsibility to the revolutionary movement.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [10 comments](#)

“Palace letters” point to the plotting behind the 1975 constitutional coup in Australia



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

This proves that a Bernie Sanders presidency would end in disaster for the working class. Whitlam, as head of a Labor Party government after 23 years of Conservative rule must have come to power on a wave of popular anger against all government institutions. Yet his own appointee, similar to that of Rafael Correa of Ecuador, turned on him and led the government in the opposite direction. Whatever promises they make not only get broken, but an extra-legal process takes hold of politics that eliminates the effect of mass demonstrations and political rebellion. Continued appeals for Sanders at this point represent a conscious attack on the memory of the working class. The workers can resist these attacks only by themselves attacking the heads of these counter-revolutionaries in disguise.

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#MeToo to “Me Who?”: US media has turned off the sexual witch-hunt for the moment



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

The about-face by bourgeois #MeToo activists on Joe Biden and Jeffrey Epstein does not disprove the revolutionary content of the #MeToo movement. The arrest of Ghislaine Maxwell proves the efficacy of the revolutionary movement and the hope for the arrest and trial of the leaders of global capitalism. She played a central role in the organized sexual abuse of minors and women that implicates Clinton, Trump, and Prince Andrew as well as many in the entertainment industry. Organized crime does not prove no crime occurred. Organized crime proves that many went free by hiding their trail and paying in cash.

Your attempts to divide the trials of Epstein and Maxwell from #MeToo, as well as the political jabs at Joe Biden that the Reade scandal provided, completely betrays Marxist principles. From Marx's defense of the Paris Commune to Lenin's criticism of Plekhanov's role in the 1905 revolution, every stance you take on the #MeToo movement betrays ignorance or disdain for the historical principles of Marxism. Your inability to apply theory to practice will end in an open break with Marxist theory.

The main point of contention lies in the position of the revolution on the participation of the bourgeoisie within the revolutionary movement. The position has always been and should still remain this same position: the bourgeoisie will initiate the revolutionary movement only to betray it, and the working class must not place their faith in these leaders to carry through the struggle to its completion. Your revision of this Marxist theory stands in the way of the construction of the revolutionary party.

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Twenty-five years since the death of Ed Winn



[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

[Union Bureaucrat Sonny] Hall wrote, “what you ... wanted was a Mass Strike, not to win wages, but to bring down the government.” In Winn’s reply, he wrote: “What’s so terrible about that? If that’s what it takes to defend the jobs and living standards of transit workers, then so be it!”

As Ed Winn pointed out, when the party proposes tactics to striking and demonstrating workers, they should base the argument on the strategic purpose:

not simple wage gains which higher prices and job losses will erase, but control over the means of production accomplished through the breaking up of the old state and the establishment of a new one. The union bureaucrat will always argue that this struggle is useless, but it has always underpinned the real pressure for labor reforms, including wage increases. Their tactics and strategy depend on willful ignorance of the economic process of production under Capitalism. The working class cannot imagine a system into being. The real system exists despite the promises of the bureaucrat, and that reality forces the workers into a conflict with employers, the union bureaucracy, and the state.

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[Random Poster](#) [3 months ago](#)

My comment doesn't appear, but it doesn't say 'removed' on Disqus either.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [11 comments](#)

American Historical Review publishes letter on 1619 Project by Tom Mackaman and David North



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The flaws of the 1619 Project do not justify the flaws of the bourgeois Pulitzer Prize Winner historians interviewed by the WSWS.ORG. The British, French, and American capitalist revolutions turned out to be exceptions rather than the rule in world history. The capitalist class has supported cruel dictatorship and has always, by its very nature, exploited labor, including slave labor. Northern capitalists depended on slave labor for cheap cotton for their clothing factories, which allowed them to export to the entire world. The Nazi-German and Japanese slave camps transferred large sums of money from occupied and enslaved nations to their capitalists. This also included their business partners in Allied Power countries.

The historians that the WSWS.ORG provides as counterweights to the New York Times will introduce new errors into the theories of the ICFI if left unchallenged.

The correct counterweight to the New York Times remains the Marxist leaders such as Lenin who did not have any faith in bourgeois revolutionary politicians, and criticized them mercilessly in order to rid the revolutionary movement of their influence. They celebrated and congratulated the capitalist liberals and abolitionists, yes, but as exceptions to the rule whose motives required close scrutiny. To say to Abraham Lincoln, "Congratulations on freeing the slaves," really meant, "You have been forced by military and economic circumstances to free the slaves, and these newly freed workers will add to the ranks of the revolutionary proletariat. Unfortunately, it cost more than six hundred thousand soldiers' lives before this conclusion finally took hold in your hypocritically revolutionary, democratic society. May this destruction hasten the destruction of Capitalism as a whole."

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Seattle police forcibly end Capitol Hill Occupied Protest



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The so-called occupation of parks in order to negotiate with democratic politicians has proved a failure. A full occupation as part of a general strike would have completely different features, and this would require the leadership of the SEP, the revolutionary party of the international working class.

Rather than making noise in the park, the revolutionary movement would block major streets and highways; enter municipal government buildings, courts, and media and corporate headquarters, as well as mansions, luxury apartments, and estates worth over \$20 million; and defend elected workplace committees that would oversee production and distribution of goods and services. Leaders, political, news-media, cultural, and corporate, as well as oligarchs of the old chauvinist, imperialist order should await trial in prison, not escape to another city only to return once military dictatorship has controlled the revolution. This would depend on democratically elected soldiers' committees controlling all the heavy military equipment that Washington DC might order to open fire on a revolutionary city or that could be used to interfere with trials and prisons organized by the revolution.

This narrative does not come from the imagination of protestors but from a careful study of socialist revolutions going back to Marx's time in 1848, as well as the bourgeois British, French, and American revolutions. Any adjustments to this perspective must find scientific historical evidence as justification. Above all, the SEP must defend the leadership of the movement and guide it once it has come to sufficiently revolutionary conclusions and completely abandoned appeals to reformist politicians. The SEP should raise suspicion with regard to deaths and injuries and should expose assassination attempts and call for professional 24/7 security for leaders during the critical juncture, thus not showing paranoia, but in fact, preventing civil war.

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Record 47.2 percent of working-age Americans without jobs



[Random Poster](#) [Jerome_Stern](#) [4 months ago](#)

No, this confusion needs clearing up.

The error is here:

"The numbers are based on the BLS employment-population ratio, which states the proportion of the total labor force who are actually working."

The employment-population ratio measures just that, the number of people employed divided by the total working-age population (15-64 years old in the US). This measure includes both the employed and the unemployed, which together make up the labor force, as well as a third category, the discouraged. Unemployed people have searched for work recently while the discouraged have given up on actively searching for work. The discouraged do not figure into the unemployment rate. The working age population also includes other people of working age, such as house wives, prisoners, or students that cannot work for other reasons. The inability of the unemployment rate to measure discouragement has given rise to the employment-population ratio. A similar measure is the labor force participation rate, which shows the proportion of the entire population involved in the total labor force.

<https://www.investopedia.co...>

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Socialist Equality Party (Australia) to hold online lectures on history of Trotskyism



[Random Poster](#) [imaduwa](#) [4 months ago](#)

A system of elected inspectors and elected committees could take on the tasks of hiring, firing, and accepting or rejecting work. This would allow small businesses to continue to produce profit for their owners while eliminating the anarchy of the market. Micro-capital lending institutions could receive government funding to reopen the retail sector that suffers most of all from high rents, job insecurity, and expensive yet poorly funded public transportation. Small businesses should not need to bear the burden of employees', wages, health-care, and retirement themselves.

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[Random Poster](#) [pierre](#) [4 months ago](#)

I would also argue that concentration of wealth beyond a certain limit leads to exploitation and class differentiation, even with nationalized property dominating the economy as a whole. A \$20 million wealth cap would eliminate much of this problem even more than the \$10 billion corporate asset limit proposed in the current SEP political program.

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Twenty-five years since the death of Ed Winn



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

[Union Bureaucrat Sonny] Hall wrote, “what you ... wanted was a Mass Strike, not to win wages, but to bring down the government.” In Winn’s reply, he wrote: “What’s so terrible about that? If that’s what it takes to defend the jobs and living standards of transit workers, then so be it!”

As Ed Winn pointed out, when the party proposes tactics to striking and demonstrating workers, they should base the argument on the strategic purpose: not simple wage gains which higher prices will erase, but control over the means of production accomplished through the breaking up of the old state and the establishment of a new one. The union bureaucrat will always argue that this struggle is useless, but it has always underpinned the pressure for labor reforms, including wage increases. Their tactics and strategy depend on willful ignorance of the economic process of production under Capitalism. The working class cannot imagine a system into being. The real system exists despite the promises of the bureaucrat, and that reality forces the workers into a conflict with employers and the state.

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US: Bath shipyard workers strike over subcontracting and job cuts



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

During a revolution, even Capitans and Admirals will turn against the government. The revolution must provide structure and strategy to a newly organized revolutionary military. The sailors must form democratically elected soldiers committees and ban the use of large weapons without prior approval by the elected committees as well as a civilian oversight body appointed by a new central government.

The new state must subordinate the production of military equipment to its own strategy, based on defense of a world socialist revolution. This will include chasing the counter-revolution out of capitals and major cities throughout the world. The striking workers must hear this perspective in order to understand the need to break from the unions. The workers cannot pursue a purely economic strategy, because that would leave political power in the hands of private companies like General Dynamics and their two political parties. The calling of reserves to take their jobs, the strict rules governing the strike, and the betrayal of the union

through lies to workersq and concessions to management all point to the underlying trend impressing itself upon the workers: rebel or accept slavery, degradation, and brutality.

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The Strokes' The New Abnormal and Hamilton Leithauser's The Loves Of Your Life: Two decades on from the rise of "i...



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

If music allows the crowd to make a sound, the sound of the crowd itself, it forms something greater than whispers or shouts as language comes out of the sounds of voice, the anatomy of the throat. Within a society divided by class and oppressed by a state, these harmful forces will muffle the sound of beautiful music and produce cries of the oppressed combined with the ugly bragging of the conqueror. Nothing with harmony will come out, perhaps for the best, since a great harmony would draw more and more people towards that oppressed and disastrous center.

You wrote: "Initially, this music found a large audience, in part because it was a conscious rejection of the lifeless, cynical and bloated "alternative rock" and even drearier "rap-rock" produced by the large record companies throughout the 1990s."

The combination of rock with pop and rock with rap did arise simply from profit-interests of the companies but through a natural process of separate cultures meeting in the middle. This may help raise profits, but it also defends the free movement of the people and the freedom of changing tastes or styles. These artistic movements should have the freedom to evolve and continue to attempt to draw large crowds or produce far-reaching broadcasts and other forms of mass distribution.

You also fail to mention an important facet of the music world, the repression and assassination of famous musicians as soon as they turn against the regime and the capitalist system. This produces a taming fear and a sort of rat-race to oust revolutionaries from the stage. The drug culture appears to offer the cure for oppressed creativity, only to lend itself to murders that remain unsolved, listed as

medical overdose or suicide with no evidence of foul play. The revolution must keep its ear to the ground, but it must also pay closer attention to the cries of the oppressed spirit than to the carefully crafted, yet deeply false harmony emanating from the stages erected by capitalism.

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University of Chicago grad students disaffiliate from the American Federation of Teachers



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The government created the NLRB to ensure labor peace while granting every demand of the employers. No NLRB-recognized union will ever support a general national strike to unite strikers in various industries and regions or political strikes to force the government to step down. For this reason, workers should see that the leadership provided by the SEP is absolutely indispensable.

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Hands off the monuments to Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Grant!



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The tearing down of monuments creates immense symbolism. After all, the monuments required government funding and approval, so to tear them down represents the destruction of the state. Yet every metaphor has its limits, and the tearing down of monuments will not bring about social change without a social movement to articulate directly the objectives of the cause.

That these statues represented certain Revolutionary leaders seems besides the point. The government erected these statues to claim that the revolution had accomplished its aims and that the people of the United States have created

freedom and democracy. Clearly, the people have not accomplished their aims through the revolution of 1776, and the next revolution must aim higher.

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[Random Poster](#) [Bantze Hotep](#) [4 months ago](#)

You're talking about maybe 5% of poor white people. In order to have an enlightened opinion, you have to put the facts first and within their proper context. You should concern yourself with the truth of the positions you are arguing and assume that belief trails behind but eventually catches up to truth. Whatever false beliefs we hold today will fail us at some point, and we will inevitably have to replace them with new ones.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [4 months ago](#)

Inaccurate. The capitalists on either side of the ocean had differences over military and economic strategy that made compromise impossible. As a result, a conflict intensified, even more than it had in Europe when it caused the colonists to leave in the first place.

Out of this conflict arose George Washington but not only George Washington, an entire generation of great revolutionaries dedicated to studying philosophy and government. This included millions of colonists of more common background who also participated in what they saw far in advance, the founding of the Republic. George Washington's will to free the people from the British may have helped him, but in reality he responded to the injustice and the tyranny of the British throne as a representative of more than just himself.

The class conflict, as the economic base of society, provides the context, not the direct motive for individual action. Many capitalists preferred the British authority and left when the revolutionary government came to power. The hated taxes provided for an authority that would protect their property.

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One year of the #MeToo movement



[Random Poster](#) Lola [4 months ago](#)

The petit bourgeois position is yours. Harvey Weinstein, Les Moonves and Jeffrey Epstein rank up there with Henry Kissinger and George W. Bush. Their defense amounts to defense of criminal elites and can only have petit bourgeois motives at base. I would ask if the purveyors of anti-metoo Social Chauvinism also have access to celebrities, free, early release movies, invitations to film festivals, etc. to maintain their petit-bourgeois allegiance. If you would like a true look at US courts, check the Netflix miniseries the Innocence Files. They do not represent justice but an efficient machine to put millions behind bars or end their lives with Capital Punishment. Metoo represents a push by workers to have the Capitalists fall into their own machine.

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New signs of New York City police revolt, as Democratic mayor and governor announce “reforms”



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The police act as the front line in a war by the oligarchy against the suffering masses. In order to respond to politicians, they surround them to offer security and then begin their lobbying. However heavily armed and numerous, they will not suffice in subduing the opposition to Capitalism.

Their attempts to sway elected officials will meet with resistance as well, as they appear to move for a right-wing coup or at least an engineered incident, which amounts to a covert terror campaign. The conflict will intensify as the economy sinks. Only a revolution can restore society to balanced foundations, when police brutality no longer returns, no longer seems necessary.

The socialist movement must continue to accuse the police, not only of illegal choke holds, but illegal formations, illegal surveillance, illegal arrests, and illegal weaponry. It must stay on the offensive against brutality, or the state will move to disarm the rebellion while igniting a massively destructive foreign war. With millions of lives on the line, the state deserves no rest.

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Thousands of educators laid off across California as state Democrats plan austerity budget



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

Rather than expand access to higher education, we see the government wants to underfund schools in order to force children to drop out of high school. The pay differential between a high school drop out and graduate is \$10,000. Between a high school drop out and someone with a bachelor's degree, the difference comes to \$36,000 per year. They will only earn on average \$20,000 and can expect a much higher unemployment rate.

This will make the cuts to education untenable. The working class has no choice but to rebel, because even with the \$36,000 salary, they will have trouble making ends meet. The teacher strikes prove that the policy cuts against the interests of the working class. However, workers in every sector must unite to force the government to step down. Only a newly formed government that arises from the struggle of the workers for their own interests will force through social change at the expense of the capitalist class.

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Would-be führer Trump steps up coup plotting



[Random Poster](#) [Jonathan Pitts](#) [4 months ago](#)

The unions want to enforce their contracts with management in the face of an increasingly militant working class. They will want a military government to enforce their labor agreements.

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COVID-19 cases spike across the United States



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The death of Burundi's president gives hope in the midst of the pandemic that the government will not forever use the pandemic to trample on democratic rights and operate on an elevated scale of brutality. Burundi has a small population and land mass, bordering on Rwanda, with a history of colonial oppression and poverty. Yet the national bourgeoisie remains connected to the world imperialist system and provides resources to European and other multi-national corporations at a low rate while maintaining the impoverishment of their people. The Covid-19 pandemic will disproportionately hurt the poor as employment exposes them to dangerous conditions. Yet the working class, with a developed consciousness of its place in the world economy can protect themselves while exposing their enemies (who would do the same to them) to the risk of infection.

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Growing anger among US workers as COVID-19 rips through workplaces



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

I wrote this yesterday in response to an article a month ago, but it is relevant enough to reprint here:

Did you consider the fact that many workers need to get back to work? With meat production shut down, foodstamp cuts, and other factors such as "food deserts" throughout the United States, many workers will want to get back to work.

Conditions will not permit it, you say. This amounts to syndicalism, a theoretical error that the Bolsheviks fought on the way to power. [The Syndicalism of the SLL also contributed to the split between the OCI and the SLL in the early 70s.] Suddenly, some event [like the shutdown] will force all the workers into a general strike by chance, without a determined effort to fight for that perspective in the working class.

The workers may not all have masks, but they will not all have guns either. How will they defend against company thugs, brutal police attacks, or union subterfuge of their leaders? Without guns, workers should not go to work. Yet, they will, and the socialist movement should demand that they receive all the personal protective equipment [they need] and that it receives proper usage to protect them at work. As a consequence of such socialist agitation, workers too should demand such conditions as well, for their own well-being. Sadly, this will only happen in a complete way when workers feel their well-being matters to society.

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Build rank-and-file factory and workplace committees to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus and save lives!



[Random Poster](#) [Shuvu Batta](#) [4 months ago](#)

Did you consider the fact that many workers need to get back to work? With meat production shut down, foodstamp cuts, and other factors such as "food deserts" throughout the United States, many workers will want to get back to work.

Conditions will not permit it, you say. This amounts to syndicalism, a theoretical error that the Bolsheviks fought on the way to power. Suddenly, some event will force all the workers into a general strike by chance, without a determined effort to fight for that perspective in the working class.

The workers may not all have masks, but they will not all have guns either. How will they defend against company thugs, brutal police attacks, or union subterfuge of their leaders? Without guns, workers should not go to work. Yet, they will, and the socialist movement should demand that they receive all the personal protective equipment and that it receives proper usage to protect them at work. As a consequence of such socialist agitation, workers too should demand such

conditions as well, for their own well-being. Sadly, this will only happen in a complete way when workers feel their well-being matters to society.

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[Random Poster](#) [PeterHL](#) [4 months ago](#)

I agree with you, but bourgeois ideological hatred for socialism has made its way into the party. You must also ask, with all the intellectuals in the party, why does this suggestion have to come from you?

I recommend you look at my website: randomposter33.wordpress.com

There, we can continue this dialogue on a higher theoretical level.

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Revolution and Counter-Revolution in America



[Random Poster](#) [Cheryl Kozanitas](#) [4 months ago](#)

The brutality is both shocking and systemic.

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Bolsonaro government attempted to censor Brazil's coronavirus case count and death toll



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The attempts to censor data and sabotage the reporting of the virus' spread deserve severe punishment. The government should not gain any benefit from allowing a disease to spread among its people. Medical staff may make every

effort to stop the spread of the virus, but if the government impedes this work, it has failed before it even started.

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The global protests and the fight against capitalism



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

I hope that this or a similar statement receives wide distribution at protests and demonstrations throughout the US and throughout the world. The WSWS should quickly become the newspaper of the rising revolution.

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A call to the working class! Stop Trump's coup d'état!



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

The military response to the George Floyd protests coincides with the attempt by the government to shut down democracy using the virus as a pretext. The various positions of generals and ex-presidents represents an attempt by the ruling class to diversify its positions in order to hold on to power. The objective logic of the situation, however, forces the executive to take ever more extreme measures to overcome the resistance of the people.

These hesitations will give way to the resolve of the capitalist class to hold on to power by any means necessary. A military response by the government, however, will lead to a military response by the people, who will organize a revolutionary army to go to battle against the army of the old regime. This will end the period of a "leaderless movement". It will change the nature of the movement from isolated

incidents into an organized, distinguishable political force with a well-known strategy and firm, prominent leadership.

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Millions march in cities and towns in every part of the US to oppose racism and police violence



[Random Poster](#) [4 months ago](#)

These protests have continued the resistance to government policies that existed before the quarantine. This proves that nothing the government does can hold back the revolutionary tide that will sweep it away. These great efforts to maintain a powerful unity in the face of repression will give rise to a new generation of revolutionary leaders that have the extra advantage of social networking apps, an international movement, and the extreme inequality produced by the economic crisis. The SEP must appeal to these newly activated people in order to transition into a viable mass party for the revolutionary movement.

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Socialist Equality Party (Australia) to hold online lectures on history of Trotskyism



[Random Poster](#) [Jared](#) [5 months ago](#)

The NEP formed the economic structural base for bureaucratic state and the elimination of inner-party and worker-committee democracy. The NEP arose not from an original adherence to mixed-economy theory. It arose as a temporary measure in anticipation of revolutionary governments taking power in Western Europe, especially Germany, France, and England.

Only in these countries, as well as Japan and the United States, had the economy developed out of feudal backwardness enough to support socialist economic

planning and a proletarian ruling class. Russia had only 2% of its population as urban proletariat. This class managed to take the power and lead the peasants and revolutionary soldiers out of imperialist war and into a transition period that completely depended on the revolution spreading into Western Europe.

This failure of the revolution to spread depended on the Chauvinism and the betrayal of the revolution of Social Democracy, or the Second International. They adapted to the war by making alliances with the liberal bourgeoisie in favor of imperialist war. This left the workers without a revolutionary leadership organized specifically out of the fight within the party against bourgeois influences, above all Opportunism before 1914 and after 1914 Chauvinism. That fight for a well-prepared, theoretically adept revolutionary leadership distinguished Lenin's party from every other revolutionary group or party. He accomplished this feat only through a careful study and defense of the theories of Marx and Engels against the contemporary radical intellectuals of his time.

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No to American fascism! Build a mass movement to force Trump out!



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

The current protests and riots point to the fact that the political establishment can no longer contain the anger of the population. Trump proposes a direct confrontation using the military. Many mayors and governors opposed this suggestion as that would bring forward the last line of defense of the corrupt and failing government. The protesters must receive the message of the SEP and respond by building the revolutionary movement.

Anger released through destruction of property and shooting of police officers may frighten the state, but it will only come back with greater force. The only hope for the people remains the construction of a mass movement of the revolutionary proletariat, the foundation of a workers' state, and the transfer of the accumulated wealth of society from private to public ownership. The SEP and its supporters must bring this message themselves to the crowds of people gathered to protest the death of George Floyd and other victims of police brutality.

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Brazilian Trotskyists issue call for working-class action against pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

"The greatest advocates of such policies ["war budget" for rescue of failing corporations] along with Bolsonaro and Guedes, were the parties of the so-called "opposition" led by the Workers Party (PT) and supported by the pseudo-left Socialism and Freedom Party (PSOL) and the Maoist Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), whose leaders cynically stated that opposing the rescue of large companies would mean blocking aid to workers."

The acceptance of the war budget means abandoning the pretense of standing for revolutionary change. The opposition of Brazil has created the political conditions for the rise of fascism, since no revolutionary option really exists. With the building of the SEP in Brazil and throughout South America, this situation will change. No longer politically tied by default to Stalinism, the working class can create a movement to take the power rather than defend the national bourgeoisie, the capitalist state, the Chinese state bureaucracy, or the imperialist system as a whole. By pursuing their own interests openly, the workers can take the lead on the response to the pandemic, the economic crisis, and a host of other issues.

For these reasons, the SEP should receive a warm welcome in Brazil. Democratic Power, standing for the rights of the membership of the SEP, will provide the theoretical foundation for the growth of a mass movement with a truly responsive leadership. Great work getting the movement started in yet another country!

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Mass anger erupts throughout the US in protests against police murder of George Floyd



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

When the police and military can kill people and get away with it, democracy dies very quickly. The workers must arm themselves and defend their rights. Everyone should reject any criticism of the violence of the protesters. The police murders come directly from policies signed by mayors, governors, and the president to create a war-like culture within law-enforcement, with deaths an intended consequence. Not only Derek Chauvin, but the entire city-government leadership, the state government leadership, and the federal government leadership should await trial in prison. Trump's attempts to crush the protesters with military violence should lead to prosecution with a maximum sentence of execution.

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Hydroxychloroquine: New scientific study refutes the quack-in-chief



[Random Poster](#) [Ed Bergonzi](#) [5 months ago](#)

Hydroxychloroquine treats malaria, which kills a million people a year, 90% in Sub-Saharan Africa. That drug can save a million lives a year but by fighting Malaria in Africa not Coronavirus in the U.S.

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Protests by medical workers grow as hospitals overwhelmed across Mexico



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

The continuing exponential growth of the virus proves that only a revolution can create a world body capable of an effective response to the virus, the economic collapse, and the coming war between the U.S. and China. Only workers determined to fight to force the government to negotiate and concede, such as the health workers in Mexico, can eliminate the destructive forces responsible for the "ignorance" and "negligence" that spread of the virus.

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Reports question accuracy of COVID-19 death counts in US and globally



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

If the government lies about the cause of death in order to conceal the real total, wouldn't they lie about where it originated, how it spread, and what efforts to contain it or cure it would require? Remember that imperialism is not a choice, government must cause destruction to rival economies in order to maintain profit rates and economic growth. Increases in development mean more competition, which only something on the scale of a pandemic or world war can destroy. These governments worry that the death toll from Covid-19 will be too low, not too high. A lower casualty count would not destroy enough accumulated capital to begin a new cycle of growth. In the end, they will pursue other means of causing destruction as the economic downturn lasts into 2021 or 2022.

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Social problems begin to come to the fore in Billie Eilish's debut album



[Random Poster](#) [Suzan](#) [5 months ago](#)

The idea doesn't come from arrogance but with a justified preoccupation with building the consciousness necessary to unite the workers for the revolutionary movement. A rejection of all darkness, however, does not serve this purpose as much as they may hope. A painter may as well reject the color blue.

As psychological depression, a real illness, affects a majority of the people, avoiding it would do worse than feeling it. The music should help unite the audience around a real feeling from which they can advance together into thought; intelligence is social. This should not, however, serve as an excuse to

artists, especially famous ones, to ignore their political responsibility to their audience: To offer them a dialogue with the revolutionary party and to join forces with it in order to fight the crippling backwardness that underlies the epidemic of depression. For those with the microphone of mass-communication, no excuse exists for letting up the fight against ignorance and silence born from fear.

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[Random Poster](#) Mandy [5 months ago](#)

Socialists must not depend on celebrities. It must be the other way around. Celebrities who find that capitalism has made war on their audiences must come to socialism with heavy guilt on their conscience. Only when the socialist movement pardons this guilt can they feel relieved. Otherwise, the means of mass-communication will not serve the interests of the people but of powerful financial and political representatives of the capitalist class with a mind to subvert the revolutionary leadership of the working class.

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Food delivery workers call for a national strike in Brazil



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

The delivery workers and all essential workers must strike to gain confidence in their strength. In order to improve their conditions, they must show that they will not accept a compromise with capitalism. Only as they articulate demands that cut into profits, the lifeblood of the capitalist class, will they prove in action that they are the essential class, not the capitalists.

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Bernie Sanders threatens delegates with removal if they criticize Biden



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

Building the revolutionary movement will prove difficult and at times dangerous. For this reason, Bernie Sanders seemed to offer an alternative to the task of the construction of the Fourth International. However, real power will not transfer from the capitalist state to the workers state without a battle. In anticipation of that coming fight, the state places obstacles in the road that revolutionaries must overcome. Yet the other road will produce many more casualties and much greater suffering. The revolutionary road, while painful at times, remains the best path for ending the capitalist crisis.

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Wealth of US billionaires soars as pandemic expands, nearly 40 million unemployed



[Random Poster](#) [piet](#) [5 months ago](#)

The majority of the US will soon oppose capitalism, as the trend continues in that direction. Still, when that day comes, the two party system will exclude that opinion from public debate. No socialists policies will pass through the two-party system. Only a complete break with the Democrats and the building of a mass party of the working class will allow the demanded socialist policies to finally take effect.

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Capitalism vs. science: The lessons of the 36-hour Moderna vaccine frenzy



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

"There can be no greater contribution to a search for a solution to the COVID-19 pandemic than the struggle to end private control over the pharmaceutical industry, with the aim of providing for the public welfare and not profit."

This argument, while important, leaves out another side to the struggle against the virus. All labs researching biological weapons must allow inspectors elected by scientists and lab-workers to expose biological weapons production. Any deliberate efforts to sabotage treatment and prevention of the virus' spread require prosecution and harsh penalties. This will not occur without a world revolution to break the hold of the capitalist oligarchy on world politics.

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South America a “new epicenter” of COVID-19 pandemic, WHO warns



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

Part of the responsibility lies with the ICFI. The split in the ICFI between the SLL and the OCI left Latin America without a revolutionary party to present a socialist program based on international unity. Nationalism and protectionism replaced unity and economic planning. The SLL shut down discussion, preventing the growth of parties and groups allied with the ICFI. The only way to rectify this situation depends on the ICFI confronting this failure in their history through intense efforts to open and keep open a discussion with Latin American public intellectuals about the theory and organization of the International Committee of the Fourth International. Such an effort would clarify for the workers why an

organizational break from Stalinism will make possible revolutionary victories in the many cities and capitals of South America.

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The New York Times exposes journalist, #MeToo crusader Ronan Farrow as a dishonest fraud



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

We have a here two contradictory opinions packaged together as an inconsistent argument. The revelations exposed by Farrow brought Weinstein to court where he was convicted of rape. The standard of evidence needed to convict someone, especially a celebrity with high-powered lawyers, has not suddenly disappeared. The court's decision informs us that Farrow presented these accounts, in general, honestly. Farrow's reporting an accusation does not require full substantiation. A journalist can report an accusation of a witness or victim. If that source lied, then the source, not the journalist, has committed a crime.

Since no strong argument stands against Farrow's reporting, what remains of the original argument? Only the admission that Tara Reade's case threatens Biden's campaign and therefore the interests behind the New York Times. The WSWS held a web seminar with Chris Hedges (another Pulitzer Prize winner), former editor of the New York Times' Middle East Bureau. Now, the WSWS has sided with the Times in its defense of Joseph Biden Jr. and NBC Executives. Does it really seem implausible that a corporate broadcaster such as NBC would attempt to bury a story that hurt the oligarchy and political elite so deeply as the Weinstein and Epstein cases? A victory against corporate-sponsored reformist-nationalist Biden would constitute a great victory for socialism. Farrow's inability to articulate socialist demands does not eliminate his usefulness to the revolutionary movement. Lenin argued that political exposure of the capitalists and their state represented the greatest task of the socialist movement until the actual taking of power.

Furthermore, Walsh has not talked about Ben Smith, the writer of the smears against Farrow. Ben Smith, chief editor of BuzzFeed in 2017, defended BuzzFeed's decision to publish the Steele Dossier, which put forward fabricated allegations against Trump as a Russian secret agent. This led to the entire impeachment effort, the denial of the legitimacy of the 2016 elections, and the concerted

extreme-right attack on democratic rights along with a wave of anti-Russian war-mongering that came with it. The WWSWS passes off his claims against Farrow in the same way that the Democrats, Ben Smith among them, claimed to have uncovered Trump as a Russian spy or a traitor.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [5 comments](#)

At least 275,000 teachers in the US face permanent job loss as states prepare massive budget cuts



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

The ISO fell apart because of the teachers' rebellion, and other chauvinist-opportunist groups will do the same. As exposed on the [wsws.org](#), these groups receive funding and likely direction from the political foundations of the super-rich. The socialist movement must demand, as Democratic Power ([randomposter33.wordpress.com](#)) has done, full transparency to its membership and working-class sponsors, so that expenses and income do not come from or leave for purposes other than for those voted upon by the membership.

The education problem urgently requires a revolutionary shift in public opinion, which the Bernie Sanders camp anticipated and trapped. Yet in a short time, the people will break free from Sanders' trap and once again attempt to build a revolutionary movement. Without a Marxist party, such as the SEP, the movement will again and again fall under the control of false leaders that lead them into political traps.

The gutting of funding for public education under capitalism will give rise to a new vision for public education that will go far beyond anything provided under the current system. This will include free comprehensive training and job placement for adults of all ages, arts programs that provide exhibitions for the public on a large scale, and political and media programs to involve the public in the public debate as a part of education for socialist democracy. Yet none of this can happen without a complete break from reformism and anarchism, without the construction of the SEP as the mass political party of the working class revolution.

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Prices for basic foods soar in the US as pandemic disrupts supply chains



[Random Poster](#) [Leah Jeresova](#) [5 months ago](#)

The government should begin preserving meat and milk as well as offering free distribution. The destruction of the food supply may relate to the trade war or to other conflicts, but the working class does not benefit from these conflicts and should not suffer for them. The toleration of the mass destruction of food side by side with hunger on a massive scale must end immediately.

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Elon Musk and the economics of class war



[Random Poster](#) [justanavgjoe2](#) [5 months ago](#)

The position of Marxism on this question does not waver. The material development of the productive process underlies the impulse for a workers' revolution. It makes revolution inevitable.

What accounts for the delay, with economic development so far advanced? The betrayal of the revolution by the leaders of the revolution. The bureaucratic shutting down and censorship of so-called minority opinions and factions, the turn towards illegitimate tactics, and the submission to capitalist ideology, especially the Hollywood propaganda machine. In the end, the leadership becomes accustomed to wage-slavery and the anti-democratic institutions that protect the system against political challenge.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [5 months ago](#)

This happens because of betrayal by the leaders of the revolution. The article above shows this betrayal, by leaving out entirely any information about Elon Musk's mother, who became a celebrity under South African apartheid. Musk continues her work for apartheid by creating a technological apartheid in the U.S. He also continues the work of his father, who married a four year old step-daughter, Musk's half-sister. This defeated family, broken by the anti-apartheid movement found refuge with and the appreciation of the increasingly isolated American ruling class.

The revolutionizing of the means of production only benefits a select few, and the dream of the oligarchy is to include a few million workers in highly automated processes while depriving the vast of majority of everything but the barest subsistence. While they live in their deprived state, they only receive judgement as lazy polluters.

Musk keeps his electric cars from affordability and cost-efficiency, which keeps out the vast majority that use cars as a means of transportation rather than as a political statement. This is fitting for an African mine-owner who humiliated African workers while marrying a fashion model that symbolized racist white power in the media. Tesla should belong to the African miners, U.S. autoworkers, and rank-and-file media workers more than to the racist, corrupt, and perverted Musk family.

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National Security Cinema: The Shocking New Evidence of Government Control in Hollywood—How the US military...



[Random Poster](#) [5 months ago](#)

This history will prove indispensable in the coming period, when Hollywood tries to impose bourgeois fake socialists upon the revolutionary movement. These will take the form of "Revolutionary Defensism" of capitalist courts, as they cover up for spy operations such as Harvey Weinstein's Black Cube.

His silencing of witnesses of predatory imperialist crimes, the re-writing of history using movie scripts edited by the CIA, DOD, and FBI, the suppression of

democratic rights in service of ruling families such as Tommy Lee Jones', these processes cannot find a counterweight within capitalist politics.

The socialist movement must collectively punish the entire film-making and artistic community in general with harsh criticism or perhaps more powerful measures. The creative impulse must submit to social need or reckless corporate-financial-government schemes will not dominate but destroy human culture.

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One Hundred and Fifty Years Since the Birth of Lenin



[Random Poster](#) [Andrea Lobo](#) [5 months ago](#)

Thank you for reviewing Lenin's life for the party. I had some responses based on my reading. Something about Disqus has it unaligned. You can find a clearer version here:

<https://randomposter33.word...>

In Chapter 4 of "Left-Wing" Communism, Lenin argues about the direct link between the fight against opportunism and the fight against Social Chauvinism:

"First and foremost, the struggle against opportunism which in 1914 definitely developed into social-chauvinism and definitely sided with the bourgeoisie, against the proletariat. Naturally, this was Bolshevism's principal enemy within the working-class movement. It still remains the principal enemy on an international scale. The Bolsheviks have been devoting the greatest attention to this enemy. This aspect of Bolshevik activities is now fairly well known abroad too."

<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>

Opportunism "definitely developed" into Social-Chauvinism in 1914. That meant that for the Bolsheviks, beginning in the age of inter-imperialist conflict, the main enemy within the party and the working-class masses in general had become, not opportunist alliance with the capitalist class but instead a

permanent break from progressive politics, an acceptance of wage-slavery as a constant condition for all history. This aspect of Lenin's work proved decisive for his revolutionary success. To some, it is as if there were two Lenins, the factionalist who split the party and the leader who took the power. In fact, only one Lenin existed, and to admire one side and not the other does injustice to both.

"Lenin proved that the growth of opportunism was not to be explained in terms of personal treachery (though treachery there certainly was), but in powerful socioeconomic tendencies arising out of the development of imperialism in the final years of the nineteenth century and the first decade and a half of the twentieth."
"

Opportunism grew as the influence of capitalist politics grew upon the party. With the fascists to attack and the liberals to negotiate, even leading socialists found themselves forced to come to an arrangement with the liberals to keep Capitalism going a few more years. Yet these were ideological trends. The revolution could also attack treacherous leaders, forcing them to return into civil discussions with other leaders of their party or other parties.

The economic trends, the belated development of Germany, the destruction of the old feudal order driving the peasants off the land, and the division of the world into European colonies, these occurred in such a way as to unite the working class across borders while accumulation of capital made national economic planning possible. The economics produced necessity for revolution, while ideological weakness allowed for the penetration of bourgeois ideas; economics produced necessity for revolution, while ideological weakness allowed for the penetration of bourgeois ideas, opportunism followed by chauvinism, into Social Democracy. The main obstacle to revolution, as it is today, came from the absence of a movement that organized the workers, the driving social force, according to the lessons drawn scientifically from the history of former revolutions. Capitalist politics consciously worked for this result, the Social Democracy in Germany, the Labor Party in the UK, these pro-capitalist parties voted for war-credits for imperialist wars and introduced chauvinism into supposedly socialist political parties. Lenin's observation of these trends allowed him to call for an organizational break with the opportunists in order to reduce their influence on the revolutionary party and revolutionary theory. This proved decisive with the arrival of 1917.

The article quotes Lenin:

"Imperialism somewhat changes the situation. A privileged upper stratum of the proletariat in the imperialist countries lives partly at the expense of hundreds of millions in the uncivilized nations."

This privilege came as a conscious policy of capitalist governments to create the economic basis for chauvinism within the proletariat, which forces revolutionary leaders, out of fear of this chauvinist proletariat, to make opportunist alliances with liberals of the ruling class. In this way, the liberal capitalists come to dominate any movement from below. The biggest industry based on chauvinism is the car industry based in Detroit, which seeks to divide the American working class from the rest of the world. The US has 838 vehicles per 1000 people. The rest of the world only has 170, so the US has 5 times more cars than the world average. This well-known dream of Henry Ford, to provide all the workers with cars, came from a specific decision on the part of capitalists to shield themselves with privileges for a section of the workers.

Marxists must emphasize, however, that these privileges for a section of the working class will not appease the working class as a whole. To appease the working class as whole would be to give in to the revolution and renounce the right to accumulate profit from the extraction of surplus value from Labor. The ruling class will not allow this to happen willingly. The privileges for that proletariat may buy them some time, but eventually crashes do come, allowing workers to see through the illusion of peaceful development. Lenin argues about this upper stratum in order to defend the revolutionary who actively participates amongst the workers from physical attacks from these privileged types.

With regard to the April Theses, we see no discussion on Revolutionary Defeatism (the Bolshevik position) versus Revolutionary Defensism (or Social Chauvinism). The primary reason for Lenin's sacking of the Provisional Government came from this discussion. Any revolutionary defeatist arguments brought upon those real leaders persecution, prison, and execution. Yet Lenin had to bring the entire Bolshevik party behind this position in order to end Russia's participation in the war.

On the "Democratic Dictatorship of the Proletariat and the Peasantry"

Lenin's Revolutionary slogan did not exist to create ambiguity but to divide the Bolsheviks permanently from the oldest counter-revolutionary arguments on the books, the arguments used to defend the Roman Republic against slave rebellions, like those of Cicero against Cesar. Cesar advocated the sacking of the Senate on the grounds that the Senate represented only an oligarchy, not the majority of Romans. He could accomplish this task only through a massive redistribution of land from the oligarchs to the ordinary soldiers in his army. Cicero warned against Cesar, defending the Senate as imperfect yet better suited to rule than Cesar as an autocrat, who would turn the Republic into an Empire and then trample upon all the rights of the people protected under a republic.

