

Theoretical Essentialism-

A Defense Against the One-Sided Attack on Pragmatism

By Bertrand Poster (Randomposter33)

Acknowledgments:

Thank you again to my wife, my step-son, and my entire family for their patience, understanding, and support. Thank you to my father, who passed away recently but left behind enough inspiration to carry on my work for the revolution. Conservatism as an opposition to slavery will play an immeasurable role in the destruction of the U.S. corporate empire and its system of world-wide police spying and harassment. The seriousness of the defense of working class families will provide the true measurement of the potential of the legal revolutionary party.

Thank you again to Wordpress and Disqus for maintaining my writing and creating easy access as well as a forum in which to publish my work. Disqus also provided me with an answer contradicting the WSWS claims to have no power over the “algorithm” that supposedly censored my comments.

YouTube allowed for the continued sharing of videos even while Wordpress required a switch to Premium access.

Finally, I would like to thank all the readers of my previous volumes, especially those who downloaded and kept a copy of my work. This in itself is a contribution to the defense against fascist and Stalinist historical erasure and the U.S. political police that seeks to suppress the socialist movement through government programs such as CoIntelPro.

A note to my readers: This volume, like those before, 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.

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Supporters and Critics

Introduction:

Karl Marx in Theses on Feuerbach:

“The chief defect of all hitherto existing materialism ...is that... reality... is conceived only in the form of the *object or of contemplation*, but not as ... *practice*, not subjectively. Hence, in contradistinction to materialism, the *active* side was developed abstractly by idealism...”

“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”

Reality, according to “all hitherto existing materialism,” i.e. in all human thought basing itself on acknowledgment and observation of material reality, can be conceived only in the form of the “object or of contemplation.” Only “idealism”, concerning itself with various subjects created by the thinkers themselves, could act, practice, or sense subjectively, that is sense what they choose to sense. This resembles the profound doctrine of pragmatism as elaborated by John Dewey, a non-Marxist socialist that had significant influence on public education and social work, and Charles Sanders Peirce, the first to define and defend pragmatism, along with his friend Henry James, who popularized Peirce’s theories. John Dewey referred to traditional philosophy, which Marx sought to develop, as “the epistemological industry.” Peirce spoke of his philosophy as a baby “ugly enough to be safe from kidnappers.” (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pragmatism/>) Pragmatism’s negative elements or its flaws, even flaws that produce its self-consciousness, find expression in the *practical-essentialism* espoused by both *class-essentialism*, represented by the SEP nano-bureaucrats, and *race-essentialism*, represented by Ocasio-Cortez, the Squad, and the *identity politicians* such as Cornel West who openly defends his “Prophetic Pragmatism,” a Harvard defense of overzealousness, which would be a crime but for its elitist defense.

Class-essentialism and race-essentialism, the two supposedly opposed camps that really act in unison to subvert Democratic Power, the nano-bureaucratic “revolutionary” who opposes participation and the reformist parliamentarian who encourages participation at all costs, both have at their root a perversion of Marxist theory, a perversion itself rooted within privilege and its delusion of right. The privileges of the bureaucracy, above all its stacking of committees (not only through residence but through outright banning of participation for Democratic Power) and its unregulated moderation of discussion (proven by their decision to blame an algorithm or VPN-Disqus incompatibility, while Disqus asserts that they have it within their power to add anyone to a trusted user list), depends upon delusions, above all in the

impossibility of any “critique” of their “critical criticism,” the untouchable holiness of their political family.

“The criticism of the *German philosophy of state and right*... is both a critical analysis of the modern state and of the reality connected with it, and the resolute negation of the whole manner of the *German consciousness in politics and right as practiced* hereto, the most distinguished... of which... is the *speculative philosophy* of right itself... If the speculative philosophy of right, ...was possible only in Germany, inversely the German thought-image of the modern state which makes abstraction of *real man* was possible only because... the modern state itself... satisfies the whole of man only in imagination.” (Karl Marx, Introduction to Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right, 1844)

Applying this to a criticism of the politics not of Germany, but of the SEP, we can see that Marx actually appreciated a *speculative philosophy* over any number of *class-essentialist* or *practical-essentialist* or *vulgar materialist* political philosophers. He preferred an argument over ideal conditions, since these were *essential* in a condition where the modern state, or in our case, the modern party, cannot satisfy or put forward any revolutionary demands, which we hold to be necessary. Assuming a parliamentary side of the revolutionary party exists and is necessary as a method of preparing the working class to take the power, why does it engage the Democratic Party in a debate over speculative philosophy about the nature of the Democratic Party? One side may argue that it cannot become an agent of its own destruction, sell the rope that hangs itself, and the other may argue that it can or even has, but neither can engage in a debate over actual rules or specific guidelines by which the revolutionary movement can be held accountable to its supposed base, the working class or even the intellectual socialist. In that case, one side acts to loosen the rope for the capitalist class while the other holds us back in speculation over whether such a rope could ever be manufactured.

Why does the SEP not present the revolutionary program, contrasting it to the Green New Deal, and prove *to the workers* that, in reality, they need a revolutionary party in order to advance their political interests? The answer, unfortunately, is that the nano-bureaucracy searches to find common ground with the progressive-reformists as partners in servitude to the capitalist state. The refusal to pursue a winnable election and then act within their official capacity as elected officials undermines the entire case for a revolutionary party participating in the elections organized by the capitalist state. The SEP did not even run a candidate opposing Alexandria Ocasio Cortez in congressional elections. The working class uprising in her district might easily be swayed to abandon the Democratic Party in favor of a socialist party just as they turned against Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Cowley in electing her. Perhaps they think there is enough in the Green New Deal to justify allowing AOC to run unchallenged from the left. Perhaps they think AOC herself can be courted and swayed to leave the Democratic

Party, allowing them to form an open alliance with reformism. These wrong-headed positions point to the absolute necessity for the formation of the Democratic Power faction as the real defender of Marxist theory, the foremost and the decisive factor for the development of a revolutionary movement that takes the power in reality.

To develop this point further, we will begin with this quote from Friedrich Engel's Foreword to The Holy Family:

"What we are combating in *Bauer's* criticism is precisely *speculation* reproducing itself as a *caricature*. We see in it the most complete expression of the *Christian-Germanic* principle, which makes its last effort by transforming "*criticism*" itself into a transcendent power."

The "transcendent power" that the SEP imparts to its efforts at criticism of reform reproduces itself as *caricature*. How can the SEP claim to criticize the censorship conducted by the social media giants while it brazenly continues to censor the Democratic Power faction? How can it claim to oppose the censorship and other tactics of the government against Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks, while it supports an unconscionable wall of silence in response to Bertrand Poster, founder of Democratic Power and Random Poster's Press Page? Apparently it found a way, by turning itself into a comedic caricature, one that disregards as unworthy even of criticism critical hard work such as that done to produce this volume while claiming to represent the working class.

In Chapter V of The Holy Family, Marx argues:

"The more completely Critical Criticism (the criticism of the *Literatur-Zeitung*) distorts reality into an obvious comedy through philosophy, the more instructive it is."

The comedy of the SEP criticizing Democratic Power relating Marxism to Christianity while the SEP works openly with Protestant Minister Chris Hedges "distorts reality into an obvious comedy", proving extremely instructive. When will this comedy end? When it reaches some limit to its absurdity? It has already crossed such limits, proving that the end comes only when the SEP nano-bureaucracy confronts its own villainous philosophical weakness by engaging in an open, fair debate, not one moderated indecorously for its own narrow interests.

Also in Chapter V of The Holy Family:

"The ordinary man does not think he is saying anything extraordinary when he states that there are apples and pears. But when the philosopher expresses their existence in the speculative way he says

something *extraordinary*. He performs a *miracle* by producing the real *natural objects*, the apple, the pear, etc., out of the unreal *creation of the mind* ‘the Fruit’, i.e., by *creating* those fruits out of his own *abstract reason*, which he considers as an Absolute Subject outside himself, represented here as ‘the Fruit.’ And in regard to every object the existence of which he expresses, he accomplishes an act of creation.”

“It goes without saying that the speculative philosopher accomplishes this continuous creation only by presenting universally known qualities of the apple, the pear, etc., which exist in reality, as determining features *invented* by him, by giving the *names* of the real things to what abstract reason alone can create, to abstract formulas of reason, finally, by declaring his *own* activity, by which *he passes* from the idea of an apple to the idea of a pear, to be the *self-activity* of the Absolute Subject, “the Fruit.”

This argument serves to correct all the Young Hegelians who argued that by attacking Christianity, they would take away the means by which the ruling class maintained their social position above the working class. Marx sought to save the essence of Christianity, its *theoretical-essentialism*, by separating out its internal flaws without eliminating the fruitful theoretical activity itself. This same flaw exists in the reasoning of the SEP, when they argue that they create the revolutionary position of the working class, and in that way create a miracle, by bringing into being a revolutionary working class through their reasoning. In fact, a revolutionary uprising brought AOC into power as the best alternative to Joe Crowley available in the New York Democratic Primaries of June 26, 2018. The SEP responds by attempting to create a revolutionary uprising, through reason, that would bring them into power. What they will not do, however, is put up a candidate to contest the election in Ocasio-Cortez’s district and offer the workers a real alternative in the November general election. The WWSW writer, “accomplishes this continuous creation,” this continuous revolution, “by declaring his *own* activity, by which *he passes* from the idea of an apple to the idea of a pear,” the idea of a Left-Progressive Democrat to a revolutionary socialist candidate, “to be the *self-activity* of the Absolute Subject, ‘the Fruit,’” the *self-activity* of the Absolute Workers’ Revolution, revolutionary social change. To assume that passing, in criticism, from the idea of one real candidate to the idea of another ideal candidate, actually idles the workers’ revolution and merely defends the position of the nano-bureaucracy as agents of the old republic.

We must place all criticism under a critical eye, for all criticism depends on speculation rather than materialist observation and contemplation. It depends on the critic’s preoccupation with what could have been, and what would have been, had the situation been different in a certain way. In a similar sense, science as a human activity has certain subjective elements, especially with regard to hypotheses that pragmatists use to argue for a division of truth along indefensible lines, a return in fact to idealism

without substance. Science, as a social institution, must set out to solve critical human problems and that theoretical goal serves to provide the criteria by which the scientist will judge the gathered data worthy of recording or discarding. That subjectivity only explains one half of Marxism, which put Pragmatism on the agenda as a break from classical materialism. This Pragmatism had a very specific historical context related to Marx's personal situation, the censorship and the shutting down of his newspaper under the dictatorial rule of the Prussian King Fredrick William IV. Thus, his step into pragmatism did not mean he completely submitted to it. He only argued that, under conditions when no practical activity could find any expression, any practical act producing some, even partial, desired result had not only the simple practical but also deeply theoretical implications that impacted human thought as a whole.

The other side of Marxism, the more consistent and less contextually derived, is its *theoretical-essentialism*, the adherence to the idea of an absolute truth from which all practical activity is an idealistic separation lacking in substance. In the context of the revolutionary socialist movement, this means that all practical actions on the part of the party can only bring harm to the theoretical side of the movement, which holds that socialism is the economic necessity of the working class, and that the working class is the economic necessity of the capitalist system. All party actions, such as courting supporters of AOC and the Squad or promoting protestant ministers that show personal disgust with the leftism of the Democrats, must lead to a serious theoretical action within the party against both the formulations of these elements and their opposites, that is, the passing over from real towards ideal candidates that do not exist, the fault of the party itself for not running them, or to a Puritan leftism that in fact draws from patriarchal utopianism with roots in conservatism or parochialism. The essential message of the nano-bureaucracy to the working class is this: "We know your next move! We know you need socialism! We have conquered and censored socialism, so when you come to it, to your fate, you will be our slaves!" This puts them at odds with socialism, which is the coming to power of the working class itself and for its own interests, forcing the submission of the capitalists and all their political servants. This will require not only brute force, but the ability, trained within the working class, to confront agents of the capitalist class with intelligence and a conviction far greater than that produced by fear, violence, and emotional reaction.

Part I: Disqus Comments After WSWS Correspondence

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [13 comments](#).

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and “bad faith actors”



[a2randomposter33](#) 2 hours ago

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The World Socialist Website acts in "Bad Faith" by attacking the Democratic Party for representing the capitalist class while ignoring the call for the creation of a Democratic Power faction within the SEP. The argument between "class essentialism", the WSWS position, and "race essentialism", the DSA position, actually shows the SEP has taken the same anti-Marxist position as the "progressives" they seek to "criticize." The SEP does not base its analysis on a dialectical understanding of the Democratic Party. It takes the static and formulaic view that the Democratic Party has always represented the same positions and will always stand against all "radical change."

Marxists have always argued that the capitalist system will collapse and radical change will be forced on the population by the representatives of the capitalist class and the capitalist state. The Democratic Party will radically change and this will force the workers into conflict with the state. If the revolutionary media cannot analyze these radical changes, it leaves the workers with no option but to turn to the far right to defend against racist enemies. This does not embarrass the working class as much as the revolutionary leadership who has turned against its own purpose, the elevation of the consciousness of the working class to the level of its revolutionary historical purpose.

As Eric London pointed out, the DSA has come to power basing itself on the ideas of Max Shachtman, an early Trotskyist and member of the Left Opposition and the Fourth International. The WSWS has turned on the positions of Trotskyism, just like Shachtman, standing in the way of the formation of any factions within the Fourth International who argue for the rights of factions and the rights of the membership within the Fourth International. The suppression of the Left Opposition took exactly the

same bureaucratic form as the suppression of Democratic Power by the SEP nano-bureaucracy. The censorship of Democratic Power absolutely falls into the category of "Bad Faith" acts.

Furthermore, the position of Shachtman deserves further attention because it has really inspired the position of Eric London on the Democratic Party. In the same way Eric London argues that the Democratic Party has fixed positions, Shachtman argues that the state capitalists have fixed positions, precluding the dialectical inevitability of the emergence of an opposition or a political revolution. Shachtman also argued that his presence, that is his residence, near the central committee, allowed him to stack the committee and prevent any vote on matters dividing the SWP. Only the calling of a special convention and the demand that Shachtman and his faction abide by its decisions finally convinced him to leave the party, rather than fight within it as a minority faction. The SEP nano-bureaucracy behaves in the same way as the Shachtman faction, suppressing the minority of the committee that actually represents the majority of the international. If it had to fight within the Fourth International as a minority, it would leave to establish its own separate movement. It prevents any vote or public discussion of the issues that divide it from Democratic Power. At the same time, it puts forward Chris Hedges, Jimmy Dore, and pro-Democratic Party professors without taking issue with their opposition to Marxist philosophy.

Trotsky argued that the Soviet Union had established a worker's state with a socialist economic foundation. The Soviet Bureaucracy, which held a "privileged" position within the state, used their privileges to undermine the cause of the international working class in the same way that the "privileged" ICFI bureaucracy undermines the cause of the Fourth International by turning against the revolutionary positions of the Left Opposition. Shachtman argued that the Soviet Bureaucracy actually created a new class, and this new class now had its own interests as "state capitalists." This had two counter-revolutionary implications.

The first meant that the working class no longer had to come to the defense of the Soviet Union when attacked by imperialist powers. This resembles the ICFI position that it has no responsibility to defend Democratic Power or anyone within the Fourth International who has a view contrary to that of the nano-bureaucracy. The nano-bureaucracy must use the state to suppress the views of anyone who counters their arguments.

The second counter-revolutionary implication upholds a view that a new long-term progressive process has begun, allowing state bureaucracies to form that would then move humanity one step closer to socialism. No direct, conscious road to socialism exists and no one can ever dare to set one up. This

position justifies every sort of opportunism and forces the WSWS to turn to the circles of AOC, Bad Faith, and others while abandoning its responsibility to the working class in its struggle to form an independent political organization.

It was AOC's interview with Democratic Left which set off Eric London. Afterwards, it was AOC's defenders who came back to the explosion in the audience that he set off. This back and forth may enlighten some people as to the state's selective security operations, but the real struggle for socialist consciousness depends on building an organization of professional revolutionaries that turn to the working class and encourage their revolutionary actions in the economic and political struggle.

The movement to unseat AOC's establishment primary opponent may have consisted of a working-class opposition to the government, but they themselves had no other option on June 26th, 2018 but AOC to oppose to Joe Crowley, the Chair of the Democratic Party Caucus. She became their choice most importantly for the revolutionary movement, because the SEP itself had rejected Democratic Power in favor of the Nano-Bureaucracy and held off a revolutionary mass movement. Had the SEP appealed to the campaigners and fundraisers who worked for AOC in New York City, the socialist-minded working class, the SEP could have had a formidable party organization that could field candidates for city council, county and state offices, and once they had some footing in local politics enter into national politics on a far stronger foundation. The DSA and other socialist groups went through this process while the SEP fielded illegitimate candidates that could not take office even if they won a majority of the votes.

In the name of defending Julian Assange, opposing censorship, and forming a revolutionary opposition to the Democratic Party, the Democratic Power faction demands the end of its censorship on the commentary section of the WSWS and its recognition as a minority faction within the ICFI. If residence plays any role in membership voting presence on a committee affecting this decision, a special convention should be called.

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

The Suez Canal blockage and the globalization of production



[arandomposter33 3 days ago](#)

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

The WSWS should not rule the possibility that the ship blocked the canal not as a complete accident but for a political purpose.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the canal in 1956. The British, French, and Israeli governments invaded to reclaim the canal from Nasser's government, who responded by blocking the canal. The US and the USSR held back the British, French, and Israeli alliance and recognized Nasser's control of the canal, permanently damaging British imperialism's hard-power influence in foreign relations.

The Taiwanese ship may have blocked the canal as an attempt to force China to reconsider its invasion of the smaller country, which they claim as their territory. The precise reason for the crash may never emerge, but to rule out political causes shows a sharp disregard for the mob rule now governing over the world's most powerful capitals. To call all political analysis a "conspiracy theory" barring outright confessions by the actors involved turns over immense power to the counter-revolution and echoes the agents, like Joseph Hansen, in the ICFT's history that sought to bar investigations along the pretext of calling the investigators "conspiracy theorists". Such an anti-democratic state of affairs cannot stand in the way of justice forever, as economic justice will bring back the demand for political justice in a devastating way.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 6 comments](#)

Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War: Official US propaganda and historical falsification, the game



[arandomposter33](#) [arandomposter33](#) 14 days ago

Note to moderator: Please check why this comment does not appear for other users. It only appears after I log in to my account and hit the sort button.

I have spoken to [Disqus.com](#), and they said that you can solve this problem by putting me on a trusted user list.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33](#) 14 days ago

Video games hold the potential to educate and uplift their players, in the same way that sports can improve health with the downside of exposing them to the risk of injury. The military's intervention into sports and video games harms the population immeasurably and deserves widespread exposure. Both games and sports need to be redesigned by physicians and psychologists to oversee the rules so that they benefit the players and society at large, rather than leave a trail of destruction.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 14 comments

150 years since the birth of Rosa Luxemburg



[arandomposter33 21 days ago](#)

Rosa Luxemburg on the Nationality question:

"Social Democracy, whose political program is based on the scientific method of historical materialism and the class struggle, cannot make an exception with respect to the nationality question. Moreover, it is only by approaching the problem from the standpoint of scientific socialism that the politics of Social Democracy will offer a solution which is essentially uniform, even though the program must take into account the wide variety of forms of the nationality question arising from the social, historical, and ethnic diversity of the Russian empire."

She emphasizes the essentially uniform nature of the solution to the nationality question. Further on, she quotes favorably the Austrian Social Democratic Party as opposed to the Russian Social Democratic Party, which states in its nationality program adopted in 1899:

"The nurturing and development of the national peculiarities of all peoples in Austria are possible only on the basis of equal rights and the removal of oppression. Therefore, state-bureaucratic centralism and the feudal privileges of the principalities must be opposed."

Encouraging national peculiarities means finding chauvinism, and suppressing them means giving in to chauvinism. She points out that other aspects of the Bolshevik program would have been sufficient to protect smaller nationalities and ethnicities while stating that they were the only party in Social Democracy to pass a resolution on the right to national self determination. They were also the only party to succeed in overthrowing imperialism both during the World War or after.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 22 days ago](#)

"For Lenin, the primary concern was the struggle against Great Russian chauvinism. For Luxemburg, it was the fight against Polish nationalism."

These opinions should not be blamed on Lenin or Luxemburg, as they are only perversions of their theories. Lenin argued that the struggle against chauvinism was the job every revolutionary, not all against the Tsar but against their own government, depending on their national origin since many lived abroad. Luxemburg argued only that the leaders of nationalism often times had bourgeois political programs and that the working class must see both bourgeois nationalist and bourgeois conservative as class enemies, with whom they could not find common cause. Lenin differentiated between the leaders of nationalism and the actual program of national self-determination, supporting the latter and opposing the former. Lenin alone had seen the importance of a socialist political program and Marxist theory as the only reliable foundations for a revolutionary party that provides effective leadership for the working class.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 a month ago](#)

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

1. When Luxemburg advocated for a political general strike, the trade union bureaucrats banned her from speaking at meetings. The trade union bureaucracy acted in its own interests, as does the nano-bureaucracy of the WSW. John Scully, former CEO of Apple runs [Disqus.com](#), which WSW uses to censor the Democratic Power faction. The revolutionary movement must learn from history and establish firm rules to protect the rights of the membership from nano-bureaucracy, censorship, and banning from committee-meetings.

2. Lenin defended the rights of smaller nations, but Luxemburg didn't. She did, however, risk her personal freedom to participate in the 1905 revolution in her native Poland. The WSW will not risk participation when the main enemy, in her time Tsarism, in our time the US government, has as its revolutionary opponent a foreign country seeking independence. The parties of various bourgeois republics have deep ties to the capitalist state centered in Washington DC. Nationalist movements that turn against US power must fight to the death or face long prison sentences, such as the winners of

popular elections in Catalonia and Egypt or Puerto Rican separatists. Only the coming to power of the working class can defend the lives of and free such leaders.

3. “By the 1990s at the latest, the demand for the right of nations to self-determination lost all progressive and democratic significance.”

Arguments about Yugoslavia do not cover the entirety of the nationalist question. Palestinian nationalism, the Arab spring, Catalan separatism and opposition to the Spanish monarchy, and Hong Kong separatism posing the need for a political revolution against Stalinism have all played a progressive

role since the 1990s. These may have contributed to the growth of the FI if these mass movements had support within the Fourth International. This could have produced great leaders such Rosa Luxemburg who arose out of the extremely explosive rise of Polish nationalism. Furthermore, her opposition to nationalism meant opposition to chauvinism and more importantly an opposition to all the parties of the bourgeoisie and their opportunist allies. Opposition to Tsarism did not mean support for the suppression of Polish language or culture, which created the foundations for the Marxism of Luxemburg.

4. Rosa Luxemburg’s late support for a division from the opportunists and the formation of Communist party had significant implications. Lenin, in advocating the creation of a Bolshevik Party proved the need as early as 1903 and further cemented the proof with arguments about the behavior of Mensheviks during the 1905 revolution. His arguments were not abstract proofs about political programs but an argument about the timing of political arguments in relation to the popular will of the masses. Lenin sought to criticize the popular mood so as to protect the workers from traps while defending them from the attempts to disarm them. The actions of Plekhanov proved that the Mensheviks could use populist sloganeering without providing critical leadership to the workers and in fact sabotage their political independence, the source of their power. Had Luxemburg and Trotsky appreciated this great advance for socialist theory, they could have initiated open breaks with opportunism 10 years sooner, making possible a less hurried, more patient approach to forming the party. The hurried late construction of the Fourth International under conditions of domestically stabilized and expanding fascism and then World War II proved inadequate in very much the same way as the late and hurried construction of Luxemburg’s KPD.

5. A more apt comparison than that Luxemburg and Lenin, who had the advantage of radical Russian literature in his upbringing and the sacrifices of many misguided terrorists, would be that between Rosa Luxemburg and Sylvia Pankhurst, who also had a public dispute between Lenin over the Labor Party. This time, Lenin advocated unity with the Labor Party in the UK, in contradiction of his own theory.

This led Pankhurst, leader of the British Communists, editor of the Workers' Dreadnaught, and voting delegate to the Second Congress, to call for the formation of the Fourth International as early as 1921. Had Lenin applied his theory to the British situation or had Trotsky united his Left Opposition with Pankhurst's movement, she would not have faced the isolation and destruction of her movement. This would have brought forward the formation of the Fourth International seventeen years, in line with the Bolsheviks' formation fourteen years before the revolution. An earlier start would have prevented the hurried and chaotic formation forced upon Trotsky and Luxemburg under extremely repressive circumstances. Over 100 years later, similar delays should be unforgivable.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 49 comments](#)

Facebook censors WSWS article exposing “Wuhan lab” conspiracy theory



[arandomposter33 Carolyn Zaremba a month ago](#)

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The ban on posts from Democratic Power on the WSWS, blamed entirely on a Disqus algorithm, presents socialists with an urgent problem. How can socialists combat censorship with leaders who do not take a strong stance against the censorship of their own movement? Socialists who take the principles of the Fourth International seriously cannot accept leaders that do not actually oppose censorship. Their weakness makes them a very risky liability as leaders of a movement that must stand united against censorship.



[arandomposter33 OL a month ago](#)

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This seems to be the only defense of the WSWS decision to censor Democratic Power while shifting blame on to Disqus. We cannot accept the absence of an appeals process for moderation decisions and the absence of any public front page apologies when the facts prove that abuse of moderation privileges in fact led to censorship of opposition views. Without a commitment from the party to democracy for its membership, what hope does it have in a struggle for democracy against the power of large corporations? This internal weakness sabotages the struggle of the socialist movement to combat censorship, precisely when the threat is greatest.



[arandomposter33 Ledson a month ago](#)

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The WSWS and Disqus have participated in upholding the same censorship regime they hypocritically criticize. The WSWS must publicly apologize for its censorship of the Democratic Power faction.



[arandomposter33 Carlos Delgado a month ago](#)

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Reading this comment convinces me that a very urgent and strong campaign must confront the WSWS over its censorship of Democratic Power. The WSWS goes on carelessly blaming Disqus algorithms. My response to the "censored" article has been censored by the WSWS. Not only should the WSWS restore the comment, it should also issue a public apology for allowing its censorship of Democratic Power to go on for so long.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 48 comments](#)

Washington Post's "Wuhan Lab" conspiracy theory stands exposed



[arandomposter33 a month ago](#)

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The writer quotes as its authority, "National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci," who declared, "A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species."

Dr. Fauci, appointed to his position during the Reagan Administration, is one of the highest paid federal government employees in the U.S. earning more than the vice president or the chief justice. A royal of sorts, holding his position for 37 years, his scientific opinion represents just that, an opinion.

Marx dealt with a similar problem when he confronted the Hegelians, especially the Left or Young Hegelians. In the German Ideology, he explained that the ruling class had control over the economic levers of society and this gave them power over the dominant ideology while suppressing the ideas of the servant, peasant, or working classes. The Left Hegelians, like the writer of the article, sought to bring about liberal reforms, increased freedom and a more responsive authority, but they did this through attacks on religion, Christianity and the Catholic Church especially, as the source of the power of the ruling class. If they could convince the people to abandon Christianity, then the ruling class would lose all its influence.

Marx broke from this type of thinking and in that way saved the essence of Hegel's philosophy from the vulgar materialism of the Young Hegelians. In doing so, Marx stood up to the pre-eminent Faucis of his day in the field of philosophy. Rather than accept the US Department of Health or the UN's World Health Organization as bearers of the highest truth and greatest ideal, as Hegel's followers would do, Marx would expose them to an even more thorough criticism as the representatives of the various competing ruling classes. This led him not towards an acceptance of Christian values but an appreciation of their contribution to human progress. Virology and the study of infectious diseases

might certainly have brought progress in controlling certain diseases, but under the control of the ruling class, this study had always the end of defending and perpetuating their rule.

As Marx wrote in the German Ideology:

"The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are subject to it."

Marx states very clearly here that those who lack the means to produce peer-reviewed scientific papers must be subject to those who do. If we merely accept this ruling intellectual force, we must also accept the ruling material force, and furthermore the armed forces of the police and military. Every one of their decisions must also then receive our support since we cannot prove in their courts, laboratories, and publications that they are wrong, since those means of mental production belong to them.

In the next statement, Marx explains the inner weakness or emptiness of this intellectual force:

"The ruling ideas are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relationships, the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas; hence of the relationships which make the one class the ruling one, therefore, the ideas of its dominance."

The ruling ideas are only the ideas which grasp their own dominance. They do not represent material discoveries about the external world but the continuous reaffirmation of their own power. To a revolutionary, this must immediately appear dull and tiresome. To fight with their ideas or to accept them blindly both lead to a New Hegelian idealism which overlooks their material interests as a ruling class.



[arandomposter33 a month ago](#)

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The writer quotes as its authority, "National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci," who declared, "A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that

everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.”

Dr. Fauci, appointed to his position during the Reagan Administration, is one of the highest paid federal government employees in the U.S. earning more than the vice president or the chief justice. A royal of sorts, holding his position for 37 years, his scientific opinion represents just that, an opinion.

Marx dealt with a similar problem when he confronted the Hegelians, especially the Left or Young Hegelians. In the German Ideology, he explained that the ruling class had control over the economic levers of society and this gave them power over the dominant ideology while suppressing the ideas of the servant, peasant, or working classes. The Left Hegelians, like the writer of the article, sought to bring about liberal reforms, increased freedom and a more responsive authority, but they did this through attacks on religion, Christianity and the Catholic Church especially, as the source of the power of the ruling class. If they could convince the people to abandon Christianity, then the ruling class would lose all its influence.

Marx broke from this type of thinking and in that way saved the essence of Hegel's philosophy from the vulgar materialism of the Young Hegelians. In doing so, Marx stood up to the pre-eminent Faucis of his day in the field of philosophy. Rather than accept the US Department of Health or the UN's World Health Organization as bearers of the highest truth and greatest ideal, as Hegel's followers would do, Marx would expose them to an even more thorough criticism as the representatives of the various competing ruling classes. This led him not towards an acceptance of Christian values but an appreciation of their contribution to human progress. Virology and the study of infectious diseases might certainly have brought progress in controlling certain diseases, but under the control of the ruling class, this study had always the end of defending and perpetuating their rule.

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Fauci's NIAID and the US Department of Health bear enormous responsibility for the death toll of the virus, but from their point of view the virus, its jumping species, must appear entirely natural. The deaths must kill many retirees freeing the upper class of their pension obligations, and it must act as a silent killer which can stalk any community with impunity. This must naturally occur to keep their natural position above the masses, who must accept this punishment for their excessive freedom and their rebellious affirmations of self-worth.

However a New Hegelian submission to the material forces of society will also submit to the material force of the revolutionary proletariat. The Marxist ideology will surpass the old German ideology as a more dominant intellectual force. This represents in thought the rising tide of a proletarian revolution. The revolutionary movement must dismiss the false claims of the establishment, the ruling class, and all its enviable and yet empty intellectual force.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 31 comments](#)

Half a million dead in the US from coronavirus pandemic: Catastrophe, crime and historical turning point



[arandomposter33 a month ago](#)

The ICFI has begun to promote a new form of Marxist economics in its analysis of the coronavirus pandemic. The Marxism of Karl Marx argued that exchange values could only be determined at the moment of exchange. The WSWS has reversed this, arguing that exchange values arose during the production process. These mistakes ignore much of what Marx wrote in Capital Vol. 1, where Marx spends many chapters arguing that the profit comes from the proportion of production, or the working day, taken by the capitalists or given to the workers in the form of wages. A lockdown, a break in production, would not alter this proportion! Profit is not produced through production, an essentially pro-capitalist argument, but through exploitation, through the taking of a proportion of the labor without pay.