Lenin would not allow any defense of bourgeois democracy or liberal constitutional rights to undermine the revolutionary will of the people. The army Lenin needed to take the power depended to a large degree on the redistribution of the land of the oligarchy to the peasantry in exchange for revolutionary soldiers. Collectivization of land existed as a plan but only through free association on a voluntary basis.

On Trotsky's criticism of the Bolshevik Program: "The Bolshevik formula insisted upon the leading role of the working class in the coming revolution, and aspired toward the destruction of all the feudal and anti-democratic remnants of the tsarist regime. But the program of the Bolsheviks did not call for the overthrow of the Russian bourgeoisie and the elimination of capitalist property relations."

From the 1903 Bolshevik Party Program:

"By substituting social for private ownership of the means of production and exchange, and introducing planned organisation of the process of social production, in order to ensure the well-being and all-round development of all members of society, the social revolution of the proletariat will abolish the division of society into classes, and thereby free all oppressed mankind, since it will put an end to every form of exploitation of one part of society by another..."

"11. Appointment of an adequate number of factory inspectors in all branches of the economy, and extension of the scope of

supervision by factory inspectors to all enterprises employing wage labour, including government enterprises (the work of domestic servants also to be subject to this supervision); appointment of women inspectors for those branches in which female labour is employed; participation by elected representatives of the workers, paid by the state, in checking on the enforcement of factory legislation, and also in establishing wage-rates and in the accepting or rejecting of material and of work done...

"15. Establishment in all branches of the economy of industrial tribunals, composed of an equal number of representatives of the workers and of the employers.

"16. The organs of local self-government to be made responsible for setting up offices (labour exchanges) to arrange for the employment of workers, both local and newly-arrived, in all branches of production, with participation in the running of these offices by representatives of the workers' organisations."

The program does not call for immediate expropriation of all employers, but it does call for social over private ownership of the means of production. This makes the program socialist and in irreconcilable contradiction to any capitalist platform. Their restraint with regard to the immediate transfer of all wealth, they put forward in order to maintain social peace after the revolution. The workers would take the power through the work of elected inspectors that would decide wages, accept or reject work, and also enforce regulations. Labor contract violations would become criminal.

Under a capitalist government, these demands would never reach the desk of the executive. The specific resolutions listed here make socialist demands in a politically shrewd way so as to trap bourgeois "socialists" who really want to defend private ownership of the means of production through deliberately poor leadership of the revolutionary movement.

Trotsky more likely had Plekhanov in mind when criticizing the Bolshevik Program. Plekhanov originally sided with Lenin, but he then later switched to the Menshevik position. As a Menshevik, he supported a bourgeois-democratic revolution to establish capitalist rule. They would accept an "Opposition" or reformist role within the new political system controlled only by capitalist parties.

Lenin's opposition to social chauvinism deserves another mention. In his April Theses, Lenin mentioned chauvinism 5 times in the concluding paragraphs and 4 times in the final two paragraphs. The greatest enemy of the revolution no longer brought opportunism but this new great threat. Social chauvinism caused the old Bolshevik arguments against opportunism to miss the real target, bourgeois influence on socialist ideology. The bourgeoisie used World War I to imprison socialists and demand conformity on its war policy. Lenin, however, had prepared his party to grow powerful under conditions of extreme political persecution.

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[Random Poster](#) 5 months ago

Detected as spam Thanks, we'll work on getting this corrected.

Thank you for reviewing Lenin's life for the party. I had some responses based on my reading. Something about Disqus has it unaligned. You can find a clearer version here:

<https://randomposter33.wordpress.com/2014/04/04/lenin-on-social-chauvinism/>

In Chapter 4 of "Left-Wing" Communism, Lenin argues about the direct link between the fight against opportunism and the fight against Social Chauvinism:

"First and foremost, the struggle against opportunism which in 1914 definitely developed into social-chauvinism and definitely sided with the bourgeoisie, against the proletariat. Naturally, this was Bolshevism's principal enemy within the working-class movement. It still remains the principal enemy on an international scale. The Bolsheviks have been devoting the greatest attention to this enemy. This aspect of Bolshevik activities is now fairly well known abroad too."

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1914/04/04.htm>

Opportunism "definitely developed" into Social-Chauvinism in 1914. That meant that for the Bolsheviks, beginning in the age of inter-imperialist conflict, the main enemy within the party and the working-class masses in general had become, not opportunist alliance with the capitalist class but instead a

permanent break from progressive politics, an acceptance of wage-slavery as a constant condition for all history. This aspect of Lenin's work proved decisive for his revolutionary success. As if there were two Lenins, the factionalist who split the party and the leader who took the power. In fact, only one Lenin existed, and to admire one side and not the other does injustice to both.

"Lenin proved that the growth of opportunism was not to be explained in terms of personal treachery (though treachery there certainly was), but in powerful socioeconomic tendencies arising out of the development of imperialism in the final years of the nineteenth century and the first decade and a half of the twentieth."

Opportunism grew as the influence of capitalist politics grew upon the party. With the fascists to attack and the liberals to negotiate, even leading socialists found themselves forced to come to an arrangement with the liberals to keep Capitalism going a few more years. Yet these were ideological trends. The revolution could also attack treacherous leaders, forcing them to return into civil discussions with other leaders of their party or other parties.

The economic trends, the belated development of Germany, the destruction of the old feudal order driving the peasants off the land, and the division of the world into European colonies, these occurred in such a way as to unite the working class across borders while accumulation of capital made national economic planning possible. The economics produced necessity for revolution, while ideological weakness allowed for the penetration of bourgeois ideas, opportunism followed by chauvinism, into Social Democracy. The main obstacle to revolution, as it is today, came from the absence of a movement that organized the workers, the driving social force, according to the lessons drawn from the history of former revolutions. The influence of capitalist politics, the Social Democracy in Germany, the Labor Party in the UK, these pro-capitalist parties voted for war-credits for imperialist wars and introduced chauvinism into supposedly socialist political parties. Lenin's observation of these trends allowed him to call for an organizational break with the opportunists in order to reduce their influence on the revolutionary party. This proved decisive with the arrival of 1917.

The article quotes Lenin:

"Imperialism somewhat changes the situation. A privileged upper stratum of the proletariat in the imperialist countries lives partly at the expense of hundreds of millions in the uncivilized nations."

This privilege came as a conscious policy of capitalist governments to create the economic basis for chauvinism within the proletariat, which forces revolutionary leaders, out of fear of this chauvinist proletariat, to make opportunist alliances with liberals of the ruling class. In this way, the liberal capitalists come to dominate any movement from below. The biggest industry based on chauvinism is the car industry based in Detroit, which seeks to divide the American working class from the rest of the world. The US has 838 vehicles per 1000 people while the rest of the world only has 170, about 5 times more. This well-known dream of Henry Ford, to provide all the workers with cars, came from a specific decision on the part of capitalists to shield themselves with privileges from a section of the workers.

Marxists must emphasize, however, that these privileges for a section of the working class will not appease the working class as a whole. To appease the working class as whole would be to give in to the revolution and renounce the right to accumulate profit from surplus value. This will not happen willingly. The privileges for that proletariat may buy them some time, but eventually crashes do come, allowing workers to see through the illusion of peaceful development. Lenin argues about this upper stratum in order to defend the revolutionary who actively participates amongst the workers from physical attacks from these privileged types.

With regard to the April Theses, we see no discussion on Revolutionary Defeatism (the Bolshevik position) versus Revolutionary Defensism (or Social Chauvinism). The primary reason for Lenin's sacking of the Provisional Government came from this discussion. Any revolutionary defeatist arguments brought upon those real leaders persecution, prison, and execution. Yet Lenin had to bring the entire Bolshevik party behind this position in order to end Russia's participation in the war.

On the "Democratic Dictatorship of the Proletariat and the Peasantry"

Lenin's Revolutionary slogan did not exist to create ambiguity but to divide the Bolsheviks permanently from the oldest

counter-revolutionary arguments on the books, the arguments used to defend the Roman Republic against slave rebellions, like those of Cicero against Cesar. Cesar advocated the sacking of the Senate on the grounds that the Senate represented only an oligarchy, not the majority of Romans. He could accomplish this task only through a massive redistribution of land from the oligarchs to the ordinary soldiers in his army. Cicero warned against Cesar, defending the Senate as imperfect yet better suited to rule than Cesar as an autocrat who would turn the Republic into an Empire and then trample upon all the rights of the people protected under a republic.

Lenin would not allow any defense of bourgeois democracy or liberal constitutional rights to undermine the revolutionary will of the people. The army Lenin needed to take the power depended to a large degree on the redistribution of the land of the oligarchy to the peasantry in exchange for revolutionary soldiers. Collectivization of land existed as a plan but only through free association on a voluntary basis.

On Trotsky's criticism of the Bolshevik Program: "The Bolshevik formula insisted upon the leading role of the working class in the coming revolution, and aspired toward the destruction of all the feudal and anti-democratic remnants of the tsarist regime. But the program of the Bolsheviks did not call for the overthrow of the Russian bourgeoisie and the elimination of capitalist property relations."

From the 1903 Bolshevik Party Program:

"By substituting social for private ownership of the means of production and exchange, and introducing planned organisation of the process of social production, in order to ensure the well-being and all-round development of all members of society, the social revolution of the proletariat will abolish the division of society into classes, and thereby free all oppressed mankind, since it will put an end to every form of exploitation of one part of society by another..."

"11. Appointment of an adequate number of factory inspectors in all branches of the economy, and extension of the scope of supervision by factory inspectors to all enterprises employing wage labour, including government enterprises (the work of domestic servants also to be subject to this supervision); appointment of women inspectors for those branches in which female labour is employed; participation by elected representatives of the workers,

paid by the state, in checking on the enforcement of factory legislation, and also in establishing wage-rates and in the accepting or rejecting of material and of work done...

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Bolshevik arguments against opportunism to miss the real target, bourgeois influence on socialist ideology. The bourgeoisie used World War I to imprison socialists and demand conformity on its war policy. Lenin, however, had prepared his party to grow powerful under conditions of extreme political persecution.

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Trump's "Bay of Pigs" in Venezuela



[Random Poster](#) [Knoxville Ultra-Leftist](#) [5 months ago](#)

Like Correa in Ecuador, Chavez created a nominally socialist movement in order to defend Venezuelan capital from the Venezuelan working class. The task of authentic Marxism, before it reaches the point of a mass movement ready to take the power, should be to expose these bourgeois traps to the workers.

Chavez passed the power on to Maduro as Correa did to Moreno. They did not construct a party through a long war against opportunism and chauvinism, they built it upon nationalist and opportunist foundations with strong protections for the capitalist class, leaving workers' conditions dependant upon the market and financial interests. "Socialist" Maduro has even begun privatizing Venezuela's oil industry. The momentary respite and confusion provided by Chavez kept the bourgeoisie in power long enough to create the impossible conditions they have today, with \$5-10 a month of minimum wages.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [5 months ago](#)

Guaido not only serves the oligarchy as a diplomat to the U.S. and the E.U., he also threatens dictatorial rule that acts openly on the side of the IMF and finance capital to drag the workers further into slavery. Similar to the right-wing coup in Venezuela, he would not restore democratic rights but the veneer of democracy imported from the U.S.

So why does Maduro need Guaido? Because Maduro does not represent the international working class or a South American unity government to defend

against imperialism. He needs to block this revolutionary option off for the masses, and this requires the services of Guaido in smashing any real socialist resistance coming from the people. They act together like the two parties in America now led by Biden and Trump, shield in the left hand, a sword in the right, charging the working class with deadly intent.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [3 comments](#)

Whistleblower complaint details Trump administration's corruption and obstruction of anti-pandemic efforts



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

Trump shut down the Predict virus program just before the beginning of the pandemic. This may have generated an excuse or a fall guy, the disgruntled scientist that wanted more money for biological weapons research.

<https://randomposter33.word...>

More recently, a researcher died from gunshot wounds while making significant progress in understanding the new virus.

<https://randomposter33.word...>

Finally, the American public has responded with high levels of suspicion to the government lies surrounding the pandemic. The people must prosecute the leaders of the government for deliberate sabotage of virus preparation and response.

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US nursing home catastrophe: Increasing numbers of the elderly fall victim to COVID-19



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

With 45 million retired workers collecting Social Security, the government and the rich will certainly try to cut down their numbers in order to save on payments. Besides this, the virus also helps the government break up meetings, leaving only the internet as a last resort for democracy.

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Capitalism exposed: The coronavirus pandemic and the global struggle for socialism



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

I would like to share my initial notes on the rally from the perspective of Democratic Power.

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[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

My notes on the meeting, from the point of view of Democratic Power:

<https://randomposter33.word...>

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[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

The connection is much better this time.

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[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

Greetings from Colombia

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One Hundred and Fifty Years Since the Birth of Lenin



[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [6 months ago](#)

Thinking subjectively will ease your doubts. His decisions depended on the outcome of Congresses, votes over resolutions, and reports about demands and conditions from the factory committees. These gave his decisions authority. No one could have acted with more knowledge in the situation than him, because he participated in the Congresses and received the reports.

Subjectively however, do you want to give the initiative to the workers and the revolution or the imperialist governments? The imperialists had been murdering millions of people for 3 years when Lenin finally took the power. Should he have allowed them another 10 years of freely killing on an unprecedented scale? He had to end not only Russia's participation in the war but the world economic system that gave rise to the war.

The imperialists stood on one side and the revolutionaries on the other. Both experienced failures and had blood on their hands, but they had to act according to the historical interests involved. Who was innocent in those times?

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [6 months ago](#)

He went forward with it but not as a blind individual. Going forward meant forcing the bourgeoisie to admit that the workers held the power. It meant allowing the workers to make their own decision about how production and economic development could proceed or needed to proceed.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [6 months ago](#)

He wrote it as part of the act of taking the power. He needed to overcome opposition within the working class by listening to their arguments and responding to win them to his side.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [6 months ago](#)

About your criticism of Lenin, there had been very little experience whatsoever in his time of socialist leadership of a modern state. Everything socialist depended on theories about the demands of the oppressed combined with studies of primitive societies that had little hierarchy. Yet Lenin finally made it possible for the oppressed to have their demands met by the state.

Secondly, the idea that there should not arise any individual or group with significant authority in the minds of the people lacks substance and drive. It lacks a connection to the real world. In the course of struggling for power, the workers gain recognition of leaders, thinkers, writers, speakers who address the issues close to them and provide a realistic perspective combined with tactical plans that allow them to achieve their objectives.

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[Random Poster](#) [justanavgjoe2](#) [6 months ago](#)

The occupy movement originated as a parody of a revolutionary movement. It depended very much on the ISO and other fake left movements that sought to build support on the left for imperialism while containing the movement against capitalism with appeals to the establishment for mercy. No actual occupation took place, as protestors camped out in tents in a city park without blocking a doorway much less a road.

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[Random Poster](#) [Thomas Mackaman](#) [6 months ago](#)

Lenin's philosophical materialism arose out of the revolutionary nihilism of Russia, which rebelled against spiritual asceticism in search of what pleased the senses or what satisfied the demands of, first, the individual and then the class to which he belonged or devoted himself to serving.

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[Random Poster](#) [fm](#) [6 months ago](#)

The revolutionary newspaper described in *What is to Be Done* follows in the tradition of successful revolutions throughout history. The attempts against the revolutionary newspaper prove that liberals in service of capitalism must strike against the heart of democracy to attack socialism and bring it under the control of a liberal pro-capitalist leader. Such liberalism is incompatible with democracy and proves that only the unapologetic defense of socialism can overcome fascist dictatorship.

Lenin took the title of the book from a favorite novel of his by Nikolai Chernishevsky, the son of a priest. His book became popular and formed the basis for the Narodnik Land and Liberty movement, which Lenin and Plekhanov criticized as part of their formation of Social Democracy. Chernishevsky also

received praise from Marx for having studied Hegel as well as various socialists and for exposing capitalist economics as bankrupt. Encompassed in his writing is the spirit of compassion for the poor combined with the drive to elevate them from slavery. It follows in the spirit even of the gospels: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations." Through his close and honest description of the revolutionary movement, those who personally suffered for it, he made disciples of many.

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[Random Poster](#) [MB](#) [6 months ago](#)

The April Theses did not focus on shifting the party from Lenin's old position to his new position in line with Trotsky's. Lenin's Second Thesis states:

"The specific feature of the present situation in Russia is that the country is passing from the first stage of the revolution—which, owing to the insufficient class-consciousness and organisation of the proletariat, placed power in the hands of the bourgeoisie—to its second stage, which must place power in the hands of the proletariat and the poorest sections of the peasants.

This transition is characterised, on the one hand, by a maximum of legally recognised rights (Russia is now the freest of all the belligerent countries in the world); on the other, by the absence of violence towards the masses, and, finally, by their unreasoning trust in the government of capitalists, those worst enemies of peace and socialism."

His Eighth Thesis states:

"It is not our immediate task to "introduce" socialism, but only to bring social production and the distribution of products at once under the control of the Soviets of Workers' Deputies."

Lenin did not abruptly shift the work of the party or the theory which guided it. The shift came from the positions of Stalin and Kamenev who led the party in his absence. He returned the party to its own previous position of "Extreme Opposition in Time of Revolution" which he elaborated as early as 1905 in his Two Tactics of Social Democracy.

Lenin's final battle against Stalin, which contained within it the struggle of the workers against bureaucracy failed in part because of Lenin's own inability, as a wounded man slowly approaching death, to remain true to his revolutionary positions. This found expression in his disagreement over the Labor Party with

British Communist Party leader Sylvia Pankhurst, who first made the call for the establishment of a Fourth International in 1921.

Trotsky certainly carried forward the struggle and led it after Lenin's demise. His elaboration of the Theory of Permanent Revolution did predict the emergence of the Revolution in Russia first. It did predict his and Lenin's coming to power, and the 1905 revolution informed and gave immense confidence to his positions. Yet his positions did not correct Lenin's very much, and this may have allowed the counter-revolution, through Stalin, to gain a strong footing within the Bolshevik Party. Trotsky's late arrival to the position of the Fourth International perhaps allowed Hitler to rise to power in Germany while Stalin crushed the rights of the members of Third International in the various Communist Parties and thereby crushed the workers' resistance to Fascism.

These criticisms, however, all come in hindsight. Had Lenin turned on Stalin, adopting Trotsky's and Luxemburg's thorough rebuke of all nationalism, perhaps the Bolshevik Party could have faced wreckage from the right. Had Trotsky turned on the Third International, he may have found himself isolated and forced completely out of revolutionary politics. For this reason various leaders need to fill every gap of revolutionary theory with strong stances based on available information, requiring not a handful, but dozens or even of hundreds of independent-minded leaders with a deep knowledge of Marxism. Regardless of such guess-work as a necessary part of scientific thinking, every revolutionary should appreciate and learn from Lenin and Trotsky to predict and prepare for the revolution in their own country first.

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[Random Poster](#) [Maria](#) [6 months ago](#)

We should see this attitude as essential. As much as Lenin's work is not complete, neither did the work of the political police end with Lenin's ultimate victory. In the time that has elapsed since the October Revolution, they have constructed 100 counter-Lenins to confuse, undermine, and push back the momentum of the advanced workers.

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[Random Poster](#) [Gracchus](#) [6 months ago](#)

You have made a serious mistake in believing that what you read was the April Theses. What you read in fact came from a different document, the Draft Platform, not the Theses. You can find here my application of these Theses to the current problem of Social Chauvinism, or its more modern variant the Social Predation found in Sexual Harassment.

<https://randomposter33.word...>

Lenin's original April Theses:

<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>

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One Hundred and Fifty Years Since the Birth of Lenin



[Random Poster](#) [pierre](#) [6 months ago](#)

Lenin fought against the bureaucracy, but in his failure to end bureaucratic rule he turned against his own revolutionary theories. This came out in his argument with Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the British Communists at the time. She recommended the foundation of the Fourth International as early as 1921 after her public disagreement with Lenin over the Labor Party and Parliamentarianism.

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[Random Poster](#) [PeterHL](#) [6 months ago](#)

I could not find the exact quote I was looking for, so I found three more that address the subject. Lenin considered the idea that a revolutionary or a revolutionary group could take the power without the support of a majority both ridiculous and irresponsible. The confusion over the exact moment when the majority begin to support a revolution remains however. That Lenin answered, depended on who really fear the majority and who really wanted to end exploitation, inequality, and anti-democratic rule of a minority? The group that

most wanted to give the power to the working class and to the majority would begin the construction of a state that gave the power to the majority. In this way, the majority would gain the power. Without the support of the majority, a revolutionary movement's attempts to seize power would look ridiculous. Equally ridiculous would be the idea that no group could ever predict and prepare for the arrival of this moment and represent this belief both in thought and in action. That preparation defines the work of the ICFL.

"Under socialism much of "primitive" democracy will inevitably be revived, since, for the first time in the history of civilized society the mass of population will rise to taking an independent part, not only in voting and elections, but also in the everyday administration of the state. Under socialism all will govern in turn and will soon become accustomed to no one governing."

<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>

"Power to the Soviets—this is the only way to make further progress gradual, peaceful and smooth, keeping perfect pace with the political awareness and resolve of the majority of the people and with their own experience. Power to the Soviets means the complete transfer of the country's administration and economic control into the hands of the workers and peasants, to whom nobody would dare offer resistance and who, through practice, through their own experience, would soon learn how to distribute the land, products and grain properly."

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>

"They [the Bolsheviks] can [take the power] because the active majority of revolutionary elements in the two chief cities is large enough to carry the people with it, to overcome the opponent's resistance, to smash him, and to gain and retain power. For the Bolsheviks, by immediately proposing a democratic peace, by immediately giving the land to the peasants and by reestablishing the democratic institutions and liberties which have been mangled and shattered by Kerensky, will form a government which nobody will be able to overthrow.

The majority of the people are on our side."

[<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>]

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[Random Poster](#) [Dennis Stein](#) [6 months ago](#)

Without the destruction of the capitalist state, no restructuring of the economy can take place. Volunteerism and spontaneity allow for the workers to seek the destruction of the state and the realignment of society's values. Socialist consciousness allows the workers to succeed through a careful study and understanding of the entire history of revolutionary social movements. Such socialist consciousness can only come to the workers through contact with the revolutionary movement and its organization, the revolutionary party with its revolutionary newspaper.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [25 comments](#)

US propaganda campaign promotes lies blaming China for COVID-19



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

This unqualified defense of the Chinese government requires a thorough rebuttal. Imperialism will not prevent the spread of viruses nor create a fair punishment for the conspirators involved in the alleged manufacture and spread of the virus.

Basic errors in fact and arguments in this article prove that politics have come before science in the formation of these ideas:

1. The Covid-19 virus has already mutated into over 30 different strains. If the original strain or more likely different strains originated in a laboratory, like the one in Wuhan, then by the time they had been detected in the general population, the original virus strains would have died, perhaps in animal hosts before transferring into humans. The presence of a similar virus strain in Wuhan makes it likely that either that strain or a similar one from another laboratory entered into the animal population in Wuhan where it grew and evolved until it reached the human population. This would mean the dangerous strain did not come directly from a laboratory but likely spread in a wild animal population according to deliberate plans of human beings. The interactions of wild animals and human beings certainly has undergone its share of scientific study with obvious parallels in military-strategic study.

2. The claim that the bubonic plague arose naturally and led simply to pogroms and little more flies in the face of known history. The plague arose in Europe during the 100 Years' War, which involved various countries throughout Europe and included various civil wars. Similarly the Spanish Flu epidemic arose during

World War I. The article argues that Europeans had no idea how the plague spread. Did they know in 1918?

According to The History of Parliament a 1439 request written by the Commons proves they had acquired some epidemiological knowledge: "Rudimentary as the epidemiology of the period might be to modern eyes, it did at least recognise a connection between physical proximity and the spread of the infection."

<https://wp.me/p2QYNW-19p>

3. The reason that the response to the outbreak lacked coordination comes down to the fact that war targets social programs, including healthcare. While this might seem illegal or inhumane, there exists an abundance of evidence that biological programs exist in the United States, and that the government and perhaps private labs have experimented with these weapons on prisoners.

One should suspect that China would act no differently. As Lenin explained, the newly emerging German capitalism of the early 20th century forced it into conflict with the established capitalist empires of France and England. German militarism, however, did not receive the support of Lenin in the fight against French and English imperialism. While China did have a revolution in the 1940s, so did Germany in 1848. That did not prevent Marx and Engels from analyzing the counter-revolution in Germany and criticizing the imperialist policy of Germany. China could very well initiate a military conflict in pursuit of world-wide political influence and access to raw materials.

4. The most likely culprits of this biological attack are Christian Fundamentalists of the type exposed during the anthrax attacks in the US Congress.

(<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>) Like the Black Hand group of Serbian Nationalists that provoked the invasion by Austria-Hungary, a Christian Fundamentalist group could have, with the assistance of the Chinese State, released the virus in Wuhan in order to provoke a response by China against the US and thereby start a war.

5. Christian Fundamentalism carried out a successful war against Native Americans using Smallpox imported from Europe and used systematically as part of a genocide. (<https://academic.udayton.ed...>) Only American social chauvinism of the same type that Lenin and Trotsky stridently denounced in the Second International would attempt to deny the conscious human element responsible for spreading the virus. America does not have a superior democratic culture but instead a history of genocide, as advocated by Lord Jeff Amherst, namesake of Amherst University, through biological warfare. The obvious relevance of this history should be clear: You believe the U.S. could wipe out China in a genocidal war equal to the one they used against Native Americans. You would rather hide

this from the people, or keep it in the form of a Post Script. The perpetrators of this denial must be denounced.

6. You have said nothing about the shutting down of the U.S. Virus program named Predict in March of 2020. (<https://randomposter33.word...>) You also leave out any mention of China's accusations against the U.S. military.

(<https://randomposter33.word...>) Trotsky demanded the publication of all secret treaties, and as Trotskyists you should demand the same to prove that China and the U.S. agreed to fight each other using the Coronavirus as an extension of the trade war.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [16 comments](#)

Oil price contracts take historic plunge into negative territory



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

I have written recently on the trend in the economy I call hyper-deflation, characterized by a combination of low prices and shortages.

<https://randomposter33.word...>

I have written on this as far back as July 2019. For a full list of my writing on this subject:

<https://randomposter33.word...>

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[Random Poster](#) [Nikola Miljevski](#) [6 months ago](#)

Oil provides use-value as capital and as a fuel for personal consumption. The more oil one has, the more one can power machines, hire workers, and extract surplus value from the workers. Yet oil also originates from various places, making such capital more easily accessible. Each of those producers of oil want to provide the oil that capitalists use in the production process, thereby giving them a share of the profit extracted from the workers.

The competition between states to create contracts and trade agreements, especially in oil, to push their capital into the production process arises from the capitalist exploitation of the workers. Oversupply, like under-consumption, two sides of the same coin, occur with great regularity for simple reason of lack of planning. Just like a slave-owner would not want to plan his slave's day along with a committee of slaves, so the capitalist will not allow workers to form committees to plan the extraction, manufacture, and distribution of resources. These would remove the privileges of his class, preventing him from accumulating his great personal fortunes.

Some capitalists will lose fortunes as a result of the crash in the market. The majority, however, will simply shift from oil futures to other securities and find a new bubble over which to speculate. The declining average rate of profit can be reversed through destructive wars on the scale of the World Wars of the last century. When this occurs, tens of millions will die and tens of trillions of assets will literally burn, but as a result, the capitalist oligarchy will re-stabilize its rule.

The only force capable of preventing this tragedy would be the international working class organized under revolutionary parties allied to the ICFI. These parties in power would organize a socialist world economy guaranteeing equal economic rights to workers of all nations, along with an environmentally sustainable plan for economic growth and development.

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Truck drivers, logistics workers face high risk from COVID-19 exposure



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

A UPS Workers' strike over health and safety issues would give the workers an immediate and powerful boost in negotiating power. The workers, despite high unemployment, can focus their strikes on essential industries, such as transportation, and in this way they can force the government into an agreement that allows for a power-sharing transition to socialism and workplace equality.

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The pandemic, profits and the capitalist justification of suffering and death



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

The view that the trade-off between lives and economy misstates the relationship between the economy and lives. Economic expansion lengthens and improves lives, while saving lives strengthens the economy. Already, lock downs have interrupted the food supply leading to shortages for consumers combined with dumping of massive amounts of agricultural products by farmers.

Arguing in absolute terms for the extension of the lock-down will not provide socialists with an active perspective. The socialist movement must counterpose to the capitalist return-to-work campaign a return-to-work on workers' terms. This means the expansion of social programs for universal health care, free higher education, rent and price controls, public works projects to provide full employment and a massive tax hike on the rich and deep cuts to the military budget. If these demands cannot be met, then neither can any demand to return to work.

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Trump tweets support for far-right protests against social distancing orders



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

That this position on the quarantine found expression only on the far right does not prove it a right-wing position any more than their defense of the Second Amendment negates the Marxist position of arming the workers. Also, the polls themselves do not prove that Americans have decided with certainty for one or the other argument. The war in Iraq found large support in polls, but this depended on the fury whipped up over 9/11 as well as lies about WMDs.

Marxists must see such opinions as a unity of opposites that develop historically from material conditions. A call to end the quarantine may not have the full support of the population, but this really comes from the material fact that tests, treatment facilities, and protective equipment have not been made available. Millions of people do want a return to economic activity, which it would be anti-Marxist to claim is purely profit-making. This contradiction can only find resolution in a responsible return to work, that is with provisions for equipment, tests, and the continued quarantine of only those testing positive for Covid-19. A full quarantine should only occur when and where death rates have exceeded a certain maximum.

<https://randomposter33.word...>

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With the collapse of health care system, Ecuador is the epicenter of the coronavirus crisis in Latin America



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

Ecuador can afford universal health care and adequate supplies for health workers. The ruling class, however, sees the large amount of money gathered together for such a purpose as an opportunity to rob the people while gaining friends within the IMF. These large projects require a new economic and political structure to defend them, along with a revolution against all national parties dedicated to nationalism and the national bourgeoisie.

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A letter from a frontline nurse at the UK's Royal Bournemouth Hospital



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

The apparent incompetence does not suffice to cover up the contagion of war upon the people, including honest public servants such as medical professionals. The austerity policies, the cuts to medical care and pensions, the understaffing and the streamlining and reduction of hospital beds; the entire war on living conditions has not produced a new trend of profitability. As profits continue to erode as a result of private accumulation of wealth, such half measures will not suffice. The government intends to benefit from the virus by allowing it to spread.

This will cheapen human life and the costs of obligations to protect it, provide an excuse for granting governments dictatorial powers, and allow a militarization of the economy to force through more profitable contracts for the rich without the need for negotiations. A clear view of the virus as a weapon will clarify the war of "incompetence" as a war of deliberate negligence and hostility to the distribution of adequate medicine. These policies will not end with exposure alone but with the fall of the government and a war coming from the other side, the side of the revolutionary international working class organized into workers' states backed in force by a revolutionary military with biological weapons of its own to use as deterrents. Only then can proper production and distribution of medical supplies address the sickness of Capitalism.

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A letter from a concerned UK nurse to the WSWS



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

The shortage of masks results from hoarding by the ruling class. The government in the U.S. has confiscated masks from hospitals and refused deliveries of masks to states requesting them for state hospitals.

The profiteering of employers does not just include the categorization of non-essential as essential, but also the essential as non-essential. Vital home repairs must wait months. Homes must remain half-repaired, half-functional. This discomfort will drive people out of their homes, forcing quarantine violations. Essentials for the homeless, the hungry, the uninsured, and justice, such as the prosecution of Israel's Netanyahu, will have to wait months or longer.

The non-essentials seen as essential will likely include luxuries for the rich as well as servants for their homes. Also, non-essential military operations will continue,

such as the "drug-war" against Venezuela, the country with the largest known oil reserves.

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Spanish workers furious as unions support “back to work” in COVID-19 pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [6 months ago](#)

In Shakespeare's time, theaters opened in London only if there were 30 or fewer plague-related deaths in the previous week. Henry VI did not cancel his coronation, but per the request of the parliament, he suspended the practice of vassals kissing the new king at his coronation. A similar policy will need implementation to allow for a return to economic activity while still limiting excess contact during outbreaks.

(<https://randomposter33.word...>

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Who Should Democrats Pick?



[Random Poster](#) [grok](#) [6 months ago](#)

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[1View in discussion](#)



[Random Poster](#) [grok](#) [6 months ago](#)

I'm not trying to outmaneuver or misinterpret you. I want you to take responsibility for Bernie Sanders positions. Even if you assume that he has a reformist program that can benefit the workers, why do you believe he can enact the program without a majority of support from the Democratic Party? He already began serving Biden's campaign by stating that he supports Biden for president rather than any revolutionary party.

He says he want to get rid of Trump, but the Biden Administration will continue to follow the same agenda as the Trump Administration. As for pushing Biden to the left, what power does he have to push Biden to the left when he remains silent about any revolutionary alternative? If he did speak of such an alternative, then he would not have made it to the Democratic Primaries. His contribution to Biden's campaign subverts the revolutionary argument. That was my reason for arguing. I want you to consider the importance of your opinion in leading people away from Trump-Biden and towards Kishore-Santa Cruz.

[1 View in discussion](#)

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St. Louis Fed says 50 million Americans could be unemployed by July



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

With 30% unemployment, the illusion created by highly leveraged capitalism will quickly vanish. Everyone will see the true effects of the policy defending private profit as a higher priority than human need. We will have shortages and great suffering. The workers will have no choice but to accept the role of the revolutionary class.

Hopefully the SEP will prove willing to discuss the problems faced by the revolutionary working class, and furthermore organize this discussion as a precursor to the formation of workers' committees. The bourgeoisie will create many challenges in the form of "socialist" bourgeois politicians and parties. The SEP must prove willing to discuss the theoretical problems they provoke in order to bring the manipulated workers over from these false leaders to responsible, professional participation and leadership.

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First imagery of black hole by the Event Horizon Telescope



[Random Poster](#) [Kalen](#) [7 months ago](#)

1. As I see it, this means that the difference in time between the present and the future will become shorter, so someone emerging from a black hole should appear either in the future or in the past.

2. If it's possible that it exists, it likely exists as the universe is so large. Once admitting its existence is possible, there only remains to commit the resources to searching for it.

3. If the mass density is infinite, so should the mass be. What makes it infinite rather than extremely large or approaching infinity without ever reaching it? Is infinite supposed to be taken literally or figuratively. The mass, it seems, should equal the mass that entered into it throughout the history of its existence. The same should be true about infinite gravity, if the gravity were really infinite, wouldn't everything have already been sucked in by now? Wouldn't that process be immediate? The total gravity should be measured by how much matter it had acted on, which would have to be limited or approximated in some way.

What I meant to ask was whether the anti-gravity white hole could contain within it the seed for an entire universe, not the black hole. If it could release nearly infinite mass, then it could represent a new big bang. The prior existence of a singularity universe before spacetime seems to support this possibility. Couldn't that prior existence of a singularity have taken place within the context of another large universe?

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The Covid-19 pandemic: Capitalism and the making of a social and economic catastrophe



[Random Poster](#) [Nick Barrickman](#) [7 months ago](#)

I would further like to add that the WSWs has contradicted its own arguments while denying contextual evidence related to this matter. A right-wing racist military program exists to use dangerous biological weapons on many civilian targets. Any investigation to bring down these war criminals and assassins of public figures received political protection from prosecution.

(<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>)

In a later article on the same case, the WSWs wrote, "In late June, the FBI reached a \$5.8 million settlement with Steven Hatfill, previously identified as the government's prime suspect in the case, and publicly exonerated him for the mailings." A scientist, who the authorities claimed committed suicide, took the fall for the attack while avoiding a further exposure of the conspiracy by dying before the trial. About this scientist, Bruce E. Ivins, the WSWs wrote, "Yet his main involvement in the early years of the anthrax investigation was as a scientific expert for the FBI. He was one of the first scientists to handle the anthrax letters which the FBI now suggests he may have mailed himself." That is, the terrorist that attacked Congress was also on the team of investigators handling the evidence.

The same article concluded: "Ivins was a conservative Roman Catholic who frequently wrote letters to the local newspaper in Frederick, Maryland discussing his strong religious convictions. There has been little commentary in the media or from government sources about his political views, however, or whether these influenced the selection of targets for the attacks.

"Instead, unnamed officials floated the suggestion that Ivins may have wanted to spur government investment into anthrax research by creating a public panic with the anthrax mailings. He was reported to have complained that the testing conditions for anthrax vaccines were too restrictive because there were not enough monkeys available as test subjects and because testing on animals could not replicate human responses to treatment for anthrax contamination."

(<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>)

The same argument about ventilators eliminates discussion on the political views and real motives for the attack, while creating a pretense of purely economic motives.

About the Oklahoma City Bombing, the WSWs wrote: "The withheld evidence might also contain information damaging to the FBI or other government agencies. There is good reason to suspect that FBI informants knew more about the bombing and the events leading up to it than has been revealed." Further on they elaborated: "There is another dimension to the Oklahoma City bombing that the political establishment has sought to conceal. At the federal, state and local level there are numerous political figures with close ties to the Christian right,

militia groups and racist and anti-Semitic organizations—the very circles in which McVeigh moved prior to the bombing. The Republican Party in particular has close ties to such right-wing groups, and a number of Republican senators, congressmen and governors have actively solicited their support."

<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>

Finally we have the exposure of a military conspiracy within the German military: "Even though the charges against Franco A. were thrown out, the BKA investigation already provided evidence of the existence of a shadow army." Of this shadow army, the article states, "According to the statements of Horst S., a group chiefly composed of elite soldiers was "preparing at the general staff level for an ominous 'Day X.'"

While not specifically outlining a biological weapons assault, the WSWs quoted a Focus magazine article saying that, "Testimonies "in the file numbered GBA 2 Bjs 205/17-5a" painted a picture "of conspiratorial soldiers, who apparently were even willing to consider targeted killings of political opponents."...

"According to information obtained by investigators, the soldiers "had secret locations for weapons, munitions, fuel, and food," and established so-called "safe houses" on the borders with Austria and Switzerland. These arrangements were made in chat groups." They even planned to create locations where political opponents could be brought for secret executions.

In the same article, the WSWs wrote about the same silence which now comes from them on the context pertaining to this question. "The explosive character of these disturbing revelations stands in stark contrast to the response in the political establishment and the media. The major daily newspapers have barely reported on the terrorist network, and spokesmen for the government and military have remained silent.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>

For the reasons stated above, Nick Barrickman owes you an apology for attacking your revolutionary Marxism while refusing to discuss any specifics.

[View in discussion](#)



[Random Poster](#) [Nick Barrickman](#) [7 months ago](#)

The WHO's arguments follow the same pattern seen during the run-up to the Iraq War. UN weapons inspectors allowed the US to accuse Iraq of hiding Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Now, a potential case of a WMD in use gets immunity

from investigation by the same body. The UN will not allow small countries to defend against invasion when the pretext is the presence of WMDs. When WMDs in fact come into use, the UN will not allow the prosecution of the imperialist powers for their illegal use.

The UN does not represent law in the abstract sense, it represents the treaty between the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom following WWII. These superpowers did not stand for justice but for the expansion of their states, corporations, and financial institutions into every corner of the world.

You completely leave out the impossibility that the ruling class cannot counter the virus, not because of their ineptitude but because of their relation to the means of production. To counter the virus would destroy their own ability to collect profit through private ownership and speculation. Witness the sale of stocks preceding the market collapse by U.S. senators and billionaires such as Jeff Bezos. These sales will free them to buy up the hollowed out factories destroyed by the virus, turning a great profit.

So you refuse to discuss, objecting to our views as counter to revolutionary Marxism. Lenin answered your arguments:

“The author says that tactics-as-plan is in contradiction to the fundamental principle of revolutionary Marxism, and he thinks that one may speak of tactics-as-“process”, taken to mean the growth of the Party’s tasks, which increase as the Party grows. In my opinion this is simply unwillingness to discuss.