This basic mistake leads to a far greater mis-estimation of the political strategy of the capitalist class, which involves directing the force of its state into a violent assault on the working class combined with a strategy of confusion. Appeals to the democratic sentiments of the big bourgeoisie or the middle class disorients the workers and leaves them politically disarmed to fight the counter-revolution, the reaction, the brutal state of the ruling class. The ruling class benefits immeasurably from the lackadaisical attitude of the WSWS towards Marxist analysis. The response to the virus, and the origins and outbreak of the virus are inseparable. The WHO, an agency of the UN, the den of thieves, does not stand for medical science but for its submission to imperialist strategy. The US working class must recognize the grave dangers it faces and confront them both amassed together and armed for victory.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 imaduwa a month ago](#)

The SEP cannot make the same mistake it did in the split with the OCI. The working class revolution lost immeasurable force when the ICFI betrayed the principles of Leninism in order to stifle discussion on behalf of the nano-bureaucracy. In like manner, the ICFI today parrots Joseph Hansen and his accusations of "conspiracy theories" every time a Marxist political opinion threatens to spark discussion on the burning questions. Democratic Power demands the right to participate in the newly formed committees and the right to the production and distribution of a newsletter to ICFI members.

Moderation of comments and administration of meetings must submit to an appeals process that takes up decisions before a body of peers. All claims to represent due process come at a cost, the requirement to provide due process to the membership of the party.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 45 comments

Washington's Wuhan laboratory lie



[arandomposter33](#) [gooddoctor](#) a month ago

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

This slanders the American working class as the real force behind the war on China. The US ruling class and the Chinese ruling class, even as opponents in war do not act as real enemies. The US, even after it used nuclear bombs on the Japanese working class in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, defended the government of the Emperor of Japan. Only someone who has completely turned against Marxism in support of petty-bourgeois liberalism would argue that the US workers now hate Chinese workers and that leads us into a US-China war! This nonsense only serves to disguise a secret hate for the working class in general and the American working class in particular. They hate the workers for rejecting them, when the workers only reject petty-bourgeois liberalism!



[arandomposter33](#) a month ago

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The decision to call all science regarding the origin of the Covid-19 "conspiracy theory" represents a complete capitulation to petty-bourgeois liberalism. In the run up to the Iraq War, the UN sent weapons inspectors into Iraq. The US made its arguments for war before the UN Security Council, which while showing some hesitation, backed the US war. The WHO is a UN agency!

The WSWS and the SEP have completely given up on the Marxist analysis of the state. The state does not represent an impartial arbiter but the defender of the interests of the ruling class. Society is divided into classes, depending on their relation to the means of production. Under capitalism, the means of production are owned by the capitalists and the working class must submit to capitalist rule. The state does not mediate between the two classes as equals. It sides with the capitalist class.

The WHO does not seek to provide the workers with science they need to combat the virus. It only seeks to exculpate the state using "scientists" that serve the same people that appointed them to their positions. The WHO delegation to Wuhan did not in the slightest represent a free investigation into the origins of the virus. It sought to provide legal cover for every imperialist government to use secret weapons as part of its war for territory and capital. As a result of this "investigation", ever more powerful weapons, including nuclear weapons, will destroy millions of lives without any serious scientific investigation as to the root causes of the conflict. Any politicized investigation into the use of nuclear weapons by the great powers will only include scientists vetted by the political establishment as means of covering up the assault as an act of self-defense or the result of a misunderstanding.

Marxism has always categorized imperialism as a higher stage of capitalism. As with all capitalism, an economy such as China's, based on capitalist production, will always compensate the workers with payments worth less than the value of the products of their labor. The difference between these values constitutes surplus value on the micro scale and excess capital or under-consumption on the macro scale. The excess capital goes towards competition with other imperialist states for the domination of markets using cheaper goods. China produces an enormous amount of excess capital, but it cannot export the capital while the US imposes tariffs and sanctions on it and its allies or trade partners. This forces, through economic coercion, a Chinese assault to capture markets. The US can then take the defensive position by fighting China.

As Trotskyists, the SEP should defend China from US imperialism but should not defend Chinese imperialism against weaker countries. Trotsky himself advocated that the American working class join the US military to fight Hitler in WWII as the greatest threat to international working class. The US, even then, had a larger economy and military than Germany. Germany, however, attempted to even the score with England, France, Russia and the US, the allied powers from WWI. Germany represented the aggressor and the fascist threat under the rule of the Nazi Party. The SEP, therefore, as a Trotskyist party, must analyze the Chinese government not as foil to America in imperialist politics but as a potential aggressor that does not deserve unqualified support and defense from the international working class. The political propaganda of the WHO or UN investigation, therefore, should meet with

far greater scrutiny, in line with the position of the WSWS towards the UN Security Council in the run-up to the Iraq War.

P.S. This message is not spam. To mark it as such undermines the WSWS's entire campaign against internet censorship as hypocrisy. The WSWS uses the same arguments as Google and Facebook, "This is a third-party algorithm beyond our control," or, "This is WSWS private property, which allows the WSWS to suppress discussion any way it chooses." Both of those arguments do not "stand the test of Truth and Reason."

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

Protests erupt as Spanish Socialist Party-Podemos regime jails rapper Pablo Hasél



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

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

Free Pablo Hasel! We won't forget the complicity of the parties in power! The mobilization of the masses must continue until the capital is saved from fascism and taken by the revolution!

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 32 comments](#)

Democratic cowardice leaves Trump's Republican conspirators unscathed



[arandomposter33 solerso 2 months ago](#)

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I don't know why this comment was blocked as spam:

The WSWS should have said from the beginning that the Democrats had no interest in punishing the coup attempt. Biden himself, as Vice-President under Obama, participated in the coup in the Ukraine that elevated fascists and Neo-nazis sympathizers to power. He would be guilty of the same crime as Trump if Trump were convicted.

The 2016 election met with the long first impeachment of Trump from the beginning, seeking to overturn the 2016 elections on the pretext of "Russian interference". They had no interest in protecting the right to vote but instead sought to fight American democracy and drive the US to war with Russia. Trump won the vote through populist appeals to fight the Washington DC establishment and promises to put Hillary Clinton in prison. In this way, he won the 2016 election. They saw his populism as a threat to the oligarchy and the imperialist strategy and for this reason proceeded with an impeachment that sought to de-legitimize the entire American electoral process.

The accusations of the WSWS against the Democrats do not address any of the facts but merely state that the Democrats "could have" done a better job in prosecuting the crime. The fact is, even if Trump had been convicted by the Senate, he would not have gone to prison! He would have been barred from holding office and nothing more! That is not conjecture but fact.

The WSWS position offers a dangerous concession to reformism in that it builds illusions in the Democrats. This follows in line with their joint appearances at the side of Chris Hedges (who opposed Biden for "personal" not solid political reasons) and Jimmy Dore (who lead an effort to convince Democratic Congressmen to vote against Nancy Pelosi for House Speaker). The WSWS must reverse course and warn from the beginning that no trial of Trump organized by Democrats will bring justice or a return to democratic forms of rule. The moves by Trump follow along with the moves by Obama, Clinton, and other leading Democrats who committed crimes against the Constitution and the American people in the service of war and empire.

The move towards temporary or conditional support for certain Democrats represents a shift towards Economism, which revises Marxism so as to remove the active subjective intervention of a revolutionary movement.

Economism argues that the economic conditions under capitalism will create a revolutionary movement and socialist class consciousness spontaneously. Lenin had to fight this tendency within the Bolshevik party in order to restore Marxist theory to the revolutionary party. Economism argued that revolutionaries had nothing to do, that no tasks

remained for the revolutionary. Lenin's position restored the party to its active and participatory role, elevating class consciousness among the workers in Russia to the point where they could fight as an independent class for their own interests. Ignoring this history for the chance to appear alongside TV show hosts and comedians will do more to lull the workers into inactivity when the danger from fascism is at its greatest height.



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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 14 comments](#)

Impeachment video reveals scale and intensity of Trump-incited assault on Capitol



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

1. "The Democrats, terrified of doing anything that would encourage popular opposition from below, would have tried to reach some agreement in the name of 'unity' and 'bipartisanship.'"

The Democrats themselves sought to override the 2016 election after Trump's victory. They spent his entire term trying to remove him from power as part of their Russia-Gate war-strategy against Russia rather than a defense of the democratic rights and economic well-being of the working class. The Democrats do not seek 'unity' except in the sense that they want to suppress opposition to war and capitalism.

2. "To the extent that the Democrats are focused on convincing their fascist "colleagues" in the Republican Party to join with them in a bipartisan vote for impeachment, they are avoiding what should be the main purpose of the proceedings: the comprehensive exposure of all critical aspects of the conspiracy, above all, who were its organizers, who participated in one or another level in its planning, and what its objectives were. The proceedings should be aimed at uncovering the facts that clear the path, whatever the outcome of the Senate vote, for the arrest and criminal prosecution of Trump and all his co-conspirators."

The Democrats do not support an exposure but a scape-goating of Trump so as to proceed with the same policies of the Trump administration. The new impeachment, like the old one, will not suddenly take up the people's interests or a socialist program. It does not aim to expose the corruption at the heart of American democracy. The Democrats, seeking "bipartisanship" and "unity", in seeking such unity expose themselves as co-conspirators. To them, Trump is the fall guy who they can exonerate or pardon later. He accepts responsibility, and the mystery is solved.

The truth is, any insurrection, including a revolutionary one, would have to confront the far right and the police state. The far right can control the insurrection because they take leadership positions or shout their slogans. They seek to move ahead of the people rather than trail them. The people must rebel with whatever leaders they have as insurrection forces itself upon them, and they must confront the state over the terrible conditions caused by economic policies and war policies that seek to destroy the accumulated wealth of society in order to increase the rate of profit on new investments.

The point of a revolutionary party is not to tell the Democrats their responsibilities but prepare the people for a direct confrontation with the state. The people need to hear that these prosecutions will never occur without the formation of a revolutionary government led by a revolutionary party with a socialist program. In addition, isolated elements within the military and members of militias require leadership as well so that they can see their struggle as dependent on the struggle of the working class

as a whole. The criminality in the capitol is not the cause of their hardship but a symptom of the greater decline of capitalism and imperialism. To these ideological underpinnings of social cohesion, the revolutionary party must counter-pose a socialist internationalism that can end war and attack the social roots of crime, systematic bourgeois state terror, and other threats to security and peaceful order.

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

Outpouring of international support for Chicago educators' fight to save lives



[arandomposter33](#) [2 months ago](#)

Thanks to the Committee, the workers will have an option to fight the union bureaucracy and the state. Once they take a stand on safety during the pandemic, they can connect that stand to an opposition to the entire capitalist educational system. The "public" schools spend an enormous amount on private companies at the expense of children and their families. At the end of the highly competitive process, they have no guarantee of jobs or income even after they have trained to provide marketable skills. All companies contracting out to public education must come under the control of the teachers committees as well to ensure that the money earmarked for education actually reaches teachers and students. A full employment program should match graduating students with guaranteed work for all or provide a universal income when they cannot provide jobs. High school drop outs should receive stipends while they finish their schooling.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [22 comments](#)

Sylvia Ageloff and the assassination of Leon Trotsky



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

Thank you for reminding everyone that Hansen and other agents silenced opposition and endangered the revolutionary movement with accusations of "paranoia." I experienced similar treatment both during my participation, leading to suspension of my membership, and in a recent letter from the WSWS. When calling for an investigation and discussion over a specific issue related also to counter-revolutionary violence, I received a reply accusing me of attempting to line the party up behind "conspiracy theories." The same accusations could end up being leveled against Eric London for writing the above article. The party needs to learn from its history and create a procedure for appealing functionary decisions in order to bring matters to discussion among the general membership. Anything else would endanger the revolution while forcing it to look elsewhere for leadership and costing it the tempo in the race against fascism.

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

Chicago educators organize independent opposition to teacher union's plans to reopen schools



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

The fight for science depends on the committees recognizing the biological violence of the virus as reactionary rather than "homicidal", political rather than profit-driven. The WSWS makes a critical error in suppressing the science investigating the origins of the virus. The Chinese government has arrested journalists and impeded the work of WHO scientists who sought a scientific investigation into

the origins of the virus. To call the WHO a conspiracy-theorist organization plays into the hands of fascist forces who want to regularize violence against the working class. If anything, they should remain under suspicion as agents of a cover-up to hide the secret weapons of the ruling class. To call the violence profit-driven ignores the position of the capitalist class as a ruling class and builds the myth of a classless society in America.

A working class revolution must not accept excuses for the violence of the ruling class. It must open the eyes of the workers so that they can see the truth which the ruling class conceals from them through the denial of the right to free speech and freedom of association. Only the working class can take up these issues and fight for their own own liberation. The revolutionary party's nano-bureaucracy must allow them to take this road, or it stands as a lethal obstacle in the way of the development of revolutionary class consciousness.

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

The contradictions of capitalism emerge amid the race to develop a COVID-19 vaccine



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

This article contains stunning admissions that contradict the witch-hunt and censorship supported by the WSWS against anyone calling for an investigation of the laboratory origins of the virus.

As described in the New York Times, “Moderna and other companies created platforms that work like the operating system on a computer, allowing researchers to quickly insert a new genetic code from a virus—like adding an app—and create a new vaccine.” This means that by providing a person with the appropriately constructed genetic material, their cells can take these “synthetic genetic codes” and translate them into harmless mimic viral proteins that will stimulate their immune system and generate antibodies to protect them against the real pathogen.

The repeated and nonsensical argument of the WSWS, that the US government is "homicidal", explains nothing. Homicide means the killing of one human being by another. The government's policy amounts to a war policy, not a homicide. It seeks to spread biological violence against the workers by crowding them into workplaces without protections. It also seeks to blame China for the virus while hiding its own role in developing biological weapons. Admitting this science exists cuts deeply through the WSWS line that any suspicion must be witch-hunted out.

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As educators continue to resist, Chicago Teachers Union and district move closer to deal to reopen schools



[arandomposter33](#) [2 months ago](#)

The Chicago Teacher's Committee should protect itself from factional tyranny, the internal representation of the reaction within the revolutionary movement. The ruling class wants to crush the working class with the virus, domestic spying, and police brutality. The workers must respond with biosecurity, defense of democratic rights, and the break up of the violent state through armed insurrection. We should not allow moderatorship to get in the way of leadership.

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YouTube personality Jimmy Dore promotes fascist Boogaloo Boy



[arandomposter33](#) [Stuart Estrine](#) [2 months ago](#)

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I would rate the interview as a success for the WSWS, bringing in 144,000 views. Dore argued that White's refusal to argue with the Boogaloo Boy represented the reason for the failure of the left. In fact, White's decision points the way forward. The capitalists, especially when organizing for Nazism and the far right, use gangsters. Dore's argument that a gangster can demand an argument with a leader and then play dumb so as to threaten the leader over his positions, that argument actually threatens the left more than any other. Every group has a right to address messages to who they want and not to address their messages to anyone that they refuse to associate with.

The major point that Dore made had to do with left and right politics unifying according to class. He argued that the leftist leader must argue with the ordinary worker who happens to be right wing. His guest "Magnus" no longer classifies as an ordinary worker because of his record of participation in the Boogaloo Boy group. His personal situation, while difficult, remains separate from his political decisions. Can White demand an audience with any rich leftist? So why does he have to speak with a poor right winger? This seems like an unnecessary danger and something that would provide only entertainment value due to the potential for a fight. If you look at the death threats made by some members of Congress against others, you can see that these are real threats even at the top.

The final point also has to be mentioned, while it has less to do with the direct threat. Unity for the workers does not represent an end in itself. If the unity depends on them submitting to tyranny, then that unity will hurt them far more as an imposed conformity. They do not have a pro-worker left, even of the reformist sort found throughout Europe, because their leaders always find cause for unity with the right or with the capitalists and put off the priority of the workers' demands that correspond to their experience and their economic position. If the workers want power, they must reject every group that attempts to unify and find common positions with the capitalist class.

This struggle for organizational independence will determine what demands emerge and what actions they bring with them. In the end, those demands will require scientific precision to unite the workers struggle with other poor and oppressed

classes and sections of the population as well as oppressed nations.

This is not to abandon their struggle but to cement their position as the rightful new ruling class with a legitimate party capable of maintaining a political balance between these other opposed groups.



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[arandomposter33 Stuart Estrine 2 months ago](#)

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I would rate the interview as a success for the WSWS, bringing in 144,000 views. Dore argued that White's refusal to argue with the Boogaloo Boy represented the reason for the failure of the left. In fact, White's decision points the way forward. The capitalists, especially when organizing for Nazism and the far right, use gangsters. Dore's argument that a gangster can demand an argument with a leader and then play dumb so as to threaten the leader over his positions, that argument actually threatens the left more than any other. Every group has a right to address messages to who they want and not to address their messages to anyone that they refuse to associate with.

The major point that Dore made had to do with left and right politics unifying according to class. He argued that the leftist leader must argue with the ordinary worker who happens to be right wing. His guest "Magnus" no longer classifies as an ordinary worker because of his record of participation in the Boogaloo Boy group. His personal situation, while difficult, remains separate from his political decisions. Can White demand an audience with any rich leftist? So why does he have to speak with a poor right winger? This seems like an unnecessary danger and something that would provide only entertainment value due to the potential for a fight. If you look at the death threats made by some members of Congress against others, you can see that these are real threats even at the top.

The final point also has to be mentioned, while it has less to do with the direct threat. Unity for the workers does not represent an end in itself. If the unity depends on them submitting to tyranny, then

that unity will hurt them far more as an imposed conformity. They do not have a pro-worker left, even of the reformist sort found throughout Europe, because their leaders always find cause for unity with the right or with the capitalists and put off the priority of the workers' demands that correspond to their experience and their economic position. If the workers want power, they must reject every group that attempts to unify and find common positions with the capitalist class.

This struggle for organizational independence will determine what demands emerge and what actions they bring with them. In the end, those demands will require scientific precision to unite the workers struggle with other poor and oppressed classes and sections of the population as well as oppressed nations. This is not to abandon their struggle but to cement their position as the rightful new ruling class with a legitimate party capable of maintaining a political balance between these other opposed groups.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 0 comments](#)

Educators Rank-and-File Safety Committee meets as Democrats push to restart in-person classes in Chicago and other cities



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

I tried to attend one of these meetings on Webinar, and I don't know if I was forced out by a moderator or the program had a bug. I could not participate. Does anyone have any information about this?

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 2 comments](#)

Facebook CEO Zuckerberg says company will “depoliticize” its News Feed



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

Disqus, owned by Zeta Global, which was founded by former Apple CEO John Sculley, also participates in censorship. How much of the censorship is automated and how much controlled by abusive moderation, we cannot say.

Facebook recently announced an FOB, an Oversight Board, which reversed a number of account shut downs. The board lacks independence, so Facebook will appoint the members and control their salary. An independent board calling itself the Real FOB, quoted by the media, will not have any binding authority on Facebook Moderation Policy.

Disqus does not present any moderation policy to protect against abuse of moderation privileges. Maybe they will follow Facebook and establish a board of their own. The party should take leadership on this issue by establishing a moderation policy for its discussions and an appeals board that can overturn moderation decisions in a timely manner. This should also apply to denial of access at Rank-and-File Committee Meetings.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 12 comments](#)

Wall Street falls amid GameStop frenzy



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

The hoarding of financial capital by the rich prevents the economy from working properly. The only solution will depend on the full registry of all accounts and financial assets and the confiscation of anything beyond a certain personal maximum wealth cap, such as \$20 million. The financial capital exists to fund full employment at \$22 per hour, free higher education, free healthcare, free and immediate low-income housing, and assistance for the poor, retired, and disabled, combined with open borders and unlimited immigration. The hoarding of the capital prevents these measures from coming into force, leading to various schemes to inflate prices and encourage speculation. The money spent on these over-priced stocks should move into government accounts to meet vital social needs.

Also, the fed funding of stock prices also funds a flow of capital into the country, allowing it to finance a large trade deficit. When the dollar falls, this trade deficit will remain in dollars, now devalued. This will spread the pain of collapsing capitalism throughout the world in the form of lost assets and the destruction of their export market by vulture capital.

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

Spain's defence chief resigns amid mounting anger over COVID-19 vaccine theft



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

They should release the list, since the vaccination should follow a procedure. Without procedure, shortages would follow, the second vaccination would not arrive on schedule, and line-cutting could lead to worse forms of competition, such as the physical destruction of the vaccines when they cannot control their distribution. Spain would not end up leaderless if leaders had to wait for their vaccine. If waiting could not be expected, then the state encourages a breakdown into anarchy. Then they accuse the revolution of the same thing. The government can't wait like everyone, but the revolution can.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 0 comments](#)

Democratic Party pursues the deadly policy of herd immunity



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

According to Marx in Capital, the idling of machines reduces profits in only two ways, since wages have already been paid while work cannot go on or while investment in fixed capital has produced the most efficient production methods. In every other case, idling old machines would increase profits as would idling machines in order to starve the workers so that when they returned they would accept lower wages.

To argue that destroying or idling machines improves the conditions of the workers ignores two obvious facts. One, that Marxists stand opposed to the Luddites who would destroy the machines to prevent their use with labor. Two, the shutting down of machines would reduce the wages paid to the workers as well as their purchasing power, since fewer goods would be produced while they could not claim wages. The Luddite WWS position cannot remain in place. It protects and provokes the capitalist class to engage in its own reverse-Luddite violence against the workers.

In fact, the capitalists could easily shut down machines and increase their profits. This happens regularly in the form of shutdowns during labor disputes. If the workers don't accept lower wages, the employer shuts down the factory, reduces wages to zero, and waits for them to give up and return at the lower rate.

The fact remains, then, that the capitalists do not want to use the pandemic to increase their profits. They instead plan to cause immense harm to the workers through the deliberate exposure of the people to the virus. This would facilitate the use of increasingly open violence to further the counter-revolution's strategy against rising revolutionary sentiment, evidenced by the growth in popularity of Bernie Sanders and Alexandra Occasio-Cortez as well as the World Socialist Website. To combat counter-revolutionary violence requires first the acceptance of its existence and its receiving both secretive and open support from within the state.

The WWS seems to agree with Malthus and his cothinkers, who Marx excoriated for substituting abstinence for Capital. As if Capital only comes from the abstinence of the capitalist class. This absurd

view will push the WSWWS into defending capitalists for their abstinence and then capitalism for its insurmountable strength and morality. The capitalists do not gain more profit from abstaining to consume but rather from extracting the most surplus value from the workers. This means they pay the workers less than they produce in exchange. That difference does not multiply over time. It comes about through definite agreements between labor and capital, which depends on capital's ability to shut down production, reducing wages to zero, and waiting for the workers to return starving and willing to work at a lower rate. The capitalists do not abstain by shutting down production, they abstain by keeping it going. This means consuming less and investing more. It leads to less profit but a greater degree of force to use in breaking up the workers' movement towards socialism.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 15 comments](#)

A politically motivated smear: Canada's Globe and Mail blames "Marxists" for discredited racist 1619 Project



[arandomposter33 2 months ago](#)

'Confederation, the unification of the colonies of British North America in 1867, was not a popular movement animated by democratic principles, but a business deal put together by colonial politicians, railway promoters, bankers and the British government. A key object was the annexation of what is today Western Canada, the dispossession of the native peoples, and the destruction of their communal property relations. Like the leaders of the British Empire in London who plotted to extend diplomatic recognition to the insurrectionist Confederate States of America, Canada's Fathers of Confederation had hoped that the slaveocracy would prevail in the American Civil War.'

The expansion of Canada into the West had a parallel in the "revolutionary" United States. Lincoln referred to Native Americans as Indians and Half-breeds, while Generals Grant and Sherman sought their extermination through the elimination of their food supply. This did not originate in a racist world outlook, however. These positions arose from Lincoln's devoted service to the industrialists and financiers of Northern capitalism. As a state legislator in Illinois, he supported Whig Party Leader

Henry Clay's American Colonization Society. This meant support for Clay as a slave owner and furthermore an opponent to any immediate abolition of slavery. It had to occur gradually and in combination with expatriation, their forced relocation back to Africa. This forced removal would be so expensive as to be impossible, and therefore slavery had to, unfortunately, continue forever. The Nazis had similar plans to forcibly move all the Jews out of Europe. He wrote in his eulogy of Clay:

"Those who would shiver into fragments the Union of these States; tear to tatters its now venerated constitution; and even burn the last copy of the Bible, rather than slavery should continue a single hour, together with all their more halting sympathisers, have received, and are receiving their just execration; and the name, and opinions, and influence of Mr. Clay, are fully, and, as I trust, effectually and enduringly, arrayed against them."

[View in discussion](#)

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

Alabama teachers speak out as four more teachers die of COVID-19 this week



[arandomposter33](#) [2 months ago](#)

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The government has made a conscious decision: two day quarantines and the end of paid leave, combined with overcrowded classrooms that make social distancing impossible. These represent a clear attempt to use large-scale violence to silence any workers' movement. The workers must confront this threat armed with the conviction that the super-rich are prepared to kill to hold on to the power. The committee must continue to shed a light on these deaths and expose the motives underlying them: the political confrontation over the right to form a revolutionary government.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [125 comments](#)

Facebook purges left-wing pages and individuals



[arandomposter33](#) [Jasmine Mani Bose](#) 2 months ago

I was censored on Disqus and on this website starting 3 years ago. I finally received a reply from this website this month. The response implied I had ulterior motives that justified the suppression of my views. At the same time, they claimed that it arose from technical difficulties. These two arguments show that some in the [wsws.org](#) feel comfortable suppressing Trotskyist views along with the far right. If the [wsws.org](#) wants to respond correctly to these fascist censorship tactics, they must begin a public discussion with the Democratic Power faction over perspective and program. This alone will reject the efforts of the far right corporate elite to turn revolutionaries into their own censorship system. When one prisoner escaped a Nazi concentration camp, all their neighbors were executed, forcing them to sabotage or turn in each others' escape.

As a first sign that it plans to participate in a resistance, the WSWs must replace the unpopular bug-ridden Disqus message boards with any of the following more popular and safer options:

1. phpBB
2. MyBB
3. WordPress
4. Joomla!
5. Drupal
6. Vanilla
7. Simple Machines Forum
8. FluxBB
9. Codoforum

I do not want to post the link to the source (Hostinger) of this list because Disqus would mark it as spam.

Also the WSWs should transfer a good proportion of its assets and backups outside of the US, where Facebook is headquartered and where it holds on to political power through extreme police tactics. The

corporations and government use IP addresses to find people and send the police to point guns at them and their families. The shutting down of facebook accounts will lead to the shutting down of bank accounts, followed by the imprisonment of dissent under the guise of the protection of their precious unity.

[View in discussion](#)

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

#ZeroCovid petition: The campaign for a European lockdown requires a socialist perspective



[arandomposter33](#) [2 months ago](#)

I agree completely that the #zerocovid hashtag and the petition deserve the support of the revolutionary party as long as the criticism of the #zerocovid leadership and authors remains strong. The party must prove that #zerocovid cannot depend on reformism and that a successful struggle to combat the virus using science requires a mass movement centered on and lead by the revolutionary party itself. Only then can the root social causes and the antagonists behind the state's violence shown in its virus response finally fall under control of responsible, conscious social actors.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [42 comments](#)

Biden's inaugural address: Banality and empty abstraction to cover over reality



[arandomposter33](#) [2 months ago](#)

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

1. To place the blame for January 6th entirely on Trump or even the Republican Party does not do justice to democracy or historical truth. In 2014, Obama and Biden orchestrated a coup in the Ukraine, one of the most socially equal countries in the world. The new government tore down statues of Lenin and replaced them with monuments to Orthodox Christian angels. The new leaders give public support to Neo-Nazis. As Ukraine neighbors Russia, this would be like Russia orchestrating a coup in Canada or Mexico.

The Democrats later attempted a coup in the United States, calling into question the legitimacy of the 2016 elections and attempting to remove Trump by force. They could not bring the Republicans on board and for that reason lost the vote to remove Trump in the Senate. The Republicans likely opposed the coup for fear that the necessary preparations for a war with Russia had not been accomplished, making mass opposition to the government likely in the event of a coup designed to prepare an invasion of Russia. Russia did not choose Trump, the people elected him. Biden's reference to the "violence" entering the capitol may mean he acknowledges the economic necessity of the drive to war, whether a Democrat or a Republican holds office.

In order to oppose the "rigged" elections, one would have to counterpose a fair election. Both the Democrats and Republicans stand in the way of a scientifically designed election system meant to accurately reflect the will and informed policy decisions of the majority of the people. The majority of people support universal higher education, \$2000 monthly payments, and other socialist measures, yet this receives no representation under the rigged corporate welfare system. Only unyielding opposition to both political parties financed and controlled by the oligarchy will produce a result in favor of Democratic Power for the working class.

2. "The rejection of any restraints on the spread of disease" has a counterpart in the rejection of any scientific inquiry into the origins of the virus. Public records show that the US government has conducted tests on prisoners to spread diseases. Public records show that laboratories have the technological equipment to construct viruses on a genetic level so as to determine their effect on the human body. Suppression of such discussion gives immeasurable support to the coup-plotters and the counter-revolution in general. To say that this disease is completely "natural" in origin goes against the very basics of Marxism, which argues that the ruling class consciously controls and exploits nature.

3. The "unity" of the North insured its victory over the South. Lincoln accomplished this through extreme measures that many saw as tyrannical. Lincoln's efforts represented, however, not a "unity"

against slavery but a contradictory struggle of U.S. capitalism to spread into the West while hampered by the political power vested in the slave states who sought to maintain the balance of power in the federal government through an expansion of slavery into new Western states. The elimination of the slave power allowed the U.S. to spread quickly, at the expense of "Indians and Half-breeds", into the West as part of its competition with Europe, which spread quickly into Africa during the same period.

4. The search for spiritual unity without any connection to the body may be wrong-headed, but so too would the search for purely biological and geographic unity. This would leave out the actual scientific history, which shows that other forces preceded biological forces and continue to function side by side with biology. That unity would also leave out social questions and questions of psychology and theory. True unity would break down the division between abstraction and reality, not through a jumbling together of unconnected parts but through an inescapable consciousness of joint responsibilities and possibilities.

5. Lenin's view of "faith" differed greatly from the view proposed here. He saw faith as the conclusions that flowed from theory. Our faith, he believed, is borne out by our experience. Lenin wrote:

"How often we would find people in the Social-Democratic, movement, particularly in its intellectualist wing, who belittled the aims of the movement, faint-hearts who have lost faith in the revolutionary energy of the working class. Even now some think that because the democratic revolution is bourgeois by its social and economic nature, the proletariat should not aspire to enact the leading role in the revolution, to take the most energetic part in it, or to put forward such advanced slogans as the overthrow of the tsarist regime and the establishment of a provisional revolutionary government. Events are teaching even these politically backward people. Events are bearing out the militant conclusions that follow from the revolutionary theory of Marxism."