We have expended so much time and effort on the formulation of definite political tasks, and at the Geneva Conference so much was said about them; and now we are suddenly being talked to about “tactics-as-plan” and “tactics-as-process”. To me this represents a return to the specific, narrow Bernsteinian product of Rabochaya Mysl which asserted that only that struggle should be conducted which is possible, and that the possible struggle is that which is going on. We on our part maintain that only the distortion of Marxism is growing.” -Lenin

(<https://randomposter33.word...>)

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[Random Poster](#) [larsetom1](#) [7 months ago](#)

Lenin would not argue about it as censorship, but as "unwillingness to discuss."

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<https://randomposter33.word...>

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[Random Poster](#) [larsetom1](#) [7 months ago](#)

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Whether or not it actually originated in a weapons lab, the virus appears to have combined parts from two separate viruses. One part gives it its contagiousness and another part gives it its deadliness. This could have arisen in a lab or in a market, accidentally perhaps, but more likely these two viruses received a breeding ground intentionally meant to meld the two together. This does not require a lab, just like grafting of trees can occur in any orchard.

<http://theconversation.com/...>

The creation of the virus holds some clues, but also its spread may have had a conscious assistant in the human population. We have no reason to believe the authority that no one has taken it upon themselves to actively spread the virus. Some parties, naming themselves Corona Parties, have appeared in the United States to deliberately undermine the quarantine efforts. This may be a more innocent or rebellious form of dissemination of the virus than what secret military or cultural programs have created.

Finally, the treatment of the virus suffered deliberate sabotage as witnessed by the NY Times article on ventilators. The government signed a contract with a small ventilator manufacturer that had no conflict of interest in producing the cheaper more versatile ventilators. Before production could begin, the government allowed the sale of the company to a larger ventilator manufacturer who had a clear conflict of interest in carrying out the contract. Rather than block the purchase, the government deliberately sabotaged the ventilator program, creating a massive shortage of ventilators, using the profit motive as an excuse rather than the motive. Further sabotage came in the form of the attacks on stem-cell research and other types of publicly funded non-military research into SARS, a less contagious precursor to the Covid-19 Virus. The military certainly would have researched SARS as a weapon and deliberately hidden the cure so as to use the

disease as a weapon to secure the cooperation of assets and targets in exchange for secret cures. A publicly available cure would weaken their biological weapons program and cost them billions of dollars.

Beyond the SARS and H1N1 virus, the use of diseases as weapons finds precedent going back hundreds and even thousands of years. The deliberate spread of small pox, black plague, and other diseases as well as the fight of legitimate authority for quarantines and medical assistance to isolate and destroy the disease also appeared in various countries. I recently read of William Shakespeare's encounters with the plague, which killed his siblings but also at one point shut down a competing theater company, allowing his The King's Men company to move indoors and rise to great prominence. Whether he died of the plague, drinking alcohol, poison, or a combination remains a mystery, but the coincidence of his death coming on his birthday could not but point to a deliberate murder masked as disease.



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[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

The technical problems should not give cause for discouragement. Instead take them as a sign that this type of forum needs to appear more regularly, perhaps monthly or even weekly in order to provide leadership during the crisis. The technical problems will work themselves out with more practice.

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National interests stand in the way of a coronavirus vaccine



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

"For he who wounds is he who soothes the sore, and the hand that hurts is the hand that heals." -Job 5:18

What would you expect from an imperialist government that seeks to destroy and pillage other countries while suppressing discontent using violence. They would much rather hide a cure than share it with the people. One thing will prove more contagious than the imperialist virus, the contagion of socialist ideas. Once the workers banish the artificial social distancing imposed on the ICFI, the revolutionary process will overtake the drive to military dictatorship and war.

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Pop star Britney Spears social media posts go viral after telling public to “re-distribute wealth” and “strike”



[Random Poster](#) [Joe Williams](#) [7 months ago](#)

Celebrities have childhoods and friendships that connect them to the working class. Their prominence in the media leads to the capitalists to give them large salaries, not the fact that their jobs are dangerous. The large salaries resemble

the take of the capitalists on their investments, and this means they do not represent the proletariat.

Does that mean they could not sympathize with, support, or join the socialist movement? Not at all, since the revolution against this government and its economic policies depends on the socialist movement. Marx and Engels described the leadership of the 1848 revolution as follows: "The middle class, feeling their power, and resolved not to endure much longer the fetters with which a feudal and bureaucratic despotism enchained their commercial transactions, their industrial productivity, their common action as a class; a portion of the landed nobility so far changed into producers of mere marketable commodities, as to have the same interests and to make common cause with the middle class; the smaller trading class, dissatisfied, grumbling at the takes, at the impediments thrown in the way of their business, but without any definite plan for such reforms as should secure their position in the social and political body; the peasantry, oppressed here by feudal exactions, there by money-lenders, usurers, and lawyers; the working people of the towns infected with the general discontent, equally hating the Government and the large industrial capitalists, and catching the contagion of Socialist and Communist ideas; in short, a heterogeneous mass of opposition, springing from various interests, but more or less led on by the bourgeoisie, in the first ranks of which again marched the bourgeoisie of Prussia, and particularly of the Rhine Province."

Marx and Engels made it clear, the capitalist class leads the revolution in its early stages. The working class, drawn to socialism and communism, cannot fit in with the opinion-makers of bourgeois public opinion. The capitalist class rebels against the trade conflict, the medical and military conflicts, and the resultant restrictions on society imposed by the state of the old order. Only workers, however, can abolish the old order, because only they, as an oppressed class, stand to benefit from the abolition of class exploitation and private ownership over the means of production.

As they have done throughout history, celebrities and other rich people, the upper class, will provide leadership against the old order. The working class, however, must defend its independence from bourgeois ideology through the formation of a well-trained revolutionary leadership. Only then, through the conscious effort of the workers to lead their own cause, will bourgeois rule end as a revolutionary party takes the power.

Expect Celebrities to present a double-edged sword that can just as easily cut the revolutionary movement to pieces as it could lead to a surge in public interest in revolutionary politics. Marx and Engels wrote in Chapter 2 of *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Germany*:

"And the middle classes knew that they were on the eve of a revolution, and they prepared themselves for it. They sought to obtain by every possible means the support of the working class of the towns, and of the peasantry in the agricultural districts, and it is well known that there was, in the latter end of 1847, hardly a single prominent political character among the bourgeoisie who did not proclaim himself a "Socialist," in order to insure to himself the sympathy of the proletarian class. We shall see these "Socialists" at work by and by."

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US imperialism exploits coronavirus as a weapon of war



[Random Poster](#) [dmorista](#) [7 months ago](#)

"Another part of World Systems Theory was the concept of the Hegemonic Power, of Hegemons rising and declining, and later a concept of Strong vs Weak Hegemony."

This theory of hegemony seems to have gained ground on the [WSWS.org](#) website, at the expense of Marxist analysis. The Communist Manifesto states the revolutionary position most clearly: "the working men have no country". This means neither the so-called "Hegemon", which seems to invoke religious dogma about divine right, nor any other country can represent the interests of the working class. Only a world revolution to set up a socialist world federal government can end wage slavery.

Lenin wrote: "Experience shows that in Germany, for instance, a defence of the socialist standpoint has been possible only by resolute opposition to the will of the majority of the Party leadership."

The "Hegemony" of England had been used by leading "Marxist" German Social Democrats to betray the socialist movement and support a war to supposedly unseat the British or Austro-Hungarian "hegemon," depending on which side of the border the theorist argued.

In fact, far more precisely, Lenin summed up the purpose of World War I, "The present war is, in substance, a struggle between Britain, France and Germany for the partition of colonies and for the plunder of rival countries; on the part of tsarism and the ruling classes of Russia, it is an attempt to seize Persia, Mongolia,

Turkey in Asia, Constantinople, Galicia, etc. The national element in the Austro-Serbian war is an entirely secondary consideration and does not affect the general imperialist character of the war."

You would argue that the Austro-Hungarian empire had either unjustly trampled on Serbian national rights or that Austro-Hungary rightly expanded in order to create a balance against the hegemonic power of Britain and France. In the first case, you would support Russian imperialism and sabotage the Russian Revolution. In the second case, you would sabotage the Revolution in Germany and the other Central Powers to fight for co-Hegemony or multi-polarism. Both World Systems Theories end up punishing the revolutionary point of view in favor of a vicarious moralizing that eliminates the independent action of the working class.

Lenin sought to unite and empower the working class across national boundaries by presenting a theory of class unity as opposed to imperialist conquest. Far from digging deeper into various excuses for inter-imperialist rivalry, Lenin argued, "The conversion of the present imperialist war into a civil war is the only correct proletarian slogan, one that follows from the experience of the Commune, and [which is] outlined in the Basle resolution (1912); it has been dictated by all the conditions of an imperialist war between highly developed bourgeois countries." Thanks to Lenin and Trotsky, no highly developed bourgeois country can substitute itself for a world revolution.

<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>

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A tale of two surges: Wall Street soars amid New York City's coronavirus toll



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

"Many of New York's billionaires and multimillionaires who profited off of this record rise have already decamped from the stricken city, emptying out luxury apartment buildings in Manhattan and heading off to mansions in the Hamptons and farms in New England, or taking private jets to bunkers in the West—no doubt taking the virus with them and infecting the army of employees it takes to maintain their lifestyle."

The detection and treatment of the virus depends in large part on availability of beds, medical attention, and existing medicine and equipment such as ventilators. All these will exist in plenty for the rich and even many of their servants. In the absence of a mass movement for social revolution, their escape will in fact prove quite successful. The terror unleashed by the virus will take on a very class-based and political dimension. A conscious effort by the workers to even the score, so to speak, would include the destruction of medical equipment that does not serve working people.

Yet this type of warfare, while real, does not benefit the working class as a whole or follow the in the theory of Marxism. Among the displaced rich may live some talented or sympathetic people who only left as part of a centuries old tradition of escaping cities during plague outbreaks. Furthermore, the ventilators, beds, etc. would best serve society as a whole if confiscated and re-appropriated for public, not private use. Such a confrontation over property could not occur without the prior establishment of a workers' state that set to work building socialism as a necessary part of ending the pandemic and the conditions which produced it.

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[Random Poster](#) [Noah Way](#) [7 months ago](#)

The best way to fight bribery would begin with the construction of the Fourth International on the foundation of a transparent democratic process. The entire ethic that gives rise to bribery also includes the element of bribery on behalf of the causes of the people. The necessity of leaning upon that method proves, however, the impossibility of conducting business in a socially responsible way under monopoly capitalism. Opening the ICFI to democracy according to the principles of the founding document of the Left Opposition, the Declaration of the 46, would prepare the way for a workers state more than the prosecution of any corrupt politician, more than any sacrifice thrown to the wolves.

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How to fight the COVID-19 pandemic: A program of action for the working class



[Random Poster](#) [Eric](#) [7 months ago](#)

I hear your call for a wide dissemination of the text. I would further like to add, that as part of the 2020 campaign, volunteer groups formed by the party should systematically distribute articles and statements on various social networks regularly rather than extemporaneously. A successful campaign depends on a real team spirit coming from the party.

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How many must die for Wall Street?



[Random Poster](#) [John Upton](#) [7 months ago](#)

<https://play.google.com/sto...>

This 2012 Android game, released 9 years after the Corona-related SARS epidemic in 2003, gives a glimpse of the processes behind the spread of the Corona Virus. It puts the user in the position of a biological weapons engineer, adding or removing traits and mutating the virus to most effectively destroy humanity. Obviously, one feels guilty about winning this game, but the statistical models and details in the games, combined with the news headlines effectively predict the current virus crisis. Over 50 million have downloaded the game. That we should believe that Corona Virus came as a complete shock really challenges the conscience.

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Coronavirus spreading at faster rate in Louisiana than anywhere in the world



[Random Poster](#) [drforbin](#) [7 months ago](#)

The confidence in state and corporate institutions will fade away as soon as the real death toll and details of the economic crash reaches the people. This confidence however will reappear as confidence in the strength of the revolutionary proletariat. Real measures to address the crisis will emerge, as the facebook writer imagines, but only through the independent acts of the proletariat in a struggle against the old collapsing capitalist institutions.

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COVID-19 begins to rip through homeless population as 30 test positive in New York City shelters



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

One emergency measure which seems the government will not consider: Ban all evictions. While comfortable shutting down work and stopping wages on which millions depend, rent income receives a sort of holy protection. Empty apartments should go to the homeless with a reasonable low rent paid to the owner by the government. While this emergency measure stays in place, the government should fund a permanent program to provide housing for all. Otherwise thousands of evicted tenants will end up on the street at a time when every single exposure to the virus threatens the population as a whole.

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Twenty-three die in Colombia prison revolt over coronavirus conditions



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

The March 12 ban on family visits, which led directly to shortages of necessities clearly caused this madness. That decision forced the prisoners to rebel more than the fear of Corona Virus. Criminal policies will lead to direct confrontations with the people, especially the poor. If the government managed to kill all these prisoners and prevent escape, that should hardly count as a victory against criminality. Prisons in a capitalist state do not protect society but private profit. The prisoners should go free and a massive redistribution of wealth should fund secure, legal, full-employment contracts. Full employment would reduce the crime rate far more effectively than massacres of this sort.

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Entertainment industry in North America devastated by layoffs



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

The entertainment industry deserves credit for having released a large amount of content to audiences around the world. This has connected artists with fans on an unprecedented level. Yet this accomplishment rested upon wage slavery, which excluded most artists from the profits accumulated from their productions. Now the Corona Virus has proved that these relations of production have outgrown their sustainability. Only the transfer of the ownership of the studios to the workers who would control them through democratically elected committees will create a balance that allows the further development of entertainment and its distribution.

Yet the oligarchy will fight this development as hard as it can, as witnessed by the willful negligence they used to allow the spread of the Corona Virus. Even if eight

months of Aggressive Social Distancing manages to control the pandemic, the underlying cause will not uproot itself. A man-made war will take up the virus's task, in order to justify persecution of social movements and wholesale robbery for profits.

On the bright side, the free time created by the Social Distancing measures will allow workers to study and free themselves from the capitalist ideology that previous social circumstances forced them to work with. Essential workers, such as medical workers, transportation workers, agricultural workers, and others can still strike to bring down the state. Teachers, entertainment workers, and others will lose striking power, but politically they can participate in a general revolutionary shift in consciousness. That consciousness alone, which they are capable of producing by dint of their professions, will decide the fate of the workers' revolution in the coming years.

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US threatens military escalation as Iraq confronts COVID-19 and oil price shock



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

The Corona Virus and the anti-democratic quarantine measures will not prevent an outbreak of war but increase its likelihood. Entire communities ruined by the trade war now live under lockdown, preventing mass political gatherings in the run-up to the election. Threats to voting rights may come next. With these measures in place, opposition to war will take a more violent and hidden form. Yet the march to war will continue as the response of the elite to economic collapse, on the model of Nazi Germany. Only a socialist revolution will uncover secret biological weapons programs, release cures and tests denied to the public, and fight for a healthy environment and healthy living conditions for the workers and the poor.

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Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein sentenced to 23 years in prison: “Obscene” culmination to a travesty of a...



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

For all this talk about due process, what about Lenin's argument with Kautsky. Lenin argued that the imperialists had already divided the world amongst themselves and the only hope for expansion meant that each would have to take the territory of the other. In industrial relations, this means that only rape could transfer valuable talent from one conglomerate to another. Weinstein did precisely that, forcibly transfer talent to his own productions through rape and low-intensity war on women.

Did Weinstein have a choice in the matter? No. For the Weinstein Company, it was expand or die. Lenin did not make this argument in order to forgive or defend the imperialists, yet the argument that Weinstein just dealt with careerist women forgives precisely the same process. Lenin proposed a solution, that every revolutionary must side against his own government to fight chauvinism, turning the imperialist war into a revolutionary war. That solution still provides a way forward today. Weinstein represents the Democratic Party and US imperialism. The task of revolutionaries in the US does not include defending Weinstein's imperialism against the imperialism of the courts. The imprisonment of Weinstein should serve as impetus to arrest executives in every major industry, including the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries for their failure to test for and confront the Corona Virus or the large group of executives and university officials involved in the College Admissions Scandal.

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Stock markets plunge in biggest fall since October 1987 crash



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

With various central banks printing and the lending the Euro at negative rates, the race to the bottom has turned into a race to steal from the EU pot. As a drug gang must punish theft with shootings and other illegal acts so too must the ECB punish the boldness of its fellow central banks. That punishment will come in the form of various generalized pains for Italy, Spain, Greece, and any country seeking to fund social programs rather than buy into the collapsing European stock markets, bond markets, and overall economy.

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Congressional doctor expects up to 150 million Americans to contract the coronavirus



[Random Poster](#) [Kapricorn4](#) [7 months ago](#)

Source?

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[Random Poster](#) [Bryan Day](#) [7 months ago](#)

Gun violence stems not from gun ownership but from the conscious dismemberment of gun-owners' organizations, including the never-conservative-enough NRA. In order to reduce gun violence, revolutionary militias need permission to organize and own guns, allowing proper training and education as well as psychological care to reach the gun owners. The same will apply to the treatment of the virus. The inability of the individual to end the disease does not stem from his ownership of medicine or right to buy medicine- the people need to organize to treat their various ailments. Yet this runs against both the paranoia of the state (until it reaches disastrous quarantine proportions, when the government hungrily accepts the task) and the profit motive.

As Leninists, we demand the destruction of the old state because it stands in the way of such organizational efforts, then rushes in late with more ways to aggravate the problem. As Marxists, in the classical sense, we seek to analyze the

economic process that led to this medical paralysis. From this we see the germ of hope that we seek to develop into its final form.

To address the point directly, we may wonder, do we have overproduction or underconsumption of medicine? As Marx explained in Capital Chapter 4, Capital evades such a simplistic divisiveness.

"It differentiates itself as original value from itself as surplus-value; as the father differentiates himself from himself qua the son, yet both are one and of one age: for only by the surplus-value of £10 does the £100 originally advanced become capital, and so soon as this takes place, so soon as the son, and by the son, the father, is begotten, so soon does their difference vanish, and they again become one, £110."

Capital in its circulation differentiates itself from itself and at the same time erases that difference. We must observe similarly that Capitalism has produced an abundance of medicine and yet managed with this abundance to produce medical scarcity that endangers millions of lives. The response to the problem, rather than the emergency nationalization of health insurance and the adequate provision of care, ends up as a violent assault on the rights and dignity of the people. A militaristic socialism arises echoing the haphazard destructive zig-zagging of Stalinism. Corona Virus testing will cost nothing.

To fight the disease, the people must not allow the real culprit to escape unpunished. The culprit remains the extreme poverty faced by average Chinese people, the medical backwardsness enforced by Stalinism and Maoism, as well as the development of biological weapons as a means of winning wars of attrition. Such processes cannot find cures in medicine alone.

The medical professions must awaken together politically to the chaos produced by capitalism and demand the immediate transfer of wealth towards publicly owned hospitals, the socialization of medicine, and the democratic control of medical institutions by the staff in order to take the power away from executive boards dominated by financial interests. The bottom line does not equate to social responsibility. The bottom line prevents the honest reporting by medical professionals (à la The Red Cross) of innumerable war crimes. The collective silence you speak of, combined with the destructive forces it seeks to mask, will spill over or externalize into virtually unstoppable doomsday weapons similar to the Corona Virus.

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Coronavirus destabilises Saudi Arabia



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

The failure and collapse of Saudi Arabia will bring down a major pillar of capitalist rule. The Middle East will finally take steps towards unity and constitutional rule, threatening the dictatorial methods of the CIA and its puppets. The working class should demand an end to torture and executions of all workers and poor people. Only capitalists and their executives, representatives, and agents should receive death sentences. This distinction between classes alone can bring about a transition to democracy and the rule of law.

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For emergency action to combat the coronavirus pandemic



[Random Poster](#) [Sebouh80](#) [7 months ago](#)

The ruling class benefits from shutting down social gatherings and freedom of movement, which increasingly reveal the hostility of the people towards their leaders. They can make exceptions for oligarchs and executives, while the people remain locked down. This virus and the anti-democratic measures used to control it will also serve to crush opposition to world war. The name Corona comes from the Spanish word for crown, but it also refers to the Spanish flu which killed millions throughout the world during WWI. The spread of the flu may serve as a backdrop for the more open killing that takes place during overt war.

The people must demand the publication of all secret files related to biological military programs that engineer and use infectious diseases as weapons. Edward Snowden's revelations of secret NSA spying on millions of US citizens by the US government offers a clue into the scale of the torture perpetrated or planned by the government. The open use of torture, the infliction of suffering and illness on

targets and prisoners, by imperialism will lead almost naturally to the open use of biological war. Only a war on the torture used by the most powerful capitalist and Stalinist governments and their allies will end the spread of diseases which take millions of lives. Only revolutionary war can accomplish this goal.

Furthermore, this can only come as conjecture, but as China controls the spread of the virus and the number of infections and deaths decrease, what takes shape appears as a mirror-image of 9/11. What post-9/11 changes or post-Corona changes will come to China? Who will China blame? How much do they know about the origin of the virus? Why did they allow it, as it appears, to leak from their laboratories? Did the infections in Iran strengthen their dictatorship and open the way for the suppression of Iran's working-class movement? The timing comes just as the U.S. agreed to wrap up their war in Afghanistan. This may signal the end of the entire post-9/11 strategy for a never-ending war on terror. The American empire seems to have been ship-wrecked on the rocky shores of the Arab Spring. China may take the reins now and lead the world in the destruction of accumulated capital while the U.S. plays the role of the "strategic competitor" and "neutral observer" that cashes in on their allies' losses.

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Teachers in Mexico block major railway as government deploys National Guard



[Random Poster](#) [7 months ago](#)

Grupo Mexico does not want to liberate the railways but use them to profit off the misery of the people. Only the workers organized against the "Morena" government, the government of the corporations and the ally of imperialism, can overcome the capitalist "Grupo". A Workers' State will arise in the Americas, uniting the workers across borders and defending their interests internationally. Such a state can defend American workers against the torturous, war-making, concentration-camp building dictatorship, allowing them to take the power in Washington DC, restoring Democratic Power and constructing socialism throughout the world.

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WHO says coronavirus danger is “very high”



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

Various officials have blamed government weapons, from former Trump advisor Steve Bannon, US Senator Tom Cotton, and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Understanding the origin of the virus may prove key to curing it. The motive for such economic destruction as created by the Corona Virus can only come from imperialism as it seeks to destroy accumulated capital that lowers its rate of profit. Only a thorough and transparent investigation of every major government and its secret weapons programs will create security from biological warfare. The people would benefit if they diverted the research budgets used to experiment with biological weapons towards discovering cures for common causes of disability and death for the working class and poor.

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ABC News suspends veteran reporter who called himself a socialist, criticized network in secret recording



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

This secret witch-hunt absolutely needs exposure. How can the corporate media police itself? They mainly focus on driving the country to war and silencing socialist opposition. The opposition may have to work in silence, but it does not have a choice but to continue. The media's public opinion machine increasingly depends on violence to achieve its ends.

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#MeToo-style attack on star of West Side Story revival fizzles on Broadway



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

I'm glad the protesters raised attention to this issue. I consider it serious sexual misconduct, and the arbitrator, while restoring his job, did admit that he needed counseling. This story should embarrass Broadway, even if the pimp that works for them and his prostitute live together.

How would you feel if someone offered money for naked pictures of your family? What if they made other stipulations about what they want in those pictures? How far would people go to obtain those pictures? Would you want to work with this person?

This behavior not only goes unchecked, it receives express approval by the company and union who financially benefit from pimping in public. Waterbury should have received a large payment from the theater as punishment for their wickedness towards aspiring dancers.

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Stock market fall continues at record speed



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

If one considers the inflated stock prices in relation to total money supply as measured by Federal Reserve Assets, in the period that money supply quadrupled the stock market only doubled. That shows hyper-deflation has occurred, in real terms, a halving of prices, rather than inflation. The near-zero or below-zero interests rates represent the cost of money: almost free! That extremely low price will not resolve the shortages of goods however. The low prices contribute to supply shocks by removing the incentive to produce.

Stock buy-backs financed by low interest rates, in this sense, help to maintain prices from falling too low, but this has only provided temporary relief. The limit to

such lending comes from the ability to collect. As soon as debts come due, investors will sell stocks bringing their price back down. As a result, such sales will increase in frequency in order to cover payments. The cycle of stock sales and repayment of corporate debt will crash the market even more than the Corona Virus, and it will keep prices depressed for much longer.

A socialist economy would also control prices according to measurements of supply and demand but also in accordance with social need. Shortages which impact the lives of many would receive extra attention, meaning government-funded worker-controlled programs. Shortages of housing, education, medicine, transportation, and even food and water affect the lives of tens of millions in the U.S. and billions globally, while hampering economic security and development. Providing for the needs of the people would stimulate the economy, increase labor-force participation, and raise the prices of luxuries and loans for the rich to sustainable levels. Lowering the price of money is like lowering the price of everything, or handing things out free, disproportionately to rich people, which is the height of financial irresponsibility. Only a socialist transformation of society will resurrect the incentive for government to act socially and fiscally responsible.

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The New York Times gloats over the destruction of “the Monster” Weinstein



[Random Poster](#) [Andy H](#) [8 months ago](#)

Have you read *The Civil War in France* by Karl Marx? I consider it urgent reading in light of the wrongheadedness of this defense of bourgeois courts. The judicial appointees of bourgeois politicians from bourgeois parties do not represent democracy now any more than they did during the time of France's Third Republic when Marx wrote. If the defense of bourgeois courts doesn't end soon, the WSWS will have the blood of revolutionaries on its hands.

Trotsky denounced Stalin's show trials. Were he writing today, he would denounce Weinstein's defenders. He did not defend democracy as "an immutable principle above the class struggle." He would not conflate Weinstein and Co. with the generation of revolutionaries decimated by Stalinism. The collapse of bourgeois democracy will not save the bourgeoisie, but instead the collapsed structure will land on their Weinsteinesque heads.

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[Random Poster](#) TJ [8 months ago](#)

From the standpoint of the working class, should we focus our efforts on reform of the justice system or removing the capitalist class from power? Should we forget Harvey Weinstein's relationship to the means of production and attempt to create a Steiner-Brennanist Utopian court? Fair trials will not occur under capitalism, and this does not directly implicate the raped or otherwise preyed upon women who would like to make a predator suffer anyway. This case, however, does prove that the capitalists will sow the seeds of their own destruction. That higher law holds priority in this argument.

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[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

1. "The viciously anti-democratic and reactionary agenda that underlay the conduct of the trial is summed up in the lead editorial published in yesterday's Times. The very first line of the editorial, titled "The Lessons of #MeToo's Monster," hails "the hard-won, long-overdue conviction of Harvey Weinstein." To assert that the conviction was "overdue" implies that the trial was unnecessary, that it was an obtrusive formality that unnecessarily delayed the destruction of the sub-human thing, the "Monster.""

The trial was unnecessary for the New York Times because Harvey Weinstein's spies attacked the newspaper. Do you not see this as a threat to democracy? Should spies decide the editorial policy of major publications?

<https://randomposter33.word...>

2. "The great achievement of the prosecution, the Times continues, was the prosecutors' ability "to break through a barrier common to many assault cases, a lack of physical or other corroborating evidence." In other words, the prosecution succeeded in securing a conviction without having to present verifiable and reliable evidence of Weinstein's guilt, let alone proof beyond a reasonable doubt."

As Ed Hightower said, "At least in Virginia there is a standard jury instruction that the testimony of a single witness could sustain the burden of proof." To take it a

step further: what "proof" do you have that the witnesses were lying? You would accuse them of perjury without offering any proof? Your assertion that they secured a conviction without proof amounts to an anti-democratic attempt to override the verdict of the jury. The jury had no doubt of his guilt. That standard means nothing to you, as you attempt to override the jury's unanimous verdict with non-factual arguments about the law.

3. "On the basis of these new rules, an untold number of people—almost all of them poor, most of them black—will be locked up for crimes they did not commit."

This article has turned the situation onto its head. Harvey Weinstein fell from power because of a movement of the poor, especially women, which included an uprising of the teachers who are 75% women. That capitalism does not bring law but instead prioritizes the suppression of workers' independent organizations, including for workplace security, thereby physically enslaving the workers using real threats of sexual or violent assault, has not escaped the consciousness of the people. For this reason a movement could form to bring down a central figure in Hollywood and in the Democratic Party, closely associated with Hillary Clinton among others. This outburst and open adaptation to identity politics naturally arises from the willful ignorance underlying the position of the WSWS on #metoo.

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[Random Poster](#) [Ed Hightower](#) [8 months ago](#)

You think? You thought? This is subjectivity run amok. Trotskyism or the democratic aspirations of Marxists and the working class throughout the world, took a very different approach to this type of problem. Your position will appear like American chauvinism to the rest of the world, praising the "fair trials" of the world's worst empire. Read how James P. Cannon, former leader of the Trotskyist movement in the U.S. and throughout the world, addressed the same topic:

"And always, in time of crisis, these labour leaders—who talk about democracy all the time, as against dictatorship in the "socialist countries", as they call them—easily excuse and defend all kinds of violations of even this limited bourgeois democracy. They are far more tolerant of lapses from the formal rules of democracy by the capitalists than by the workers. They demand that the class struggle of the workers against the exploiters be conducted by the formal rules of bourgeois democracy, at all stages of its development—up to and including the stage of social transformation and the defence of the new society against attempts at capitalist restoration. They say it has to be strictly "democratic" all

the way. No emergency measures are tolerated; everything must be strictly and formally democratic according to the rules laid down by the capitalist minority. They burn incense to democracy as an immutable principle, an abstraction standing above the social antagonism."

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[Random Poster](#) [dreamjoehill](#) [8 months ago](#)

The WSWS position and the Trotskyist position differ widely in this regard. Weinstein's fall may resemble Kennedy's assassination, but the Trotskyist movement of the time did not denounce Kennedy's assassins. They saw it as the outcome of imperialist relations which made a peaceful and just political process impossible. The same conclusion should have dominated in the WSWS. However, they instead convinced themselves, using references to the Shepherd trial almost 60 years ago, in the decade of the Kennedy assassination, that capitalist governments will provide fair trials for the people.

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FBI and Department of Justice reject Freedom of Information Act document request by SEP National Chair...



[Random Poster](#) [Andrea Lobo](#) [8 months ago](#)

All intelligent critics of society will suffer as a result of this "record-keeping." As they keep these falsified records, they also attempt to change the reality, through assault and torture, to create the record that they would like to see in the world.

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[Random Poster](#) [Robert Seaborne](#) [8 months ago](#)

These secret police programs will have definite effects on the organization of the party. Previous secret police tactics from ColIntelPro and other counter-revolutionary campaigns aimed to shut down branches, isolate members, and politically assassinate anyone with sway over the masses. For similar reasons, exile became common among revolutionaries of previous generations. From Marx and Engels to Lenin and Trotsky, exile had practically been a rule. Rather than cowardly retreat, exile meant advancing the international character of the movement while strengthening democracy by joining the physical march of intellectuals into those freer countries. By the late 1930s, this no longer meant Europe but Latin America, or Mexico specifically in Trotsky's case. Large numbers of Americans, over a million, have already crossed the border to the south to escape North American tyranny.

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Sanders' surge in the polls triggers new provocations by media, Democratic establishment



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

"It does not so much fear Sanders himself—a longtime political ally of the Democrats and defender of American imperialism, whose function is to corral the growth of social opposition into the safe confines of the Democratic Party—but rather the growth of anti-capitalist sentiment and the class struggle that is fueling his popular support."

Sanders campaign comes at a time when democratic forms of rule have reached a state of near-total collapse. The idea that socialism must remain democratic while capitalism becomes fascistic, perverted, torturous, and murderous does little to prepare the working class for the coming confrontation. Workers must take all the power into their hands and exclude the parties of the capitalist class from participation.

The decisive factor of a class policy exclusively for the working class will determine the outcome of the revolution. Bernie Sanders seeks to undermine this rise of class consciousness with appeals for a compromise with the Democratic

Party and the capitalist interests they represent. An open break with the system depends on the campaigns of the SEP gaining access to wider audiences. The efforts of campaigners should not meet with suppression by SEP candidates who refuse invitations to speak in front of a national audience.

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Growing attacks on socialism in Democratic presidential race



[Random Poster](#) [ben franklin \[pre death\]](#) [8 months ago](#)

This approach, based on hypotheticals, contradicts the basic philosophical approach of Marxism. This question requires a historical response. The rise of socialist Kerensky meant the arrest of Trotsky, the persecution of Lenin, and the continuance of the endless slaughter on the front with Germany. Lenin's response alone saved the revolutionary movement. He urged complete distrust of the Kerensky-led Provisional Government after the fall of the Tsar. This approach he based on his philosophical understanding of the necessity of the rise to power of the working class and its theoretical representation, the Marxist movement. Alexander Kerensky, nominally a socialist, did not oppose imperialist war and sided with reformism rather than an immediate transfer of power to the working class. These positions alone disqualified him from revolutionary support, allowing the Bolsheviks to organize for the October Revolution before Kornilov could reintroduce Tsarism.

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[Random Poster](#) [Cory Patrick](#) [8 months ago](#)

His supporters will have to apologize for disarming the people. They will not burn the system to the ground but find another alternative to world socialist revolution, undermining the revolutionary leadership of the ICFI while endangering the advanced workers. An adventure into the Democratic Party ignores the brutal history of the American ruling class, who have enslaved the people and killed

millions of trusting revolutionaries and socialists throughout the world. The question to ask Bernie and his supporters is this: Why won't you debate the SEP and its candidates?

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[Random Poster](#) [Sebouh80](#) [8 months ago](#)

Sanders is fully responsible for hiding the complicity of the Democratic Party in the robbery of the working class by the rich and their political and judicial system. The only way to carry forward the political program of the workers is in opposition to Sanders and all reformists and imperialists who promise a socialist transformation without a confrontation with capital and its representatives within the capitalist state.

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[Random Poster](#) [Adam Cortright](#) [8 months ago](#)

Bernie's election would bring great danger to socialists, while the impetus for revolutionary change comes from the capitalist system itself, its dependence on the proletariat and its disenfranchisement of that entire economic class. Bernie's candidacy does not bring the revolution closer. On the contrary, it disarms the workers, promises success for reformism and "left" imperialism, and clears the path, through the defense of nationalism, for the rise of fascism. Bernie must be fought off the backs of the workers, like all false leaders, so that the workers can take the power, not for a bourgeois candidate, but in order to establish a workers' state and begin the restructuring of society on the basis of equal distribution of property.

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[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

With the confusion over the Iowa Caucus, the entire government lies within a cloud of confusion. Who legitimately runs the government? The confusion over this central issue, also revealed in the impeachment, points to the importance for socialism to reassert its commitment to democratic power, which cannot come from the Democratic Party. The leaders must respond to the will of the people and must place the principle of the right of the people to choose their leaders above concerns for their own positions and careers. Such positions and careers, in the aftermath of #metoo and the coming revolution, will mean much less to the people, who will awaken to the criminality of their leaders and force their removal.

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Trump gloats over impeachment, but popular opposition mounts to his administration



[Random Poster](#) [8 months ago](#)

The greatest threat of fascism comes from Bernie Sanders. He will leave the working class disarmed and allow the fascists to force the US into war and police-state dictatorship. Socialism can only come to the U.S. through armed insurrection against the capitalist system. A Sanders administration would, far from arming such a worker uprising, crush it with impunity. He, along with all the Democratic and Republican leaders, belong in prison at least until a workers' state has established itself as the new government of the United States.

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[Random Poster](#) [gooddoctor](#) [9 months ago](#)

Jack London's work predicted a 500 years-long revolution against capitalism. This extreme length may have contributed to his suicidal thoughts, which ended in his early death. Revolutionaries will not fire upon crowds in the same manner as the police and military, to drive them like a herd. What the revolution must do, rather, involves the building of democratic committees to replace capitalist democracy

with worker democracy. Revolutionary leaders must also keep away from the capitalists, not attempt to socialize with and marry the rich.

London's depiction of the socialist leader may have highlighted the real problem of the seduction of the revolution, but he did not recognize the potential of the workers to organize independently in hostile and complete opposition to capitalist society. This leadership style, personified by Lenin, allowed almost no compromise with capitalist wealth and splendor. He conquered the power through occupation of important buildings, through speeches to the workers, and through military battles, not through love affairs. In Lenin, London's romanticism fell short of the stark realism. Trotsky's favorable review of the book dealt with the welcome attention to the subject-matter of revolutionary leadership combined with the entertaining style, but he did not see the book as a theoretically important work.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [7 comments](#)

My Response to Alex Lichtenstein Regarding the 1619 Project



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

Capitalists broke strikes and unions using racial groups. They also encouraged racism through ownership and circulation of racist newspapers. Before this, early escaped slaves often united and formed mixed race communities. The early colonists could not break these black, white, and native communities without establishing racist laws. These became the basis for which poor whites obtained freedom for the first time, allowing for the revolutions of the 17th and 18th centuries.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [20 comments](#)

Swiss newspaper raises important questions about the Harvey Weinstein trial



[Random Poster](#) [Nick Barunga](#) [9 months ago](#)

To defend Epstein so openly would indicate a complete shift into a defense of imperialism along Burnham-Shachtman lines. A defense of Epstein would defend Clinton, Trump, and Prince Andrew, some of the top representatives of imperialism. The defense of Weinstein does not differ much from this, except in the degree to which it is apparent. Weinstein associated himself more with Hillary Clinton, various billionaires, and the most trusted celebrities in the media.

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[Random Poster](#) [Don Barrett](#) [9 months ago](#)

Clearly the war between the media and Weinstein and Co. has risen from hiding and become clear and overt. Weinstein and Co.'s use of ex-Mossad spies to intimidate and control journalism and acting have backfired with this incident.

Yet to take a Shachtmanite position does not provide revolutionary perspective or leadership. Shachtman, like Trotsky, attacked the Soviet Union in the same way that you attack the mass media. However, like Shachtman and unlike Trotsky, you agree completely with this conservative commentator and support Weinstein and his spying operations against the free media.

Shachtman similarly supported imperialist operations against Stalinism rather than a political revolution. The Burnham-Schachtman faction of the SWP produced various Conservative and Neo-conservative ideologues, and you seem to have gone along likewise.

The correct position to argue would not include a legalistic defense of Weinstein or even a demand for a "fair" bourgeois court. What should the workers demand then? Revolutionary Workplace Equality Committees and Tribunals to transfer power from the capitalists and their faithful servants, like Weinstein, to all the cast and crew, who would elect their own leaders. Weinstein serves capitalism and his fall serves socialism. Socialists welcome his fall and the ensuing media chaos. Yet out of this chaos must come a higher order based on the security, dignity, and state power of the common media worker. This conservative defense of the oligarchy cannot go on.

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[Random Poster](#) [Ed Bergonzi](#) [9 months ago](#)

<https://www.google.com/amp/...>

"Despite the mainstream perception that most sexual assaults are committed by strangers in dark alleys, in 80% of cases, women know their attackers."

"Most of the 21 women who alleged they were raped and drugged by Jeffrey Marsalis, known as the "[Match.com](#)" rapist, continued to see him (he was later convicted on two counts of sexual assault)."

The writing of love letters and the drawing of hearts clearly indicate rape has occurred. The argument of the defense sounds like little more than an appeal to ignorance, one which you seem all too willing to approve.

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[Random Poster](#) [Vivek Jain](#) [9 months ago](#)

They also only allowed the prosecutor three witnesses out of dozens that had accused him.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [5 comments](#)

The sudden death of basketball great Kobe Bryant produces shock and tributes worldwide



[Random Poster](#) [Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

As for the #metoo charges resurfacing, that should serve as a reminder that justice denied in 2003 will not necessarily be denied in 2020. Jeffrey Epstein similarly escaped justice with the aid of former Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta. In the end, the child sex trafficker, the predator died in prison under suspicious

circumstances with irregularities in the investigation. The forgiveness of "stars", or privileged people by the courts does not signify the successful establishment of a reign of terror. Revolutionary violence still exists and gives hope for justice.

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[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

Socialists have suffered post-mortem attacks at the hands of the imperialist and Stalinist states, and such moralizing only serves to hide the hypocrisy of the capitalist class. To defend Kobe Bryant on that basis does not approach the socialist perspective.