The proletariat should not aspire to participate energetically because its participation depends on its faith! Such intellectualist attacks on revolutionary activity will only hinder the revolutionary movement that the WSWP seeks to guide to victory.

6. We reject Biden's call for unity because we do not see it as genuine. A review of his policies during the Obama administration would show that socialism and internationalism came under attack, millions of Americans lost their jobs, homes and savings, and racism of one variety only met racism of another variety without actually attacking its social roots, the attempt to divide the working class in order to suppress their revolutionary unity. The revolution must remember these lessons and suppress the attempts at unity made between the Republicans and Democrats as well as with foreign allies. The

suppression of capitalist unity will strengthen and empower proletarian unity. Only the proletariat benefits from a universal political system that empowers all the world's people.

The upper class can unite only by calling off their attacks on the working class and resigning to the total redistribution of their excess wealth. They must accept the imprisonment of their political leaders from both parties and the breaking up of their state and their class privilege.



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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 0 comments](#)

Australian government invokes “national security” to ban Chinese infrastructure investments



[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

Chinese investment comes from the exploitation of Chinese labor and functions to export the excess production that cannot reach ordinary Chinese people. The development of a Chinese empire will resemble the growth of the German empire in the 1800s, as China seeks to compete with the US over influence or colonies in the same way Germany began competing with France and England.

The strategy of the US will not resolve but worsen the problem, as the US will seek to isolate and then destroy rather than integrate the growing Chinese economy with its countless connections to the interdependent world economy. The only resolution that does not lead to massive destruction on both sides will depend on the construction of a planned economy that puts production and distribution under the control of the international working class. No merger or take over or contract from Chinese companies will eliminate the predatory nature of capitalist investment, regardless of its national origin.

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Britain's Socialist Workers Party and Counterfire apply political chloroform over Trump's coup



[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

Thank you for this analysis. The real coup attempt and the existential threat to democracy has not convinced these groups that their analysis has serious flaws, stemming, as you said, from their conviction that capitalism remains strong and has a long life ahead for it. In fact, capitalist politics has created unbridgeable division between capitalist parties. This unbridgeable division takes on increasingly violent forms as the capitalists divide into groups and fight each other with great ferocity.

The thing to remember, however, is that the capitalists are a ruling class like every ruling class that came before them. Neither faction represents a revolutionary alternative to the current system. To the extent that they form part of the oligarchy, the big bourgeoisie, or the top 60 families, as Trotsky referred to them, they oppose any stirring of the population against the government, even from the right. For this reason, the WSWS should not refer to January 6th as "Trump's coup."

It should see and explain January 6th as a real move by the far-right counter-parts of the pseudo-left after the collapse of the ISO. The alternatives to a government of the Fourth International look like thin pickings, and this motivates the forever active far right to put an end to democracy as a precursor to atrocities against the working class and the revolutionary movement. Trump's fall will not end the far-

right but force it to take on a new seriousness. An oligarch like Trump will not lead them but betray them, they discovered. They will turn directly to the CIA democrats, the anti-election Republicans, and other leaders from the military, spy agencies, and law enforcement. Hitler, for instance, arose as a mid-level military official. Mussolini held a position on the Directorate of Italian Socialist Party and worked as a journalist. These types of figures differ substantially from Trump, who would evade military service and deliver tweets rather than journalism, and we can expect the real fascist movement, a product of irrepressible economic forces, to continue their struggle for dictatorship, even from prison.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [37 comments](#)

Remove coup plotter Trump immediately!



[arandomposter33](#) [ironcloudz](#) [3 months ago](#)

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These organizations are for the workers to build. What about the organization of the revolutionary party, built by and for the revolutionary movement? That has to be the responsibility of trained, professional leaders. Leaders can function in order to encourage and defend participation by the membership. This type of leadership would better unite the revolutionary movement as social forces divide the government to the point where the armed insurrection becomes the rule rather than the exception. If the revolution survives these divisive political forces, the committees will realize that their fate depends on a successful armed insurrection rather than the idling of the masses. How will the party respond appropriately if it cannot recognize its own responsibilities since it has passed them on to the committees?



[arandomposter33](#) [Marla](#) [3 months ago](#)

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Trump did not create the plot, even if he participated. You seem to need the word plot defined: "a secret plan for accomplishing a usually evil or unlawful end." ([m-w.com](https://www.m-w.com))

This mistake concerning Trump comes from an ignorance of Marxism. The big bourgeoisie and the petty-bourgeoisie have different outlooks. While appealing to and encouraging certain petty-bourgeois extremists, Trump has not abandoned his billionaire status or his orientation towards them and the imperialist order in general. Their main political concern is to control any outbreak of a mass political movement, left or right, and bring them under the control of the Democratic or Republican parties. Trump, as Biden has signalled, will likely not face any time for these extraordinary events as he carefully worded his statement at the Ellipse prior to the assault in order to evade culpability.

The leadership of these extremist groups, such as the Proud Boys and the Neo-Nazis cannot expect Trump to enter the Capitol with them and declare a dictatorship. He can only flirt with this idea, but as a member of the big bourgeoisie and the ruling class, could never actually carry it out, far less lead the charge. Tying everything to him will leave out Republican Congressmen and right-wing Democrats that created the conditions for this insurrection by politicizing election procedures and undermining faith in the elections while ignoring the economic precipice that the U.S. hangs on. The swamp that Trump promised to drain will actually remain until the workers come to the conclusion that they cannot sustain themselves on the crumbs offered by the bourgeoisie.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 86 comments

Mobilize the working class against Trump's conspiracy! Prepare for a political general strike!



[arandomposter33](#) [Sam Westbrook](#) 3 months ago

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The defense against the social media monopoly does not benefit from illusions in the democratic process. Only the transfer of the social media companies from private to public ownership and their

democratic control by social media workers and regulators will return democratic rights to the working class.

The adage on a free press, "it's only a free press for those who own one", seems to have lost its meaning as the people meander through the open cyberspace to potentially any website. The reality, however, is that every click costs a dollar, so the average return on a click must be greater than a dollar. This brings the power back to the owners of capital.

A socialist restructuring of social media would include a greater presence of elected and salaried regulators as well as a marketing budget as the natural right of every webmaster, blogger, and social media socialite.



[arandomposter33 Carolyn Zaremba 3 months ago](#)

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The WSWS has not always existed and neither has Marxism. Marx himself argued, "If this is Marxism, then I am not a Marxist." He would say the same thing today, just as Trotsky would point to the zig-zags of the party leadership as evidence of a bureaucracy whose interests directly oppose that of the socialist revolution.

Both Lenin and Trotsky died serving the revolution. Their service earned them their isolation at times, the hate of the government and the capitalist media, and through all of this they remained dedicated to building the revolutionary movement. For this reason, they stood out as different from the majority who from direct fear or through repressed feelings turned against their own former beliefs or their secret leanings and disavowed the struggle.

The defense of Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein, Keith Raniere, R. Kelly, CEO Les Moonves, and Bill Cosby represented a fear described by Trotskyists as the fear of losing their position in the party and a future state due to an influx of talent into the party. Trotsky spoke about the same opposition to the growing world revolution within the Stalinist Bureaucracy of the Comintern. The sudden fall of these towering figures gave certain functionaries the sense that their privileged positions could come under dispute under similar circumstances.

The defense of the privileged, however, does not fall under the purview of Marxism. That represents a different outlook. Marxism argues for recognition of true talent and the full development of the individual to his true potential. The stance taken here against Trump does not call for a trial and the assumption of innocence everytime a message appears out of place in Social Media. Unfortunately, they did take this position with regard to the perpetrators of similar anti-democratic attacks against media institutions, academic institutions, and public figures. They argued, irrationally, that the Democratic Principle of Due Process must apply to every managerial decision or override the free speech right of the media when it comes to lawless traitors and secret civil warriors. In this situation, Trump's supposed Democratic Rights to media power and career privilege did not substitute for a Marxist analysis. Anyone familiar with the American media should know that Trump is of their ilk. This change of position should appear as progress in the fight against Nano-bureaucracy and Economism.



[arandomposter33 Carlos Delgado 3 months ago](#)

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You obviously ignored all the commentary that was written in response to the WSWS, much of it negative. The WSWS here criticizes Jacobin for defending Trump. That's exactly what the WSWS did when it defended Trump's and Clinton's close friend Jeffrey Epstein. This followed in the line of what Lenin would describe as Economism. For the Economists, struggle against spontaneous consciousness had no meaning. The economy changed people's minds on its own without the intervention of the revolutionary party. Essentially, the Economists argued that there was nothing at all for the revolutionary to do.

As part of the flip side of the same coin, the Economists later turned to terrorism, refusing to accept Lenin's position that the terrorism often had Tsarist agents provoking the attacks while the acts themselves served more to break up any revolutionary organization that would provide the working class with the arguments they needed in the class struggle. This theoretical weakness, which led the WSWS to side with Epstein, Clinton, and Trump, as well as the Raniere cult and its very rich backers. Anything but take up the task of confronting the workers with arguments about sexual harassment and workplace security that formed the economic impulse for the MeToo movement's widespread

popularity. Anything but take up the task of confronting the workers about the dangers involved in political participation while police brutality receives the support of top politicians.

The presence of bourgeois ideology does not end the internal contradictions of capitalist production as the material basis for society. These will lead to movements such as MeToo and BLM, which will then fall under the influence of the bourgeoisie without a proper perspective to align the activity of the revolutionary party with the class interests and spontaneous activity of the working class. The working class seeks to create progress through its protests against workplace sexual harassment, assault, and rape. The working class seeks to create progress through its protests against police brutality and the state murder of unarmed men, women, and children. The WSWS must not fall into the Economist trap and reject revolutionary activity among these movements in order to bring the revolutionary party to the widest possible audience and potential membership.



[arandomposter33 Carlos Delgado 3 months ago](#)

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You obviously ignored all the commentary that was written in response to the WSWS, much of it negative. The WSWS here criticizes Jacobin for defending Trump. That's exactly what the WSWS did when it defended Trump's and Clinton's close friend Jeffrey Epstein. This followed in the line of what Lenin would describe as Economism. For the Economists, struggle against spontaneous consciousness had no meaning. The economy changed people's minds on its own without the intervention of the revolutionary party. Essentially, the Economists argued that there was nothing at all for the revolutionary to do.

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[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

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I am very glad to see this position change from the WSWS. When representatives of the oligarchy lose their privileged positions as radio or TV show hosts, their accounts in the traditional media, the WSWS came to their defense in the same way as Jacobin now defends Trump over his accounts in the social media. "It must be doubly impermissible to demand" the arrest of media figures for participation in illegal propaganda operations for the military and for the banks. The corporate structure of the media puts all the power in the hands of the stockholders and investors, the capitalist class. The hosts of corporate media shows, including those of PBS, receive their orders and follow the priorities of the oligarchy. The workers must declare this as a crime against democracy and demand their arrest.

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employees. This will also matter in relationship to the nano-bureaucracy of the party, as a turn towards defending the workers will entail increased scrutiny of the activities of leaders and party functionaries.

[1 1 View in discussion](#)

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

Growing questions about police stand-down in January 6 coup attempt



[arandomposter33](#) Chris Kelley [3 months ago](#)

The emergency situation approaches when the workers will have to develop their own state while storming every state capitol and the national capitol in DC, along with many major city halls. The fascists see this clearly and sought to preempt it by drawing out a violent reaction from the state against any such attempt. This maneuver should not delay but hasten the coming of the conscious revolution of the working class.

Rather than having police waving in these revolutionaries and taking selfies, they will have to fight them at roadblocks, at factories, and in many large demonstrations until another group manages to take and actually hold the capitol. The current situation, with congress having as little as 9% approval at times, can end only through decisive action. Such an action would save democracy as can be seen by the undemocratic actions of the state: allowing off-duty police and legislators to invade the capitol in front of on-duty officers while congress was in session.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33](#) [kwciiii](#) [3 months ago](#)

The nazification of the police force is systematic and pervasive. The oligarchy controls both political parties, the judicial system, and through these, all the law enforcement agencies. The gears of the system have been arranged so that the people must expend far more energy to maintain the unequal balance in favor of the oligarchy. Such a situation cannot stand, and that really explains Trump's power and popularity, especially among the armed forces and police. Only a turn against the entire political and economic system can reverse the balance of power in favor of the people. Once this process begins, progress will finally come and far quicker and far more widely than ever before.

[2 View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 manchegauche 3 months ago](#)

The despair, the feeling of no way forward, depends primarily on ignorance of the history of the revolutionary movement. Great leaders and thinkers have run into dead ends before only to find a way to continue the struggle on the higher plane. The best thing to do would be to familiarize yourself with the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky and apply these writings to the building of the ICFI despite the obstacles. As the workers become conscious of their class interests lying in the fate of the revolutionary leadership, they will do the heavy lifting and the rectifying of habitual errors on the part of that leadership.

[2 View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 61 comments](#)

The fascist coup of January 6



[arandomposter33 UK 3 months ago](#)

This complicated problem required the dialectical method to understand. The workers who most shirk off their duty will later find themselves forced into the front lines in pitched battles with police. Those

who most take upon themselves the responsibilities of the revolutionaries will find themselves in important positions within a new state. Those who most deny the existence of a unifying and compelling force for the revolution will see opportunities for personal advancement under capitalism, especially with job security. Those who accept such a force will see it materialize as they ride it like a Pegasus into power.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33](#) [truthseeker](#) 3 months ago

The same division which broke down congress and led to the 5 month delay in stimulus payments followed by an excessively small sum of \$600 will lead to further attempts at its abolishment as a lawmaking body. The inability of the congress to impeach Trump despite his various crimes, including the murder of the top Iranian general as a war provocation, proves that in their hands, the US must practically admit that they are a nation without laws. Still, without the ability to update laws legislatively, historical and economic laws must still work upon the foundations of the government.

The fascist attempts have various historical parallels in the 20th century, from Hitler and Mussolini as successful examples, to General Kornilov who failed thanks to the intervention of army elements loyal to the Bolsheviks. Lenin's storming of the Winter Palace took place only a few months after Kornilov's failed attempt to remove the provisional government from power by force. Lenin's storming of the palace abolished the Duma, the bourgeois parliament, and led to the banning of all counter-revolutionary and anti-socialist parties. This forced removal of the old government saved the workers from an imminent second attempt to abolish the liberal constitution so Russia could return to the front with Germany and proceed with the imperialist war.

The same forces that pushed Trump's invasion of the Capitol will also force the workers into the same conflict with Capitol police and the capitalist state in general. The economic laws continue to develop the situation even as congress stays paralyzed. In order for the workers to succeed where the capitalists failed, an international orientation will prove pivotal beyond any other.

The opposition to war must combine with an opposition to the malnutrition, overwork, and forced displacement imposed on the poor throughout the world. The working class as an international class

must not allow false leftism to divide it through national rivalry. If the party can hold on to this perspective while bringing revolutionary ideas to the people, then the workers will successfully shut down the Capitol while replacing it with a genuine democratic dictatorship of the working class, a government capable of responding to the economic crisis while defending the rights of the people to overthrow their oppressors.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 2 comments](#)

Once Upon a River: A Native American girl wanders the waterways



[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

The narrative of the poor Native American heading down the river could not stand alone as a pure narrative. It must have a symbolic side to show the political situation through its exclusion. The various characters represent something: the uncle, a revolutionary leader or general that demands too much of his conscripts, her father the law that dies leaving behind a criminal war to eradicate a people, her mother, the shattered emotional and spiritual unity that might exist under primitive communism. In order to truly follow in the spirit of Marxism, the writer must not follow in the steps of the chauvinist writers who characterize natives as naked and animal-like, even in their philosophy of themselves. They must see the tragedy and abandonment that characterizes their situation since the end of the U.S. Civil War, when they lost protection against forced displacement and the right to form their own independent government. Surprisingly, the writer does not mention Lenin's experiences in nature and in hunting.