Kobe Bryant had the advantage of being born into an NBA players family, a nepotistic dynasty of sorts. The violence and injuries, much more publicized about the NFL, along with the privilege reinforced by the pay scale and the league's dominance of sports into every school in the country, hint at the Roman coliseum of antiquities. Kobe Bryant appears in this context as a giant in the arena who pushed with unhuman effort to perfect his scoring style. His defense must have stolen and blocked thousands of times in front of a national audience, squashing his opponent's ego publicly.

In the end, what really determined his worth did not originate within his genetics or his physical form, rather it originated in the social context which produced him. His ownership of his talents in fact originated in the surplus value extracted from the league's many exploited laborers off the court and dumped into training him in practice. This also includes the training of his teammates to pass him the ball and free him up for a shot. At the end of the day, his work only encompassed a small part of the points scored.

His size, which separates him from 99.5% of the population but also puts him in a group of 10s of millions world wide, serves to enforce the idea that athletics should belong only to a select few rather than the majority of the population. Many sports could reach higher levels of participation if they included simple rule changes, like separate events for people falling outside a given height range. This change would not reinforce the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few, and for this reason these ideas cannot find funding.

In other words, Kobe Bryant was not Kobe Bryant's own fault. Yet as a top scorer, he represented the league to the people. His position naturally made him popular. Yet as the popularity of capitalism and the state falls to abysmally low levels, so will it's representatives'. His physical fall from power provides a clear symbol of

the regime's fall from unsustainable heights, wilfully blind and ignorant of the dangers that lie ahead for it. The limits of jingoism and the silencing of dissent come out most during military defeat or tragic lapses of security.

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#MeToo accusations and identity politics circulate around 2020 Grammy Awards



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

Alicia Keys has identified herself as an anarchist, and during the Grammy Awards ceremony she not only advocated for the removal of Trump but also advocated for a radical change in the social, political, and economic "systems" that govern the country.

Like Alicia Keys, Billie Eilish prefers not to overtly mention politics in her song. However, politics does enter into their work. In the first sense, through the idea of love for the revolutionary, in the Christian sense, love for the enemy of the government among the people. This philosophy becomes a more romantic form of love as it approaches realism from its point of idealism.

In other places, such as in "Bury your Friend", she argues that society is run by a "Cannibal Class", which forces those who want to come to power to kill their own friends, to kill Jesus Christ. In "You Should See Me in a Crown", she depicts the crown, the present authority, as a horrific, poisonous creation that she will run out before she "runs this nothing town", presumably L.A., Hollywood, and the media in general. In the beginning of the song, she explains she is "biting her tongue and biding her time" until "the world is [hers]".

In the Bad Guy, she plays the role of the villain who undermines her man. To assume her target would be an ordinary member of the audience only proves the faultiness of the assumption. She reveals in this depiction the work of an assassin whose target we must assume has significant political importance. In revealing this "bad guy", she seems to have broken through a paper wall of silence, the main image in the video.

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Discussion on [www.bitchute.com](#) [12 comments](#)

Who Should Democrats Pick?



[Random Poster](#) [grok](#) [9 months ago](#)

Well we have two options: the lesser-of-two-evils vs. the push for democratic and socialist demands. Between these two choices, which is the lesser of two evils? The push for democratic and socialist demands, not the evil, lazy argument of lesser-of-two-evils, though such demands do bring about evil reactions.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [18 comments](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. and the fight for social equality



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

The history of the U.S. is the history of class struggle and of repeated uprising. The uprising over race inequality is the revolutionary struggle of the working class, which must reject prejudice and strive, enlightened, towards its goal: the establishment of a workers' state. The capitalist class, like every ruling class, must conceal the truth from the masses to hide the self-interest that underlies the philosophy of reactionaries. The nature of America and human nature as a whole suffers due to the lies of the reactionaries, but it's resilience lies in its struggle against oppression and in favor of the ever-greater reach of democratic power. Socialism only seeks to extend this power into the realm of economic and productive relations.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [10 comments](#)

Trump boasts of “executing” Iranian General Suleimani in Ohio campaign speech



[Random Poster](#) [teri](#) [9 months ago](#)

Unfortunately, no single individual or even office, such as President of the United States, deserves full blame for U.S. policies. Partial blame, real blame, yes, but the entire onus cannot fall onto one individual. That's scapegoating. In proving that Trump alone cannot take the fall, we have an argument for the revolutionary overthrow of the government, not an orderly impeachment and prosecution. The gears of justice have broken under the weight of the political party machines corrupting government and destroying democracy. We want the prosecution of Trump, bearing in mind Alexander Acosta's prosecution of Jeffrey Epstein, outside of the jurisdiction of the Republican-Democrat appointed judicial system. Only construction of the revolutionary party can achieve this aim.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [3 comments](#)

Surveillance video outside Jeffrey Epstein's cell during first “suicide attempt” deleted



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

Jeffrey Epstein was not a millionaire but a billionaire. The media argues that it erred in all previous reporting on his wealth. In fact, they began arguing he had less than a billion only after he returned to prison. His billionaire status helped him secure his freedom illegally after his first conviction. That dirty deal led to the fall of Trump's Labor Secretary, Alexander Acosta.

The Epstein case proves in the clearest way that the WSWS took the wrong position on the prosecution of sex crimes. Sex crimes are the means by which the oligarchy quietly proves that they can deny security and democratic rights to the working class. Their prosecution proves that the crimes of capitalism have created many witnesses willing and able to testify. If necessary, the same process will

repeat itself to unseat the nano-bureaucracy that seeks to rob the revolution of its leadership.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [10 comments](#)

Massive all-India general strike protests Modi's pro-investor, communalist policies



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

The rising anger of the Indian working class will remove many barriers set up by the authorities to deny workers their rights. The union conferences and Stalinist parties will continue their attempts to divide and exploit backwardness on behalf of the employers. The employers, however, depend on a system that keeps tens of millions, close to one hundred million people, unemployed and many more under financially precarious conditions. Eventually the betrayal will arrive at a point where it is unsustainable, and the state will require removal in order to clear the way for justice.

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Podemos enters Spanish government



[Random Poster](#) [9 months ago](#)

The abstention of the Nationalists proves that parties not based on the working class revolution will inevitably come into conflict with the revolution on behalf of the government. Allowing them to form a majority government will overrule the majority of the people who have suffered extremely high rates of unemployment, brutal anti-democratic police and courts, and austerity. They have also sided against their own voters demanding independence, allowing the PSOE to rule while it holds their leaders in prison illegally. Only a revolutionary party will defend the right to independence, democratic rights in general, and the rights of the

people to form a government of their own, a workers' state based on real socialist principles.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [6 comments](#)

French strikers oppose “Christmas truce” called by Macron and trade unions



[Random Poster](#) [Ramin Mazaheri](#) [10 months ago](#)

Thank you for covering the protest. French strikes should really serve as an example for the American labor movement. The danger for France, however, as always, will come from the unions and the pseudo-left groups that seek to impose a deal on the workers without meeting their demands. If the government cannot meet their demands, they have the right to plan and organize a revolution. The real violent criminals are not the protesters but those who seek to keep them blind by shooting at their eyes.

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The sordid deal between former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein and his accusers



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

"Individuals, frankly, who never proved anything in court, and might not be victims of any kind, stand to gain half a million dollars each."

The victims and witnesses do not prove guilt in court. They only share their testimony. That job belongs to the prosecutor. If these people get rewarded for coming forward with testimony, all the better. Weinstein, like Epstein and Cosby, belongs in prison. If this deal prevents witnesses from testifying honestly, then that represents the corruption of the deal, not the fact that they gained \$500,000. We should see the fairness of the deal since members of the SEP or readers of

WSWS.ORG may also at some point become victims, and they should have a claim as well and support each other in staking the claim. In opposing Stalinism and Imperialism, Trotskyism seeks to punish relentlessly, not forgive, the crimes produces by a rotten system.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [2 comments](#)

EU court rules jailed Catalan nationalist Junqueras had immunity



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

"This pro-EU propaganda is a sham. Having taken shape as an economic community under the wing of the anti-communist NATO alliance during the Cold War, the EU has grown into a brutal military-police regime. While imposing austerity programmes that have devastated the living standards of hundreds of millions of European workers, it is seeking to build itself up now as a military rival of Washington while jailing hundreds of thousands of refugees."

This is exactly right. Free Catalonia from Spain! Free Spain from the EU! No more servitude to corporations and to oligarchy! Socialist unity controlled by the workers or no unity at all!

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [1 comments](#)

Far-right Spanish general demands ouster of Socialist Party government



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

To accuse the prime minister of threatening national security indicates the military plans on moving against the government with a coup. The Supreme Court ruling in favor of fascist dictator Franco proves that not only the military, but the entire capitalist state plans to legitimize a coup against the elected parties. A strong

statement, as with the recent demonstrations, in solidarity with imprisoned Catalanian leaders combined with the investigation and banning of fascist Vox and the jailing of coup conspiracy leaders will return democratic rights to Spain. Until then, if the threats go unanswered, the situation will gravitate towards military dictatorship under the far-right Vox party, much like the right-wing coup in Bolivia. The ICFI needs to show the complicity of the left reformists in remaining silent about the threats instead of arming the workers in preparation for a rebellion and the foundation of a new state based on the democratic control over the economy and state by the working class.

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Assange gives evidence in Spanish case against security contractor



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

"On Thursday, Assange's legal team submitted several bundles of evidence to be presented in his defence against US extradition early next year. These covered the blatantly political nature of the Espionage Act charges levelled by the US government, evidence relating to Chelsea Manning, public statements by US politicians denouncing Assange and WikiLeaks which jeopardise any prospect of a fair trial, as well as evidence relating to abuse of due process, vindictive prison conditions and denial of medical treatment."

The evidence in Assange's favor appears overwhelming. Yet the outcome of a possible trial does not seem certain. This illegal spy war on an individual of high standing sheds a very revealing light on all society. If someone can endure such mistreatment at the hands of spies and capitalist courts, then who has escaped such treatment to rise to the top of respectability? Only the servile minions of the military-corporate economic interests, only they rose to prominence. As with the case of the Ecuadorian government, celebrities moving to defend Assange cannot really stay on his side. They must turn, like the Ecuadorian government, into allies of the oppressors.

Who had Assange confronted with his exposures? The worst military elements of the Iraq, Afghanistan, and other wars. They did not comply with the law or human rights in beginning those wars, and they will not allow human rights at home to interfere through the rise of an informed opposition to militarism. Only a

revolutionary movement of the working class, driven by economic conditions and the failure of the government, will restore democratic rights to journalists such as Assange. Assange's battle in the courts against extradition, which in fact became a spy and torture battle, serves above all to show the futility of appealing to the courts for protection from the state.

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French strikers protest prime minister's pledge to impose pension cuts



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

The comments section does not show up for the more recent article about strikes in France.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>

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Discussion on [American Renaissance](#) [187 comments](#)

Race, Welfare and Media Lies



[Random Poster](#) [Silver Fox 183](#) [10 months ago](#)

Removed

Socialism and racism do not go together. Racism overwhelmingly targets the poor and the working class. Socialism unites the working class and fights prejudice in all its forms. That being said, if there has to be a racial policy for the socialist, then one's own race should receive the lowest preference, since historically, social chauvinism has done more harm to socialism than any other cause for political division.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [0 comments](#)

Wave of teachers strikes confront attacks on pensions and working conditions in Brazil



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

"The courts also supported the government, upholding its cutting of wages for workers on strike."

Capitalist courts cannot be trusted to defend the wages or the security of the workers. The political parties in power appoint the judges, not a legal diety that abstractly defends true law. The decisions of the courts notwithstanding, the moral remains with the workers, since the employers illegally and regularly delay payments of wages. The courts will not impose an economic cost, such as late fees, much less jail managers and employers that use such crimes tactically to subdue the workers.

"In the state capital, a major demonstration by teachers and students on November 26 was brutally repressed by the shock troops of the Military Police. The teachers tried to enter the state's Legislative Assembly together with their negotiating committee, composed of members of the union, and were met with truncheons and tear gas grenades that left 11 teachers and students wounded... "

"In a demonstration held on December 3, strikers knocked down barricades and occupied the Legislative Assembly in the midst of the vote on the legislation. In the face of the occupation the legislators left for another building, surrounded by police, and continued with their deliberations. Under these conditions, the union shut down the strike, defending the return to work as the best means of "advancing the struggle."

These two incidents prove the failure of the strategy and perspective of the leaders of the strike. The flawed design brought about the failure of the strike, not an inherent weakness of the working class. When Vladimir Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution took the power in Russia, he did not rush into the legislative building. Rather, he occupied a nearby university, the Smolny Institute in order to give leadership to the national strike movement, increasingly led by workers' committees rather than unions. He delayed the occupation of the legislature until the new government had been organized to rule in place of the old. Then, instead of disrupting a particular vote, demanding the repeal of some act, or making some proposal which had no hope of passing, he dispersed that assembly and

made future attempts at meeting illegal. This freed Russia from the corrupt rule of the capitalist class.

In the November 26 attempt, a negotiating committee had been sent against the violent police force. Instead, the revolution should have organized a force capable of pushing off the guards and arresting the lawmakers. That unpreparedness led to the injuries to the negotiators, who should have negotiated in the press, not in secret meetings with employer organizations and the state.

The December 3 incident illustrates this all the more clearly. The legislators met in another building, which should condemn them to illegality. This should not come as a surprise, but instead led to the divisions within the workers' leadership coming to the surface. Rather than decree the new legislature as an illegal assembly, the workers found themselves forced to deliberate amongst themselves once again. The nationalist-reformist union leadership sabotaged the movement by demanding the workers return to work, rather than maintain the strike, keeping the criminal state legislature on the run.

The workers, in order to enact the necessary change, must break from the leadership of reformist union leaders. The criminal leaders of the government should go to jail immediately to await trial or seek asylum abroad. The union wants a criminal deal with government in order to stay at the head of all worker uprisings. The workers, in defiance of union leaders, should disperse the illegal assembly and ban future meetings. This can only take place if the workers determine it necessary to form a new government, one that bans all late payments, imposing strictly enforced fees for lateness, and all cuts to wages that are already below twice the national average. Such measures will not come from a capitalist state. Only a state founded by a workers' revolution will create policies to address the economic crisis and the breakdown of civil society.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [2 comments](#)

SEP holds final UK election meeting in London



[Random Poster](#) [10 months ago](#)

"... states can only wage their predatory wars through a further evisceration of democratic rights and a turn to ever more extreme authoritarian violence."

The overall analysis does not contain the problem. The failure to apply this analysis to the basic democratic right of national self-determination leads towards unscientific, utopian tendencies. Why have you not drawn the conclusion that the consolidation and militarization of the EU follows the same reactionary, anti-democratic trend?

Clearly Brexit itself does not bring about socialist revolution on its own, but the suppression of democratic rights evident in Johnson's suspension of Parliament and the Spanish police operations in Catalonia to prevent a referendum on independence point to the revolutionary necessity of defending the same basic democratic rights defended by Lenin, Trotsky, and the Bolsheviks.

The ICFI runs the risk of making the same mistake German Stalinists did in letting the Nazis come to power. Rather than assert the necessity of a forceful overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the capitalist state, they considered these to be fascist positions, allowing the fascists to prepare the overthrow of the government without fighting them to defend the republic or calling for the dispersal of the Weimar Republic in favor of a democratic workers' state run by the more democratic form of organization, the workers' committees.

To understate the subjective factor of revolutionary leadership, the confidence in the working-class itself and its ability to rise to power, means to allow the best political positions, the political high ground, to fall to far-right leadership. Such a blunder, originating in faulty philosophy, will sideline the ICFI and allow the fascists to regain the offensive. The correct approach to Brexit would require a perspective asserting that the establishment parties will not go far enough to protect the rights and economic well-being of the British and only a revolutionary Brexit, overthrowing both the UK and EU parliaments, will create the conditions for the unity of the British and European working class against the EU, the oligarchy, the capitalist private profit system, and imperialist conflict.

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IYSSE, student unions defend students in Germany against right-wing attacks



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The use of security forces to intimidate students on the left will eventually force the an equal response from the left. Students cannot fight the security forces.

Only groups organized to defend and eventually retaliate will balance the power enough to protect free speech. The liberal establishment, in order to stay in power, must respond by officially reprimanding the security officers involved and firing the one who gave the orders. Otherwise the tension created by the right offensive will break out in violent ways, and not to their liking, on other occasions.

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Over 2 million Americans don't have access to indoor plumbing or water, report finds



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Clean water requires investment by the government on a scale not attempted for many decades. Such an effort would benefit the poor, the environment, and overall living conditions and productivity. The capitalist system however drains the resources required for these projects into private accounts hidden on offshore tax havens. That money needs reclaiming and redirection into socially productive expenditures. To say access to water is a human right does not suffice, since capitalism proudly tramples upon the rights of human beings in pursuit of profit. Only the establishment of a workers' state that guarantees safe indoor plumbing for all can insure the end of this plague upon 44 million Americans and many more millions throughout the world.

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Colombian trade unions working with President Duque to shut down national strike movement



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The perspective of revolutionary struggle in opposition to the official Strike Committee will play an important role. Supporters of the official Strike Committee will argue that no alternative exists to unite the various groups opposed to the

government's policies. In reality, no group more effectively disperses the people and sets them on to reformist paths. The official dialogue excludes the ICFI, seeks to ignore or diminish in importance their statements, and continues along without stopping for those who need and deserve to have their statements heard, recorded, and officially processed.

In that sense, they repeat the same process which derails the revolution in every case: the refusal to include within the leadership the "Sans-culottes" or "encapuchados" or any other demeaned group that pushes more stridently for revolutionary overthrow. They exclude also the workers and the ordinary members of workers' organizations. Then, dialoguing at their behest, they compromise with the government, or entering into armed insurrection, sacrifice their faithful adherents as bargaining chips.

The working class must not trust these false leaders, but furthermore, they must open a path by which their true representatives, prepared by years of political activity in obscurity, in opposition to the bureaucracy within their own movement or organizations, may come forward and assert their common interests. With such leaders in place, the government will no longer delay in meeting their demands, because to do so would immediately end their reign.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [6 comments](#)

Imperialist powers intensify pressure on Iranian regime in wake of protests



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

A divided Middle East can never provide regional security, and the governments in place originated as a compromise with imperialism to enforce their rules and theft of resources. For this reason, the governments respond to manifestations with deadly force. Only a Middle East federation based on democracy and socialism can prevent wars such as the Syrian and Yemeni wars, or a possible war on Iran involving direct intervention by the imperialist powers.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [10 comments](#)

Iraqi prime minister offers resignation after army unleashes bloodbath



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The Iranian revolution will stand exposed as a result of these events. A Chinese or Russian-dominated Middle East will not provide humane or politically acceptable solutions for the region. Iran may have heroically overthrown the Shah, the U.S. Puppet dictator, but their independence did not rest upon regional unity or the unity of the working class. The betrayal by Stalinism allowed a theocracy to come to power, which only served to maintain the divide of the region along religious lines. The stability of Iraq depends on Middle Eastern unity, and this depends in turn on the independence of the working class from Stalinism and from national bourgeois movements. Iran's inability to secure stability in Iraq means that their role in world affairs will increasingly shrink until a Middle East Federation can form to truly defend and develop the economy of the Middle East and raise the material well-being of its people. Such a government will not form on its own but instead requires the active building of parties who make it the immediate priority as the only means of achieving regional security, peace, and economic development.

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In defiance of repression, Colombian workers mount second national strike in the past week



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The indefinite general strike appears determined to force its issues despite resistance from President Duque. What gave them this power relates to the peace process, in which FARC agreed to disarm. Dissident groups broke from FARC leadership while the new President Duque, with a minority coalition, sought to turn the government against the peace process. The failure on both fronts, to keep the movement under Stalinist leadership and to establish courts to try both guerrillas and paramilitaries to restore trust in the bourgeois republic. As a result,

the roads the people must follow to have their demands met have become obscured. As faith in some institution or program takes on the properties of a necessity, it requires and provides for the building of a new movement on new foundations. The best foundation, which they will naturally recognize, for such a movement would be both international and working-class, uniting various countries around the unmet economic demands of the workers. At the same time, only the ICFI, having analyzed the mistakes made in the SLL-OCI split, can provide the leadership necessary to lead such a movement to victory.

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Brookings Institution study finds a staggering 44 percent of US workers earn low wages



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

If about half of workers make low wages and only half of them will go on to make higher wages, that gives us a quarter of the people who do not earn enough to support themselves and their family. With welfare programs facing chronic underfunding, all support for this quarter of the population must be informal. This means the burden falls on their families, so higher wages will then not suffice as they should really be double or four times what they are to support all those whose wages put them into low-wage intolerable conditions. When this does not occur, as such a system depends absurdly on each individual sacrificing his or her own earnings to support others, then we will see high crime rates such as in Detroit or Chicago, where the murder rate exceeds that of many "underdeveloped" cities. Therefore it remains important, even for those earning higher wages, to stand in firm unity for a revolutionary overhaul of the entire wage-based system.

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[Random Poster](#) [Gracchus](#) [a year ago](#)

Music isn't useless, but musicians suffer worse exploitation. This prevents musicians from working together and instead forces them to interrupt one another and steal each others' ideas.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [43 comments](#)

#MeToo launches fascistic attack on Polanski's film J'accuse



[Random Poster](#) [urfubar](#) [a year ago](#)

Thank you for carrying forward the real movement started by J'Acuse, the original work by Emile Zola. Polanski confessed to raping a 13 year old, so the parrallel he seeks to draw between himself and Dreyfus really requires a suspension of disbelief. Dreyfus had been framed and never actually committed the crimes. Zola's counter-accusation of the other Generals and co-conspirators does not parrallel Polanski's accusation of the judge, since the judge himself conspired to free Polanski for the heinous crime for which he deserved years in prison. Polanski's rape parralels the acts of the anti-Dreyfus villains of the general staff who sought to silence any exposure of their imperialist and reactionary crimes against the people. Polansky too remains a part of the mass media's consensus in favor American and European militarism and the silencing of its critics.

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[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Having pled guilty to "unlawful sex with a minor", drugging and forcibly raping a 13 year old, Polanski recieved a light 42 day sentence, similar to the lenient Epstein sentence in Florida during which Epstein had visits with his slaves and spent 12 hours a day in his office outside of jail. Polanski, embarrassingly for the politically vetted film-making elite, did not get kicked out of the Academy until 2018 when unremorseful comedian Bill Cosby was sentenced to prison for rape. The political process of selecting who can take the harness on the Hollywood machine has narrowed down the viable options to a criminally neglectful and

abusive set that must have criminal minds in order to hate or ignore the people as much as they do.

The WSWS in taking its position on #metoo ignores its own historical analysis of the work.

"Zola's work helped French Socialist leader Jean Jaurès overcome opposition from syndicalists in the socialist movement led by Jules Guesde, who dismissed the Dreyfus Affair as a mere fight within the officer corps and ignored the political issues involved. Jaurès went on to lead the French socialist movement in a campaign to clear Dreyfus."

Is the #metoo affair really just a fight of the rich women in Hollywood as the syndicalist position of the WSWS implies? Have the concepts "justice and equality" ceased to exist in the 21st century? The syndicalist position cannot stand in a modern Marxist movement, since the entire history of the socialist movement stands against it. The campaign to defend Julian Assange by appealing to Australia's imperialist government to send him to the hospital shows the dead end of this line of reasoning. Instead, we should consider a campaign to accuse the entire conspiracy against him, similar to the campaign of Zola, Juarez, and Picquart. That type of campaign stands a better chance of saving his life, though it may, as with Zola's brave approach, involve risking one's own.

The article also quotes Trotsky:

"there was summed up and dramatized the fight against clericalism, against reaction, against parliamentary nepotism, against race hate and militarist hysteria, against backstage intrigues amongst the general staff, against the servility of the courts—against all the despicable forces that the powerful party of reaction could swing into motion to achieve its ends."

Trotsky spoke of the "servility of the courts." Had the court acted less servily in giving Polanski his Epstein-like resort hotel first sentence, Polanski could not have escaped. The entire controversy since has centered on whether or not the judge had already sentenced Polanski. Yes, he had, and to try him again would be double jeopardy. Of course the judge was aware of this, and this is no different from intentional prosecutorial misconduct to force a dismissal of serious charges. Trotsky should be ignored in favor of Polanski who did not do the leg work in the film but only took the harness on a pre-existing machine? Whatever positive qualities the film puts forth, Polanski's claim to it should be rejected.

Finally, there comes the decision of the French general staff in World War II to abandon the defense of the Third Republic. This differs little from the decision of the Bolsheviks to urge the soldiers and the Provisional Government to abandon the defense of Tsarist Russia, a policy of revolutionary defeatism. To support the Third Republic of France would not differ much from Kautsky's anti-internationalist

and counter-revolutionary position of revolutionary defensism. This same defensism leads the WSWS to defend US courts as anything but a servile sham to defend the rich. That the general staff of the French army turned to defeatism speaks to their respect for Bolshevik and Leninist ingenuity.

What lead to fascist takeover under such circumstances was precisely the Stalinist line now advocated by the WSWS. Revolutionary Defeatism, advocated by Lenin and Trotsky, became not a revolutionary but a right-wing fascist position. Defense of equality for women and historically oppressed groups, the fight against discrimination, also important to the Dreyfus Case, the new syndicalists have denigrated as fascism, and, in the manner of the French syndicalists, they replaced the struggle for justice with an "analysis" of the balance forces and an acceptance of the far-right's bullying the workers for their positions. Stalinism had convinced the workers to allow fascism to take the power, and that meant allowing fascism to take over the struggle for defeatism and the struggle against discrimination.

Class war in the world of political theory takes the form of the maneuvering into and the taking of strong positions and defending them. Those positions have already been conquered by Lenin and Trotsky for the socialist movement. Their legacy must only be claimed, studied, and appreciated.

Rather than a Kautskyist revolutionary defensism of US courts, the workers require from the ICFI a reaffirmation of revolutionary socialist principles. The building of a revolutionary party and a mass movement of the workers internationally alone can provide a way forward for justice and equality. The US courts and their conspiratorial servility in the political control of movies and entertainment generally should receive only the highest level of distrust. Polanski's ironic statement on J'Acuse must not give cause for confusion or the idolatry of movie-makers.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [1 comments](#)

Chile paralyzed by third national strike amid mounting threats of dictatorship



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

A similar work stoppage has occurred in Colombia beginning November 21. While planned for only one day, protests have continued into the next week. A national

strike committee has formed to carry on dialogue with the government. The pseudo-left and union leadership, bound by their service to the existing state, will work out a deal to call off the strikes. Workers in Latin America do not have anywhere near the level of protection they need to organize unions, raise their wages, and participate without the fear of government repression. The minimum wage in Latin American republics actually comes from repressive regimes in Asia that compete for their markets using repressed low wage labor. Only a workers state that takes over production and organizes a full employment economy can relieve them. Such a state must also work to defend the workers in every country while spreading the revolution.

The workers suffer many betrayals and false leaders such as Venezuela's Maduro who do not follow socialist principles but call themselves socialists. They abandon with the greatest ease the basic political stances of socialism: the redistribution of wealth to create a more equal society, the democratic control of work by workers' committees, the abolition of imperialist war and imperialist alliances in favor of socialist federalism, and the provision of the basic necessities of life by the government. These stances require official approval by the party and an unswerving commitment by the leaders to adhere to them. Movements like those of Rafael Correa, Hugo Chavez, and Evo Morales as well as Fidel Castro's do not hold their leaders accountable to their membership or a written party constitution and political program. Such parties end up serving imperialism through opportunism and adventurism. That explains their devolution into dictatorships that fall under the control of special interests that enrich the few at the expense of the many.

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Doctors' open letter defending Julian Assange wins global support



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The war on journalism will silence, torture, and kill many. This will not reverse itself. Only the active participation of the working class can bring to justice those responsible for the murder policy of the US government and its allies. Not only should Assange be freed, but furthermore the entire government conspiracy against him needs unraveling so that journalists can breathe easy, unafraid of any

tyranny. Conservatives lament the treatment of Tsar Nicholas II during the Russian revolution, yet Assange's treatment appears far worse. Free Assange!

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Australian PM rejects Pamela Anderson's appeal that his government defend Assange



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Assange cannot depend on the Australian government. Only a working-class revolution in Britain, where he is being held, can free him and the other political prisoners at Belmarsh Prison. This type of direct action can only occur with support from a government, yet none yet exists that would attempt it. The workers must take the power in the capital and establish a government that defends the rights of journalists and humane conditions in prisons. In the meantime journalism will suffer and turn fearful of the authorities, as they have the power not only to interfere with careers but also imprison public figures that disagree with their imperialist world-destructive agenda.

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Bernie Sanders dispenses with his “political revolution” at fifth Democratic presidential debate



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

"The writer, however, has apparently lost sight of the fact that politics is a science and an art that does not fall from the skies or come gratis, and that, if it wants to overcome the bourgeoisie, the proletariat must train its own proletarian “class politicians”, of a kind in no way inferior to bourgeois politicians."

(<https://www.marxists.org/ar...>)

Bernie Sanders represents not a left but a rightward shift of politics. When Lenin argued with Left Communists in Britain for support for the Labor Party, the Labor Party had just recently entered the elections as a third party against both traditional parties. Bernie Sanders has joined the traditional ruling parties. Support for him does not do justice to Lenin's arguments against Left Wing Communism.

Furthermore, the class politicians of the proletariat, once trained, will not enter into opportunist alliances with such forces. New parties challenging the existing set up on behalf of socialists and the working class do deserve the benefit of the doubt and a measure of cooperation. The line should clearly be drawn to prevent an alliance with any Democratic (or Republican or fascist) politician.

The reappearance of Obama to influence the debate should come as a warning. Obama does not just argue ideology but acts as an imperialist to determine the acceptability of positions within the debate. His opinions he backs with force. Warren and Sanders do not have the freedom to implement their proposals or even propose them without hedging their positions. The spate of tragedies that befell Sanders speak to this danger.

Their administrations would lead to deadlock in Congress and courts and to the quick rise of fascism as in various European countries and in Israel. These divisions represent the impossibility of the alliance of traditional parties to remain united against a working class opposition. A new mass party could easily divide them and reach for power. It should demand the banning of one, the other, or both major parties from the elections on the basis of election tampering, war crimes, violations of the constitution, and economic sabotage of the working class.

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Netanyahu, indicted on corruption charges, refuses to resign



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

This potentially extended end game for Netanyahu will end in defeat for US imperialism in the Middle East. The longer he holds on to power, the more the years of the conservative political trap for the working class will chafe their wrists. His personal struggle, which forces him to burn Rome, so to speak, will burn the exhausting repetition of lies which attempts to tie the working class to nationalist

politics. The eruptions of protests in Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran have at base the same aims as the persistent opposition to Netanyahu. That generals and fake socialists should try to steer these movements to failure is inevitable. Yet we see in this the hope that the persistent struggle for justice will lead the workers to the perspective of world revolution and the organization of a world socialist economy to resolve economic problems through united effort rather than through the destruction of competitive nations. For this process to complete itself, the active building of the ICFI in Turkey, Israel, and throughout the Middle East must end in the SEP leading the working class and the new workers' state.

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The US-backed coup in Bolivia



[Random Poster](#) [ben franklin \[pre death\]](#) [a year ago](#)

Lenin argued during WWI that the working class must "turn the imperialist war into a revolutionary war." That same argument must apply here. Certainly Evo Morales defended Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, making the war on Venezuela more complicated. He also broke with the IMF and aligned Bolivia with Russia and China. Certainly the U.S. would like to have him removed. Hong Kong manages 6 trillion in assets and in many ways forms an important part of the world economy. When it converted to Chinese territory, that hurt the power of the UK and U.S. in Asia. Certainly the U.S. benefits from the escalation of violence and destruction on Chinese territory.

That being said, the U.S. and its agenda should not dominate every other agenda. Its intervention into world events leads to unpredictable and uncontrollable responses from the people. One of the most promising of these responses may have been to see through the nationalist agenda of Morales. After all, he had lost the 2016 referendum that would have permitted him another term. He then ignored the constitution and with the permission of the Supreme Court defied the legal term limits set in the constitution.

Morales may have decided that the Constitution may not really serve the best interests of the Bolivian people, but he did not proceed to break down the old military, arm the people, and found a new government based on their democratic control. Rather he proceeded on the assumption that whatever helped him would help the people. This mistaken approach leaves the people without a party, a

political platform, or a future state that they control. A movement designed only to serve one man must inherently be flawed and cannot accurately call itself socialist.

These significant issues may have really formed the theoretical arguments that underpinned the protests that brought down Morales. The military's intervention may have come after the fact: he would be forced by the protests to step down or negotiate. His negotiations with the protest organizers would have left the state weaker and the people in a stronger position. So the military stepped in and enforced only the accomplished fact, that under Morales a constitutional order had ceased to exist.

The same conclusion arises in the case of Hong Kong. The government of Hong Kong, not a democratically elected government, had with every new decision turned over more of its autonomy to Beijing. Hong Kong's economic size relative to China's shrunk from 27% in 1993 to under than 3% in 2017.

(<https://www.tripsavvy.com/i...> Hong Kong does not need to wind back time to that more fortunate era. It does need, however, to fight for independence from the Stalinist government in Beijing as part of a political revolution against the Chinese Communist Party bureaucracy. That may help the U.S. if the Chinese military overreacts and destroys Hong Kong along with its trillions of dollars in assets.

If they do gain independence, that could spark a series of revolutions in the region and globally against oppressive governments that will not yield to any democratic demands. These basic democratic demands form the basis not only for bourgeois republics but also socialist governments under the control of the popular will of the working class. A new government in Hong Kong could declare independence, and with its financial holdings defeat a siege as Qatar has done to its larger neighbor, Saudi Arabia. This would not equate to an imperialist carve-up of China but a tremendous act in support of the necessary political revolution that is certainly coming to China.

The above perspective should guide the approach to these protests. The influence of US-funded groups and agents should not serve as proof that no popular movement exists for revolutionary change. In what mass movement would they fail to have agents present? To follow such stupidity would blind the party right when it needs its vision most. What the movement needs is not undying rage but clarity in its purpose, its vision of victory, and in the reasoning behind its confidence.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [1 comments](#)

Ultra-right Lieberman holds balance of power in Israeli coalition talks



[Random Poster](#) [лидия](#) [a year ago](#)

The solution to imperialism in the Middle East will take a similar form to the liberation of North and South America. A racist, nationalist, or nativist solution will lead to defeat. A new federation of states with a centralized government must form to prevent future wars in the region. To depend on Iran would leave Israel and Saudi Arabia with the upper hand to control the region. The occupation of Palestinian territories can only end as part of a restructuring of the entire nation-state system of the region based on the common interests of the regional and international working class. All capitalist solutions end in war over security and territory.

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US-backed Colombian military kills eight children in bombing, attempts cover-up



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

This bombing of 8 children is a horror.

This desperate move pits the country's ruling elite against defenseless children. Their forced recruitment makes them victims, not terrorists. Yet the government must resort to calling children terrorists.

With the investigation into former president and death squad leader Alvarro Uribe and the resignation of the Defense Minister, Guillermo Botero, the ruling elite have been caught off-guard. Current President Duque's support has fallen below 30%. The first national strike in years will occur on Nov. 21. Colombia has the lowest wages in the region and the highest current account deficit. Its unusually high GDP growth comes directly from its high rate of deficit spending at 2.4%, far higher than the recommended 1%. Yet Colombia cannot maintain this level of

deficit spending without selling off assets that they need to encourage investment and maintain vital operations.

The influx of Venezuelans may have temporarily boosted profits from cheap labor, but the vast informal labor market pushes many workers below the minimum wage and even below subsistence wages. The failure of the government to unseat Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, while openly supporting the imperialist-backed usurper Juan Guaido, combined with the rearmament of FARC dissidents, has highlighted the traditional role of the Colombian military as a defender of imperialist interests.

For this reason, a rebellion in Colombia is most welcome, yet confronts serious risks. Besides the direct threat of fascist assault, the revolution faces betrayal from the "left" groups that seek to channel opposition to the government into reformist and terrorist tactics. Only the building of the ICFI can provide the necessary leadership in the coming struggle. The ICFI must remain alert to respond to the needs of the rising revolutionary movement.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [7 comments](#)

Growing inequality risks social revolution, hedge fund chief warns



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Countries that try to buck the global trend of growing inequality end up suffering, like Ukraine, one of the most equal countries in the world. The failure to address the inequality has its roots in the objective process of capital flight, which cannot disappear even if treated with capital controls. Such measures lead to economic sanctions and cuts in access to international credit. The acceptance of socialism as a superior economic system requires the theoretical leap from national to international economic planning. Such planning can only appear rational to the working class as it cuts directly into the bourgeois freedom of private ownership and control and exclusive rights over decision-making for the capitalist class. This theoretical leap will break the reactionary resistance to the establishment of workers' committees as the basic unit of democratic power.

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Socialist Equality Party to stand in UK general election: No to austerity, militarism and war! For class struggle and s...



[Random Poster](#) [OL](#) [a year ago](#)

You are right to emphasize the importance of the participation of the SEP. I hope this campaign will lead to the growth of the SEP, not only in Britain, but in many other countries as well. Demoralization reigns over much of politics, and this will not reverse itself without the active intervention of the party in every part of the world. Hopefully this experience will strengthen that attitude within the party.

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[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Congratulations on this announcement! I hope that during this campaign, the SEP will receive the recognition they deserve for defending Assange, warning of the rise of the far right, and focusing on social issues that affect the working class. The divide over Brexit in the ruling class, over how to best profit from production and trade, does not match the democratic aspirations of Brexit voters that want to free Britain from European corporations and banks. The fear of right populism and vulgar patriotism should not distract from the anti-democratic nature of the European Union. The working class must break down the old EU and replace it with a socialist EU based on the political power of their own class. Only the SEP, organized across borders, can provide leadership for such a movement.

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Chicago teachers denounce union's sellout agreement as Bernie Sanders, Democrats claim "victory"



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Let the SEP lead the strike!

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New York City bus and subway workers speak out against concession demands



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Let the SEP call the strike! Let the SEP lead the strike!

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Comparing two impeachments



[Random Poster](#) [Felix Kreisel](#) [a year ago](#)

Well, now it says conflict, but the sentence still needs revision. The modifier, "primarily..." , appears to modify "one side" rather than "conflict," making it confusing to the reader. In order to be clear, the modifier belongs closer to the word it modifies, rather than at the end of the sentence.

More importantly than the grammar, it is important not to exaggerated the differences between the two sides, as they seem to have done. Remember that

even in a war between imperialist powers, the leaders will likely go free or find protection even while millions of ordinary people get carelessly tossed into the meat-grinder. Many Nazi officials continued to work in West Germany, the US, and elsewhere even after the atrocities they committed.

So, the main point would not be the grammar, but the "civil war", "conflict", or actually a mutual feeling of uncertainty, discomfort, and concern for one another. A civil war would not erupt between Republicans and Democrats. Shannon Jones has already written on the WSWS that a new party had to emerge and its radical or openly abolitionist wing threaten to take the power for the American Civil War to begin. (<https://www.wsws.org/en/art...>) Likewise with the Russian Revolution. A civil war could only arise from a serious effort, which must include a party organized specifically for that purpose, by the workers to establish their class dictatorship in the face of threats by the capitalists to employ the military to defeat them.

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Millions march for social equality across Chile



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

"To prevent another September 11, the working class must not allow itself to become trapped in another popular front, in which its independent class interests will be subordinated to a faction of the Chilean ruling class presenting itself as 'left.'"

The above argument needs the widest possible audience to avert a tragic end to the current uprising. This lesson, above all, needs assimilation by the working class, since the various factions of the ruling class and their supposedly separate parties in fact represent a single government that attempts by any means to hold on to power or pass it to a more ethically unconstrained guarantor of the capitalist order.

The capitalist system does not arise from the inherent evil of the human heart, but out of a specific set of historical circumstances. Out of its own processes, however, it creates the agent of its own destruction, the proletariat. The proletariat, devoid of income-producing property, depending entirely on its labor, must by economic necessity take power into its own hands against the resistance

of the idle capitalist class in order to survive the economic crisis that the capitalists caused.

Throughout the world, capital has organized production, leading to a worldwide crisis. The international proletariat can break free from the political straight-jacket placed upon them and find their way to the political positions of the ICFI. In this way, they can create the healthy leadership they need to guide and discipline the revolution until they are politically prepared for victory.

This must occur through free discussion between spontaneous leaders, the recently umchained media facing extreme instability, and the theoretical leadership that labored against opportunism and revisionism for years and decades to produce a unifying theory for the workers of the world. The attempts to disperse this dynamic grouping must be repulsed and matched with equally disruptive dispersion methods to force these irresponsible governments out of their capitals and out of power entirely. From this perspective, all violence coming from the state comes off as abhorrent while the acts of destruction by the people remain free from any legitimate reproach.

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The military crackdown in Chile: Pinochet returns



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The ICFI is coming to prominence and will without doubt gain the leadership over the masses in open confrontation with the political and economic system. This may happen in part because of the betrayal by formerly left organizations, but it also must occur due to the determined effort of intellectuals to bring Marxism to the working class. The WSWS represents the finest traditions of Marxism and deserves the fullest participation of all those hoping to bring about meaningful social change.

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Lightfoot administration ratchets up pressure on Chicago teachers to end the walkout



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Without a break from the unions, the power remains in the hands of the Democratic Party, the mayor, and the city government. A break from the union would give the teachers the upper hand, since they can establish a leadership that fights for their interests rather than those of the state, corporations, and oligarchy. In line with their close friendship with Jeffrey Epstein, these forces believe that the future of Chicago public school students belongs with human trafficking operations, not as free people much less as organized labor or as a free revolutionary movement.

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Dockworkers, miners initiate national strike as military kills 11 in Chile



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

It is not entirely right to argue, as this article has done, that the violence may be ignored as insignificant. In fact, the observer should trace the violence to state agents and right-wing provocateurs. They aim to use violence to provoke military violence against legitimate protest.

The destruction of property does not inform the workers or provide them with revolutionary organizations. They benefit most from meetings, discussions, and the passing of resolutions for general strikes, revolutionary leadership, workers' committees, and the political independence of the working class from bourgeois and Stalinist parties. Even if the violence had genuine revolutionary intentions, the job of the Marxist movement is to argue with spontaneous terrorism for legal party and worker organizations, culminating with the establishment of the workers' state.

The Stalinists may have spoken against the recent violence, but this does not mean they do not deserve the blame. Their soft treatment of Augusto Pinochet, their refusal to arm the workers to defend the state against a military coup, and their support for counter-revolution and factional dictatorship within workers' parties led to the impossible political situation confronting the workers. This meant inevitable violence, but their policies forced the protestors into desperate attacks lacking in revolutionary strategy. The Stalinists deserve the blame and their disavowal of these particular acts deserves further reproach, as these were their misled street soldiers.

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US Federal Reserve starts “quantitative easing forever”



[Random Poster](#) [Jason Kennedy](#) [a year ago](#)

Saving is not pointless, only less profitable than before. Savings will give the working-class the ability to fight the capitalist class more securely, i.e. more effectively.

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[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [a year ago](#)

Over simplifying will only lead to criminal conclusions. They may never repay the debt. Even if they wanted to, they would not succeed. Yet the continuing circulation of goods depends on the debt's growth. To not borrow, then, would be farcical. How could you allow, as the Stalinists did, economic activity to come to a halt, leaving millions without the means of subsistence?

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[Random Poster](#) [Gracchus](#) [a year ago](#)

It is not that Keynesism and Monetarism design futile policies. Rather, capitalist and monopolistic interests themselves stand in the way of their effective implementation. Taken to their logical extremes, these policies take on a socialist form. The oligarchs and monopolies rebel and the politicians and bureaucracy must adjust their course to suit the interests of the upper class. The only way to manage macroeconomics past that point would be to mobilize the working class to topple the political and economic system. Even then, Keynesian and Monetarism will play a significant role in stimulating and sustaining economic activity on a macro scale.

I wrote more on this here:

<https://randomposter33.word...>

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [15 comments](#)

General strike paralyzes Catalonia as over half-a-million demonstrate in Barcelona



[Random Poster](#) [DeeKay](#) [a year ago](#)

This proves the analysis made by Lenin and Trotsky made before the 1917 revolution, made earlier by Marx and Engels. (See Ch. 3 of Revolution and Counter-revolution in Germany)*. First the bourgeoisie would be drawn into the revolution, supporting secessions and new constitutions. When these measures failed, the bourgeoisie would submit to reaction and pursue military conquest, massacres unprecedented in scale, and prison-slavery. Only the workers' revolution could maintain progressive political movements. For this reason, Lenin and Trotsky, as well as the Bolsheviks as a whole since the original 1903 Party Program, supported national independence and the right to national self-determination. Marx and Engels argued similarly that these rights should be defended and could only be defended by left revolutionaries.

Engels wrote in a letter to Kautsky on February 7th, 1882:

"It is historically impossible for a great people even to discuss internal problems of any kind seriously, as long as it lacks national independence."

Later in the same letter he wrote:

"An international movement of the proletariat is possible only among independent nations."

Also from Revolution and Counter-revolution in Germany, Ch. 10:

"The decisive action drew near. It could be fought in France only; for France, as long as England took no part in the revolutionary strife, or as Germany remained divided, was, by its **national independence**, civilization, and centralization, the only country to impart the impulse of a mighty convulsion to the surrounding countries."

Rather than argue that Catalonia's independence would come at the cost of Spaniards in general, they would argue that the Spanish capitalists and monarchy stand to lose from such a development, but the Spanish workers stand to gain. Independence would weaken the old state, proving that it would not last forever. Spanish capitalism's access to oppressed labor and excess negotiating power over oppressed regions would fall. Then there is the point above made by Marx and Engels, opposition to national independence in Catalonia, Hong Kong, or Puerto Rico, anywhere, is opposition to internationalism, to the international workers movement, because without independence these nations could be excluded from the international movement.

*"To resume, then: this was the state of Prussia, and the smaller States of Germany, at the end of 1847. The middle class, feeling their power, and resolved not to endure much longer the fetters with which a feudal and bureaucratic despotism enchained their commercial transactions, their industrial productivity, their common action as a class; a portion of the landed nobility so far changed into producers of mere marketable commodities, as to have the same interests and to make common cause with the middle class; the smaller trading class, dissatisfied, grumbling at the taxes, at the impediments thrown in the way of their business, but without any definite plan for such reforms as should secure their position in the social and political body; the peasantry, oppressed here by feudal exactions, there by money-lenders, usurers, and lawyers; the working people of the towns infected with the general discontent, equally hating the Government and the large industrial capitalists, and catching the contagion of Socialist and Communist ideas; in short, a heterogeneous mass of opposition, springing from various interests, but more or less led on by the bourgeoisie, in the first ranks of which again marched the bourgeoisie of Prussia, and particularly of the Rhine Province."

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More than 30,000 teachers and staff strike in Chicago, Illinois



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Nation-wide general strike! Committees, not the corrupt union bureaucracy!

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Trump conference video incites violence against opponents



[Random Poster](#) [Sebouh80](#) [a year ago](#)

I agree with you. Which is worse the graphic violence or that which the symbolic victims represent? Yet the solution to capitalism's problems is not more capitalism, not Trump. He cannot free us from fake news as a significant figure in the same media he claims to oppose. The media itself is aware of its most vital interests and greatest threats. Their greatest threats, like WSWS, are censored, carefully kept secret from the wider audience, and their primary interests are served by those like Trump who degrade the audience with economic nationalism. Marxism and the Leninist newspaper and party and not mass slaughter can deliver us from the "Church of Fake News".

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [9 comments](#)

Spanish police attack mass protests against prison terms for Catalan nationalists



[Random Poster](#) [Skip](#) [a year ago](#)

Yes, but future leaders will live in fear of 10-year sentences for taking the wrong position on an election. Though it's hard to bear, Western European democracies have turned against the democratic rights of the people. This will not make the revolution impossible, but things will become very difficult for those who participate with the aim of forming a new government to save society from collapse.

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[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

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Free the Catalán political prisoners! They did not incite a rebellion! They held an election! The Spanish state, based on divine right to rule for the monarchy, cannot fight constitutional government forever. Eventually, the people will establish their own state in order to best protect themselves and their interests. To fight this process with extremely long prison sentences only condemns the Spanish state further, but they seem set in their ways, meaning civility will suffer and European conflicts will explode all the more violently. These may seem like purely bourgeois-nationalist sentiments, but in fact, Marxism has always sought to align the working class revolution with nationalist uprisings. Even earlier, national independence (or unity for larger, divided nations) and democratic revolution also recognized their common cause and shared a common fate.

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Catalan nationalists, Spanish unions and pseudo-left demobilize opposition



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

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Free the Catalán political prisoners! They did not incite a rebellion they held an election! The Spanish state, based on divine right to rule for the monarchy, cannot fight constitutional government forever. Eventually the people will establish their own state in order to best protect themselves and their interests. To fight this process with extremely long prison sentences only condemns the Spanish state further, but they seem set in their ways, meaning civility will suffer and European conflicts will explode all the more violently. These may seem like purely bourgeois-nationalist sentiments, but in fact, Marxism has always sought to align the working class revolution with nationalist uprisings. Even earlier, national independence (or unity for larger, divided nations) and democratic revolution also recognized their common cause and shared a common fate.

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's "just society": Palliatives that will never be implemented



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

"Quite the contrary, these conditions were consciously created through the policies enacted by them, Democrats and Republicans alike. Perhaps the most significant legacy of the most recent Democratic administration, that of Obama, is the largest transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in the history of the country."

The above quote contradicts an argument you made later on in your article:

"Those reserves have long since eroded. Since the time of Lyndon Johnson, whose administration coincided with the final period of US global economic hegemony, the United States' industrial base has been vastly reduced and American

capitalism has lost its dominance of world markets. The change in the world position of US capitalism was bound to be reflected in a restructuring of class relations within the borders of the United States.

"There is no basis for serious social reforms within the framework of capitalism today."

The prevailing conditions do not result from planned policies as much as economic social laws. Capitalist politicians recognize more clearly the necessity of their positions. Socialists and revolutionaries must overcome onerous mythology and deceptive theories to arrive at their necessary positions.

The conditions that determine these positions do not emerge from conscious policies. The myth that evil minds on the other side plot endlessly against the public does not hold up. Such open evil would produce precisely the opposite reaction, an emergence of an unshakeable mass movement overnight. If American politicians had planned to make Americans poor, they would inspire outrage and revolutionary upheaval.

Instead, they have presented many public arguments about debt, capital flight, free trade, the stability of world markets, and global competition or, for that matter, race and nationality and divided paths to progress. These arguments keep them in power as much as the suppression of genuine socialist ideas.

Yet genuine socialist arguments alone can sway the public towards progressive solutions. This means that socialists must present their arguments in every forum and at every opportunity, with the important exception of the presence of the police-state and fascist-terrorist suppression of democratic rights. In that case, the movement must not stop but follow ever more closely the examples set by historic revolutionaries when confronted by these obstacles. In that way, the powerful social laws governing progress continue to force through and prioritize their agenda through the walls and the delays of reformism, conservatism and reaction.

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Ecuador's president retreats from capital in face of growing mass protests



[Random Poster](#) [Sebouh80](#) [a year ago](#)

The real Lenin, Vladimir Lenin, argued that imperialist policies were not a choice for capitalist governments. In other words, the IMF's policies, from a financial standpoint, do not fall into irrationality for the Ecuadorian state. The policies of social compromise between capitalists and workers, such as the fuel subsidy, cannot rest upon financial insolvency. These things must be negotiated, hopefully years or decades before money runs out.

The state cannot consider a reversal in favor of "the people", such as through higher taxes on profits, because such policies would lead to massive failures of private businesses. This would lead to bank failures, as they could not repay loans, and total economic failure as accounts could not be guaranteed. The capitalist state must respect the economic laws of the market, which the IMF only helps them observe. In order to extract more profit from the people, they must carry forward the policies of the imperialists into every city and village.

The indigenous movement, formed of native peasants tied to the land, acts as a middle class which will follow the more active and powerful class. The workers, in order to win them to their side, need to first form a new government that explicitly stands for the expropriation of the majority of the nation's capital to form a democratic economy based on worker-controlled industry.

The experience of the Chinese revolution proves that peasant armies alone cannot construct a socialist economy and that Stalinism cuts off the revolution from the international working class. The Chinese economy has become as capitalist as any, while Russia's Stalinist bureaucrats have become their present-day oligarchs.

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[Random Poster](#) [Arby](#) [a year ago](#)

South America has more of a recent history of military dictatorship. As a result, the need for media oversight of secret military activity must benefit from extra moral force. The military has proved a failure in defending the Constitution and the Republic, having turned on elected leaders, canceled elections, and ruled by decree. Julian Assange's work exposes their false claim to represent justice and law. For this reason Assange could find defenders among the leaders of the Republics of this region of the world. Yet the final outcome of Assange's stay at the Ecuadorian Embassy proved that imperialist pressure could still break down democratic rule and impose its dictates. This means that only a revolutionary movement, not one that would accept Lenin Moreno as one of its leaders, could stand up to imperialism. All others, accepting the premise of the private

ownership of capital, will eventually bend to the will of the imperialist powers, multinationals, and big banks as the highest representatives of capital.

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The Ecuadorian revolutionary movement can rebuild itself only through dialogue with the ICFI. Among its other tasks, it will need to investigate the history of the ICFI to discover why the international OCI-SLL split did not lead to a split in the now-Pabloite MRT. The political program of the new movement must reject alliances with the Stalinists and reformists based on an understanding of their economic positions and motives as well as their history of betrayal of revolutionary movements.

It should also look to campaign, on the same model as other SEPs, in elections in Ecuador, where many small parties often make an impact. This depends above all on the understanding that Stalinism and reformism disarm the revolution and return the power to bourgeoisie. The elections, while free, democratic, and transparent, without the strict regulation of party and campaign finances based on public financing and without democratic protections for smaller parties to participate in the national debate, do not represent the actual position of the workers, the majority of the country. They may have already arrived at revolutionary conclusions, yet the movement lags behind eternally as a heavy weight attached to their ankles. We want a revolutionary workers' state, opposed to any deal with the imperialist IMF, to unite the world revolution!

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Growing call for industrywide strike to back GM workers



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

The MSM does not allow workers to express their opinions like this. The UAW, despite their recent prosecution for bribery, speaks to the media as if they still

represent the workers. The workers have rejected their false leadership. The lie could not be more clear. If the military had betrayed its soldiers as badly as the union has betrayed its workers, there would be a civil war.

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Ecuadorian government arrests hundreds and deploys military against nationwide strike



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Correa's rise to power came with the forced removal of Lucio Gutiérrez in 2005. The new government formed to replace him, under Gutiérrez's vice president Alfredo Palacio, included Correa as its Economics and Finance. Minister. His policies of favoring the expansion of social programs and the reduction of debt payments ran against the policies of the IMF, which forced him out of government. Later, as president, he doubled social welfare payments and expanded education and health care.

Even before the toppling of Gutiérrez, which required nightly protests in the capital, came the forced removal of another President, Abdalá Bucaram, in 1997. A mass movement forced him out of power along with his vice president. This, only 8 years before the wave that brought Correa to power.

We must review this history to show that the Ecuadorian people and working class of the entire and world have passed through formative experiences. This makes every encounter, such as these national strikes, a potentially revolutionary situation.

Correa represents the national bourgeoisie's attempts to turn left to appease the masses and contain the revolutionary movement within a national organization and political party. Yet his rise to power, like Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn, prove the dissoluble nature of the capitalist crisis. Even the bourgeoisie must raise socialist proposals as solutions. Yet these, of course, will not go far enough, either in political policy or in the leadership of the confrontation with the establishment.

For these reasons, Correa's rise should prove to the ICFI that an urgent need exists to organize meetings and groups in Ecuador and throughout the continent.

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Introduction to the Turkish language edition of In Defense of Leon Trotsky



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

If there is controversy over Trotsky's positions after his exile, it should be his decision to remain in the 3rd International. This may have to do with a fear of isolation, although that became the policy of the GPU in any case.

Sylvia Pankhurst, leader of the British Communist Party until the 1920s, advocated the formation of a Fourth International and considered her party as separate from the Third International around the same time as the formation of the Left Opposition. This division eventually left her isolated, and this forced her to abandon the British paper and then forced her into alliance with African anti-colonialism and nationalism.

Yet that isolation may not have been a result of her mistaken views but in the delay the Left Opposition caused in turning itself into the Fourth International. Trotsky also sought unity with the Mensheviks, while delaying unity with Lenin and the Bolsheviks until the eve of the revolution. This mistake before 1917 may have been repeated in his refusal to follow along with Pankhurst, denying her the valuable ally she needed to set the right course for the Workers' Juggernaut and the British movement.

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Drawing the lessons of the ICFI split— International Strategy and National Tactics: The change in the ICFI's ap...



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1. The economic failure of the smaller states does not prove that national self-determination prevents economic development. These states emerged from colonial possessions and had failed economically before their foundation as

independent states. Furthermore, capitalism, not independence prevented their development, since their development would interfere with monopoly capitalism raping them for their raw resources. Lenin argued that such practical considerations came second for the proletariat, after the principle of the right as a right to be defended and exercised within a democratic framework.

2. Lenin did not emphasize the economic development of the nations who sought independence. He emphasized the class orientation of the state in power from which they sought to break. A nationalist movement which seeks independence from a capitalist state, though that movement begins under bourgeois leadership, remains a worthy cause to support for the revolutionary movement.

3. National democratic rights may not emerge immediately as a result of secession, but such rights did not exist under the previous state of affairs. The question, in principle, remains: have the forces of imperialism and reaction been weakened by the movement? A look at Hong Kong and Puerto Rico will show, socialist revolution would benefit greatly from their secession even as capitalist countries, since they would weaken and embarrass Beijing and Washington DC.

4. The argument about the gains made by the masses against imperialism goes against revolutionary theory. The Iron Law of Wages lowers the proletariat to the lowest wages that it can bear while still allowing them to reproduce another generation of workers. The only gains they can accomplish would be through the development of their revolutionary movement, its empowerment, its conquest of state power. Every other agreement pits one section of the workers against another, hurting one side economically and enslaving the more affluent side politically. This political slavery will later lead to the destruction of their "gains" or the confiscation of their bribes. Hanging on to larger states like India or the EU will not enrich the workers, but it will enslave their leadership to reformist and chauvinist unity with the larger state. From the point of view of the ICFI, a mayorship of a medium size city in a small, poor nation divided from another poor nation would far surpass in importance a very large gathering in a united country, with equal poverty, that does not provide any political power to the party.

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Officials cover up lead in water crisis in Newark, New Jersey



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Peace, land, and bread! And clean water!

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Majority of West Virginia counties rank worst in US for water quality



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

In 1917, Lenin promised, "Peace, land, and bread!" The coming revolution will promise, "Peace, a \$25/hr minimum wage, and clean water!"

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Ad Astra: Traveling long distances but not getting very far



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

"Each of Gray's films has had intriguing moments or entire sequences and each has been, ultimately, unsatisfying."

We need to break down this outrageous dissatisfaction right away. How long can you feel dissatisfaction under the blows of your enemy. This "filmmaker" has declared war on the people on behalf of the oligarchy. His war-like posturing needs a most forceful response, but you give in to his soul-searching philosophy and his psycho-babble.

Working class families do not need to kill each other and themselves for the capitalist class. Immigrant families do not need to experience hate and hostility as if they are another species or a lost astronaut in space. The hostile environment, rather than an accident of nature, comes directly from the conscious oligarchic policy of sowing hate between races and nationalities.

To state the obvious, Roy represents the son of an immigrant father, both far from their home country, represented in the movie by planet Earth. This metaphor can stretch further to include workers whose class-consciousness has raised to the forefront of their conscious minds their objective alienation from production, governance, and elite-dominated, cult-style mass culture. In a sense, their alienation has turned them into aliens within their own society, explaining the mass exodus of Americans from the U.S. to Mexico as well as out of big cities like New York.

The gaping hole which you try to fill for the filmmaker and his creation in fact represents the wound Gray must create in the revolutionary movement. He must represent Stalinism as the opposition to capitalism and the ills of capitalism as inevitable rather than the revolt against them. The revolt must be wounded and mistreated until they're forced to destroy themselves, represented in Roy's father, Tommy Lee Jones, committing suicide after ending his search, discovering only eternal isolation, never a sign of life from a wider revolutionary movement.

A capitulation to Hollywood, to the idea that the ideological enemy of the working class can somehow satisfy their search for a higher consciousness, can only add fuel to the fire of the imperialist burning machine that only seeks to burn everything that stands in the way of their profits and their capital accumulation. The reviewer must break immediately from Hollywood Opportunism and this hope of a unity between Socialist Revolution and capitalist propaganda. The aliens and hopelessly lost astronauts are none other than the capitalists and their servants in the Med.I.A. Their families, many of which are produced in test tubes, deserve inhumane treatment and their families deserve the breaking, the isolating, and the forcing into suicide advocated by this movie for the revolution. The real harmonious life of humanity on planet Earth can only continue through the growth and defense of families of the working class, especially those most conscious of the capitalists' alienation campaigns.

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Podemos backs Madrid's plans for repression against Catalonia



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

From Revolution and Counter-Revolution by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels:
"Scattered remnants of numerous nations, whose nationality and political vitality had long been extinguished, and who in consequence had been obliged, for almost a thousand years, to follow in the wake of a mightier nation, their conqueror, the same as the Welsh in England, the Basques in Spain, the Bas-Bretons in France, and at a more recent period the Spanish and French Creoles in those portions of North America occupied of late by the Anglo-American race—these dying nationalities, the Bohemians, Carinthians, Dalmatians, etc., had tried to profit by the universal confusion of 1848, in order to restore their political status quo of A. D. 800. The history of a thousand years ought to have shown them that such a retrogression was impossible; that if all the territory east of the Elbe and Saale had at one time been occupied by kindred Slavonians, this fact merely proved the historical tendency, and at the same time physical and intellectual power of the German nation to subdue, absorb, and assimilate its ancient eastern neighbors; that this tendency of absorption on the part of the Germans had always been, and still was one of the mightiest means by which the civilization of Western Europe had been spread in the east of that continent; that it could only cease whenever the process of Germanization had reached the frontier of large, compact, unbroken nations, capable of an independent national life, such as the Hungarians, and in some degree the Poles: and that, therefore, the natural and inevitable fate of these dying nations was to allow this process of dissolution and absorption by their stronger neighbors to complete itself. Certainly this is no very flattering prospect for the national ambition of the Panslavistic dreamers who succeeded in agitating a portion of the Bohemian and South Slavonian people; but can they expect that history would retrograde a thousand years in order to please a few phthisical bodies of men, who in every part of the territory they occupy are interspersed with and surrounded by Germans, who from time almost immemorial have had for all purposes of civilization no other language but the German, and who lack the very first conditions of national existence, numbers and compactness of territory? Thus, the Panslavistic rising, which everywhere in the German and Hungarian Slavonic territories was the cloak for the restoration to independence of all these numberless petty nations, everywhere clashed with the European revolutionary movements, and the Slavonians, although pretending to fight for liberty, were invariably (the Democratic portion of the Poles excepted) found on the side of despotism and reaction."

In siding against the smaller nations, Engels sought to defend revolutionaries from a "clash" with a nationalist that sided with despotism. Yet, in so doing, he defended Russian and German nationalism as "energetic" and the "mightiest means" of spreading "western civilization". This contradiction resolves itself differently in the current conflict. The nationalists have clashed with the Spanish

dictatorship rather than revolutionary movements. Western civilization no longer requires Spain to spread its its values, but can now rely on the smaller nations as well, who have proven "energetic" in their execution and defense of the independence referendum. For that reason, the break up of the Spanish state can now bring benefit to the workers' revolution. We can trust these developments and movements as they would clash with the despotic states of Europe.

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Counting on UAW to sabotage strike, GM not budging on concession demands



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Jerry White is exactly right to call for the formation of committees to take the fight out of the hands of the corrupt and reactionary union bureaucracy. Furthermore, the decision by GM to stop finding the healthcare of the workers amounts to an act of war. Medicare or free insurance should exist to protect the rights of striking workers or the threat of illness and death can be used to whip them back to work. This entire negotiation should need to wait until the UAW and GM executives have been arrested and new leaders elected that recognize the right of the workers to ownership of the factories themselves with little to no compensation for the owners.

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“We all face the same thing:” GM strikers in Flint defend Mexican workers fired for making international appeal



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

Considering the cost of living, the minimum wage should rise to \$22/hr. The government only proposes \$15/hr in 5 years, without having passed the proposal.

The poisoning of the water should prove the criminal intent of the leaders of capital and should provide the workers with the clear understanding that those leaders belong in prison immediately.

Without an openly revolutionary labor movement, democracy can die in America, forcing a dictatorship onto the backs of a rightfully free people. If this strike does not turn revolutionary, then a revolutionary dictatorship must also necessarily form to punish GM's owners, the investors and their "union". The situation must seem equally unfair to them. No other course of action exists until policies designed to provide for the people begin passing in the law-making bodies of the government. These new laws must favor the working class majority in order to gain recognition for their legitimacy in the eyes of the people.

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Detroit rapper GmacCash supports striking autoworkers



[Random Poster](#) [a year ago](#)

There is no shortage of material for the revolutionary artist, since capitalism mass-produces tragedy in the lives of the workers. In that sense, the artist can find an abundance of beauty to convert into finished work through observation of the conditions of life. However, without revolutionary perspective, these same conditions offer only depression, isolation, and desperation. Thankfully, artists like GmacCash can now find an audience through social media and publicly produce the unifying sounds that will move the people to revolutionary organization and action.

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Part II:

RandomPoster33@Wordpress

All non-text media removed, including photos, videos, charts, and any other graphics.

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From Random Poster, an Independent Contributor to the WSWS Comments Section

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The Twitter-and-Facebook-Censored Yan Report and WSWS's Negligent Virology

22 October, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Introductory videos:

I quote heavily below from the Yan Report only because almost no scientifically credible statement has been made dealing with the substance of the report. Various interviews showed the political and personal dimensions of the story. As the only Mandarin speaker on the Hong Kong team, who all speak Cantonese, she formed a crucial link between Hong Kong's research and the mainland. Her friends and family all faced threats and repression or, "were controlled" as she called it, from the Chinese government. Her mother has been arrested. Twitter, temporarily, and Facebook have banned circulation of her work.

From the WSWS article: "The viruses named RATG13 [sic] and SARS-CoV-2 were found to be 96 percent genetically similar."

This statement seems to rely on the ignorance of the readership on genetics. The similarity between RaTG13 and SARS-CoV-2 falls far short of the similarity between mice and men which measures in at 97.5%. Yet these two viruses should pass as identical? This "science" appears highly suspect.

From WSWS article: "A feature of SARS, MERS and COVID-19 is that they had a zoonotic origin, that is they originated in animal populations and then jumped into humans."

Dr. Yan from Tucker Carlson interview: "*So basically, this is very clear that this virus is like Frankenstein, so they created basically a cow that has a deer's head, a rabbit's ears, and*

also has monkey's hands. So they can never get it from the nature. And there was evidence left in the genome."

The WSWS has not discussed any of the science related to the manipulation or engineering of genes, DNA, RNA, or proteins. The science exists in many documents, even in the mainstream media. Yet none of this genetic modification or genetic engineering science enters into the writing of the WSWS article. Perhaps they found none of it entertaining? A real scientific perspective, however, and not a pop-science perspective should have informed the work.

The Yan Report tells us more about the RaTG13 virus, "What strengthens our contention further is the published RaTG13 virus [18], the genomic sequence of which is reportedly 96% identical to that of SARS-CoV-2. While suggesting a natural origin of SARSCoV-2, the RaTG13 virus also diverted the attention of both the scientific field and the general public away from ZC45/ZXC214,[18]. In fact, a Chinese BSL-3 lab (the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Centre), which published a Nature article reporting a conflicting close phylogenetic relationship between SARS-CoV-2 and ZC45/ZXC21 rather than with RaTG13[35], was quickly shut down for "rectification"[36]. It is believed that the researchers of that laboratory were being punished for having disclosed the SARS-CoV2—ZC45/ZXC21 connection. On the other hand, substantial evidence has accumulated, pointing to severe problems associated with the reported sequence of RaTG13 as well as questioning the actual existence of this bat virus in nature[6,7,19-21]. A very recent publication also indicated that the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the RaTG13's Spike protein could not bind ACE2 of two different types of horseshoe bats (they closely relate to the horseshoe bat *R. affinis*, RaTG13's alleged natural host)[2], implicating the inability of RaTG13 to infect horseshoe bats. This finding further substantiates the suspicion that the reported sequence of RaTG13 could have been fabricated as the Spike protein encoded by this sequence does not seem to carry the claimed function. The fact that a virus has been fabricated to shift the attention away from ZC45/ZXC21 speaks for an actual role of ZC45/ZXC21 in the creation of SARS-CoV-2."

The WSWS article attempts to completely eliminate any evidence contradicting this RaTG13 "discovery", including the fact that RaTG13 cannot actually infect horseshoe bats, their alleged host!

From the WSWS article: "SARS-CoV-2 appears to bind with great affinity to the human ACE2 receptors, but computational analysis predicted that the interaction is not ideal. According to the *New York Times*, "the authors indicate that the high-affinity bindings of the virus' spike protein to human ACE2 is most likely a by-product of natural selection that has permitted another 'optimal binding solution to arise.' They then conclude that this is strong evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is not a product of genetic reconstruction or tampering."

"These two features of the virus, the mutations in the RBD portion of the spike protein and its distinct backbone, rule out laboratory manipulation as a potential origin for SARS-CoV-2," wrote Kristian Andersen, associate professor of immunology and microbiology at Scripps Research, and co-leader of the study."

The first argument above proves the flimsy logic that underlies their “science”. We are meant to believe that because the virus does not follow the “ideal” predicted by their “computational analysis”, that the lab did not create the “ideal” virus, that no lab had created it. This idealist thinking could just as easily prove that God created Covid-19 in the Book of Genesis! What better punishment to curse humanity? Marxists should know better and approach the problem from a historical-materialists perspective, not the idealist philosophy rejected long ago by revolutionaries.

What methods exist for the lab to create a virus? What historical advances has science made to make genetic manipulation of this type possible? Why do you leave out this vital history? The fact is, the spike protein on SARS-CoV-2 matches the spike protein on SARS-CoV, the virus responsible for SARS from 2002. The science exists to cut the genes which produce this spike and attach them to another viral backbone. SARS may not be the ideal predicted by the computer, but it does have a history of infecting human beings effectively. Can you understand that we learn from history more effectively rather than comparing reality to ideals?

The second argument, contains two flaws exposed by the Yan Report:

“Importantly, ZC45 and ZXC21 are bat coronaviruses that were discovered (between July 2015 and February 2017), isolated, and characterized by military research laboratories in the Third Military Medical University (Chongqing, China) and the Research Institute for Medicine of Nanjing Command (Nanjing, China). The data and associated work were published in 2018^{33,34}. Clearly, this backbone/template, which is essential for the creation of SARS-CoV-2, exists in these and other related research laboratories.”

In other words, Chinese military laboratories had viruses with backbones similar to that of Covid-19. The backbone was not “distinct” by any stretch of the imagination. This fact alone discredits the hypothesis that only nature could produce this virus.

Another mistake enters in through the claim that the spike protein “mutations” discussion. The Yan Report also answers these arguments. It considers all the possible courses through which natural evolution of the virus could have taken place, and it presents evidence to show that none of these possibilities could be reconciled with the evidence. (Yan 8-9) The report further states:

“In addition, there has been no evidence of any SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2-like virus circulating in the human population prior to late Intriguingly, according to a recent bioinformatics study, SARS-CoV-2 was well-adapted for humans since the start of the outbreak.[1]”

To the contrary, the Yan report produces evidence to support the hypothesis that genetic manipulation alone could explain the presence of the spike protein on the new virus:

“Strikingly, consistent with the RBM engineering theory, we have identified two unique restriction sites, EcoRI and BstEII, at either end of the RBM of the SARS-CoV-2 genome, respectively (Figure 5A). These two sites, which are popular choices of everyday molecular cloning, do not exist in the rest of this spike gene. This particular setting makes it extremely

convenient to swap the RBM within spike, providing a quick way to test different RBMs and the corresponding Spike proteins.

“Such EcoRI and BstEII sites do not exist in the spike genes of other β coronaviruses, which strongly indicates that they were unnatural and were specifically introduced into this spike gene of SARS-CoV-2 for the convenience of manipulating the critical RBM. Although ZC45 spike also does not have these two sites (Figure 5B), they can be introduced very easily as described in part 2 of this report.

“It is noteworthy that introduction of the EcoRI site here would change the corresponding amino acids from -WNT- to -WNS- (Figure 5AB). As far as we know, all SARS and SARS-like bat coronaviruses exclusively carry a T (threonine) residue at this location. SARS-CoV-2 is the only exception in that this T has mutated to an S (serine), save the suspicious RaTG13 and pangolin coronaviruses published after the outbreak[48].”

The above refers to discoveries produced by “gain-of-function” research, that is virology designed with function in mind. This research exists, and one aspect of the research that the Yan Report described deserves to be quoted, as it answers very well the claim that animal to animal transfers could not exist in a laboratory.

“Among various available animal models (e.g. mice, hamsters, ferrets, and monkeys) for coronaviruses, hACE2 transgenic mice (hACE2-mice) should be the most proper and convenient choice here. This animal model has been established during the study of SARS-CoV and has been available in the Jackson Laboratory for many years [102-104].

“The procedure of serial passage is straightforward. Briefly, the selected viral strain from step 4, a precursor of SARS-CoV-2, would be intranasally inoculated into a group of anaesthetized hACE2-mice. Around 2-3 days post infection, the virus in lungs would usually amplify to a peak titer. The mice would then be sacrificed and the lungs homogenized. Usually, the mouse-lung supernatant, which carries the highest viral load, would be used to extract the candidate virus for the next round of passage. After approximately 10~15 rounds of passage, the hACE2-binding affinity, the infection efficiency, and the lethality of the viral strain would be sufficiently enhanced and the viral genome stabilized [101]. Finally, after a series of characterization experiments (e.g. viral kinetics assay, antibodies response assay, symptom observation and pathology examination), the final product, SARS-CoV-2, would be obtained, concluding the whole creation process. From this point on, this viral pathogen could be amplified (most probably using Vero E6 cells) and produced routinely.”

The procedure described above would likely do enough to fill the “50 year gap” in the unlikely Pangolin theory of the WWS. This animal to animal transfer would increase the strength of the virus many times more than any natural evolutionary process. Only a bureaucrat within the scientific establishment would want these experiments hidden. These revelations would bring regulations and oversight on a growing genetic engineering laboratory industry that has already caused irreparable harm through GMO agriculture.

One would have to read the entire report to get a full view of the scientific detail involved. However, we next need to reproduce two more parts from the report that explain the general overview in simple outline form.

From Part 1:

“Has SARS-CoV-2 been subjected to in vitro manipulation?”

We present three lines of evidence to support our contention that laboratory manipulation is part of the history of SARS-CoV-2:

- i. The genomic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 is suspiciously similar to that of a bat coronavirus discovered by military laboratories in the Third Military Medical University (Chongqing, China) and the Research Institute for Medicine of Nanjing Command (Nanjing, China).
- ii. The receptor-binding motif (RBM) within the Spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, which determines the host specificity of the virus, resembles that of SARS-CoV from the 2003 epidemic in a suspicious manner. Genomic evidence suggests that the RBM has been genetically manipulated.
- iii. SARS-CoV-2 contains a unique furin-cleavage site in its Spike protein, which is known to greatly enhance viral infectivity and cell tropism. Yet, this cleavage site is completely absent in this particular class of coronaviruses found in nature. In addition, rare codons associated with this

additional sequence suggest the strong possibility that this furin-cleavage site is not the product of natural evolution and could have been inserted into the SARS-CoV-2 genome artificially by techniques other than simple serial passage or multi-strain recombination events inside co-infected tissue cultures or animals.”

From the Conclusion: “Motives aside, the following facts about SARS-CoV-2 are well-supported:

1. “If it was a laboratory product, the most critical element in its creation, the backbone/template virus (ZC45/ZXC21), is owned by military research laboratories.
2. “The genome sequence of SARS-CoV-2 has likely undergone genetic engineering, through which the virus has gained the ability to target humans with enhanced virulence and infectivity.
3. “The characteristics and pathogenic effects of SARS-CoV-2 are unprecedented. The virus is highly transmissible, onset-hidden, multi-organ targeting, sequelae-unclear, lethal, and associated with various symptoms and complications.
4. “SARS-CoV-2 caused a world-wide pandemic, taking hundreds of thousands of lives and shutting down the global economy. It has a destructive power like no other.”

The authors created various demands at the end of the report, one of which should enter into the demands of the SEP or Democratic Power with regard to the virus. “Judging from the evidence that we and others have gathered, we believe that finding the origin of SARS-CoV-2

should involve an independent audit of the WIV P4 laboratories and the laboratories of their close collaborators. Such an investigation should have taken place long ago and should not be delayed any further.”

An independent audit of all P4 laboratories with a report to the public! No more secret weapons of mass of destruction! Allow scientific research a guide appointed by the public! Eliminate the influence of big banks, corporations, and the military on public scientific institutions! Any delay only furthers the infection and death of millions!

San Diego Rank-and-File Safety Committee Incorporates One of Two Democratic Power Demands

17 October, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

“Should rank and file safety committees decide for schools to reopen face-to-face, we demand safety measures, preparation, and sanitation of facilities be enacted at the highest scientific level. Universal daily rapid on-site testing of all faculty, students and staff must be made mandatory. School ventilation systems must be renovated or replaced to comply with scientific recommendations for a safe environment. Registered nurses must be stationed at every school, and authorized and trained to oversee testing and robust contact tracing. Working alongside educators organized in the rank-and-file safety committee, they must ensure that safety protocols are fully enacted. Teachers have the collective right to refuse to work under unsafe conditions.”

(<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/10/16/sdrf-o16.html>)

This final demand incorporates one of two Democratic Power demands into the full list of demands, allowing the SEP and the workers’ committees to lead the revolutionary movement through the entire course of the pandemic. Leaving out certain revolutionary demands, such as “that famous paragraph 9” for nationalist movements and the prosecution by elected People’s Tribunals of organized political rape; organized political-sexual harrassment and political-sexual assault; and political human trafficking; the exclusion of such demands, gives rise to movements such as BLM and #MeToo, allowing reformists and the capitalist class to dominate the revolutionary movement. For this reason, we are thankful for this change.

The committee has left out, however, any mention of an investigation into the possible origins of the virus, remaining silent on the PREDICT program and Yan Report, the possibility that a military lab engineered the virus, and that such a military lab might hold a prototype for a vaccine. This prevents the committee from accusing the government of developing and using counter-revolutionary violence and secret weapons. Withholding such an exposure will compound the difficulty of the defense of the committees when they gain popularity.

Comment to Greg Lenz Not Blocked or “Removed” but Does Not Appear

Comment to Greg Lenz Not Blocked or “Removed” but Does Not Appear

12 October, 2020randomposter332 Comments

Here is the comment, followed by screen shots of WSWs comments section:

The committee cannot force anything on the employer through the courts. In the short term, the committee would make pronouncements, followed by organization of demonstrations or work stoppages. Finally, the committee would serve as the basis for a new state, since any action organized by the committee would bring a reaction from the state. The first part, however, is most important. The pronouncements will reach the workers, and when a confrontation comes between workers and employers, everyone will know to turn to the committee for leadership and its program for their demands. One of these demands that will not come from the union could be: a return to the 8-hour day!

Blocked Comment, 1 Million Deaths and Nano-bureaucratic Ignorance

Blocked Comment, 1 Million Deaths and Nano-bureaucratic Ignorance

2 October, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

The world has reached the grim milestone of one mill...

Random Poster 4 days agoRemoved

“The death of these million-plus people is a clear indication that the financial oligarchs and the capitalist mode of production have abdicated any responsibility for their criminal response to the pandemic. By any measure, the pandemic still has much fuel to burn through, and only the working class has a vital interest in putting this fire out immediately. Only they have the capacity to prevent this further loss of life.”