Compare these to the second photo in the article above:

<https://www.alamy.com/stock...>

<https://photo.unian.info/ph...>

To argue that they merely rattle rather than express the profoundness of the tragedy ignores history and slanders humanity, forced to float along without any right to self-determination, without any rights to revolutionary leadership based on the Leninist and Trotskyist defense of small nation's right to independence. The statement towards the end says it all: "an appalling neglect, or worse, by government agencies of [their] social needs", as if Native Americans must rely on the US government for their needs, as if no evidence exists of the deliberate policy of extermination of Native Americans that counted among its planners and executors Abraham Lincoln's generals, Tecumseh Sherman and Ulysses Grant. The defense of these generals and their monuments must come at the expense of the symbolic little girl and the castaway nation depicted in Once Upon a River.

[View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 37 comments](#)

Remove coup plotter Trump immediately!



[arandomposter33 pierre 3 months ago](#)

Trotsky's struggle against Stalin involved the founding of the Left Opposition. If you read the founding document of the Left Opposition, the Declaration of the 46, you will see that my ideas do not differ from Trotsky's in any significant way. Your reference to a bloody struggle is empty of principle and seems to encourage leader worshipping or a cult of personality, characteristics of Stalinism. Trotsky struggled against currents within the Fourth International while he lived. Why do you break from Trotskyism and act as if the leaders of the Fourth International will always be beyond reproach? This approach has more in common with Stalinism.

[1 View in discussion](#)



[arandomposter33 3 months ago](#)

This security breach seemed to include some capitol police or national guard elements. They seemed to back down and allow the breach at just the right moment during the debate. In this sense, we should emphasize that Trump did not create this plot.

The difference between a coup and a revolution depends on the social composition and the organizations giving structure to the acts in question. A revolutionary movement would also forcibly take the capitol, but this would depend on the majority support of the workers for a revolution and worker committee elections to prove this support. These elections would not receive approval or legitimacy from the mainstream, capitalist press.

The SEP, in order to respond to the needs of the people, must encourage democratic organization and not only centralized organization. That means they must protect the right to discussion, fight censorship, and allow for the formation of factions, the enumeration of member rights, and the production of standardized financial reports to members and donors and the standardization of new-member training and education policies. Specifically anti-fascist policies must also commence, such as defense training and torture relief. The centralization of the revolutionary struggle under party leadership must not lead to the idling of the revolutionary masses.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [7 comments](#)

Unorthodox rapper and beatmaker MF Doom dead at age 49



[arandomposter33](#) [3 months ago](#)

The death of a rapper is an occasion to consider the immense falseness that bears down on the American people through the airwaves. These individuals, through the individualistic form of rap, end up sounding like a chorus with their individuality breaking down as they are divided into sound-bites. This chorus appears to find its way into more and more music but does not break through the one barrier that everyone hopes they would. In the end, the conservative forces will pin them into a corner with ignorance and violence. The healthy development of the individual and the glorification of a just society will not find their representation in this comic, excessively light-hearted form.

[1 View in discussion](#)

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

“Every journalist should be concerned about what was said today in court. Because the political arguments provided by the United States were upheld by the British judicial system”



[arandomposter33](#) [3 months ago](#)

"But let's remember that this was year ten in the situation of Julian Assange. But what a moment, a glimpse of hope, to start the New Year and hopefully a new era."

I feel that this was year fourteen in my situation. I left the US after difficult "personal" circumstances, and I hesitate to return. What Assange revealed about the government was not a bogus charge but difficult to obtain factual proof of crime and deception.

[1 View in discussion](#)

Part II: Disqus Comments Prior to WSWs Correspondence

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 14 comments](#)

150 years since the birth of Rosa Luxemburg



[Random Poster a month ago](#)

3. “By the 1990s at the latest, the demand for the right of nations to self-determination lost all progressive and democratic significance.”

Arguments about Yugoslavia do not cover the entirety of the nationalist question. Palestinian nationalism, the Arab spring, Catalan separatism and opposition to the Spanish monarchy, and Hong Kong separatism posing the need for a political revolution against Stalinism have all played a progressive role since the 1990s. These may have contributed to the growth of the FI if these mass movements had support within the Fourth International. This could have produced great leaders such Rosa Luxemburg who arose out of the extremely explosive rise of Polish nationalism. Furthermore, her opposition to nationalism meant opposition to chauvinism and more importantly an opposition to all the parties of the bourgeoisie and their opportunist allies. Opposition to Tsarism did not mean support for the suppression of Polish language or culture, which created the foundations for the Marxism of Luxemburg.

4. Rosa Luxemburg’s late support for a division from the opportunists and the formation of Communist party had significant implications. Lenin, in advocating the creation of a Bolshevik Party proved the need as early as 1903 and further cemented the proof with arguments about the behavior of Mensheviks during the 1905 revolution. His arguments were not abstract proofs about political programs but an argument about the timing of political arguments in relation to the popular will of the masses. Lenin sought to criticize the popular mood so as to protect the workers from traps while defending them from the attempts to disarm them. The actions of Plekhanov proved that the Mensheviks could use populist sloganeering without providing critical leadership to the workers and in fact sabotage their political

independence, the source of their power. Had Luxemburg and Trotsky appreciated this great advance for socialist theory, they could have initiated open breaks with opportunism 10 years sooner, making possible a less hurried, more patient approach to forming the party. The hurried late construction of the Fourth International under conditions of domestically stabilized and expanding fascism and then World War II proved inadequate in very much the same way as the late and hurried construction of Luxemburg's KPD.

5. A more apt comparison than that Luxemburg and Lenin, who had the advantage of radical Russian literature in his upbringing and the sacrifices of many misguided terrorists, would be that between Rosa Luxemburg and Sylvia Pankhurst, who also had a public dispute between Lenin over the Labor Party. This time, Lenin advocated unity with the Labor Party in the UK, in contradiction of his own theory. This led Pankhurst, leader of the British Communists, editor of the Workers' Dreadnaught, and voting delegate to the Second Congress, to call for the formation of the Fourth International as early as 1921. Had Lenin applied his theory to the British situation or had Trotsky united his Left Opposition with Pankhurst's movement, she would not have faced the isolation and destruction of her movement. This would have brought forward the formation of the Fourth International seventeen years, in line with the Bolsheviks' formation fourteen years before the revolution. An earlier start would have prevented the hurried and chaotic formation forced upon Trotsky and Luxemburg under extremely repressive circumstances. Over 100 years later, similar delays should be unforgivable.

[View in discussion](#)



[Random Poster a month ago](#)

1. When Luxemburg advocated for a political general strike, the trade union bureaucrats banned her from speaking at meetings. The trade union bureaucracy acted in its own interests, as does the nano-bureaucracy of the WSW. John Scully, former CEO of Apple runs [Disqus.com](#), which WSW uses to censor the democratic Power Faction. The revolutionary movement must learn from history and establish firm rules to protect the rights of the membership from nano-bureaucracy, censorship, and banning from committee-meetings.

2. Lenin defended the rights of smaller nations, but Luxemburg didn't. She did, however, risk her personal freedom to participate in the 1905 revolution in her native Poland. The WSWS will not risk participation when the main enemy, in her time Tsarism, in our time the US government, has as its revolutionary opponent a foreign country seeking independence. The parties of various bourgeois republics have deep ties to the capitalist state centered in Washington DC. Nationalist movements that turn against US power must fight to the death or face long prison sentences, such as the winners of popular elections in Catalonia and Egypt or Puerto Rican separatists. Only the coming to power of the working class can defend the lives of and free such leaders.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 15 comments](#)

A politically motivated smear: Canada's Globe and Mail blames "Marxists" for discredited racist 1619 Project



[Random Poster 2 months ago](#)

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'Confederation, the unification of the colonies of British North America in 1867, was not a popular movement animated by democratic principles, but a business deal put together by colonial politicians, railway promoters, bankers and the British government. A key object was the annexation of what is today Western Canada, the dispossession of the native peoples, and the destruction of their communal property relations. Like the leaders of the British Empire in London who plotted to extend diplomatic recognition to the insurrectionist Confederate States of America, Canada's Fathers of Confederation had hoped that the slaveocracy would prevail in the American Civil War.'

The expansion of Canada into the West had a parallel in the "revolutionary" United States. Lincoln referred to Native Americans as Indians and Half-breeds, while Generals Grant and Sherman sought their extermination through the elimination of their food supply. This did not originate in a racist world outlook, however. These positions arose from Lincoln's devoted service to the industrialists and financiers of Northern capitalism. As a state legislator in Illinois, he supported Whig Party Leader

Henry Clay's American Colonization Society. This meant support for Clay as a slave owner and furthermore an opponent to any immediate abolition of slavery. It had to occur gradually and in combination with expatriation, their forced relocation back to Africa. This forced removal would be so expensive as to be impossible, and therefore slavery had to, unfortunately, continue forever. The Nazis had similar plans to forcibly move all the Jews out of Europe. He wrote in his eulogy of Clay:

"Those who would shiver into fragments the Union of these States; tear to tatters its now venerated constitution; and even burn the last copy of the Bible, rather than slavery should continue a single hour, together with all their more halting sympathisers, have received, and are receiving their just execration; and the name, and opinions, and influence of Mr. Clay, are fully, and, as I trust, effectually and enduringly, arrayed against them."

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 86 comments

Mobilize the working class against Trump's conspiracy! Prepare for a political general strike!



[Random Poster](#) 3 months ago

"And if it is impermissible to shut down his Twitter account, it must be doubly impermissible to demand his immediate removal from the White House and arrest! The politically bankrupt cynics of the pseudo-left should be less worried about Trump's rights and more concerned about the defense of the democratic rights of the working class."

I am very glad to see this position change from the WSWS. When representatives of the oligarchy lose their privileged positions as radio or TV show hosts, their accounts in the traditional media, the WSWS came to their defense in the same way as Jacobin now defends Trump over his accounts in the social media. "It must be doubly impermissible to demand" the arrest of media figures for participation in illegal propaganda operations for the military and for the banks. The corporate structure of the media puts all the power in the hands of the stockholders and investors, the capitalist class. The hosts of

corporate media shows, including those of PBS, receive their orders and follow the priorities of the oligarchy. The workers must declare this as a crime against democracy and demand their arrest.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 13 comments

Elon Musk becomes world's richest person as pandemic death toll breaks records



[Random Poster](#) [WJX-Zhang](#) 3 months ago

What we have here is the failure of the WSWWS to address the capitalist system as Marx did, as a set of economic and social laws outside of the personal decisions of any particular oligarch. We cannot wait for an enlightened oligarch to turn on his class and start to struggle for socialism. We cannot expect these benefactors to behave benevolently when it comes to the workers' revolution.

The existence of Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Bill Gates do not prove the existence of any higher type of individual. They prove that all the promises to reform capitalism, to make it humane and socially responsible, have failed. The WSWWS has to tell the workers the truth with regard to the relationship between oligarchy and the party of socialist revolution. Every time the WSWWS argues that the workers have returned to work to make a profit for the bosses, who, like slaves, must make a profit at any human cost, actually turns the issue on its head.

The capitalist class took the power from the slave-owners and the landed aristocracy and became a ruling class in itself. They no longer existed as a middle class. They, like the slave owners, will not sacrifice slave ownership as a principle over the purchase of any slave or group of slaves. They also

will not sacrifice their right to extract surplus value for every opportunity to pay a wage. Their determination to stay in power comes first, and this has definite implications for the personal nature of Musk.

Musk is not some nerdy engineer that came up with an idea while studying in college, any more than Bill Gates, whose father was the president of the Seattle and Washington State Bar Associations. Musk came from a celebrity family from Apartheid South Africa. His father, Musk Sr., married his own step-daughter or Musk's step-sister and had a child that rose from this abusive and perverted root. These representatives of capital do not just earn a profit but force the workers into submission through humiliation, violence, and murder. The ruling class does not suffer from the same problem of spontaneous consciousness. They have political and professional organizations to dominate every field with a combination of such repression and a false record that eliminates the contributions of socialists. The revolution and the WSWS has to set this record straight so that the workers can approach their task straight away without confusion.

The workers must demand the arrest of all the oligarchs and the uncompensated confiscation of all their wealth beyond \$20 million. All their property must be registered and then transferred to public property under the control of the workers and regulators. Attempts to hide property worth more than \$100,000 should carry a 10 year minimum sentence. You can expect the oligarchs to respond with every violent means at their disposal, so their crimes must finally be held against them. As with normal criminals, their cooperation in the arrests of their associates should form the only basis for offering them shorter sentences.

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

“Every journalist should be concerned about what was said today in court. Because the political arguments provided by the United States were upheld by the British judicial system”



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

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Erase please.



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

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I feel that this was year fourteen in my situation. I left the US after difficult "personal" circumstances, and I hesitate to return. What Assange revealed about the government was not a bogus charge but difficult to obtain factual proof of crime and deception.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 28 comments](#)

The New York Times scapegoats medical workers in the tragic death of Dr. Susan Moore



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

How tragic.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 4 comments](#)

Dire warning from CDC on US life expectancy: “A drop of two to three years for 2020 isn’t out of the question”



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

The shortened life expectancy will lead to shortages of labor, and this will increase the need of workers to enter into struggle for higher wages. This will force them into political struggle with the capitalist state. The revolutionary party has to clarify the issues involved and point the way forward for the revolutionary struggle.

It will have the advantage in that a revolutionary party will see this trend towards declining births and shortened lives as natural to the capitalist system and not an aberration. The exception arose from the 1917 revolution and the threat posed to capitalism by world socialist revolution. The destruction of the Soviet Union has removed the threat until the workers again establish a workers' state and reorganize the world economy according to their class interests.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 14 comments](#)

Jacobin glorifies Dolores Ibárruri, Stalinist executioner of the Spanish Revolution



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

"Nine-tenths of the work of the international Left must be concentrated today upon Spain. All expenditures must be restricted so as to have the possibility of establishing a weekly in Spanish and periodic publications in Catalan, at the same time issuing leaflets in great number."

Leon Trotsky in "Nine-Tenths of Our Activities for the Revolution in Spain-- On the Maurin Group in Catalonia and the Left Opposition"

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

To Trotsky, Spain seemed poised for a revolution in 1931. He advocated against the Balkanization of Spain but in favor of petty-bourgeois Catalan nationalism as a progressive force. The WSWS broke from the Trotskyist position on Catalan nationalism in the recent referendum. According to Trotsky, the WSWS should have advocated a vote for independence while also calling for a federation of socialist states to replace the government in Madrid and maintain economic unity around the demands of the workers. This held back the establishment of ICFI parties in Spanish-speaking countries by encouraging Spanish chauvinism. As Trotsky said in the same article: "There is not and there cannot be a greater crime than the loss of time." Yet the resources have not been used to support correct political action in Spain while a great deal of time goes wasted, seemingly without end.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [15 comments](#)

Jacobin glorifies Dolores Ibárruri, Stalinist executioner of the Spanish Revolution



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

I support this project and would share it on my website randomposter33.wordpress.com.

Unfortunately, the criticism of Jacobin, while formally correct, has not really entered into the WSWS theory of civil war in general. Marxism does not emphasize the idiosyncrasies of various events in history but seeks to prove the existence of definite economic and political laws. This allows every successive revolutionary wave to approach a more successful conclusion. The Civil War in Spain must reflect an analysis that also considers the Civil War in France and the Civil War in the United States. The WSWS position that the Republican Party of the US represented a revolutionary opposition to slave ownership does not coincide with Trotsky's analysis of the bourgeois republic of Spain.