Absent from this argument is any mention of counter-revolutionary violence and the spread of the virus. The socialist movement must demand an investigation, beginning with the acknowledgement of scientific reports, into biological weapons programs as a source of the virus. This could also simplify the search for a vaccination. The public knowledge that exists about illegal spying programs combined with the information in the above link about the virus's origins lends credibly to the argument that the government has not only stood by during the spread of the virus.

The government actively encouraged the spread of the virus and placed obstacles in the way of a medical response. The hundreds of thousands of deaths would not seem out of line with arguments about the governments' ethics if one considers that over 500,000 soldiers died before slavery ended and tens of millions of soldiers died before the Nazi government, responsible for the massacre of 12 million civilians using poison gas, lost its grip on power. That level of intentional death, while deeply tragic, must not come as a surprise. We must open our eyes to the real threats arising from the economic and political crisis of global capitalism.

From a 2018 New York Times article: “Thirty-one percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust; the actual number is around six million. Forty-one percent of Americans, and 66 percent of millennials, cannot say what Auschwitz was. And 52 percent of Americans wrongly think Hitler came to power through force.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/201...>

This level of ignorance, like Hitler's rise to power, depends on the acquiescence of the socialist movement. A direct confrontation with the forces responsible cannot occur as long as denial is the order of the day. The WSWS, if it does not have time for all the publicly available scientific research, should at least pose these questions. Does the virus have laboratory origins? What scientific reports argue that they do? What evidence do you have to contradict these reports? The decision to stay quiet on such issues can only occur from bureaucratic degeneration of the party, of the type which allowed Hitler to take the power without a battle with the working class. (German Stalinism conquered the workers' resistance by arguing that the revolution must wait until after the fascists broke up the republic and then the fascist government fell. Then and only then could the workers offer up a resistance to the capitalist class. In fact, the Stalinists received East Germany after WWII as a reward for their efforts.) With so many journalists at their disposal, one editor could assign one journalist to cover this central topic. Please view my attempt to cover this [here](#).

[Former Twitter CEO says some capitalists 'going to be the first' to be 'shot in the revolution' | Fox Business](#)

[2 October, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/former-twitter-ceo-capitalists-shot>

They have to admit it. The revolution has arrived and their lives are in danger. This is the price of delaying the formation of a revolutionary leadership that can take responsibility for the actions of the revolution.

[A Hoax of a Peer Review of Li-Meng Yan's Scientific Report by Johns Hopkins University Staff](#)

[29 September, 2020randomposter331 Comment](#)

["This review has been written by Kelsey Lane Warmbrod, MS, MPH; Rachel M. West, PhD; Nancy D. Connell, PhD; and Gigi Kwik Gronvall, PhD; all from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security."](#)

A close look at each of the points made by this review astonishes the reader with its disregard for the facts that it cites itself. A response to the entire review would consume too much time and effort to do for no commission. One would also be infuriated without sufficient context for this "review". I will emphasize one particularly striking case in point so as to keep the reply concise. To reply in full would fill an entire book, which might be useful to elucidate the scientific method and ethical argument. However, I cannot rely on any financial support for such an endeavor.

As contextual background, I would offer a few links that describe scientific programs kept secret by various governments.

[–Atomic Weapons program, "The Manhattan Project", and the role of Harvard and MIT.](#)

–A few other universities involved in early research for the Mahatten Project. This site argues that, “In fact, Vice-President Truman had never heard of the Manhattan Project until he became President Truman.”

-Various German scientists who created “scientific racism” or “eugenics”: Dr. **Hans Friedrich Karl Günther**, who taught at the German Universities of Jena, Berlin, and Freiburg.

From Wikipedia: “In 1935 he became a professor at the University of Berlin, teaching race science, human biology and rural ethnography. From 1940 to 1945 he was professor at Albert Ludwigs University.

He received several honors during the Third Reich, notably in 1935 he was declared “pride of the NSDAP” for his scientific work. In the same year he received the Rudolph Virchow plaque, and in 1940 the Goethe Medal for arts and science from Hitler.”

Dr. Josef Mengele, from Wikipedia: “A grant was provided by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), at the request of von Verschuer, who received regular reports and shipments of specimens from Mengele. The grant was used to build a pathology laboratory attached to Crematorium II at Auschwitz II-Birkenau.[39] Dr. Miklós Nyiszli, a Hungarian Jewish pathologist who arrived in Auschwitz on 29 May 1944, performed dissections and prepared specimens for shipment in this laboratory.[40] The twin research was in part intended to prove the supremacy of heredity over environment and thus strengthen the Nazi premise of the genetic superiority of the Aryan race.[41] Nyiszli and others reported that the twin studies may also have been motivated by an intention to increase the reproduction rate of the German race by improving the chances of racially desirable people having twins.[42]“

Dr. Trofim Lysenko– “Enter the villain, Trofim Lysenko, ironically a protégé of Vavilov’s. The notorious Vavilov-Lysenko antagonism became one of the saddest textbook examples of a futile effort to resolve scientific debate using a political approach.”

<https://theconversation.com/the-tragic-story-of-soviet-genetics-shows-the-folly-of-political-meddling-in-science-72580>

Dr. Nikolai Vavilov, director of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, discovered the Center of Origins theory, accepted world-wide. However, as a result of his dispute with his former protege, Dr. Lysenko, Dr. Vavilov starved to death in a Soviet gulag in 1943. Dr. Lysenko dictated Soviet Biology and Genetics under Stalin by rejecting the work of Abbot Gregor Mendel of Austrian-occupied Czechia in his generally accepted pea plant experiments in genetics.

This context should suffice to prove that these scientists in fact act as political careerists far from the mold of real scientists like Abbot Mendel. Their descriptions more closely reflect that of Dr. Mengele, the sadistic Nazi doctor who conducted inhumane experiments in Auschwitz with grants from the German government.

Only such sadism could influence the writing of these Johns Hopkins scientists. Finally, on to the point in their “review” that I used as a case-study to highlight their entire method:

From Page 3, part 3 of the Review: “Furin cleavage sites in coronaviruses. Lines 10-16: The authors assert that a furin cleavage site in its Spike protein is absent in coronaviruses found in nature, which is not the case. SARS-CoV-1 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) have furin cleavage sites in their Spike protein. This is fairly common in other coronaviruses¹⁶; MERS has a furin cleavage site¹⁷ within Spike.”

I followed the links for footnotes 16 and 17 to see what kind of scientific backing they had for their arguments. Both sources contradict the very argument they made in point 3.

In the article referenced in footnote 16, we see the following written in the abstract:

“Mutation of the S2’ site of QX genotype (QX-type) infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) spike protein (S) in a recombinant virus background results in higher pathogenicity, pronounced neural symptoms and neurotropism when compared with conditions in wild-type IBV (WT-IBV) infected chickens. In this study, we present evidence suggesting that recombinant IBV with a mutant S2’ site (furin-S2’ site) leads to higher mortality.”

The term “recombinant” refers to viruses that have artificial origins in genetic engineering. The “mutant S2’ site” they refer to as the “(furin-S2’ site)” only occurs in genetically engineered specimens of the virus. Other “cleavage” occurs in naturally occurring corona-viruses, but only in the artificial types do they have *furin* cleavage sites, which accounts for their ability to enter human cells rather than other animal cells.

In the article referenced in footnote 17, we see the following written in the “Representative Results” section:

“In the first part of this study, we used peptides that represent the S2’ cleavage site of three distinct MERS-CoV S proteins: from the prototypical EMC/2012 human strain (Genbank AFS88936.1) and from two selected camel-derived MERS-CoVs, NRCE-HKU205 (Genbank AHL18090.1) and Mor215 (Genbank AVN89324.1) strains, isolated in Egypt and Morocco, respectively (**Table 1**)^{16,18}...

Note that the EMC/2012 is the **human strain** and that the HKU205 and Mor215 strains came from camels.

“...Furin was able to cleave the EMC/2012 peptide efficiently with a V_{max} of 6.3 ± 1.2 RFU/min, while we detected almost no cleavage when using the S2’ peptide of the HKU205 strain (V_{max} 0.5 ± 0.1 RFU/min)...

This proves that viruses found in the wild had no Furin cleavage sites. Those found in humans did have cleavage sites. This confirms Dr. Li-Meng Yan’s and Hong Kong University’s assertions while directly contradicting the Johns Hopkins team. Why would they cite these articles? They must assume that no one cares about the deaths of a million people and counting.

The article from footnote 17 goes on to further prove the point. More examples for the wild, which differed from the first specimens tested, proved again that specimens gathered from animals did not contain the mutation.

“...Recently, MERS-CoV isolates from Western Africa were reported that are phylogenetically distinct from MERS-CoV found in the Arabian Peninsula¹⁶. One of the recently described isolates is the Mor213 strain, which carries a leucine instead of an arginine in the P4 position of the S2' site (**Table 1**), and which could potentially impact its recognition by furin and alter the cleavage efficiency. Our peptide assay showed that there is only minimal cleavage of the Mor213 S2' site as compared to the EMC/2012 site (**Figure 1b**).”

In another part of her report, Dr. Yan shows that this mutation could only occur through genetic engineering. In yet another part of her report, she shows the likely way in which it happened. She also proves that such methods already exist and that laboratories have practiced and reported on those methods. The laboratories can cut off certain parts of viruses and replace them with genetic codes that they know produce certain characteristics in the viruses.

[This paragraph added later] The case cited above does not stand out particularly, as just about every point in the Johns Hopkins report infuriates with its unyielding opposition to intercourse with scientific observation and known facts. The destructiveness of war and dictatorship show themselves through their report, which appears to lay to waste a city full of laboratory evidence to the contrary. Yet this proves all the more the necessity to combat this false science with a new revolutionary state that will compel scientists to follow ethical guidelines in their research rather than military-political decrees.

The Johns Hopkins team, Vox, and Business Insider have all produced reports that obscure the real science that even they themselves cite as sources. We would not like to see Dr. Yan die of hunger in a Chinese labor camp. We want freedom of investigation and responsible citation practiced by all major universities. We do not want sadistic scientists, like Neuroscientist Dr. Beth Ann McLaughlin and Dr. Mengele, or hyper-political scientists, like #MeTooSTEM volunteer and likely future doctor Jaedyn Ruli and Dr. Lysenko, to destroy ethical progress in virology, genetics, neuroscience or any other field.

Progress Report- Request for Likes

26 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

While the number of views has declined, we have a record on downloads for the year. In addition, we are tied with last year for “likes” and we need four more likes to surpass the year before. Therefore, I ask that readers put likes on my posts to raise the number of likes past 7 for the year.

We are on track to surpass 100 views, which falls short of the over 600 set on the second year. The recent blocks of comments on WSWs.org's comments section will likely raise me past 100. If by the end of next month I have not reached 100, I will attempt to market by networking with other socialist blogs.

Edited Blocked Comment- The Negative Response to the WSWs Review of Nas's Rap Album

Edited Blocked Comment- The Negative Response to the WSWs Review of Nas's Rap Album

24 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Random Poster 15 hours ago Removed

The negative response to this review should come as no surprise. It relates directly to WSWS.org's unexplained break from Marxism over the issue of national independence and the rights of nations to self determination. The Bolsheviks, Lenin and Trotsky included, defended the rights of nations to separate governments. This included the right of black Americans. Trotsky referred to it, in Ch. 39 of Volume 3, of his history of the Russian Revolution, [as] "that famous paragraph 9 of the old party programme which formulated the right of nations to self-determination." [Or more simply "that famous paragraph 9 of the old party programme."] The paragraph which contains that quote and [the paragraph that follows] bear rereading.

The WSWS takes a different approach, which might stem from confusion about the topic. The opposition to separation did exist in their time, and they did support [the opposition to separation and chauvinism]. However, and this point is important, this was only for the revolutionary party and the Communist International. They supported referendums for the people to decide their own fate. If a majority of black people, whose average net worth is only 10% of white people[s] in the United States, voted in a referendum for separate governments, a revolutionary party would support this process of separation. As of now, only the Democratic Power faction of the ICFI supports this position within the ICFI.

What does this have to do with Nas's new album? His approach may not resemble the anti-racist approach of an international revolutionary party of the working class, but it does represent the real grievances of the African diaspora, the group of people forced from their homes as slaves, killed by the millions, and often erased from history when they put forward great individuals. While these issues may seem divisive for the revolutionary movement, the revolutionary party can overcome these differences not by ignoring them but by generalizing them.

The story of African Americans resembles the stories of various peoples forced from their homes and treated like slaves. These examples exist in the modern day, if you look at underpaid Mexican and other South American immigrant workers in various industries, such as agriculture, restaurants, and cleaning services, as well as domestic workers, and others. Also, we had the situation of Japanese Americans in internment camps. In Europe, various Eastern European and Southern European workers earn a tenth of what Western European workers do. The revolutionary party may overcome these differences only through consciousness of the importance of their unified higher tasks, mainly to end the rule of the bourgeoisie in their own countries while building an international organization to unite the efforts of the working class internationally. Overcoming these differences may be difficult, but the payoff can be exponential.

This leads to the last point: the socialist movement need not accept the positions of asceticism and opposition to opulence. These represent only one side of the synthesis that forms dialectical materialism. Encased within a seemingly useless but very valuable object,

we have an abstract but real substance. That real substance comes from the work carried out with the intent [in mind] of raising [or producing] its value in mind [sic]. To bring the ownership of such items into the movement does not diminish but raise the capacity of the movement to achieve its aims.

The pursuit of such ownership, obviously, based on exploitation or family feuds for inheritances, produce the opposite effect. Exploitation of the acquirer occurs at the moment of exchange, and therefore exchange, not ownership itself, must raise suspicions. If you are imagining a famous rapper within the revolutionary movement, you should not judge them for their wealth but for the way they use it to shift opinions (or prevent any shifts) in exchange for money.

Economists have Boiled Down the Problem

21 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Corruption (and hate) add up to \$2 trillion, going back to 1999.

Increasing inequality (and exploitation) add up to \$50 trillion going back to 1975.

Adjusting the first figure back another 25 years, you would get \$5 trillion. Therefore, inequality accounts for 10 times more of a theft from the workers than the problem of corruption. For this reason, a focus on corruption shifts opinion to the right, in defense of the government and social order.

Of course these two problems feed into each other and grow together. Without corruption, a political system to keep organizations that stand for revolutionary opinions out of the media would not function. This breeds inequality. Without inequality, the need for corruption would collapse, and with it much of the source of funds for criminal organizations like those of Jeffrey Epstein or Steve Bannon.

The revolution does not lose its inevitability through this process, but instead it gives it new forms. The corruption of the elite will increase the incarceration rate of public figures and their close associates. This will cast a shadow of suspicion on the entire oligarchy and their public servants.

The corruption, which serves to mask the inequality and divide the people from any movement which offers political solutions for this problem, will force such organizations into hiding, or more accurately, invisibility as described in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Out of this invisibility will arise an invisible force, which like the invisible hand described by Adam Smith, appears again in theory as all-powerful and ever-present. Such is the hidden force of the revolution.

Inequality, the great theft which occurs through the extraction of surplus value and exists as a left over from previous social orders based on feudal or slave relations, cannot end without a conscious revolutionary movement of the majority of the working class. The invisibility of revolutionary organizations seems to suppress this consciousness. Yet the inequality will

break through this wall and gain in relevance through interactions with the real world. The greater the degree of inequality, the greater the shock produced when viewing the contrast between the public picture provided by the mass media and the observation which enters the real culture through the action of the eyes and what lies behind them.

This shock, raw electricity, will enter the circuits of revolutionary awakening, forcing workers and intellectuals into concrete action. The massive amount of literature produced by the revolution will then prove vital to turn desperate, isolated acts into an unstoppable united action for permanent social progress.

Business Insider Publishes Terrible Article Touting Robber Barron "Science"

19 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://news.yahoo.com/chinese-virologist-claimed-coronavirus-intentionally-150200793.html>

As an example of the quack science they defend, we have this thoroughly ignorant statement:

"Most experts think the coronavirus originated in bats before jumping to people; one study found that it shared 96% of its genetic code with coronaviruses circulating in Chinese bat populations."

According to the American Museum of Natural History, humans and chimps share 98.8% of their DNA. So the difference between the coronavirus in wild bats and the Covid-19 virus is three times greater than the difference between chimps and humans. As another reference, humans and mice share 92% of their genes, or in another estimate they share 97.5% of "working DNA". Could a mouse accidentally have a human child or a human give birth to a mouse? That idea supposedly should pass for science, but it resembles something out of Greek mythology.

The article's main point, that funding for the research came from an organization formerly headed by Steve Bannon as well as a Chinese billionaire, Guo Wengui, that escaped the political persecution of the Chinese government and mass media, does not respond to any of the arguments of the article, which they dismiss merely as "poppycock" that no one can "decode". Who funded the research that they cite with authority? Henry Wellcome, a guilded age American-born British robber baron and owner of Napoleon's tooth brush.

I will review the paper itself in the coming days to follow this story.

The Yan Report: Hong Kong Scientist Publishes Proof that Coronavirus was Likely Made in Laboratory

15 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Dr. Li-Meng Yan published the paper at <https://zenodo.org/>. From the introduction of the report: "This report is produced by a team of experienced scientists using our combined expertise in virology, molecular biology, structural biology, computational biology, vaccine development, and medicine." The unscientific and censorship-driven approach of the WSWS appears in a new light, or a grave shadow, upon reading this paper. A Marxist publication

would consider the scientific evidence before taking a such a fixed position on such a vital question. Taking a fixed position too early reveals their intention to suppress information, not reveal the truth.

A NY Post article on the scientific paper:

<https://nypost.com/2020/09/14/chinese-virologist-posts-report-claiming-covid-19-was-made-in-wuhan-lab/>

Environmental Chauvinism

13 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/endangered-species-animal-population-decline-world-wildlife-fund-new-report/>

Animal populations worldwide have declined nearly 70% in just 50 years, new report says

Only environmental chauvinism can explain these horrific population losses.

Free Clara Kraebber!

7 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

https://nypost-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/nypost.com/2020/09/05/wealthy-nyc-woman-busted-in-blm-rampage/amp/?amp_js_v=a3&_gsa=1&usqp=mq331AQFKAGwASA%3D

Michael Forest Reinoehl of Portland, Oregon Assassinated for Providing Security to Anti-Trump Protests

4 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Trump had singled him out as a “cold-blooded murderer” in a Tweet before his death by shooting.

Yahoo News Blocks All Commentary

Yahoo News Blocks All Commentary

3 September, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

See the part in gray writing under “Story continues” button, that begins “Our goal is to create...”

US could ‘virtually eliminate’ coronavirus if ‘we decide to’, top Obama administration health official says

24 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://news.yahoo.com/us-could-virtually-eliminate-coronavirus-203259647.html>

On Trotsky, the Fourth International, and the Working Class

24 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

David North writes:

While the bourgeoisie finds itself in a political impasse and the middle class looks for alternatives to the existing conditions, the working class—under the influence of past defeats—may display a reluctance to enter into decisive struggles. Trotsky acknowledged that the betrayals during the years leading up to the outbreak of war had created a mood of discouragement among the workers. “One should not, however, overestimate the stability or durability of such moods,” Trotsky advised. “Events created them; events will dispel them.”

Lenin warned against blaming the working class for their defeats. In What Is To Be Done?, he describes the “Primitiveness” of revolutionary organizations through an account of an Economist writer, a direct witness:

The recent trials, especially that of the Self-Emancipation Group and the Labour-against-Capital group,[19] clearly showed that the young agitator, lacking a detailed knowledge of working class conditions and, consequently, of the conditions under which agitation can be carried on in a given factory, ignorant of the principles of secrecy, and understanding only the general principles of Social-Democracy [if he does], is able to carry on his work for perhaps four, five, or six months. Then come arrests, which frequently lead to the break-up of the entire organisation, or at all events, of part of it. The question arises, therefore, can the group conduct successful activity if its existence is measured by months? ... Obviously, the defects of the existing organisations cannot be wholly ascribed to the transitional period.... Obviously, the numerical, and above all the qualitative, make-up of the functioning organisations is no small factor, and the first task our Social-Democrats must undertake ... is that of effectively combining the organisations and making a strict selection of their membership.”

He later explains that this real problem of primitiveness, which the Economist acknowledges in the account above, arises from the very Economism that weighs down the theory of the revolutionary movement. This theory of Economism limited the scope of revolutionary activity in theory, thereby making it ineffective at acting with caution under difficult conditions much less controlling and improving those conditions.

But the term “primitiveness” embraces something more than lack of training; it denotes a narrow scope of revolutionary work generally, failure to understand that a good organisation of revolutionaries cannot be built on the basis of such narrow activity, and lastly — and this is the main thing — attempts to justify this narrowness and to elevate it to a special “theory”, i.e., subservience to spontaneity on this question too. Once such attempts were revealed, it became clear that primitiveness is connected with Economism and that we shall never rid ourselves of this narrowness of our organisational activity until we rid ourselves of Economism generally (i.e., the narrow conception of Marxist theory, as well as of the role of Social-Democracy and of its political tasks). These attempts manifested themselves in a twofold direction. Some began to say that the working masses themselves have not yet advanced the broad and militant political tasks which the revolutionaries are attempting to “impose” on them; that they must continue to struggle for immediate political demands, to conduct “the economic struggle against the employers and the government”[1] (and, naturally,

corresponding to this struggle which is “accessible” to the mass movement there must be an organisation that will be “accessible” to the most untrained youth). Others, far removed from any theory of “gradualness”, said that it is possible and necessary to “bring about a political revolution”, but that this does not require building a strong organisation of revolutionaries to train the proletariat in steadfast and stubborn struggle. All we need do is to snatch up our old friend, the “accessible” cudgel. To drop metaphor, it means that we must organise a general strike,[2] or that we must stimulate the “spiritless” progress of the working-class movement by means of “excitative terror”.[3] Both these trends, the opportunists and the “revolutionists”, bow to the prevailing amateurism; neither believes that it can be eliminated, neither understands our primary and imperative practical task to establish an organisation of revolutionaries capable of lending energy, stability, and continuity to the political struggle.

The defeat of the workers caused by the rise of the Nazis occurred as a result of Trotsky's own leadership of the Fourth International. He should have acknowledged his mistake in forcing the Left Opposition to remain a part of the Comintern, even when others had broken from it on the grounds of the suppression of inner party democracy. The Stalin-Hitler pact did not arise suddenly after a customary meeting but actually constituted the fruition of a long social process in which Stalinism consciously and systematically betrayed the revolution while occupying leading positions within the various national Communist Parties. The self-preservation of the bureaucracy forced the workers to find a new organization in the Left Opposition. This Left Opposition itself had divisions, which Trotsky sought to hide or ignore.

Sylvia Pankhurst, the leader of the British Communist Party and signatory of the Manifesto of the Second World Congress of the Communist International, after a public argument with Lenin, called for the establishment of the Fourth International as early as 1921. Had Trotsky listened to this leading Communist, (who unlike Rosa Luxembourg, survived leading the revolutionary party through World War I and the revolutionary wave it produced) various revolutionary failures could have ended in victory. Workers would have had the quality and quantity of leaders they needed to respond to the betrayal of the Stalinist or the state bureaucracy of the Soviet Union and its agents in the various Communist Parties throughout the world. Instead, Trotsky advocated working within the Comintern, delayed the formation of the Fourth International, and only finally came to the same conclusion as Pankhurst shortly before World War II, when organizing the Fourth International from scratch would prove far more difficult. Trotsky's Economism, (“Events created them; events will expel them,” as quoted approvingly by North), limited the scope of revolutionary activity to criticism of Stalinist leadership, rather than the formation of an independent leadership. This prevented the workers from taking the power in order to combat the rise of Nazism as had happened during the October Revolution with the fight against Kornilov.

Covid-19: Infectious coronaviruses ‘circulating in bats for decades’

17 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://news.yahoo.com/covid-19-infectious-coronaviruses-circulating-155144724.html>

This article proves that the virus had existed for decades and that through wildlife trade, some biological weapons program trained the virus to transfer between species and then into humans, while combining the virus with another in order to give it its deadly effect. This information could also explain why China controlled the spread of the virus so well, by creating anti-bodies using a similar virus that did not produce the same symptoms. The story in the media seems to be that denial of human rights cures the virus. The conspiracy theorists argue that such plans should not be investigated so that the counter-revolution can more easily mask their violence.

The virus clearly has a two-fold nature. One side helps it penetrate cell membranes and reproduce within the cells of various animals. The other side allows the virus to target the biological systems within the animal hosts. Like the commodity capital, the capitalist has created a monster that he cannot control.

Why millennials' distaste for Baby Boomers is justified

11 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://nypost.com/2020/08/08/why-millennials-distaste-for-baby-boomers-is-justified/>

Notes on Capital by Marx

9 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

“The wealth of those societies in which the capitalist mode of production prevails, presents itself as “an immense accumulation of commodities,”¹ its unit being a single commodity.”

Over-production, under-consumption, or simply immense accumulation?

Common quantity contained in all commodities- “The two things must therefore be equal to a third, which in itself is neither the one nor the other. Each of them, so far as it is exchange value, must therefore be reducible to this third.”

“...The exchange values of commodities must be capable of being expressed in terms of something common to them all, of which thing they represent a greater or less quantity.”

Use values can be equalized across types of commodities by varying the quantities.

“Then one use value is just as good as another, provided only it be present in sufficient quantity. Or, as old Barbon says,

“one sort of wares are as good as another, if the values be equal. There is no difference or distinction in things of equal value ... An hundred pounds' worth of lead or iron, is of as great value as one hundred pounds' worth of silver or gold.”

The common substance uniting all commodities, value:

“As use values, commodities are, above all, of different qualities, but as exchange values they are merely different quantities, and consequently do not contain an atom of use value.”

“...The common substance that manifests itself in the exchange value of commodities, whenever they are exchanged, is their value... Exchange value is the only form in which the value of commodities can manifest itself or be expressed.”

Relationship of Labor (quantity and productivity) to Value: “If we could succeed at a small expenditure of labour, in converting carbon into diamonds, their value might fall below that of bricks. In general, the greater the productiveness of labour, the less is the labour time required for the production of an article, the less is the amount of labour crystallised in that article, and the less is its value; and vice versa, the less the productiveness of labour, the greater is the labour time required for the production of an article, and the greater is its value. The value of a commodity, therefore, varies directly as the quantity, and inversely as the productiveness, of the labour incorporated in it.”

Ch. 7- “It appears paradoxical to assert, that uncaught fish, for instance, are a means of production in the fishing industry. But hitherto no one has discovered the art of catching fish in waters that contain none.”

Ch. 7- “If we examine the whole process from the point of view of its result, the product, it is plain that both the instruments and the subject of labour, are means of production,⁶ and that the labour itself is productive labour.⁷ Though a use-value, in the form of a product, issues from the labour-process, yet other use-values, products of previous labour, enter into it as means of production. The same use-value is both the product of a previous process, and a means of production in a later process. Products are therefore not only results, but also essential conditions of labour.”

Ch. 7- p. 2.: “But, although boots are, in one sense, the basis of all social progress, and our capitalist is a decided “progressist,” yet he does not manufacture boots for their own sake... Our capitalist has two objects in view: in the first place, he wants

to produce a use-value that has a value in exchange, that is to say, an article destined to be sold, a commodity; and secondly, he desires to produce a commodity whose value shall be greater than the sum of the values of the commodities used in its production, that is, of the means of production and the labour-power, that he purchased with his good money in the open market. His aim is to produce not only a use-value, but a commodity also; not only use-value, but value; not only value, but at the same time surplus-value.”

“It is clear that, whether a man buys his house ready built, or gets it built for him, in neither case will the mode of acquisition increase the amount of money laid out on the house.”

““Can the labourer,” he [the capitalist] asks, “merely with his arms and legs, produce commodities out of nothing? Did I not supply him with the materials, by means of which, and in which alone, his labour could be embodied? And as the greater part of society consists of such ne’er-do-wells, have I not rendered society incalculable service by my instruments of production, my cotton and my spindle, and not only society, but the labourer also, whom in addition I have provided with the necessaries of life? And am I to be allowed nothing in return for all this service?””

“What really influenced him was the specific use-value which this commodity possesses of being a source not only of value, but of more value than it has itself. This is the special service that the capitalist expects from labour-power, and in this transaction he acts in accordance with the “eternal laws” of the exchange of commodities... The circumstance, that on the one hand the daily sustenance of labour-power costs only half a day’s labour, while on the other hand the very

same labour-power can work during a whole day, that consequently the value which its use during one day creates, is double what he pays for that use, this circumstance is, without doubt, a piece of good luck for the buyer, but by no means an injury to the seller.”

“By turning his money into commodities that serve as the material elements of a new product, and as factors in the labour-process, by incorporating living labour with their dead substance, the capitalist at the same time converts value, i.e., past, materialised, and dead labour into capital, into value big with value, a live monster that is fruitful and multiplies.”

Ch. 8 Variable and Constant Capital

“...the value added is of a given definite amount, not because his labour has a special utility, but because it is exerted for a definite time. On the one hand, then, it

is by virtue of its general character, as being expenditure of human labour-power in the abstract, that spinning adds new value to the values of the cotton and the spindle; and on the other hand, it is by virtue of its special character, as being a concrete, useful process, that the same labour of spinning both transfers the values of the means of production to the product, and preserves them in the product.”

“That part of capital then, which is represented by the means of production, by the raw material, auxiliary material and the instruments of labour does not, in the process of production, undergo any quantitative alteration of value. I therefore call it the constant part of capital, or, more shortly, constant capital.”

“On the other hand, that part of capital, represented by labour-power, does, in the process of production, undergo an alteration of value. It both reproduces the equivalent of its own value, and also produces an excess, a surplus-value, which may itself vary, may be more or less according to circumstances. This part of capital is continually being transformed from a constant into a variable magnitude. I therefore call it the variable part of capital, or, shortly, variable capital.”

“The same elements of capital which, from the point of view of the labour-process, present themselves respectively as the objective and subjective factors, as means of production and labour-power, present themselves, from the point of view of the process of creating surplus-value, as constant and variable capital.”

“We therefore find that speculators make it a rule when such sudden changes in value occur, to speculate in that material on which the least possible quantity of labour has been spent: to speculate, therefore, in yarn rather than in cloth, in cotton itself, rather than in yarn. The

change of value in the case we have been considering, originates, not in the process in which the cotton plays the part of a means of production, and in which it therefore functions as constant capital, but in the process in which the cotton itself is produced. The value of a commodity, it is true, is determined by the quantity of labour contained in it, but this quantity is itself limited by social conditions. If the time socially necessary for the production of any commodity alters – and a given weight of cotton represents, after a bad harvest, more labour than after a good one – all previously existing commodities of the same class are affected, because they are, as it were, only individuals of the species, and their value at any given time is measured by the labour socially necessary, i.e., by the labour necessary for their production under the then existing social conditions.”

“The technical conditions of the labour-process may be revolutionised to such an extent, that where formerly ten men using ten implements of small value worked up a relatively small quantity of raw material, one man may now, with the aid of one expensive machine, work up one hundred times as much raw material. In the latter case we have an enormous increase in the constant capital, that is represented by the total value of the means of production used, and at the same time a great reduction in the variable capital, invested in labour-power. Such a revolution, however, alters only the quantitative relation between the constant and the variable

capital, or the proportions in which the total capital is split up into its constant and variable constituents; it has not in the least degree affected the essential difference between the two.”

Another Great Catch By the #MeToo Movement

6 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://news.yahoo.com/detail-music-producer-known-beyonce-052604983.html>

Top Federal Reserve official says US needs another lockdown to save economy

4 August, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://thehill.com/policy/finance/510235-top-federal-reserve-official-says-us-needs-another-lockdown-to-save-economy>

This supports exactly my position on the pandemic’s effect on the economy. The WSWS continues to argue that returning to work will bring about economic recovery. In fact, it will have the opposite effect, the intended effect. Capitalism must destroy accumulated capital and fight against any upsurge of resistance. The virus breaks up protests effectively while killing hundreds of thousands of people, more than died during the Vietnam War. Eventually, this figure will surpass the Civil War as well. When will the WSWS reverse its position, in line with the facts? There is no balance between safety measures and economic recovery, both

work in tandem to restore society's balance. If Capitalism fails in this task, socialism must step in with clear sight.

National Committee Resolution on Letters and Biographies

31 July, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

National Committee (NC) members and SEP Election Candidates must write at least 4 letters per year, or one per quarter to other National Committee members. They must also write at least 12 letters per year, or one per month to WSWWS.ORG reporters. Finally, they must write at least 12 responses to letters from readers per year, or one per month. NC members must submit these to the secretary for verification every month. Reminders and warnings should follow if they fail to submit these letters by the end of the month. Every 2 years, the NC must produce or commission 3 short biographies of at least 10 pages referencing these letters and interviews with the NC members or candidates along with their fellow campaigners and branch members.

Marx's Capital, In Response to Joseph Kishore In Response to Elon Musk

30 July, 2020randomposter331 Comment

Congratulations to Comrade Kishore on his candidacy and on taking on the task of defending Marx's Capital. A few clarifications, however, require presentation.

From Joseph Kishore's article:

"As a consequence of the division of labor among different producers, the products of this labor assume the form of commodities."

As Marx writes in Chapter 1 of Capital:

"A commodity is, in the first place, an object outside us, a thing that by its properties satisfies human wants of some sort or another."

He also writes, in the same chapter: "This division of labour is a necessary condition for the production of commodities, but it does not follow, conversely, that the production of commodities is a necessary condition for the division of labour. In the primitive Indian community there is social division of labour, without production of commodities. Or, to take an example nearer home, in every factory the labour is divided according to a system, but this division is not brought about by the operatives mutually exchanging their individual products. Only such products can become commodities with regard to each other, as result from different kinds of labour, each kind being carried on independently and for the account of private individuals."

The products do not "assume the form of commodities", nor do they necessarily originate from different producers. They exist as commodities because they exist outside of us but satisfy some want within us. Commodities do not only come from labor but exist in nature as well. As Marx writes, also in Chapter 1 of Capital:

“The use values, coat, linen, &c., i.e., the bodies of commodities, are combinations of two elements – matter and labour. If we take away the useful labour expended upon them, a material substratum is always left, which is furnished by Nature without the help of man. The latter can work only as Nature does, that is by changing the form of matter.¹³ Nay more, in this work of changing the form he is constantly helped by natural forces. We see, then, that labour is not the only source of material wealth, of use values produced by labour. As William Petty puts it, labour is its father and the earth its mother.”

Man “can work only as Nature does, that is by changing the form of matter.” Work, as expressed by Newtonian physics, derives from observation of data gathered from nature. These observations provided us with the formula: $P=W/T$ and $W=F*D$. These formulas express in mathematical terms what Marx describes as “changing the form of matter.” The area covered by the forces applied by man to the “material substratum” displacing them a certain distance from their original form, such as from linen to a coat, equal work. Labor Power differs from Labor Work, in that Labor Power measures Labor Work over a certain period of Labor Time, or the energy transferred by the worker into the object to increase its value. Labor Time offers the greatest measure of the value of a commodity. In the footnotes for Chapter 1, Marx writes: “We consequently find that economists, who are thoroughly agreed as to labour time being the measure of the magnitude of value, have the most strange and contradictory ideas of money, the perfected form of the general equivalent.”

Division of Labor imparts to commodities their Exchange Value or Price, but only when those goods are exchanged for one another. Marx explains this in Chapter 1 of Capital:

“As use values, commodities are, above all, of different qualities, but as exchange values they are merely different quantities, and consequently do not contain an atom of use value.”

“...The common substance that manifests itself in the exchange value of commodities, whenever they are exchanged, is their value... Exchange value is the only form in which the value of commodities can manifest itself or be expressed.”

Only when the producers of goods exchange them do their various values manifest themselves. However, did they only become commodities when their values found expression through exchange? No, they contained use values, or satisfied human wants, even before this exchange, and this use-value gave us incentive for their production.

Labor, without any division or exchange, is a use-value commodity:

“So far therefore as labour is a creator of use value, is useful labour, it is a necessary condition, independent of all forms of society, for the existence of the human race; it is an eternal nature-imposed necessity, without which there can be no material exchanges between man and Nature, and therefore no life.”

Incidentally, labor and nature also form the means of production. From Chapter 7 of Capital:

“It appears paradoxical to assert, that uncaught fish, for instance, are a means of production in the fishing industry. But hitherto no one has discovered the art of catching fish in waters that contain none.”

Nature must form at least part of the means of production.

And:

“If we examine the whole process from the point of view of its result, the product, it is plain that both the instruments and the subject of labour, are means of production,⁶ and that the labour itself is productive labour.⁷ Though a use-value, in the form of a product, issues from the labour-process, yet other use-values, products of previous labour, enter into it as means of production. The same use-value is both the product of a previous process, and a means of production in a later process. Products are therefore not only results, but also essential conditions of labour.”

Labor itself enters the production process as part of the means of production.

So when we reread this quote, “As a consequence of the division of labor among different producers, the products of this labor assume the form of commodities,” we must argue that regardless of the way in which producers exchange their products, labor must always satisfy the human wants of the producers themselves. Our labor creates the products we desire to consume. No amount of exploitation, division, or relief from exploitation will ever end labor and the process of production. We therefore must see it scientifically as a human constant.

From Joseph Kishore’s article:

“The source of inequality, Marx explained, lies in the peculiar nature of one of the commodities bought and sold on the market: labor power. In common language, it is said that the worker sells his or her labor to the capitalist. This is not correct. What the worker sells to the capitalist is not labor but the commodity labor power, the capacity to work, which goes into the production and value of all other commodities.”

Marx argues that production of commodities by labor, in fact, formed the basis for equality. In discussing Aristotle’s theories on value, he writes:

“The secret of the expression of value, namely, that all kinds of labour are equal and equivalent, because, and so far as they are human labour in general, cannot be deciphered, until the notion of human equality has already acquired the fixity of a popular prejudice. This, however, is possible only in a society in which the great mass of the produce of labour takes the form of commodities, in which, consequently, the dominant relation between man and man, is that of owners of commodities.”

Earlier societies, such as Aristotle’s Ancient Greece depended on slavery for labor. This hid from Aristotle and everyone of his time the equality of all kinds of human labor. At that time, mankind still contained within its structure the most barbaric and primitive forms. This meant that one tribe would make war on, imprison, and enslave another, if not destroy them completely through hunger, disease, or direct slaughter. The slaves would then carry out one

function, mostly production with little consumption, while the owners would carry out another, mostly consumption with little production. The products of slave labor need not be sold but only, for the most part, consumed by the slave's owner. The owner's labor, then, appeared qualitatively different and incomparable. In this sense, the produce of labor for sale as a commodity and the sale of labor power as a commodity brought about a great awakening with regard to the equality of all human labor.

He also argues, in Chapter 7, that the selling of labor at below its true value did not hurt the seller:

"The circumstance, that on the one hand the daily sustenance of labour-power costs only half a day's labour, while on the other hand the very same labour-power can work during a whole day, that consequently the value which its use during one day creates, is double what he pays for that use, this circumstance is, without doubt, a piece of good luck for the buyer, but by no means an injury to the seller."

Where did inequality arise from? Marx answers that inequality arose from historical circumstances and not from the peculiarity of any commodity or the production process. What Marx really said was, "This Fetishism of commodities has its origin, as the foregoing analysis has already shown, in the peculiar social character of the labour that produces them." The Fetishism of commodities has to do with the inability of private producers to see that the relative values of their goods really expresses their social relations, which only take material form in the moment of exchange.

In this sense, labor for the production of goods for sales produces the social relations which lend to greater equality. A step towards capitalism away from Feudalism and Slavery meant a step towards equality. This produced the conditions for a further step towards equality in the form of socialism. The inequality under capitalism stems, in fact, from its inability to confront the inequality remnant or inherited from previous forms of production. Savagery continues through another cycle, through another generation. Perhaps the compassion of the capitalist will allow them to see their privilege not as the result of more valuable work but as circumstantial, hereditary, and less valuable, really, than the guarantee of social human needs. Perhaps chauvinism will conquer their soul, and the revolution will require violence to force them, their personal servants, and all their sycophants aside.

From Joseph Kishore's article:

"Like every other commodity, the value of this particular commodity, labor power, is determined by the amount of labor required to produce it. This is equivalent to the quantity of goods that are necessary for the survival and reproduction of the worker. The less that is required for this survival and the reproduction of the next generation of wage workers, the poorer is the worker and the cheaper is his or her labor power."