The real abolitionists, who also opposed forced displacement of the native tribes, did not find their way into the Republican leadership because they did not pass the tests created by Henry Clay as Lincoln did with his support for the colonization of Africa using the forced settlement of former slaves in Africa. Lincoln's General Tecumseh Sherman called for the extermination of the native tribes. This expansionism happened concurrently with the European expansion into Africa, expanding its colonial possession of Africa from 10% to 90% in the short time after 1875.

How does General Sherman differ from Dolores Ibárruri or Ernst Thälmann? How does Lincoln differ from a counter-revolutionary who returned the power to the plantation owners in the form of tenant farmers and to the capitalist state through its expansion of the railroad monopolies into the west through the extermination of the colonized people. He limited his choice of staff to those Republicans loyal to the agreement with Henry Clay, meaning explicit support for imperialism and a rejection of explicit opposition to slavery. A revolutionary movement would call for the end of forced displacement of native people and a redistribution of the wealth behind the monopoly to the workers and peasants of all races. The WSWS theory that the workers should support Lincoln's section of the bourgeoisie and turn on the workers and peasants of native or African ancestry runs counter to everything that Lenin and Trotsky spoke of in relation to their support for the United Front policy and opposition to the class collaboration of the Popular Front policy. This has definite practical implications with regard to the movement to bring down the monuments, the symbols of the power and supposed righteousness, of the old regime.

The application of scientific principles to analysis of history as well as current events cannot occur without a theoretical adherence to those principles. This cannot be a pragmatic, self-interested adherence. If Civil Wars do not have concrete laws, neither do revolutions, and neither does capitalism as an economic system based on class or owners' rule. The writing of Trotsky agrees with this perspective and so should the WSWS. In case you object- saying how could the civil war in the "1930s be applied to understanding the civil war in the 1860s?"- then I should suggest Revolution and Counterrevolution in Germany by Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels, where these leaders already stood in opposition to the bourgeois parliamentarianism of the liberal parties in Europe, parallels of the US Congress and the Republican Party of Lincoln. Whatever praise Marx had for Lincoln as an individual had more to do with awakening the workers to their potential in politics if they followed the course of marching separately and striking together with the Union Army and the Republican Party.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 14 comments

The Johns Hopkins slavery “scandal”



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

"Johns Hopkins, born in 1795, grew up on his family's tobacco plantation in Anne Arundel County, Maryland south of Baltimore. In 1807, the Hopkins family freed their slaves, abiding by a decree issued by the local Quaker group, of which they were a part. Thereafter Hopkins, then 12, left school to help his parents work the fields. At 17, Hopkins went to work for his uncle in Baltimore, where he learned how to run a wholesale grocery shop."

The revelation proved that this "history" actually came from a biography written by his own grand-niece. The historical record contradicts this account. It seems you missed the point entirely in this debate.

The idolization of philanthropists does not support the socialist cause. The philanthropy of the rich few cannot sustain a real socialist movement. Only a working class movement based on the actions and the fund-raising of the working class will maintain the independence of the revolutionary movement. This point requires great emphasis, as comfort in servitude to a rich minority will lead to idleness for the great mass of the revolutionary movement unless this idle, parasitic layer gains recognition as the real threat to the revolution.

Johns Hopkins' reputation in medicine allows its researchers to suppress good science in service of the political agenda of the oligarchy. The suppression or manipulation of science do not end with bourgeois-democratic rule, they take the form of a mob-rule or populist dictatorship which masks the real power relations as simple service of truth. The Johns Hopkins review of the Yan Report on the origins of Covid-19 proves this most strikingly.

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Admin: Fact posts marked as spam while I see spam on site. Too many false positives/negatives



[Random Poster 3 months ago](#)

I had the problem of false positives marking my comments as spam. Now I have a new, similar problem, where my comments only appear on the page if I log in then refresh the page. On my profile, there is no indication that the comments remain hidden from other readers.

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200 years since the birth of Friedrich Engels



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

From the article:

"Like Lenin after him, Engels understood that materialist philosophy cannot be defended and further developed if it does not constantly take into account the latest advances in the natural sciences."

The article quotes Engels' *Dialectics of Nature*:

Nature, he wrote, is "the proof of dialectics," which "comprehends things and their representations, ideas, in their essential connection, concatenation, motion, origin and ending."

The decision by the WSWP to ignore these basic lessons in a central and vital issue will disarm the working class. Rather than simply rehash theory, Marx and Engels applied it to the work of raising the consciousness of the advanced workers in their day.

"The latest advances in the natural sciences" would have to include genetic modification or genetic engineering. Furthermore, the virus's protein structure and origin in labs could not be separated anymore than the work of Marx and Engels. In order to see the true nature of the virus, one would have to, as Engels states, "comprehends things and their representations, ideas, in their essential connection, concatenation, motion, origin and ending." The laboratory concatenations of the virus and its origin, as well as its motion through workplaces, schools, and other super-spreader locations express the dialectical idea of the virus, its representations in various reports and studies, as well as in scientific literature describing SARS outbreaks or even in references in popular culture such as movies like 12 Monkeys and games like Plague Inc.. In Plague Inc. the player must manipulate the virus in the laboratory to change various traits of the virus, affecting its virulence and contagiousness. Then they watch the virus spread as headlines appear describing its effect on various countries.

The WSWS has also misapplied Marx's theory of surplus value to describe the return to work. Without a clear understanding of the productive forces and their effects on the relations of production, the WSWS will lose the struggle to lead the workers before it can lose the struggle on behalf of the workers. Rather than struggle with various professors over academic questions, Marx and Engels sought to bring the scientific viewpoint to the movement of the working class revolution and its leaders. They also defended their views against encroaching forces that sought converts within the revolutionary party or other revolutionary groups. To the extent that they dealt with the pervasive theories of certain professors with influence over the universities, they did this to find meaning and value in their work, as well as to convert and incorporate their following through revolutionary stances against medievalism, terrorism, and parliamentarianism.

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New York Times, Washington Post feminist critics disparage The Queen's Gambit



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

If you take an imaginary war between two tribes of 100 men and 100 women, one which puts women on the battle field and one which doesn't, you will see the conundrum posed by the Queen's Gambit. Assuming each have 100 warriors, one with 50 men and 50 women and one with 100 men. Both sides could lose 20% of their fighters, meaning 10 men and 10 women on one side and 20 men for the other. The tribe with all male warriors now has 80 men and 100 women. Those 100 women can have maximum of 100 children that year or 2000 in 20 years to prepare for the next war. The other tribe with only 90 women could have only have 90 children that year or 1800 in 20 years, putting them at a disadvantage. The results of the war will decide which tribe ends up as slaves and which tribe conquers more and more territory.

The Queen's Gambit would ask, why not put the women into battle anyway? If not directly into combat then why not in a strategic planning position? A great military strategist represents a great threat and a target for any enemy military. So why sacrifice or risk the women even in such a way?

This Queen's Gambit idea also plays out on the chess board. The Queen is the most powerful piece in the chess set, or the imaginary army. To sacrifice her or her protective pawn means to sacrifice or expose the most powerful piece. This must give the player some other advantage in position, namely putting extra pressure on the defense.

Allowing women to serve in combat gives them a chance to gain prestige and status. It also gives their side a moral argument, meaning the death of their warrior-woman or her risk, the loss of her protection, should spur their army on psychologically. Also, arguably, the women should have a chance to defend themselves in battle when the alternative means getting raped or turned into branded sex slaves or otherwise burning in hell. These social questions must have impacted chess culture within the context of the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union, giving rise to such fictional works as the Queen's Gambit.

In writing the work, the writer must have felt like Shaibel in the early parts of the story, playing out the game as he saw from the point of view of every character, in order to map out the possibility of a female world chess champion. To this day, his vision has not come to pass, with only one woman having reached the top 10 in the world.

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Hands off COVID-19 whistleblower Rebekah Jones!



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

This WSWS in part bears responsibility for these actions, because they do not argue that the virus' spread comes from reactionary violence aimed at the working class. If the sabotage of public health does not constitute a war against the workers with conscious intent but only a "mistake" or a "bad policy", or something attributed simply to "greed", as if they could not increase their profits during a lock-down (which in fact they did), then a change of policy, a reform, could come from another part of the government like the Democrats or the civil servants in the Department of Health. These do not represent mistakes but a policy which, as Lenin explained, is not a choice. Imperialism is not a choice. The government needed the virus like it needed 9/11 in order to subdue popular resistance to its imperialist policies, especially the escalation of its trade war with China.

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Poverty in Germany reaches a new record high



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The growth of the poverty rate, which seems problematic at 60% of average income, proves that unification and the EU project do not offer a route to progress for the working class. Who is to say that the average income is enough, if much of the money goes towards profits, reinvestment, or exports to increase cash reserves or even luxuries with prices placing them outside the reach of the top 10%.

Yet assuming the average wage does lift people out of poverty, why doesn't everyone have access to their necessities? Dependence on state income must have a stigma attached that allows politicians to

underfund these programs without regard for the suffering of the poor, or precisely for the reason of increasing the noble suffering of the poor, as a sort of whip to drive the population into slavery, slave wages and slave conditions.

The return of poverty rates equal to 30 years ago shows that the only progress that can reach the workers must be international. The free movement of capital must lead to the free movement of labor, but the refugee camps with tens of millions of people prove the impossibility of freedom of movement under capitalism. The higher wages in Western Europe that supposedly buy off the workers or insure the capitalists against rebellion, do not materialize as more production shifts towards low-wage countries with dictatorial, anti-labor regimes. What remains of the labor aristocracy cannot justify the existence of wide-spread poverty and urban misery.

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Modi maneuvers as support for Indian farmers' protest swells



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

The Indian working class and farmers cannot trust the Stalinist parties, as they will always lead them back towards imperialist politics. The attempt to keep the protests "leaderless" or free from "politics" does not solve this problem. It intensifies it. The key to ending imperialism depends on a conscious movement with a political program or political and economic demands that recognize the united interests and capacity for action of the international working class. Only the SEP can carry forward this task because of its long struggle against Stalinism.

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Pentagon to Biden: Latin America a major battlefield in war with China



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The economic collapse of the US will lead to an economic collapse in Latin America. China hopes to use this, as they have in Venezuela, to expand their influence in the region. China's incursions are not altruistic, but instead arise from the same motives that drive the US into S. Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. They must surround each other to prevent the other's encircling them.

China may have the upper hand now, thanks to having handled the Coronavirus more effectively and having a recent history of high GDP growth, and these allow it to expand its influence through exports of excess products that they deny to their own workers. As the trade war progresses and even turns into open military conflict, the weaknesses of the US empire will appear all the more dire. China will attempt to restore capitalist rule wherever the US fails.

For the revolution, this represents a terrible waste of a great opportunity. Progress in Latin America should not depend on a growing presence for the Chinese and Russian militaries. The revolutionary movement must place its hopes in the actions of the people themselves and their assertions of their self-interest apart from Chinese or American capitalism. This involves investigation and reporting on the communication problem between the ICFI and its lost party organizations throughout South America. This will prove challenging as the prosecution will need to overcome resistance in the military to the uncovering of their crimes. Some writing, from the revolutionary side, however, must prove that the revolutionary party has attempted to address the problem, has run into barriers, and has done all it can to report on the nature of those barriers. The work of the revolutionary party can bring important changes to restore human rights and democracy to a region torn by dictatorship and civil war, as well as the pandemic and economic collapse.

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999 Spanish general call for coup in fascistic WhatsApp messages



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

Considering these comments have come to light during the pandemic, the WSWs should revise their position on the origins of the Covid-19 virus. If these generals are planning to kill millions of people, wouldn't the virus' spread fit in to their plan? Maybe the timing suggests that the coronavirus counter-revolution failed to produce the number of deaths hoped for, signaling to them that bullets rather than bugs would be necessary.

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

The weak response of the left proves that the anti-fascist struggle will only find real leadership in the revolutionary party, the SEP and ICFI. It also seems surprising that given these revelations, the WSWs still claims the virus could not have government origins. With generals hoping to kill millions of people, the existence of the virus seems all too convenient. The science and technology exists to create such a virus in the lab, but the WSWs dismisses the possibility without evidence. Weakness on the investigative front will lead to similar weakness on the political response to the threats of mass murder to silence the people.

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Union official denounces WSWS, seeks to intimidate workers at Australia Post meeting



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The WSWS will defeat the union bureaucracy and succeed in forming workers' committees. The bureaucracy senses this and must react. In so doing, they must admit that Trotskyists are the real friends of the working class. The revolutionary movement tells them the truth, that a maximalist political program alone can improve the conditions of the workers while piecemeal reforms will leave the capitalists in control and able to maneuver their assets to hold on to the power and the profit. With this perspective, incremental reforms will come for the workers, but only as long as they hold on to the view that these gains will be temporary without a continued offensive based on ever greater international working class unity.

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The role of the World Socialist Web Site in educating a new generation of revolutionaries



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

The potential for a rise of a populist socialist to replace the revolutionary movement should not scare the revolution. While such a force will appear powerful outside of government, it will quickly lose the people and awaken their anger upon their betrayal inside government. A respectful appeal to the people's rational side will gain social acceptance much more effectively, while the passionately

delivered lie will have to subside as evidence mounts that they only seek to restabilize Capitalism behind the backs of the people. The greatest task of the revolution, therefore, is to deepen its understanding of the internal flaws of capitalism while maintaining vigilance over the scientific socialist positions discovered, tested, and increasingly perfected by Marxism for generations. For the revolutionary party, support and understanding form an inseparable codependency, while support alone will appear as a tree that no longer produces fruit or even leaves.

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Support for socialism jumps by nearly 10 percent among US youth amid pandemic depression



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

The concentration of support for socialism in large cities, while a hindrance under the electoral college, will prove a great asset during a revolution. It will give socialists control over a larger share of the economic activity, as well as provide for easier assembly for the revolutionary movement.

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

For this reason, a socialist revolution in the US must also raise the demands of a referendum on black power states and Native American power states with rules to guarantee their nation's interests will come first, mostly through quotas to reserve elected positions for their people. Such a policy would prevent the kind of counter-revolution that occurred after the Civil War in the US with the extermination of Native Americans in the West or the Counter-revolution that occurred in Russia with the extermination

of Bolshevik leaders (many of them Jewish or some other excluded minority under Tsarism) and their supporters in the working class and peasantry. This idea had certain support through the federation of former colonies formed by the United States' constitution, though this created federalism mostly between European colonists, French, Dutch, German, Spanish and British among others. A real federalism would guarantee rights and statehood even to weaker nations so they can accumulate capital on behalf of their people, language, and culture.

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ICE detainees in New Jersey stage hunger strike over coronavirus threat



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

If prisoners are held for profit motives, that would justify freeing the entire prison. Whatever crimes committed by those individuals do not compare to crimes committed by the state against the people. Mass detentions will lead to overcrowding, deteriorating conditions, and increasing violence to suppress prisoner and popular discontent. No sane solution for "unwanted" or "excess" population exists within the prison system, and only a public works program that pays a living wage can reduce the prison population to manageable levels.

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Leaked documents from Amazon's Global Security Operations Center expose worldwide conspiracy to suppress workers' resistance



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

Amazon workers do not represent the whole "logistics industry," if such a thing differs from goods transportation. They form a part of the retail industry, which also includes such giants as Walmart and Target, as well as other online retailers like Ebay or Craigslist. Walmart, Costco, and Kroger's still rank higher than Amazon in revenue. Rather than divide the industry and the class as unions do, the WSWS should unite Amazon workers with the rest of the retail workers, especially across the divide created by new technology between online retailers and brick-and-mortar stores. This would also apply to transportation of people, as ride-sharing apps compete with taxis and public transportation. The industry wins by driving down wages through threats to replace workers with machines.