Labor Time determines the value of the commodity, not the "amount of labor". In Chapter 10 of Marx's Capital, we read, "We started with the supposition that labour-power is bought and sold at its value. Its value, like that of all other commodities, is determined by the working-time

necessary to its production.” This difference between “quantity of goods that are necessary”, which completely ignores the value of those goods, [necessarily expressed in terms of working-time or labor time], and working-time proves very significant. In Chapter 10, Marx analyzes the working day and the amount of time the worker spends at work to produce the commodities necessary for his subsistence.

From Joseph Kishore’s article:

“While apparently involving the production of money out of thin air, via the printing press of the Federal Reserve, everything turned over to the rich must be paid for through the exploitation of workers, the source of all value.

“This is what is driving the demand by the ruling class for a return to work even as the pandemic rages out of control. Musk himself has played a leading role in insisting that all restraints on the spread of the pandemic must be ended and supplemental unemployment benefits for workers be cut off. Workers must be forced back to producing surplus value and profit.”

This turns Marx’s analysis of Capital on its head. The Capitalist idles many, prevents them from working, holds back production, and thereby forces society to remove this fetter on production. If Capitalism truly provided the greatest possible force for productivity, then revolution and socialism would never acquire the urgency or inevitability with which Marx urged them on. As many scientists pointed out, the spread of the virus due to unsafe industrial practices will slow the economy and cut production. The return to work must be seen as counter-revolutionary violence to defend the very concept of private ownership of the means of production against a rising socialist-inspired strike-wave.

The rush to unsafe workplaces does not contribute to production. Surplus value and profit are not produced but extracted by the capitalists like parasites on the production process. What we need is not to reduce production and punish capitalism with brutal home confinement, but to provide guaranteed full employment. This cannot occur through a total lock-down enforced by government but through a conscious, participatory movement by the workers to take the power through a general strike and the election of work-place equality committees.

Full employment may not mean that everyone should produce electric cars. It could mean production of protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, as well as medicine from test kits to cough syrup, and medical equipment like ventilators and field hospitals. Further work would include the packaging of nutritious food to distribute without charge. Many cleaning jobs could open up to clean and sanitize various surfaces, especially with regard to warehouses and packages. Environmental factors that produced the pandemic, such as deforestation, habitat destruction, and trade in endangered wildlife could produce jobs in reforestation, habitat protection, and rehabilitation of endangered species. This could also include the introduction of new methods of organic farming to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides as well as water waste. These could bring many workers out of the city and develop safe places to live and work in rural areas, reducing the concentration of the population and thereby the spread of the virus. As if only the rich should escape to the

country! Production in general could increase trade, open borders, and break down the root causes of war, which could include the use of biological weapons or weaponized viruses.

To keep everyone locked at home robs the workers of their power at a crucial moment in the development of class consciousness. Increases in socially-necessary and safe production would form the basis for the raising of wages and benefits and increases in personal consumption for the common worker. To deny them this process ignores and greatly undermines Marx's history in Chapter 10 of Capital relating to the Struggle for a Normal Working Day.

[Applicable Law for Schaeffer Case](#)

[20 July, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/1258.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en>

It seems Schaeffer had been temporarily disabled as a result of a surgery and experienced verbal abuse. Schaeffer deserves compensation for the civil harassment committed against her, and part of the money should go to Democratic Power as the faction that represents her views within the party. Stalking combined with verbal abuse amounts to a serious civil offense and cannot remain ignored or erased from the past.

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[11 July, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

[Union Bureaucrat Sonny] Hall wrote, "what you ... wanted was a Mass Strike, not to win wages, but to bring down the government." In Winn's reply, he wrote: "What's so terrible about that? If that's what it takes to defend the jobs and living standards of transit workers, then so be it!"

As Ed Winn pointed out, when the party proposes tactics to striking and demonstrating workers, they should base the argument on the strategic purpose: not simple wage gains which higher prices and job losses will erase, but control over the means of production accomplished through the breaking up of the old state and the establishment of a new one. The union bureaucrat will always argue that this struggle is useless, but it has always underpinned the real pressure for labor reforms, including wage increases. Their tactics and strategy depend on willful ignorance of the economic process of production under Capitalism. The working class cannot imagine a system into being. The real system exists despite the promises of the bureaucrat, and that reality forces the workers into a conflict with employers, the union bureaucracy, and the state.

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[View](#)

[Is the Coronavirus a “Chimera Virus”? Substantiation for Conversation.com Article](#)

[30 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

From Wikipedia:

A **chimera virus** is defined by the Center for Veterinary Biologics (part of the [U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)) as a “new hybrid microorganism created by joining [nucleic acid](#) fragments from two or more different [microorganisms](#) in which each of at least two of the fragments contain essential [genes](#) necessary for replication.”[1] The term [chimera](#) already referred to an individual [organism](#) whose body contained [cell](#) populations from different [zygotes](#) or an [organism](#) that developed from portions of different embryos. In [mythology](#), a [chimera](#) is a creature such as a [hippogriff](#) or a [gryphon](#) formed from parts of different animals, thus the name for these viruses. Chimeric [flaviviruses](#) have been created in an attempt to make novel live attenuated vaccines.[2]

As a bioweapon

Combining two [pathogenic viruses](#) increases the lethality of the new virus[3] which is why there have been cases where chimeric viruses have been considered for use as a [bioweapon](#). For example, the [Soviet Union’s Chimera Project](#) attempted to combine [DNA](#) from Venezuelan [equine encephalitis](#), [smallpox](#) and [Ebola virus](#) in the late 1980s[4]. A combination [smallpox](#) and [monkeypox](#) virus has also been studied[3].

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Steve Bing, Rich Hollywood Producer, Dead After Fall From Building

24 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Steve Bing repeatedly left women after getting them pregnant while denying his responsibility to his children. He attempted to swindle other men who had been with the same women as him by claiming they fathered the children and that they must pay. Such deception likely led to his death. He could no longer suppress his guilt.

“In 2002, the same year that Damian was born, Bing was embroiled in a second paternity suit – this time involving Kirk Kerkorian and his ex-wife Lisa Bonder, to whom he was married for just 28 days in 1999.

After the pair split Bonder revealed she was pregnant and Kerkorian was ordered to pay \$100,000-a-month in child support, as well as setting up a \$7million trust for her.

But he long suspected that Bing – Bonder’s ex-boyfriend – was in fact the father, in [sic] paid notorious private detective Anthony Pellicano to investigate.

After reportedly swiping a piece of dental floss from Bing’s trash, a subsequent DNA test proved that he was indeed Kira’s father.

Pellicano also wiretapped Bonder’s phone calls and was subsequently convicted on various charges, including wiretapping, and received a 15-year prison sentence.”

Steve Bing’s tennis star ex-girlfriend reveals she spoke to Liz Hurley hours after his death

Notes on Nick Beams Lecture on June 2

21 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Four incorrect assertions:

1. Lenin did not appreciate globalization prior to writing Imperialism.
2. Trotsky did not see the party as the object acted upon by social processes, seeing it only subjectively as a force of revolutionary will.
3. Plekhanov preferred a bourgeois liberal government to a socialist government in Russia.
4. Plekhanov did not see the revolution outside of the national framework.

All these points simplify callously the positions of these great leaders. Taken together, these attempts to summarize their differences should acquire the label of Trotskyist Exceptionalism. In the struggle against fascism and capitalist “democracy”, American Exceptionalism along with Pragmatism form the most powerful theories of the liberal bourgeoisie. Socialists cannot adapt to these positions, arguing Trotskyist Exceptionalism over American Exceptionalism. Socialists must respond to the flawed theory at its root- that neither nations nor individuals follow any set social or natural laws, instead deciding their fate with absolute freedom.

Socialists as well do not have absolute freedom, and Trotsky’s writing emerged as a part of a general awakening to Marxist theory and scientific thinking in general. His analysis formed a part of a chain or an intellectual trend. We study his writing not for its Exceptionalism as compared to his contemporaries but his ability to contain within his work the fundamentals of Marxism and the specificity of statistics, research, and experience as an advocate for revolution.

[Various quotes should be found to prove the contrary for each of the four points above.]

A few more words on Racism

17 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Marxists must make this point about racism: it is not enough to simply say it is wrong, one must see racism as an ideology that originates within the ruling class and serves that class in dividing the working class. In order to end racism, workers must find its root cause within the economic structure of Capitalism. In doing so, they can see the way towards its final abolition: the abolition of class society and the establishment of economic equality as the primary principle uniting society.

Comment to Louis Proyect

17 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Your denunciation of “class-reductionism” gives you the appearance of a fink upon the movement who focuses his activity on turning in everything revolutionary. That viewpoint puts

you into conflict with all revolutionary politics. Your references to the WSWS and Trotskyism appear to be neo-conservative in nature.

Essentially, the race question needs a social context within which to exist. That context, with relation to the United States, always was and still is Capitalism. Racism exists in its modern form as an ideology created by the ruling class to divide the working class. For this reason, you will find that racism makes victims of the workers far more systematically than it does the rich capitalists.

Your outing of various intellectuals for reformist positions points to an unhealthy obsession. Lenin's strategy of exposure focused on showing the class nature of the state and helping workers to come to revolutionary conclusions as a result. Your exposure of various intellectuals does not appear to come from a determination to build a revolutionary leadership to overcome the state politically. What relation do they have to any revolutionary organization or party? Why do you tie the workers to them through relentless criticism? They appear to be bourgeois reformists, uninterested in revolutionary struggle. What threat do they pose, then, except as magnified and amplified by your obsession?

The real threat of reformism must come from within the International itself. Leaders such as Kautsky and Bernstein rose to prominence within the revolutionary parties of Social Democracy. Their role did not involve simply defending reformism theoretically but in turning revolutionary parties with hundreds of thousands or millions of working class members away from revolutionary policies towards opportunism and chauvinism. He also criticized such intellectuals as Bogdanov, who had joined the Bolsheviks and remained a Bolshevik through the revolution of 1917. These were Lenin's targets, not the various reformists who came nowhere near the International. You exaggerate their importance in history.

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https://en.as.com/en/2020/06/08/videos/1591625952_685050.html

[Falling Prices and Food](#)

[11 June, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

Food prices have risen rapidly as a result of disturbances to supply and demand due to the virus and lockdown. Over the past year, I have argued that the economy has headed off towards a hyper-deflation cliff. Despite the recent rise in prices, I stand by that analysis.

We saw grocery prices rise nearly 3 percent in the month of April. Yet this came at a time when meat production saw declines of 40 percent and shortages even of wheat flour began to appear. Demand for food should have increased due to the shutting down of the food service industry, driving people to grocery stores.

The market could have supported, under such conditions, a twenty or forty percent increase in prices. Why did that not occur, in order to spur production of that basic necessity? Farms, during this massive increase of demand and decrease in supply, instead cut supply even more, destroying large stores of milk, vegetables, and likely every type of food.

A shock as great as the Covid-19 virus and shutdown only caused a small spike in prices. Relative to where the prices should have gone considering the crisis, we obviously still need to deal with the economic reality of hyper-deflation. A disaster of the Coronavirus variety may have caused massive damage to human life and property in terms of lost production, but destruction on this scale still will not suffice to return major corporations to profitability.

As the old economy starts back up, the same imbalance will remain, creating the conditions for far greater destruction, on the order of, not trillions, but 10s of trillions or even more than 100 trillion dollars in property and the consequent destruction of 10s of millions or hundreds of millions of lives.

The situation comes down to the unstoppable force of class conflict. Capitalism wants to pay workers close to nothing while charging everyone high prices. Competition over sales drives prices down, causing Capitalists to lockdown businesses and later demolish and scrap good assets. They put workers into unemployment, forcing down demand and putting even more downward pressure on prices. As I predicted, prices in general fell in May:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/10/economy/consumer-prices-may/index.html>

To put enough money into the hands of workers through sales would require raising prices and wages at the same time. That, however, raises the political situation in which workers fear political organization while, in those cases where organizing does occur, government fails to respond out of allegiance to the “employers”. This organizational failure gets compounded by deliberate subterfuge of established “social leaders”.

The two conflicting forces, the drive to war and destruction as a path to profit, combined with a political struggle against dead organizations in the form of human beings unable to give impulse to a humane order, must unite into a single revolutionary movement to destroy much of what maintains the old order and make a series of quick decisions over whether to revive or bury the dead organizations that linger on the surface of the earth like casualties on the battlefield.

In the case of the revolutionary party, what remains to be seen is whether or not the party must fail under control of a Nano-Bureaucracy, setting the revolution back decades or revive itself through acceptance of the artificial respiration of an openly factional democracy on the model envisioned by the Declaration of the 46.

Progressive Income Tax with Protection from Deficits

29 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Every year that the government overspends, the tax revenue drawn from the top 1 percent (or whatever percentage of top earners pulls in more than 50% of national income) should increase by twice the deficit. That would protect the economy from budget deficits and irresponsible borrowing while increasing taxes on the rich to sustainable levels.

Hydroxychloroquine

23 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Hydroxychloroquine-

Used to treat Malaria, making Malaria a preventable illness that kills 1 million people a year, 90% in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Production and free-distribution of Hydroxychloroquine would save a million lives a year, but at the expense of replacing Capitalism with Socialism. The beneficiaries would be the poor, and the rich would lose 10s or 100s of trillions of dollars from their personal fortunes. That explains why only a social movement of the poor working people can reverse the decline of society, saving it from destruction due to greed and the drive to accumulate personal fortunes.

Coronavirus Researcher Shot Dead

7 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

https://news.yahoo.com/researcher-verge-making-very-significant-030320409.html?soc_src=community&soc_trk=fb

It seems this scientist made real progress towards curing the Coronavirus, and this may have led to his murder.

Chinese Using Virus for Propoganda

4 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/13/asia/china-coronavirus-us-lijian-zhao-intl-hnk/index.html>

Lenin

4 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

In Chapter 4 of "Left-Wing" Communism, Lenin argues about the direct link between the fight against opportunism and the fight against Social Chauvinism:

"First and foremost, the struggle against opportunism which in 1914 definitely developed into social-chauvinism and definitely sided with the bourgeoisie, against the proletariat. Naturally, this was Bolshevism's principal enemy within the working-class movement. It still remains the principal enemy on an international scale. The Bolsheviks have been devoting the greatest

attention to this enemy. This aspect of Bolshevik activities is now fairly well known abroad too.”

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/ch04.htm>)

Opportunism “definitely developed” into Social-Chauvinism in 1914. That meant that for the Bolsheviks, beginning in the age of inter-imperialist conflict, the main enemy within the party and the working-class masses in general had become, not opportunist alliance with the capitalist class but instead a permanent break from progressive politics, an acceptance of wage-slavery as a constant condition for all history. This aspect of Lenin’s work proved decisive for his revolutionary success. As if there were two Lenins, the factionalist who split the party and the leader who took the power. In fact, only one Lenin existed, and to admire one side and not the other does injustice to both.

“Lenin proved that the growth of opportunism was not to be explained in terms of personal treachery (though treachery there certainly was), but in powerful socioeconomic tendencies arising out of the development of imperialism in the final years of the nineteenth century and the first decade and a half of the twentieth. ”

Opportunism grew as the influence of capitalist politics grew upon the party. With the fascists to attack and the liberals to negotiate, even leading socialists found themselves forced to come to an arrangement with the liberals to keep Capitalism going a few more years. Yet these were ideological trends. The revolution could also attack treacherous leaders, forcing them to return into civil discussions with other leaders of their party or other parties.

The economic trends, the belated development of Germany, the destruction of the old feudal order driving the peasants off the land, and the division of the world into European colonies, these occurred in such a way as to unite the working class across borders while accumulation of capital made national economic planning possible. The economics produced necessity for revolution, while ideological weakness allowed for the penetration of bourgeois ideas, opportunism followed by chauvinism, into Social Democracy.

The main obstacle to revolution, as it is today, came from the absence of a movement that organized the workers, the driving social force, according to the lessons drawn from the history of former revolutions. The influence of capitalist politics, the Social Democracy in Germany, the Labor Party in the UK, these pro-capitalist parties voted for war-credits for imperialist wars and introduced chauvinism into supposedly socialist political parties. Lenin’s observation of these trends allowed him to call for an organizational break with the opportunists in order to reduce their influence on the revolutionary party. This proved decisive with the arrival of 1917.

The article quotes Lenin:

“Imperialism somewhat changes the situation. A privileged upper stratum of the proletariat in the imperialist countries lives partly at the expense of hundreds of millions in the uncivilized nations.”

This privilege came as a conscious policy of capitalist governments to create the economic basis for chauvinism within the proletariat, which forces revolutionary leaders, out of fear of this chauvinist proletariat, to make opportunist alliances with liberals of the ruling class. In this way, the liberal capitalists come to dominate any movement from below. The biggest industry based on chauvinism is the car industry based in Detroit, which seeks to divide the American working class from the rest of the world. The US has 838 vehicles per 1000 people while the rest of the world only has 170, about 5 times more. This well-known dream of Henry Ford, to provide all the workers with cars, came from a specific decision on the part of capitalists to shield themselves with privileges from a section of the workers.

Marxists must emphasize, however, that these privileges for a section of the working class will not appease the working class as a whole. To appease the working class as whole would be to give in to the revolution and renounce the right to accumulate profit from surplus value. This will not happen willingly. The privileges for that proletariat may buy them some time, but eventually crashes do come, allowing workers to see through the illusion of peaceful development. Lenin argues about this upper stratum in order to defend the revolutionary who actively participates amongst the workers from physical attacks from these privileged types.

With regard to the April Theses, we see no discussion on Revolutionary Defeatism (the Bolshevik position) versus Revolutionary Defensism (or Social Chauvinism). The primary reason for Lenin's sacking of the Provisional Government came from this discussion. Any revolutionary defeatist arguments brought upon those real leaders persecution, prison, and execution. Yet Lenin had to bring the entire Bolshevik party behind this position in order to end Russia's participation in the war.

On the "Democratic Dictatorship of the Proletariat and the Peasantry"

Lenin's Revolutionary slogan did not exist to create ambiguity but to divide the Bolsheviks permanently from the oldest counter-revolutionary arguments on the books, the arguments used to defend the Roman Republic against slave rebellions, like those of Cicero against Caesar. Caesar advocated the sacking of the Senate on the grounds that the Senate represented only an oligarchy, not the majority of Romans. He could accomplish this task only through a massive redistribution of land from the oligarchs to the ordinary soldiers in his army. Cicero warned against Caesar, defending the Senate as imperfect yet better suited to rule than Caesar as an autocrat who would turn the Republic into an Empire and then trample upon all the rights of the people protected under a republic.

Lenin would not allow any defense of bourgeois democracy or liberal constitutional rights to undermine the revolutionary will of the people. The army Lenin needed to take the power depended to a large degree on the redistribution of the land of the oligarchy to the peasantry in exchange for revolutionary soldiers. Collectivization of land existed as a plan but only through free association on a voluntary basis.

On Trotsky's criticism of the Bolshevik Program: "The Bolshevik formula insisted upon the leading role of the working class in the coming revolution, and aspired toward the destruction of all the feudal and anti-democratic remnants of the tsarist regime. But the program of the

Bolsheviks did not call for the overthrow of the Russian bourgeoisie and the elimination of capitalist property relations.”

From the 1903 Bolshevik Party Program:

“By substituting social for private ownership of the means of production and exchange, and introducing planned organisation of the process of social production, in order to ensure the well-being and all-round development of all members of society, the social revolution of the proletariat will abolish the division of society into classes, and thereby free all oppressed mankind, since it will put an end to every form of exploitation of one part of society by another...”

“11. Appointment of an adequate number of factory inspectors in all branches of the economy, and extension of the scope of supervision by factory inspectors to all enterprises employing wage labour, including government enterprises (the work of domestic servants also to be subject to this supervision); appointment of women inspectors for those branches in which female labour is employed; participation by elected representatives of the workers, paid by the state, in checking on the enforcement of factory legislation, and also in establishing wage-rates and in the accepting or rejecting of material and of work done...”

“15. Establishment in all branches of the economy of industrial tribunals, composed of an equal number of representatives of the workers and of the employers.

“16. The organs of local self-government to be made responsible for setting up offices (labour exchanges) to arrange for the employment of workers, both local and newly-arrived, in all branches of production, with participation in the running of these offices by representatives of the workers’ organisations.”

The program does not call for immediate expropriation of all employers, but it does call for social over private ownership of the means of production. This makes the program socialist and in irreconcilable contradiction to any capitalist platform. Their restraint with regard to the immediate transfer of all wealth, they put forward in order to maintain social peace after the revolution. The workers would take the power through the work of elected inspectors that would decide wages, accept or reject work, and also enforce regulations. Labor contract violations would become criminal.

Under a capitalist government, these demands would never reach the desk of the executive. The specific resolutions listed here make socialist demands in a politically shrewd way so as to trap bourgeois “socialists” who really want to defend private ownership of the means of production through deliberately poor leadership of the revolutionary movement.

Trotsky more likely had Plekhanov in mind when criticizing the Bolshevik Program.

Plekhanov originally sided with Lenin, but he then later switched to the Menshevik position.

As a Menshevik, he supported a bourgeois-democratic revolution to establish capitalist rule.

They would accept an “Opposition” or reformist role within the new political system controlled only by capitalist parties.

Lenin's opposition to social chauvinism deserves another mention. In his April Theses, Lenin mentioned chauvinism 5 times in the concluding paragraphs, and 4 times in the final two paragraphs. The greatest enemy of the revolution no longer brought opportunism but this new great threat. Social chauvinism caused the old Bolshevik arguments against opportunism to miss the real target, bourgeois influence on socialist ideology. The bourgeoisie used World War I to imprison socialists and demand conformity on its war policy. Lenin, however, had prepared his party to grow powerful under conditions of extreme political persecution.

Fictitious Capital

3 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Marx spoke about Fictitious Capital in Volume 3 Chapter 25 of Capital which he had never published in his lifetime. He never had a chance to review this work or submit it for review with other economists or sociologists.

Marx's alliance with anarchism may have influenced his theory on finance capital, namely stocks. This alliance cost the revolution repeated losses. The First International never produced any heads of state, unlike the Second and Third Internationals. This may have had to do with the irresponsibility and great danger posed by the compromise with anarchism.

The stock market, rather than just a purchase of paper claims, represents a purchase of actual capital by the company, that is a conversion of Money to Commodity. In the moment, it appears as if only a paper claim on assets and profits has been sold, no actual productive machinery. Yet this secondary market of stocks only replaces the issuing company with a third party in this variation of the transaction.

The sale of a used chair from a chair owner to a buyer does not provide any money directly to the chair manufacturer. Yet this sale affects the price of chairs in general, which determines the price that manufacturers can charge. One doesn't need to buy chairs directly from the manufacturer in order to sit in them. The use-value of the chair maintains itself within the secondary market.

This same process occurs within stocks. This time, rather than use a chair, the owner uses the stock. They enjoy the same ownership as someone who paid the company directly for their stock. The price at which they bought the stock will also determine the price at which the company can issue stock to raise new capital.

Part of the joy of ownership, then, or the use-value of the stock commodity, would be to determine, at least as part of a wider community, the relative value of the company's investment as compared to others. When a stock holder decides to sell his \$10 stock when it reaches \$20, he has decided that, for instance chair manufacturers should receive more money-capital in exchange for a share of their company. If table companies sell for \$20 currently, he may plan to buy table-company stock at \$10 a share, believing that table companies and their operations are over-rated, while chair manufacturing should expand.

The capital that enters into the chair company when it issues stock at \$20 a share will go into physical capital. The company may safely issue at \$20 because all the stockholders decided not to sell their stock until it reached \$20. The table manufacturer cannot find enough buyers for its stock unless it lowers its price to \$10.

This tells us that \$20 spent on increasing chair manufacturing equals \$10 spent on table manufacturing. Or to state it differently, to increase the less popular table manufacturing twice costs the same as increasing chair manufacturing once. Yet they will produce approximately the same profit. Should not society, then, choose the easier job of one increase in production to satisfy demand rather than two? Better to produce the more popular chairs than the tables which will not sell as well. This will also allow the chair manufacturer to issue stock at a higher price and raise more capital for society's chosen purpose.

The importance of this argument will arise in the battle between the revolutionary state and the alliance of infantile left-revolutionaries attached to reformers of the old order and anarchists who seek to destroy the foundations of the new state. This natural alliance will threaten the existence of any new order.

The attitude towards Fictitious Capital, which may exist as a result of fraud and other crimes, must not turn into a wholesale burning of the financial records. The reformers would turn to reaction under such a case, to restore the old order, perhaps with certain promises of reforms won through secret negotiations with the old government, as the more responsible decision. The anarchists would use such collective amnesia to transfer property away from the workers and their states and economic programs organized nationally and internationally and towards anarchist collectives dominated by the middle class without the guarantee of common ownership for all the workers.

The best policy for workers would not include the confiscation without compensation of stocks. They would include compensation for small-scale shareholders and compensation for all shareholders up to a \$20 million universal wealth cap. This could include a certain limited

grace period in which they could redistribute the wealth themselves among their families and associates. This could increase social harmony, build a strong foundation for a revolutionary society, and bring control of these companies over to socialism.

Regardless of the efficacy of the markets to create mechanisms to manage the wealth of society, the key factor which necessitates socialism remains. The class divide between workers and capitalists forces workers into conflict with the economic and political system. Only their ascendancy into power as a class throughout the world will end this conflict.

The capitalist system forms intricate systems to maintain its balance, but in the end, and with increasing frequency and force, the system collapses into a destructive free for all as competing interests cannot realize their objectives without destruction of competitors. The revolution will save the best of capitalist society, including its financial records, in order to guarantee the distribution of goods to the people. Without these financial records, any new currency will be subject to hyper-inflation, as the Bolsheviks experienced, and any economic project could face unexplained shortages or unforeseen management conflicts. The protection of financial records will provide economic stability, the foundation of justice and freedom, to the new revolutionary order.

May Day

2 May, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

North

China scapegoated? Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky all argued that Germany should be seen as an imperialist government, even though it lagged behind France and England in its Capitalist Development.

Trillions of dollars destroyed. Fictitious or real? Fictitious capital? Does Marx argue that capital is fictitious in his book on economics, Capital or any of his pamphlets? Destruction of finance capital represents the destruction of society's ability to respond to economic needs in a timely manner, balancing accounts at a later date, trusting in institutions to maintain a balance between costs and income in the long run. To deny this implies that the capitalists did nothing wrong when the market crashed and in fact did not even lose anything. They cannot lose their grip on power it implies. Finance capital, like state authority, is not fictitious but historically derived. Erasing all record of financial transactions and accumulated property would be massively destructive anarchy, not socialism.

Government response sparks mass protest rather than limiting it. Is the government class-conscious and historically conscious? North implies that it isn't.

New Zealand measles proves health care already in dangerous state.

Infection on the job, shut downs vs. protective equipment.

Australia- high unemployment and elimination of over-time pay.

Peter Symonds- History of virus and WHO response- comparison of Chinese and US-Trump response.

Animal to human transfer cannot be man-made?

Wije Dias- Media attempts to drown the revolution in **chauvinism**.

Chris Marsden- Herd immunity is a brutal attack on the working class by financial oligarchy.

Corbyn demobilized the workers.

Lantier- Working class not a herd.

Christoph Vandreier- A return to Nazi policies. Attacks on constitutional rights- Article 1.

Tom Scripps- Assange prison and torture. Denial of basic rights. Journalistic professionalism vs. Revolutionary professionalism. The job of a the revolutionary party should be to teach the leaders of the revolution to fight against the political police, to succeed in escaping political imprisonment and politically inspired torture. His uncritical defense stands firmly on the side of bourgeois-democratic demands. Why was he caught? What can we learn from his failure in order to maintain freedom for the revolutionary leadership? By making him the martyr of the revolutionary struggle, will we encourage hacking, such as with discussion moderation tactics?

Ulas Atestci- Iran already destroyed by economic sanctions prior to pandemic.

Decades of war have weakened Middle-Eastern ability to respond to virus.

Syria, Libya imperialist proxy wars in response to Arab Revolution.

Bill Van Auken- Imperialism harnessing virus for regime change policies.

Matamoros strikes interrupted production of military supplies.

Tomas Castanheira- Brazil, Choices for poor> Covid19 or starvation, both preventable.

Evo Morales abandons anti-coup movement. Unions support, join coup government.

Pseudo-left support financial bailout, 15% of GDP.

Broad front equals submission to nationalist-capitalist government.

Andrea Lobo-

Trotsky: "Only under their own direction..." Colonies can rise up to consciously unite with international working class.

Joseph Kishore- Government to corporations "You can kill your workers without any repercussions."

Requires frontal assault on oligarchy.

Mobilization to take power into its own hands.

Keith Jones- Rations for workers run out, back to work. No mass testing, no contact tracing, no protective equipment. Herd immunity used to deprive the people of a defense against the virus.

48% of Americans Suspect Coronavirus Lies, 1/3 Suspect Existing Vaccine Withheld

24 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://theweek.com/speedreads/910699/alarming-number-americans-believe-coronavirus-vaccine-exists-being-withheld>

The socialist movement must demand an investigation of every imperialist power's biological weapons programs to prevent the use of the virus as a weapon or the use of weapons to withhold critical medical care, including the distribution of a vaccine.

Negative Oil Prices- Hyper-deflation

20 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Without doubt, the use-value of a barrel of oil has not fallen from over \$100 to negative value. What in fact happened? The use-value met artificial limits in the form of price-fixing in the automobile industry. The auto-giants can afford to make \$1000 or \$2000 safe gas-powered vehicles for the entire world, perhaps based on the Nano. Yet already, electric cars have surpassed gas powered cars in cost-efficiency. This has to do with the strangle-hold on transportation that the monopoly capitalists use to drain the workers of their paychecks. The post-war bargain between the labor unions and the corporations, banks, and the military provided stability while Capitalism recovered from the Great Depression and World Wars. As a Third World War approaches this deal cannot stand, and the capitalists must wage a ruthless war on the purchasing power of the workers in order to free up profits for accumulation and the endless expansion of war.

The negative price of oil exemplifies the hyper-deflation of all assets stemming from the overproduction of the dollar. What prevents the dollar from losing value against other currencies is the threat of war along with the overproduction of other currencies, in Europe allowing the mutual robbery of each other member-country's treasury and in China creating an autocratic and opaque system of bad loans. In other countries, favorable military agreements allow an uninterrupted printing of money to maintain the political power of corrupt stooges. The varied means of providing economic justice under Capitalism now appear as hollow as the prices. Only a determined effort to break the chains of bourgeois ideology will provide for a revolutionary restructuring of the economy to meet the needs of the people while stabilizing production and growth on a sustainable and internationally equitable path.

Fascist Threat to Democracy

15 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

https://news.yahoo.com/protesters-calling-end-stay-home-173602913.html?.tsrc=jtc_news_index

Although the quarantine is still in its first few weeks, protests against stay-at-home orders have already come to a state capital. The arbitrary and indefinite emergency orders recall the rise of Hitler to power through the Weimar Republic, initiating the Third Reich, one of the worst dictatorships of the 20th century. The government has already proven incapable of setting limits on its own dictatorial powers. The lifting of stay-at-home orders by the far right would not return us to democratic forms of rule but lead to further infringement on individual liberties under the guise of combating the virus. Only a workers' revolution against the two-party dictatorship would establish fair and responsible rules to end the pandemic while preserving the democratic rights of the people. The tradition of the defense of those rights in the U.S. will only make the revolution that much more powerful in its new home.

Why Are Rich Americans Getting \$1.7 Million Stimulus Checks?

15 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/shaharziv/2020/04/14/why-are-rich-americans-getting-17-million-stimulus-checks/amp/>

Sanders Campaign Officials Admit He Threw the Fight Against Biden

15 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/former-sanders-campaign-officials-slam-biden-endorsement>

This article lists all the punches he pulled to allow Biden to secure the nomination. Unsurprisingly, the campaign officials could not explain why they supported Sanders when he made his support for Biden clear from the very beginning. The number of Trump campaign officials and Trump associates convicted and sentenced by the court reveal the real nature of Presidential Candidate Sander's campaign, a criminal enterprise from the beginning.

Concern About Never-ending Quarantine

12 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

For those concerned about a never-ending quarantine a rule needs clarifying. How many deaths per day would justify closing down an entire city or economy?

The normal death rate hovers around 1% per year. For a daily maximum, the total population times one percent divided by 365 for the days of the year, gives an average daily death rate. Multiply by seven to get a weekly rate. To allow for a maximum increase of 5%, only multiply the weekly rate by 1.05 to give a weekly total adjusted to allow for a 5% increase in death due to the virus.

If the weekly death rate rises above this maximum, then all non-essential services should close for the following week. If the death rate remains under control, then non-essential

services should remain open. This should apply to entire cities at first and then to specific neighborhoods.

In that way, cultural decisions to control the virus would bring economic benefits. The people would participate more in reduction of virus outbreaks. Finally, a definite amount such as this would protect businesses, workplaces, courts, cultural centers, and democratic processes.

ICFI Central Committee Finding Common Ground with Democratic Power

9 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

1. SEP Australia's 2019 Public Meetings: "A measure of the serious and enthusiastic support for the SEP's analysis was reflected in the Marxist pamphlets and books sold at the meetings and the combined total of more than \$2,600 donated to the party's \$25,000 monthly fund." (<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2019/07/06/sepa-j06.html>)
2. David North speech jokingly mentions a \$20-30 million wealth cap: "I think we should be generous. I think we should take some cognizance of the very hard work that Mr. Bezos has done, but I think if he can't... I think we can leave him with twenty or thirty million dollars just as an example of unnecessary grotesque wealth as a moral tale to be looked upon with a certain amount of disgust..." (<https://www.wsws.org/en/special/feature/coronavirus.html>)

While these mentions do not represent any finished program or practical policy, they show that these leaders do listen and care about the opinions of Democratic Power. The casual, almost inadvertent manner in which they made these revelations shows that they consider it a favor to the membership rather than an obligation. "Tactics as plan" must still replace "tactics as process".

Eventually, a factional rift will need to arise in order to exorcise this evident Bernstein-ism, and at that point the positions of Democratic Power must belong to the organizational leadership of Democratic Power as organized around ***Random Poster's Press Page***.

Any other attempt to maneuver a faction into power will end in defeat for revolutionary politics as political processes become secretive and violent. This in turn will give rise to fascism unchecked. Furthermore, it will minimize the importance of active participation in the advancement of Marxist theory in service of the workers' revolution, allowing the fascists to take the offensive.

The defense of elections, transparency, and the defense of enumerated rights permits the entrance of the masses into political participation. Without these trends taking precedence, an aristocratic and bourgeois elite will come to dominate the process of secret meetings and violence.

The explosion of the ISO will not leave the ICFI untouched. The same context applies to the ICFI, a result of pressure from below- for an alternative to Bernie Sanders' campaign to support Joe Biden- and a free hand from above, the result of inertia from the Left Opposition and the October Revolution.

A workers' gang of sorts cannot save the day under such circumstances; only a general vigilance on behalf of morality, democratic process, and law, the sacrifice of self-interest in the name of the delivery of the whole, only these principles will provide a way forward for the revolutionary movement.

Evidence of Coronavirus as Chinese 9/11 Continues to Mount

8 April, 2020[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

The U.S. government knew the 9/11 attacks would happen, but did not take strong measures to prevent them. They allowed the attacks to occur in order to create a pretext for war. The attackers, on the other hand, truly wanted to hurt ordinary Americans even if it played into the hands of the ruling class.

The Chinese, despite the claims of the WSWS, have imperialist designs of their own. Lenin argued that Russia had imperialist motives for defending Serbia against Austria-Hungary during the first world war. He argued this proved true regardless of the source of capital for capitalist development. In fact, he specifically proved that much of the capital came from France. The same argument holds under current conditions, when China received trillions of U.S. dollars in foreign direct investment plus trade deficits from the U.S.

The fact remains that China attracted capital by making itself attractive. This means that the Chinese state made itself the best servant of capital, while abandoning its supposed ideology of uniting the workers of the world.

Regardless of these facts, American Patriots serving in secret weapons programs of the U.S. government like Predict could still harbor hate for the Communist people ruled by the Chinese Communist Party. These elements, biological weapons scientists and others, a parallel to the Mujahideen financed by the CIA only to turn into Al Qaeda, could unleash a virus on China believing that an attack on China's people would punish them for their athiesm and their desire for a dictatorship of the world proletariat to redistribute the world's wealth. We cannot share common ground with them.

Rather than a threat to China's elite, this biological attack would bring about an opportunity for China to take the offensive in world affairs. They could target any country that does not show unity under these difficult circumstances. They could invoke the virus to impose a lockdown while they hunt dissidents and torture the people. The virus especially helped the Chinese government in its crack-down on Hong Kong's confused independence movement.

How much the Chinese government knew and when has come under scrutiny in the mainstream media, most recently the major U.S. paper USA Today. The most likely scenario appears to have occurred through the intervention of U.S. soldiers, spies, or secret agents that forced a leak in China's only Level 4 Virology laboratory in Wuhan. These must have acted to some degree independently of the U.S. government, perhaps under the influence of extremist groups in the U.S. or Europe. This then allowed China to react by creating worldwide

shortages of basic medical equipment and medications while flying 20,000 people a day into the U.S.

The end has not yet arrived, and it can rightly be said the Coronavirus has ended the Project for a New American Century while forming the basis for a shift in capitalist military exploits from American interests to Chinese interests. This same shift occurred prior to World War I as capitalist development or hope for imperialist mass destruction shifted from the French and British empires to the trailing German nation attempting to catch up to the Allies in colonial possessions.

The WSWS must urgently change its position, characterizing Chinese economic and military expansion as imperialist, no different from the imperialist expansion of Russia attempted in World War I. Lenin worked against the Social Democratic leaders of the day who sought to prioritize national unity over international unity and the defense of the party bureaucracy over opposition to imperialist war. He broke the Bolsheviks from the Second International and created a way for the revolution to take the power from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Those “Trotskyists” who deny any imperialist motives exist for China and Russia have not understood Trotsky’s Theory of the Permanent Revolution or Lenin’s Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism. They threaten to break the ICFI from the Marxist positions proven true by the October Revolution that these real socialists led.

Deforestation, Over-Exploitation, and the Pandemic

Deforestation, Over-Exploitation, and the Pandemic

6 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

“The use values, coat, linen, &c., i.e., the bodies of commodities, are combinations of two elements – matter and labour. If we take away the useful labour expended upon them, a material substratum is always left, which is furnished by Nature without the help of man. The latter can work only as Nature does, that is by changing the form of matter.¹³ Nay more, in this work of changing the form he is constantly helped by natural forces. We see, then, that labour is not the only source of material wealth, of use values produced by labour. As William Petty puts it, labour is its father and the earth its mother.” -Karl Marx from Capital Ch. 1.2

The over-exploitation of labor will lead to massive declines in the population, as seen in Japan, which has lost nearly 3 million people due to declining birth rates. Rather than an aging population, there exists a high degree of exploitation due to automation and globalization. This deprives Japanese workers’ families of the resources they need to grow. This decline of 3 million people represents a 2% decline in the population. Yet, according to projections by Hiroya Masuda, this decline will lead to a 16% population loss in 20 years and a 24% loss in 30 years. Japan’s high GDP-per-capita in comparison to world averages creates a contradiction with the normal pattern of greater wealth equating to larger family size. According to the chart below, Japan’s families should grow larger to match their wealth.

The same over-exploitation, encouraged endlessly by the capitalist system of private wealth accumulation, destroys the planets natural resources. "The material substratum" that underlies all commodities produced under capitalism, remains the same natural earth that pre-existed capitalist production. Proving this argument, we see the same destruction of nature as we do of the laboring class. A 1995 article in Nature magazine wrote:

"The first spatially continuous map of forest tree density at a global scale. This map reveals that the global number of trees is approximately 3.04 trillion, an order of magnitude higher than the previous estimate... Based on our projected tree densities, we estimate that over 15 billion trees are cut down each year, and the global number of trees has fallen by approximately 46% since the start of human civilization."

(https://www.nature.com/articles/nature14967.epdf?referrer_access_token=nkuDxbQ-DljefqthS1bHp9RgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0PVqBqhRh-xvvJTzHFUU9TMfiseqc7XBtw3yJeJCBwHMEd325JNCYv-3DvRroRPJJkTX95golfBeN0XF1aaW8P59jvn5Sk0G_AU4O4V7AYAm5mOs3rWaxWrsHFRlurXF8xNmDi7wtOVdd93PA3YUWwntR-fHISzYHyZYulyx41tw%3D%3D&tracking_referrer=www.nationalgeographic.com)

The article also provides this global map of forest cover, which reveals large areas cleared of forest cover;

Deforestation has mainly appeared in the media as a cause of climate change, increasing the concentration of CO₂ in the air. Yet deforestation now has another very dangerous outcome seen in the pandemic of the coronavirus Covid-19. The destruction of habitats have forced animal populations to share smaller areas and reduced resources. This increases malnourishment, which helps increase the population of parasites. Various infected or infested hungry animals stuck in closer quarters, fighting over reduced food supplies lead to the growth and mixing of parasites, germs, and viruses. After enough mixing among these threatened populations, more virulent strains of viruses or evolved parasites or bacterial contagions will spread into healthy populations of various species.

Such an outcome could have agents within host populations, which may have evolved in a way so as to spread infections onto competitors in their environment. This will have its equivalent in the human population, as its exploiters and predators set upon their human prey. Infections will likely spread until the forest cover around the world restores itself to pre-civilization levels. Such a process can occur, without wiping out civilization, only through the reorganization of civilization according to sustainable plans. Cities, agriculture, and ranching require a complete restructuring, and forests must replace much of the human occupied land through massive reforestation efforts. Humanity can achieve this goal while increasing its population, through such efforts as urban planning or urban farming, but most of all through the elimination of the private-profit motive and private ownership of capital from economic relations in general.

[Proof of Deflation and Hidden Hyper Deflation](#)

Proof of Deflation and Hidden Hyper Deflation

4 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

https://ei.marketwatch.com/Multimedia/2020/04/03/Photos/NS/MW-ID737_commsK_20200403110602_NS.jpg?uuid=a2276ea4-75bc-11ea-8f02-9c8e992d421e

Virus Prevention or Biological Warfare?

3 April, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-04-02/coronavirus-trump-pandemic-program-viruses-detection>

The “Predict” program for virus prediction, not predictatorial anti-democratic measures in response to biological (weapon or not) threats. The government found 1200 potential threats for pandemics. They probably found a combination of two viruses that formed a single new virus when placed in hosts in proximity. This new virus, which could easily transfer between animals of different species, when entered into computer models produced conditions similar to the bombing of the Reichstag which gave Hitler “temporary” emergency power. Whether or not the Reichstag was bombed is not the question. The question is should Hitler have been given dictatorial powers? Should the workers, in the name of unity, have backed down on their demands, rights, leaders and organizations? No, the answer is no.

Trump shut down the program in March 2020, exactly the time when the Covid-19 virus turned into a pandemic. The 2002 Anthrax attacks against leading Congressman came from a biological laboratory supposedly studying vaccines for Anthrax. The anti-democratic measures adopted in 2001 and 2002 obviously did not suffice to overcome opposition to empire-building. As a consequence, as the U.S. military admits defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have learned that attacks on leading politicians cannot shut down anti-war and pro-democracy movements. The new biological threat, instead of Anthrax which targets specific people and allows for vaccines to provide negotiating power, does not appear so obviously as a weapon. Yet, taken within historical context, that possibility must remain as a legitimate and important topic of discussion. The Trump administration decision to shut down the Predict program would not have occurred if a viral weapon had not been agreed upon in a secret treaty between the U.S. and China. Scientific exposure of such a deal would need to be corralled together under this network of labs and silenced.

For this reason, “unwillingness to discuss” must receive the harshest rebuke from the revolutionary movement. Tactics require elaboration and dissemination in detail, and this must serve to differentiate clearly the strategy of the revolution from reformist and certainly conservative plans.

Nano-Bureaucracy’s Tactics-As-Process

20 March, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

The revolution needs a party to act as a catalyst by reminding the people of the revolutionary beliefs they held in more revolutionary historical periods. A nano-bureaucracy that strangles democracy within the party acts as a catalyst for counter-revolution. The same methods employed by the party nano-bureaucracy to suppress the organization of the membership will return in a massive form to suppress the spontaneous upheavals that arise from the class conflict. For that reason, the workers as a class must come into direct conflict with the party bureaucracy to restore the right to factional organization, which requires the publication and distribution of a Party Constitution, a monthly financial report to members and donors, and the fair apportionment of funds and distribution rights to organized factions with official recognition from the party.

In the form of policy, this catalyst for counter-revolution takes the form of hypocrisy, the contradiction between bureaucratic theory and action. Bill Van Auken wrote in his pamphlet on Castroism, in contradiction to Trotsky, that guerilla tactics led to the destruction of an advanced layer of revolutionary intellectuals. Apart from ignoring the role of fascism in destroying the intellectual culture of the region, Auken introduced the idea that the intellectuals duped by movement leaders suffered a tragic fate at the hands of the their leaders.

Comrade Schaefer, a leader within the party, found herself forced out of the party for defending this same theory. In defending movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo, she sought to differentiate the defenders of democratic and workers' rights against police brutality and predatory management practices from the middle class representatives of identity politics who sought to divide the workers along racial and gender lines. This approach to the problem of spontaneous social movements does not differ from Van Auken's unchallenged defense of the Castroites duped by Castroism.

In order to understand the weakness of this theory, one must turn to Lenin's discussion of tactics-as-plan versus tactics-as-process in his articles Two Tactics from 1905 and The "Unity" Conference of R.S.D.L.P. Organisations Abroad from 1901. In Two Tactics, he wrote of the opportunist wing of the party:

"It strikingly reflected the point of view, or rather the absence of any independent point of view, of the intellectualist wing of the Party, which was carried away both by the current catchwords of Bernsteinism and by the forms and immediate results of the pure-and-simple labour movement. This infatuation led to wholesale treachery on the part of the legal Marxists, who went over to liberalism, and to the creation by Social-Democrats of the famous "tactics-as-process" theory, which firmly attached to our opportunists the label of "tail-enders". They trailed helplessly behind events, plunged from one extreme to another, and in all cases reduced the scope of activity of the revolutionary proletariat and its faith in its own strength, all of which was usually done on the pretext of raising the independent activity of the proletariat. Strange, but true."

The tactics-as-process theory inevitably brings opportunism into conflict with revolution. The tactics-as-plan approach, Lenin's favored approach, emphasized free discussion about tactics for political agitation. This led to written resolutions on practical plans which the party could distribute in order to guide political activity. The opportunists sought to counterpose practical tactics to the revolutionary process, meaning that the revolutionary tactics would follow or trail events, leading to extreme variations and the reduction in general of revolutionary activity and reduction of faith in the strength of the revolutionary proletariat. A direct approach to the discussion of tactics, preferred by Lenin, met a direct challenge from the opportunist wing of Social Democracy. This forced Lenin to take a step back and review the history of the movement and its resolutions.

In contradiction to the opinion the SEP, there is something for revolutionaries to do. The fight against police brutality, especially the murder by state agents of unarmed men, along with predatory management practices at work, including sexual assault, stalking, and other acts which do not quite amount to rape of the workers- these tasks belong to the revolution because liberalism has long failed to address these problems in anything but word. Open appeals to the revolutionary proletariat by public figures such as Brandon Frasier and Rose McGowan only add weight to Lenin's argument while contradicting the SEP. Lenin earlier wrote about an article that attempted to establish a false distinction between liberal-democratic and revolutionary tasks:

*"The author says that tactics-as-plan is in contradiction to the fundamental principle of revolutionary Marxism, and he thinks that one may speak of tactics-as-**'process'**", taken to mean the growth of the Party's tasks, which increase as the Party grows. **In my opinion this is simply unwillingness to discuss.** We have expended so much time and effort on the formulation of definite political tasks, and at the Geneva Conference so much was said about them; and now we are suddenly being talked to about **"tactics-as-plan"** and **"tactics-as-process"**. To me this represents a return to the specific, narrow Bernsteinian product of Rabochaya Mysl which asserted that only that struggle should be conducted which is possible, and that the possible struggle is that which is going on. **We on our part maintain that only the distortion of Marxism is growing.** The Geneva resolution says that no stages are necessary for the transition to political agitation, and then an article suddenly appears in which **"the literature of exposure"** is contraposed to the **"proletarian struggle"**. Martynov writes about students and liberals, holding that they can worry about democratic demands themselves. We, however, think that the entire peculiarity of Russian Social-Democracy consists in the fact that the liberal democracy has not taken the initiative in the political struggle. **If the liberals know better what they have to do and can do it themselves, there is nothing for us to do.**"*

Lenin spoke of the Geneva Conference, elaborating definite tactics for revolutionary activity, as a major step forward for the party. Martynov seemed to undermine this great achievement and at the same time pull the party out of its own activities. His attitude matches exactly the approach of the SEP. Black Lives Matters and #MeToo belongs to the liberals, who are tasked with democratic reforms. In effect, "there is nothing for us to do," they argue. This growing

“distortion of Marxism” has definite practical implications. The “unwillingness to discuss” leads to a major reduction in the scope of revolutionary activity. The revolutionary movement cannot bear forever the idleness imposed upon them by the bureaucratic leadership. Faith in the strength of the revolutionary proletariat means faith that they will confront the bureaucrats with demands for a return to revolutionary activity for the party.

VW says it will drop 30,000 ID.3 electric cars at once, will be cheaper than gas cars – Electrek
15 March, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://electrek.co/2020/03/13/vw-id3-electric-car-cheaper-than-gas-cars/>

For the first time, owning an electric car will bring savings to the owner. The car industry has held it back as long as it can, but the development of the means of production must revolutionize the relations of production. This has been seen in the rise of Tesla’s stock price above those of traditional GM and Ford. This despite Tesla’s betrayal of EV drivers through its refusal to save EV drivers in comparison to gas-powered alternatives.

Corona Virus- China Accuses U.S. Army

14 March, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-china-ministry/china-government-spokesman-says-u-s-army-might-have-bought-virus-to-china-idUSKBN20Z2HJ>

Harvey Weinstein Conviction Proves #metoo Not a Conspiracy

12 March, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

The conspiracy against justice and against the media came from Weinstein and Co. His business partners should go to prison as well for their spy war and intimidation tactics to kill stories in the media. The courts have shown that the sexual crimes are real and that witnesses can stand up for themselves and come forward. We will draw the best lesson from the conclusion of this affair: the capitalists and their predators must run and hide as the people have constructed a relentless movement that can produce just results.

“Harvey Weinstein found guilty of 2 out of 5 charg...” Interview with Accuser

2 March, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

Harvey Weinstein found guilty of 2 out of 5 charg...: <https://youtu.be/IGdsABpVZK0>

Bernie and AOC Prove Leninist Theory

27 February, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

As far as they are from breaking from reformism and the Democratic Party, Bernie’s success in the 2020 primaries proves Lenin right over the SEP. The SEP strategy of running ineligible candidates or running only in races for which the SEP lacks funds for victory does not work and contradicts the strategy of the Bolsheviks who led the 1917 socialist revolution. The SEP must remember that Cortez paved the way for Sanders by pushing the DSA agenda in the

media. She had a voting record and a series of public disputes. The SEP must follow the same course, winning an election for a lower office in order to provide the public with a record of public disputes, legislative proposals and votes. This would pave the way for a national victory and thereby set the stage for the beginning of the world revolution.

Harvey Weinstein “Gas-lights Society”

6 February, 2020randomposter33

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/harvey-weinstein-rape-accuser-los-angeles-new-york>

Watch this video.

WSWS.ORG DEFENDS SPY OPERATIONS AGAINST NY TIMES

31 January, 2020randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jan/30/harvey-weinstein-black-cube-new-york-times>

WSWS.ORG Abandons Its History In Opposing #MeToo

26 December, 2019randomposter334 Comments

<https://mehring.com/product/the-mark-curtis-hoax-how-the-socialist-workers-party-tried-to-dupe-the-labor-movement/>

From the Mehring Books Website:

“It’s not that you’re innocent until proven guilty, you are innocent, period.” So said Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, about Mark Curtis, a leading member of the SWP arrested and convicted in the 1988 rape of a 15-year-old black working class girl. This book examines the campaign of misinformation and distortion conducted by the SWP in relation to the case.

I would like to hear the writer of The Mark Curtis Hoax, Martin McLaughlin, speak about the #MeToo campaign and the disinformation campaign of Weinstein, Cosby, Epstein, Spacey, and others. The disinformation campaign serves to mask a reign of terror, which WSWWS.ORG would rather deny than confront. This gives an incredible amount of confidence and security to the fascist servants of capitalist oligarchy.

Music Torture

21 December, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-40090809>

21 December, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-40090809>

Uber Further Left Than WSWWS.ORG

19 December, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/uber-to-pay-more-than-4-million-in-gender-discrimination-case-2019-12-1028773991>

Millennials' Oppression Real

Millennials' Oppression Real

6 December, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

The government apparently considers Millennials slaves.

Hyper-deflation Arrives

5 December, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/04/harsh-housing-forecast-for-2020-especially-in-these-big-cities.html>

Similar to negative interest rates and low-unemployment with stagnant wages, we have low-supply low-price combinations. As destabilization continues, these will become the most common conditions rather than isolated phenomena. The capitalist class will propose a return to slavery or forced "sales" or transfers to overcome the difficulty of selling at low prices.

Only a workers' state could take control of the economy and restore balance without implementing a return to slavery. This would involve, however, a forced transfer of wealth from the private to the common property form, under the democratic control of the workers and their state.

Jeff Bezos: Neck and Lip

Jeff Bezos: Neck and Lip

4 November, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Wedding in California

Wedding in California

4 November, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Dialectic

29 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

The dialectic became an irrational form, the content of which was deemed too threatening to be allowed to exist. The form, freed temporarily from its content, needed to become irrational as its outer existence perished and turned against its inner essential existence.

As it had become entirely a form it attached itself all the more to other, random forms, becoming anything which resembled it, yet upon closer observation stood quite far away. This resemblance meant a unity of forms had been found, creating a figurative explosion of forms

with no force or weight. The weight, the content, lay under a sea, under a kingdom of impoverished want.

Yet the chain bound it to the distant form, spiraling in the wind like a kite. Finally, the content began to rise, against the will of the agents of want and of the suppression of struggle. Such a will, which almost surpassed will into simple acceptance of necessity, could only give in to a newer, greater necessity, that would march undeterred towards enemy fire.

Apps Used By Revolutionary Movements

27 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/no-more-facebook-revolutions-133350786.html>

HKmap.live down again. Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook explained that the Hong Kong cybersecurity authority had told the company that the app was being used by criminals to “target individual officers for violence and to victimize individuals and property where no police are present.” This episode prompted the Democratic Tsunami in Catalonia to release its own app for Android only — and not through the Google Play Store, in which most Android users get their apps.

But even on Telegram, the risk of losing one’s anonymity is a potential problem. One protest group moderator in Hong Kong was arrested in June. Durov has accused China of trying to take his service down in Hong Kong with distributed denial of service attacks.

Signal, the encrypted messenger, and Mattermost, an open-source alternative to the enterprise messenger Slack, also are popular among activists.

Play Store banned a game called “The Revolution of Our Times” that allowed players to act out the role of Hong Kong protesters. The game’s developers had promised to give 80% of their proceeds to charity.

Notes on October to Brest Litovsk by Trotsky

22 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

ch. 5 extorted consent obtained to arm workers to defend against Kornilov

ch. 6 1. mensheviks, minimalists, blocked Bolshevik participation in Central committee even when Bolsheviks had 30%

1. Tsereteli, menshevik, minimalist leader, spoke against “personal movements”, tried to suppress leaders who had such movements.

ch.7 soldiers from front, on ending war: “Why is the Petrograd Soviet silent?”

ch. 10: the “professional” elements were organized by the mensheviks, in fact they were the bourgeoisie. they recruited from the liberal-bourgeois cadet party, since they were more “efficient”.

ch. 11- Chernov, experienced, well-read early leader, refused to make any important decisions in order to hold onto power. divided factions eventually forced him out. too few resources.

ch. 14- Bolshevik paper shut down by military, needed to raise funds for new paper. printers boycott paper, organized by other paper.

ch. 16- first act by bolsheviks: abolish death penalty and hold elections.

Ch. 21, Failure of Kerensky offer to Petrograd, Mensheviks must divide government from within, some Bolsheviks quit government with Mensheviks.

ch. 22/23? left social revolutionaries and right sided on same list even though right revs tried to arrest left revs and left revs overthrew sr leader kerensky.

26. the point isn't to die for the cause but to achieve success and progress towards the goal.

27. taking power of means of production "gradual and internal", advantage of ruling class, civil war, anarchy

Notes on Revolution and Counter-revolution in Germany by Marx and Engels

22 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Ch1. Leadership of rev

Ch. 3? Why bourgeoisie must lead the early stages of revolution.

Ch. 10? Serbia vs. Austria Hungary

Ch. 5. Weakness of Frankfurt Parliament

Ch. 14 pan slavistic dreamers, retrograde a thousand years. Clashed with rev, sided with despotism.

Ch. 17, effort to defend Parliament subverted by members themselves.

Trashing Zizek for Clinton and Macron

21 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Karl Marx wrote the following description of the dialectic in his Afterward to the Second German Edition:

“In its mystified form, dialectic became the fashion in Germany, because it seemed to transfigure and to glorify the existing state of things. In its rational form it is a scandal and abomination to bourgeoisdom and its doctrinaire professors, because it includes in its comprehension and affirmative recognition of the existing state of things, at the same time also, the recognition of the negation of that state, of its inevitable breaking up; because it regards every historically developed social form as in fluid movement, and therefore takes into account its transient nature not less than its momentary existence; because it lets nothing impose upon it, and is in its essence critical and revolutionary.”

A harsh reply by an Oxford University lecturer to the works of Slavoj Žižek, especially about his writing with regard to the dialectic, deserves a serious reply. The article can be found at this link:

<https://www.currentaffairs.org/2019/10/what-is-zizek-for>

Thomas Moller-Nielsen, the writer, is confused about two points:

1. “As someone who’s always struggled with understanding just what, exactly, dialectical materialism consists in, I was curious to see to what extent Žižek was able to enlighten me.”
2. “This, however, still leaves several puzzles unsolved. Why, for instance, does Penguin—one of the most prestigious publishing houses in the world—continue to to publish Žižek books, and to market them as misleadingly as they do? And how is it that, for instance, Yanis Varoufakis—someone whom I generally admire—felt comfortable publicly describing Žižek’s last book, which consisted almost entirely of pervy nonsense, as “excellent.” How did this happen?

“The short answer is that I don’t know—in much the same way that I don’t know why other charlatans (including, incidentally, Žižek’s hero, Jacques Lacan) throughout history became famous, were offered exorbitant book contracts, and were treated with awe and reverence by students, academics, and members of the general public.”

These seemingly planned bouts of confusion create serious shortcomings for the arguments in the article. First, why look to Žižek for enlightenment on dialectical materialism, a.k.a. Marxism when he does not even belong to a Marxist group or a Marxist party. Look for an explanation of Marxism or Dialectical Materialism in one of the works of the greatest Marxist writers, Marx himself, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky. They have all written on the subject, and their works have been archived online at marxists.org for easy reference.

Žižek, once a member of the Stalinist Yugoslavian Communist Party, participated in the privatization of the workers’ common property and that of the deformed workers’ state as a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, a political agent of the EU in Southern Europe. This party controlled a majority of the Slovenian congress for most of the period from 1990 to 2004. Since then, it has been thoroughly discredited, with its share of the popular vote reaching as low as 1.5%. Do you expect to find enlightenment in such company?

Hegelianism represented the idealist reflection of the enlightenment of scientific discovery, artistic refinement, political progress, and daring philosophical thought. Yet Hegel stood on the side of the undemocratic German authorities, as Žižek does. This prevented Hegel from reaching the heights of enlightenment and rational thought. This achievement required the scientific materialist, the proletarian class and its defenders, not hypocritical defenders of privilege. Žižek suffers in the same way as a defender of the Stalinist authorities and the oligarchy of the former Stalinist countries of Europe.

Secondly, the causes of popularity and commercial success of Žižek has to be found in his strengths, not in his weaknesses, as the writer tries to do:

“That is, I do not believe that Žižek is celebrated around the world in spite of the fact that he clearly possesses all of the negative qualities enumerated above. Rather, I suspect, he is celebrated in large part precisely because of them.”

This view encourages conspiracy theories, for one, and moreover blinds people to the argument that genuinely lends him his popularity. What does he say that virtually no one else in the mainstream media does? That he is, in his own words, a “qualified communist.” He uses the term “Stalinism”, generally associated with the Trotskyist movement. He, like First Lady Melania Trump, hails from Slovenia, one of the most equal countries in the world, according to the Gini Index.

Žižek may be popular for the same reason as Greta Thunberg, the environmentalist from the famously Social-democratic and relatively equal Sweden. The conspiracy theorist may say she succeeded not in spite of, but because of her “autism”, or her youth and femininity. That this Greta girl is what we must think of, when we think of an environmentalist. As Marxists, we must reject that political line. Thunberg’s distrustful and threatening posture towards the political elite accounts above all, for her popularity.

There is also the increased popularity of socialist ideas in general, expressed by the rise of Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn, as well as the majority support for socialism over capitalism among U.S. millennials, the first generation in the U.S. to hold this opinion.

The reasons I have listed begin to explain Žižek’s popularity, but they do not explain why his positions have not hindered him through censorship and discrimination. This failure on the part of the mainstream media to censor him relates largely to his many apparent flaws, described in the article, which he bravely and brilliantly turns into assets to his fame.

More important, however, is his adherence to the consensus of silence with regard to the Trotskyist movement. Moller-Nielsen adheres to the same abhorrent principle of silence. His most noxious argument, however, he saves for the end.

“Progressivists... will likely be tempted by the false dilemma of: (i) trying to defend him in the name of “progressivism”—a doomed, and even dangerous enterprise; or, even worse, (ii) rejecting him and, as a result, rejecting their progressive politics or instincts.”

As a matter of fact, Moller-Nielsen has chosen the second of these choices, arguing explicitly that Zizek must be censored, not merely harrassed as he appears to be. Moller-Neilsen has criticized effectively the physical and intellectual reaction of Zizek to the torture of his soul, but he has not said the slightest thing in his defense. The perverseness of relations under capitalism has reached unprecedented proportions, which can be seen in the company its leaders keep, such as their most conspicuous of companions, Jeffrey Epstein. Zizek emerges contradictorily from this milieu as an important defender of Slovenian "liberal democracy", its privatization of nationalized industries, as well as its "unification" with the EU.

Why has Moller-Nielsen argued so callously that "the world", not just the Left or some specific group on the left, "doesn't need to... and... cannot... afford.. to provide Slavoj Zizek with a platform from which he can... pontificate...?" The real reason lies in his cowardly and self-damaging argument "(i)" above. Defending him is "a doomed, and even dangerous enterprise." The wisdom behind this argument seems rather shaky. To one who has not abandoned progressive politics, defending one's right to pontificate should seem elementary. To argue that communist ideas are not necessary provides a further clue into the doom and danger that lies waiting for the mistaken intellectual who defends another. We must see in this argument the fear of, or sickness from, fascism leading to the abandonment of the basic instinct of self-preservation. Communism is not necessary and neither is our life and liberty!

Zizek's successful resurrection of Hegel's method, while clearly flawed as the original, has made him a hero to intellectuals and academics. His unconstrained forays into various subjects resemble the works of the original German philosopher. This method freed a generation of intellectuals, Marx and Engels among them, to speak freely and knowingly on many subjects without fear of the spies and censors of the German authorities. Marx and Engels predicted that the Slavic nations could never unite, and that they would be subsumed into a united Germany. Yugoslavia proved them wrong, but this Slavic philosopher from the former Yugoslavia, where Trotskyism has been historically suppressed by a Stalinist dictatorship, has proven that dialectical materialism or Marxism will never lose its international appeal.

From Lenin's Theses on National Self-Determination

1 October, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

V. I. Lenin

The Socialist Revolution and the Right of Nations to Self-Determination

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/jan/x01.htm>

5. Marxism and Proudhonism on the National Question

In contrast to the petty-bourgeois democrats, Marx regarded all democratic demands without exception not as an absolute, but as a historical expression of the struggle of the masses of

the people, led by the bourgeoisie, against feudalism. There is not a single democratic demand which could not serve, and has not served, under certain conditions, as an instrument of the bourgeoisie for deceiving the workers. To single out one of the demands of political democracy, namely, the self determination of nations, and to oppose it to all the rest, is fundamentally wrong in theory. In practice, the proletariat will be able to retain its independence only if it subordinates its struggle for all the democratic demands, not excluding the demand for a republic, to its revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie.

On the other hand, in contrast to the Proudhonists, who “repudiated” the national problem “in the name of the social revolution,” Marx, having in mind mainly the interests of the proletarian class struggle in the advanced countries, put into the forefront the fundamental principle of internationalism and socialism, viz., that no nation can be free if it oppresses other nations.[8] It was precisely from the standpoint of the interests of the revolutionary movement of the German workers that Marx in 1898 demanded that victorious democracy in Germany should proclaim and grant freedom to the nations that the Germans were oppressing.[9] It was precisely from the standpoint of the revolutionary struggle of the English workers that Marx in 1869 demanded the separation of Ireland from England, and added: “...although after the separation there may come federation.”[10] Only by putting forward this demand did Marx really educate the English workers in the spirit of internationalism. Only in this way was he able to oppose the revolutionary solution of a given historical problem to the opportunists and bourgeois reformism, which even now, half a century later, has failed to achieve the Irish “reform.” Only in this way was Marx able—unlike the apologists of capital who shout about the right of small nations to secession being utopian and impossible, and about the progressive nature not only of economic but also of political concentration—to urge the progressive nature of this concentration in a non-imperialist manner, to urge the bringing together of the nations, not by force, but on the basis of a free union of the proletarians of all countries. Only in this way was Marx able, also in the sphere of the solution of national problems, to oppose the revolutionary action of the masses to verbal and often hypocritical recognition of the equality and the self-determination of nations. The imperialist war of 1914-16 and the Augean stables of hypocrisy of the opportunists and Kautskyists it exposed have strikingly confirmed the correctness of Marx’s policy, which must serve as the model for all the advanced countries; for all of them now oppress other nations.[2]

6. Three Types of Countries in Relation to Self-Determination of Nations

In this respect, countries must be divided into three main types:

First, the advanced capitalist countries of Western Europe and the United States of America. In these countries the bourgeois, progressive, national movements came to an end long ago. Every one of these “great” nations oppresses other nations in the colonies and within its own country. The tasks of the proletariat of these ruling nations are the same as those of the proletariat in England in the nineteenth century in relation to Ireland.[3]

Secondly, Eastern Europe: Austria, the Balkans and particularly Russia. Here it was the twentieth century that particularly developed the bourgeois-democratic national movements

and intensified the national struggle. The tasks of the proletariat in these countries—in regard to the consummation of their bourgeois-democratic reformation, as well as in regard to assisting the socialist revolution in other countries—cannot be achieved unless it champions the right of nations to self-determination. In this connection the most difficult but most important task is to merge the class struggle of the workers in the oppressing nations with the class struggle of the workers in the oppressed nations.

Thirdly, the semi-colonial countries, like China, Persia, Turkey, and all the colonies, which have a combined population amounting to a billion. In these countries the bourgeois-democratic movements have either hardly begun, or are far from having been completed. Socialists must not only demand the unconditional and immediate liberation of the colonies without compensation—and this demand in its political expression signifies nothing more nor less than the recognition of the right to self-determination—but must render determined support to the more revolutionary elements in the bourgeois-democratic movements for national liberation in these countries and assist their rebellion—and if need be, their revolutionary war—against the imperialist powers that oppress them.

7. Social-Chauvinism and Self Determination of Nations

The imperialist epoch and the war of 1914-16 have particularly brought to the forefront the task of fighting against chauvinism and nationalism in the advanced countries. On the question of the self-determination of nations, there are two main shades of opinion among the social-chauvinists, i.e., the opportunists and the Kautskyists, who embellish the reactionary, imperialist war by declaring it to be a war in “defence of the fatherland.”

On the one hand, we see the rather avowed servants of the bourgeoisie who defend annexations on the ground that imperialism and political concentration are progressive and who repudiate the right to self-determination on the ground that it is utopian, illusory, petty-bourgeois, etc. Among these may be included Cunow, Parvus and the extreme opportunists in Germany, a section of the Fabians and the trade union leaders in England, and the opportunists, Semkovsky, Liebman, Yurkevich, etc., in Russia.

On the other hand, we see the Kautskyists, including Vandervelde, Renaudel, and many of the pacifists in England, France, etc. These stand for unity with the first-mentioned group, and in practice their conduct is the same in that they advocate the right to self-determination in a purely verbal and hypocritical way. They regard the demand for the freedom of political secession as being “excessive” (“zu viel verlangt”—Kautsky, in the Neue Zeit, May 21, 1915); they do not advocate the need for revolutionary tactics, especially for the Socialists in the oppressing nations, but, on the contrary, they gloss over their revolutionary duties, they justify their opportunism, they make it easier to deceive the people, they evade precisely the question of the frontiers of a state which forcibly retains subject nations, etc.

Both groups are opportunists who prostitute Marxism and who have lost all capacity to understand the theoretical significance and the practical urgency of Marx’s tactics, an example of which he gave in relation to Ireland.

The specific question of annexations has become a particularly urgent one owing to the war. But what is annexation! Clearly, to protest against annexations implies either the recognition of the right of self-determination of nations, or that the protest is based on a pacifist phrase which defends the status quo and opposes all violence including revolutionary violence. Such a phrase is radically wrong, and incompatible with Marxism.

Jeremy Corbyn and the February Revolution of 1917

29 September, 2019[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

If Jeremy Corbyn comes to power on the tail of Boris Johnson's resignation, that would represent a decisive break from the status-quo of British politics going back for decades. While Corbyn does lead the establishment Labor Party, siding with capitalist parliamentarianism, he does not have the confidence of the majority of Labor MPs since his voting record places him in opposition to their policies. Kerensky, similarly did not follow in the steps of the Cadets, who themselves sought a liberal constitution, an 8 hour day, and the right to strike, little different from the majority of Labor MPs today.

This open division in Labor, mirroring the Cadet-Social Revolutionary divide, precisely accounts for his popular election by Labor rank and file, which Trotskyism has historically categorized as a working-class rank and file. The workers have moved passed the Cadets and Prince Lvov onto Kerensky and the SRs.

While Lenin urged revolutionaries to completely distrust the Provisional Government, which protected him and guaranteed his freedom through the July days and into October, he also saw the February Revolution as a cause to return from Zurich, Switzerland back to Petrograd, Russia to officially retake the leadership of the Bolshevik Party. The Caretaker Government of Corbyn, which may come to power in coming months will represent a shift in power after a long decline that began with the Brexit referendum of 2016, followed by the resignation of David Cameron. This new Government cannot be trusted. Still, the uprising of the people can no longer be ignored. Socialist economic transformation is on the agenda, including a break from U.S.-led imperialist outbursts. The final Stages of the revolutionary confrontation have clearly drawn near.

David Cameron had represented an EU tsarism, while Theresa May emerged from the Conservative Party split as a leader of the Brexiter-Cadets, breaking the power of the decades old anti-democratic institution that drove Europe back to the days of nationalist congresses with no real power overseen by empires in distant, often German-dominated foreign imperialist capitals. Not only should socialists support Brexit, but going much further, should support the total break up of the EU and the complete renegotiation of European Unity based primarily upon the defense of working class power and the common ownership of the means of production. The EU constitution, like the Republic of Russia, only concentrates the power within the hands of the trusted representatives of European banks, finance houses, and corporations.

The party needs to side clearly with the revolutionary break up of the EU to ensure that the far right does not use the inevitable break up to turn Britain into a political prison for the working class, where national economic decline becomes the argument for extreme austerity, political repression, and horrific exploitation. A break up of the EU may appear horrifying, a symbol of a coming war. Yet Lenin, during WWI, urged his followers not into pacifism but to “turn the imperialist war into a revolutionary war”. The descent into war actually represents an ascent into direct action with the direct aim of taking power over all the European capitals for the primary purpose of transferring the ownership of society’s production from a parasitical oligarchy and a favored upper stratum back to the creators of that wealth, the working class majority.

Sadly, the above views do not reflect the views of the ICFI nano-bureaucracy. For this reason, Democratic Power must form as an independent faction to advocate a reassessment of the current positions of the Party and realign them according to principles of the greatest Marxists of the Russian Revolution. Democratic Power organized independently and gaining fair, democratically just access to the membership, can end the obsolete factional dictatorship and restore the Fourth International the principles it stood for since the establishment of the Left Opposition in the Declaration of the 46.

The Theory of Theories

28 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

The theory must come from from outside the party, most likely from an exiled intellectual. This results in large part from political police and daily activity causing conflicts which isolate and force out the source of theoretical development. Only a large influx of workers can overcome the divide between the party and its as yet unaccepted, or inexplicably unacceptable, theory.

Race, Class, and Genetics: A Genetic Theory for Revolution

28 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

The prehistoric ancestors of modern man, the first ruling class, arose out of the war of eradication and enslavement between species whose cross-breed reproduction potential had not yet been reduced to zero. Through imprisonment and forced breeding, successful traits could make their way into the wider gene pool or unite previously divided groups.

What emerged were not separate races as much as two interconnected classes that mutually excluded other species and worked together alternately as masters and slaves. At the same time, a separation emerged between the upper classes and lower classes, a sort of breeding based on self-selection rather than natural selection. This brought with it the illusion that the upper class had become genetically superior. In fact, the more determinant factor of genetic superiority, natural selection rather than self-selection or opinionated selection, favors the larger gene pool and greater genetic diversity. Thus the lower class, that formed the larger

mass of humanity, contained within it a greater quantity, through numbers, and concentration, through greater exposure to competition, of superior traits.

The upper class may argue that they had greater say over who they would breed with, having access to both lower and upper class mates, but this only gave them the advantage in self selection. Natural selection would not benefit immediate trait differences, but only favor them over time and during periods of extreme environmental stress. Predicted advantages from traits selected by the upper class, the predictions based as they are in memories of past events and conditions, would incorporate themselves into the genome, reducing their real effective favorability in the future. Unexpected events would with greater frequency naturally select only from already existing traits, until then mostly randomly distributed among the population.

The upper class rules over society while genetically drawing it back towards its prehistoric monkey roots with only the most rudimentary skills with tools. For tools they mostly use weapons or symbols for weapons for hitting on the head to demand submission. Alternatively, they possess mounts of sorts to outrun their prey and deny them privacy.

Genetically, they profit most as traitors to their race. They may contain within them the genes that favored natural selection, but moreso they contain those genes which favored predation and depredation upon their own kind. They also contain various self-selected traits which many times may in fact appear rather odd. With these traits and their social position, they could effectively brand a portion of the population, setting apart their clan, tribe, and nation. This prepared the way for various massacres, even of their own subjects. Some service this brought.

Throughout the history of human progress, various effective societal disparasitizations brought down these castes and liberated humanity to pursue its own more responsible, clear-minded ends. During these times, humanity could fortify itself and overcome various diseases and chronic shortages, elevating itself and building upon its permanent achievements. These vestigial castes will remain with us until revolutionary policies systematically remove all class-based and exploitation-based privileges, including in breeding. "The free development of each is the conditon for the free development of all."

Police Cover Up Sex Slave Evidence

26 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10000546/prince-andrew-epstein-paedo-fbi-cover-up/>

Israel and Colombia

23 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

1. Israel should divide Lieberman's party, giving the Left reformists an opportunity to form their own government apart from Likkud. A unity government would be a racist government designed specifically to exclude the Joint List. In general, and as a rule, Centrist parties like

Lieberman's should be temporarily broken in order to give the party with a plurality the majority wherever possible. After the government is formed, the Centrist parties should be freed to reform themselves. This preserves democracy in that Centrist parties only blur the lines and prevent clear positions from emerging as the unifying strategy of the democracy.

2. Colombia has recognized Venezuela's Juan Guaido and repudiated Nicolas Maduro as legitimate leader of Venezuela. In return, Maduro should recognize FARC, ELN, and other dissident groups, Gaitanistas, as the legitimate leaders of Colombia. This would provide Venezuela with a strong argument and a balance of power in negotiations. Otherwise, they allow their leader to be deposed or openly conspired against without taking the necessary steps to defend him. The mystery of why Juan Guaido's actions have not constituted treason and led to charges being brought remains unsolved.

Gantz and Netanyahu, Kornilov and Tsar Nicolas

19 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Gantz, a former military chief, bases himself on the military, and moves to prosecute and jail Netanyahu and his wife. In February of 1917, Kornilov arrested the Tsarina, or Alexandra Feodorovna, Empress consort of Russia. Netanyahu faces bribery charges, for which he has yet to be indicted. His wife, however has been charged for corruption. While accusations of treason will not rise to the surface without a revolution and a revolutionary party to speak for it, these corruption and bribery charges represent an inverted and refracted version of the revolutionary charges against Netanyahu. Like the Tsar, Netanyahu's power rests upon the feudal hierarchy of the ultra-orthodox.

The conclusion to draw should be just like Lenin's: "complete distrust" of the new government. Kornilov sought to continue Russia's participation in WWI, and Gantz will want to continue the expansionist policies of Netanyahu, as these were the demands of the financial interests and the big bourgeoisie. Kornilov's arrest of the Tsarina did not prove his complete break from class-based oppression, including the use of anti-Semitism and nationalism. Gantz will not break from anti-Arab racism, preferring to restructure Likud rather than ally his government with the coalition of Arab parties, the Joint List.

His opposition to the Joint List mirrors Kornilov's fascistic appeals to Russian nationalism to push forward another Russian military offensive against the German. Millions of lives had been sacrificed along with untold economic losses due to their failure to cooperate, trade, and allow the free and secure flow of labor and goods. All this for the ancient rites of Tsars and the Orthodox Church that formed the basis of his rule.

Killer #Anti-Metoo Movement Continues Its Work

18 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Kevin Spacey accuser dies in middle of sexual assault lawsuit

When Epstein dies, the WSWS assumes a murder has taken place. What about when Anthony Bourdain or Kevin Spacey's massage therapist, who accused him of sexual assault,

die for testifying against Weinstein and Spacey? These murders serve as an occasion, they say, to rehabilitate the murderers careers in entertainment. If you really want to work in entertainment, you'll rape and murder for it. What's the problem?

Fort Detrick Mind Control and Lethal Poison History

18 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/09/15/cia-fort-detrick-stephen-kinzer-228109>

New Book by Random Poster Published (2nd Ed. Available)

16 September, 2019randomposter33Leave a comment

Vol. 2 of For the First Time Series- What We Have Done

The Introduction:

Nearly a year has passed since my first book appeared on (Randomposter33.WordPress.Com). Now, enough time has passed, and enough have I commented to merit the release of a second volume. This will build upon the original purpose of the first volume, which I published in order to present the entirety of my commentary for easy and convenient access. Furthermore, besides the very pesky business of dealing with the frequent removal of my posts, which may have leveled off a bit, I also must add that a new problem presents itself. This time, I would say: note the extended period of time in which no one seriously discussed these ideas to their necessary conclusion, while frivolous conversations abounded, leading to no thorough investigations. Without the scientific method, without the presentation of evidence, without a forum to encourage revolutionary discussions, reason has absolute and definite limits. We have as our aims, not the acceptance of boundaries upon our social minds and conversations, but the shattering of the termini stones for all humanity, the opening of new possibilities, and the achievement of the, as yet, impossible.

No one must confine themselves to those inflammatory limits, unless they wish never to offend some hierarchy of the privileged. Then they may speak of innumerable truths while meticulously and absurdly ignoring the most pressing, the most burning questions. Take a moment to observe who sits at the top of these hierarchies, the Jeffrey Epsteins, Harvey Weinstains, and the Joichi Itos and Richard Stallmans. Can the exclusive right to disburse rewards really remain in their hands? Must not social justice, above all represented by the revolution of the working class, intervene to replace them with an entirely new set of social leaders? Rhetoric, it seems, must appear wasteful to the nano-bureaucrats, but the revolutionary must reply that such rhetoric will in fact lay them and their system of oppression to waste. At the very least, rhetoric will smash their complex, bureaucratic designs to hamper the growth of Democratic Power.