As Marx wrote in Value, Price, and Profit:

"But let us now come to old civilized countries, in which capital domineers over the whole process of production... They introduced machinery of all sorts, adopted more scientific methods, converted part of arable land into pasture, increased the size of farms, and with this the scale of production, and by these and other processes diminishing the demand for labour by increasing its productive power, made the agricultural population again relatively redundant. This is the general method in which a reaction, quicker or slower, of capital against a rise of wages takes place in old, settled countries. Ricardo has justly remarked that machinery is in constant competition with labour, and can often be only introduced when the price of labour has reached a certain height, but the appliance of machinery is but one of the many methods for increasing the productive powers of labour."

The capitalist class depends upon its ability to influence workers' leaders and the movement as a whole to defend only the narrowest interests, whether on the company scale or local scale. The working class can only counter the war on its wages and conditions with political demands and a victory against the capitalist state. Revolutionaries must argue with the workers that the risks involved in such a movement

justifies the position of taking all power into the hands of the workers through the establishment of a "dictatorship of the proletariat." This means no concessions and no political power for the owners of capital, since the stakes are so high and the danger so immediate. The capitalists dig their own grave by resorting to spies and massacres of workers or foreign people as "negotiation tactics". Piecemeal reform can find no justification under such conditions.

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Meet the Censored: Andre Damon



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

I have been and continue to be censored on the WSWWS's own site. I have not received any explanation or denial.

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

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I have been and continue to be censored on the WSWWS's own site. I have not received any explanation or denial.

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Jeff Riedel, photographer and fighter for socialism: 1968-2020



[Random Poster MB 4 months ago](#)

It would be nice to see portraits of the leaders of the SEP interspersed among the cultural icons on his page. Such portraits could serve as inspiration for political cartoons or political art or as political propaganda and fundraising posters. Professionally presented images of the SEP leadership would serve to comfort the politically homeless masses.

The treatment of porn stars may have dragged him down, contributing to his financial and medical ruin. While nudity constitutes an important part of freedom of expression, pornography commodifies human relations and human body parts in a deliberately unethical and dangerously addictive manner. Had he stayed away from such subjects, regardless of the lure of payment, he may have protected himself, living longer and producing more socially relevant photography about more respectable subjects. Hopefully some of them remember him, feel responsible, and move towards supporting his moral mission, the construction of the SEP.

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[Random Poster MB 4 months ago](#)

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[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

I knew Jeff and regret his passing, especially at such a young age. He had a successful career with the media, despite his participation in the SEP. You might assume it would have landed him on a blacklist, but this was worse. His early death raises suspicions, although no proof will exist when the cause appears medical.

His work at the SEP's founding Congress in 2008 does not appear anywhere. I see nothing on his site related to the workers' movement or specifically portraits of SEP leaders. He seems to have found motivation in covering culture, though he once told me of a trip to Mexico where he entered dangerous cartel territory.

We can only hope that as more artists enter into the SEP that they will try to focus their content on the subject of the SEP itself. Artists can highlight its role in the raising of the political and cultural consciousness of the working class beyond the confines of bourgeois culture with its shameless adoration of wealth. In this way, workers can see the products of their work with new eyes, as theirs against the objections and prejudice of the capitalist owners. I think Jeff's work in this regard will have greater relevance in the future, once the party releases these records to the public.

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Modern Monetary Theory and the crisis of capitalism: Part one



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

Also, if you assume the worker produces more in a day than he needs for subsistence, which you did not in your widget example but Marx did, he will produce 2 dollars of the means of subsistence, while receiving only 1 dollar in payment. The capitalist will not sell the 2 dollars worth of means of subsistence for 1 dollar. The worker will spend his entire wage on the means of subsistence. The capitalist will acquire another dollar with every cycle, accumulating a greater and greater amount of capital.

This capital, as you seem to understand, increases productivity, reducing the price of the means of subsistence. Let's say now that for 1 dollar paid to labor, the capitalist obtains 3 dollars of the means of subsistence. He sells one dollar to the worker and remains with two. As you said, he may decide to remain at 2 dollars of production, meaning he would only have to pay the worker $\frac{2}{3}$ of a dollar. The worker in this third example then could not afford the means of subsistence, just as in the other two. Why would the capitalist sell the means of subsistence for $\frac{2}{3}$ of a dollar if they had a market for those means at 1 whole dollar? He could potentially sell the means of subsistence at $\frac{2}{3}$ to the worker while selling it at 1 dollar (or 90 cents to steal market share from other capitalists) to other markets, creating a labor aristocrat that defends him from rebellion while he conquers foreign countries with his below-average-cost means of subsistence.

The position of the workers under capitalism remains hopeless, and only by joining forces can the workers slow production to force the employers to negotiate. If the workers can raise their class and historical consciousness to the necessary level, they can, during negotiations, demand full control of the means of production and the establishment of a workers' state to enforce their political demands.

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Saeb Erekat: Palestinian peace negotiator who epitomised the degeneration of the PLO (1955-2020)



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The Serbian nationalists and other Balkan people fought for national independence in WWI, only to have their territory transferred to Italian influence through the banning of all Communist Parties and the de facto spread of fascism from Italy. The same process has occurred in the Middle East. Without a revolutionary party to unite all the oppressed in the region, including the Israeli working class, even a successful foundation of a Palestinian State would not lead to Palestinian independence.

Either Europe and Nato, through Turkey, Russia, or some other power would move in to control the territory in Israel's place, like Italy did to the Balkans. The wars in the Middle East should not signify that the Fourth International cannot take root to end military conflict throughout the entire region. In Sri Lanka, the ICFI has a large presence despite their civil war.

The Palestinian refugees that left Israel fared no better in camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Egypt cooperated with Israel in closing off Gaza. Palestinians, despite the regional politics, have allies throughout the world in the university students who observe Israeli atrocities and question their governments' imperialist alliances or the compatibility of racism and democracy. Only the coming to power of a revolutionary power will see the removal of Israeli oppression through the breaking of the blockade and the establishment of humanitarian law through a socialist Federal government of the Middle East.

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Joe Biden's cabinet: A rainbow coalition of imperialist reaction



[Random Poster PlantTrees 4 months ago](#)

The liberal bubble does not have psychological but economic roots. The psychological analysis will only cover up symptoms of a broken economic system. The healthy commitment to truth and responsible government must take on a secondary significance when the reality of tyranny and service to an oligarchy serve as their primary occupation.

Which side is rational? Often, the essence of rationality will not come down to one unifying objective truth but rather the separate recognition by many of their varied individual positions. These cannot come together, and to attempt it is to frustrate one's self.

Marxism does not recognize absolute truth but subjective truth, in that material reality exists outside of the mind yet not outside of a world with minds in it. These minds act subjectively according to their interests and shape the world that we see according to those impulses. Do not feel isolated by these people, as the cool parties cannot defend or uphold the economic base for their temporary freedom if they do not cater to the working class and its advanced representatives.

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The Endless Trench: Hiding for decades from the Spanish fascists



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

In order not to have moles for leaders, who only hide in walls and wait for fascism to disappear itself, the revolution must confront its enemies armed for victory. This begins, as Lenin argued, with an internal struggle within the party against bourgeois ideology, especially that which reduced the scope of revolutionary activity. Democratic Power will not accept a leadership of moles, but instead it will demand reports to membership on the activities of its leaders. If such a demand appears as a threat, then the external enemies of the revolution have already conquered and the only hope lies in finding new homes outside the borders of Spain (or the US, if Spain in this story symbolizes fascist USA).

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Zoom cancels meetings at several universities on Zoom censorship



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

Zoom's behavior as a private company cannot rely on such excuses. The event above did not support terror but independence. Armed struggle has legal justification, and to shut down the meeting in the last minute proves that Zoom has malicious intent. They should repay the groups involved for the damages caused and more as deterrent to future censorship.

Zoom's behavior will only help the revolution, as it sets up the revolutionary theory of a dictatorship of the proletariat. Once socialists have the power, then imperialist groups and pro-capitalist groups will not have access to social media, disrupting all the work of the counter-revolution and ending the rights to private ownership of the means of production as well as excessive personal fortunes. The elected leaders and appointed officials of the Democratic and Republican parties will no longer have the right to hold office or use social media to attract people to their causes.

The rights provided by the constitution have always been an illusion, denied in reality to the majority through established methods. The attacks on Palestine cannot, in the government's opinion, bring about a punishment since it would expose the US government to liability for slavery and the genocide of

native Americans, as well as numerous attacks on the labor movement, socialist movement, and anti-war movement. Only People's Tribunals established by workers as part of a new workers' state will prosecute these crimes against humanity and democracy, as U.S. courts receive their authority from the same corrupt political system.

This opinion does not deny the revolutionary origin of the United States, or the fact that masses of people participated in its foundation and found hope in its commitment to democracy. Those revolutionary ideas did influence government policy, but that did not make slavery, genocide, imperialism and the political repression of socialism simple accidents or natural obstacles in the road. These policies equally influenced the planning of the U.S. economy and its consequent political policies.

Opposition to the Vietnam war and support for Civil Rights contained the revolution that erupted in the 60s and 70s. In order to prevent a similar outcome, the WSWS should spare the people a liberal or ahistorical view of the US government. The principles of liberty emerged in order to gain the consent of a revolutionary population, opposed to the tyranny of the government and corporations like Zoom. Yet this liberty could not exist as long as oligarchy, the concentration of wealth and political power in the hands of a few, destroyed the economic foundations of liberty. A conscious movement in the direction of dismantling the oligarchy would meet with a reaction, and appeals to the courts, laws, and founding documents ignore this unresolved issue at the heart of the matter. The revolutionary movement will continue despite censorship, but the greater danger lies in the leadership moving the people into a legalist trap, which demands they place all their faith in promises the government has no intention of keeping.

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As demands for work stoppage grow, UAW officials tell Sterling Heights Assembly workers: “Don’t read the WSWS”



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

As the economic situation deteriorates further, workers will need to turn towards revolutionary politics and organization with increasing urgency. This will happen without doubt, and the efforts of the WSWS prove very encouraging.

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King's Disease: Beware the nostrums of Nas



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

The negative response to this review should come as no surprise. It relates directly to the WSWS'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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[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

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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.

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

Belly of the Beast: The cruelty of forced sterilization in America



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

While using forced sterilization on the people, the rich and powerful use IVF, surrogate mothers, and other artificial fertilization methods, such as the recent first birth in 2016 of a baby in a transplanted uterus. These procedures do not help the poor as they are prohibitively expensive. Their births should not be counted as parts of natural families, and their children should cost them the right to inheritance as well as custody.

All artificial means of producing children for the rich, including sex-slave trafficking, only serve to extend the war on poor people's reproductive rights. The rich deserve forced sterilizations, or denial of fertility treatment, as retribution for their genocidal policies, used as a means to organize the counter-revolution. Only then will a negotiation for reparations to women have sufficient force behind it to achieve results.

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Brazilian state of Amapá on brink of social explosion after 18-day blackout



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The suppression of these protests should really wear down the conscience of the military police. How can you deny people electricity, water, and the right to assemble? How can they change the situation without the right to organize? The idea that the police only seeks to defend the innocent and property comes crashing down in this case. The real damage to life and property comes from the investors demanding profits from energy and water without providing proper maintenance and from the politicians that gave them the contracts.

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Spain's PSOE-Podemos government imposes internet censorship



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

The Catalan crisis exposed the inability of capitalist government to contain its own internal contradictions. They must create economically privileged regions, which then must rebel for independence. They must create national oppression, which creates of legitimate national leaders a dangerous opposition that they must imprison to suppress. They must put on a show for democracy while using riot police to interfere with elections. Only a revolution against the economic system at the

bottom of these contradictions, based on class division, will resolve these issues before they lead to mass loss of life and personal property.

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Modern Monetary Theory and the crisis of capitalism: Part one



[Random Poster lee le brigand 4 months ago](#)

Marx would argue that capitalists have their numbers and workers have theirs. Mathematics form the basis for a lot of scientific knowledge and the basis for responsible policy. A responsible socialist government will provide the workers with the numbers they need to defend their policies. This includes allowing for flexible monetary policy in order to increase the purchasing power of the workers paid average wages. Such a policy would decrease the average profit taken by each capitalist and increase the average wage relative to prices. This would have the overall effect of shifting production from luxuries for the rich to necessities for the poor without causing bankruptcy for most privately owned businesses that serve the workers.

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[Random Poster Blake 4 months ago](#)

Nick Beams' contradicts the Russian path to socialism rather than following the Bolshevik policy. In fact, the Bolsheviks were the first government that removed the gold standard with the intention of increasing the purchasing power of the working class. Other governments had removed the gold standard before, but this was to finance a war effort, mainly weapons and necessary supplies for large numbers of poor soldiers, such as in the US Revolutionary War and Civil War.

For a more accurate Marxist response to MMT, along with a trove of quotes on the subject, check here:

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

[View in discussion](#)



[Random Poster Avagadro 4 months ago](#)

In Value, Price, and Profit, Marx explains the error in Beams' argument. The total production of the economy and the amount of money in the economy are not fixed amounts. The amount of surplus value taken by capitalists can change, either in favor of the capitalists, potatoes rather than meat, or in favor of the workers, meat rather than potatoes. Marx wrote this pamphlet in 1865, during a growing strike wave. A false "revolutionary" or "Marxist" opinion arose, arguing that the workers acted foolishly in trying to rise their wages through strikes (or in this case, monetary policy). In fact, as Marx argues, the workers did not act foolishly, nor did the capitalists. Each side must act in their own class interests, and workers must elaborate their own policy for the central bank rather than simply accept capitalist laws of political economy. The fall of one state or central bank to revolutionary socialist policies would lead to the fall of many, creating the only possibility of a stable world economy through a federal authority of all the largest state banks. Beams' opposition to Marx on this point, Marx argued, was "theoretically false and practically dangerous."

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

The approach of the World Socialist Web Site to science



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

"The ruling class, the possessing class, controls technique and through it controls nature."

Despite the clear position that Trotsky takes, the WSWWS refuses to represent the scientific arguments that prove that the Covid-19 virus had laboratory origins. Transfer of viruses between animals,

including genetically modified animals, those modified to share DNA and protein profiles with human beings, occurs in labs. Laboratories actually enhance this process to produce greater concentrations of the virus with more effective contagious and virulent properties.

Above any particular scientific discovery, Marxism values the scientific method. To ignore the evidence with regard to genetic manipulation to produce viral weapons disarms the workers in the fight against the counter-revolution. If the virus does come from a laboratory, the cure could also exist as a product of the same program. Scientific reports actually prove that the techniques and samples existed with which to produce Covid-19 in a laboratory. Why not at least give these scientists a chance to argue and allow the readers to decide?

I have presented these arguments in my new book, which you can download from my webpage in my profile.

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

The role of the World Socialist Web Site in educating a new generation of revolutionaries



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

I would like to add that some Millennials graduated from high school or began college when the 9/11 strike hit New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. The 2008 financial crisis ended careers and forced them into low-wage jobs.

For these reasons, Millennials only own 3% of the national wealth. When Baby Boomers were the same age, in 1989, they controlled 21% of the national wealth. While the WSWS and SEP must not hold this against Baby Boomers or (perversely) Millennials, as representatives of the working class, they must demand a redistribution of wealth along generational lines in order to uphold the principles of equality.

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The WSWS and the fight for revolutionary leadership in Latin America



[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

Two extra factors must weigh in to the construction of the ICFI in Latin America:

1. Fascism and military rule left a legacy on politics. Fascism derived partly from Spanish fascism, which survived WWII into the 70s, and partly from American imperialism with its repeated invasions to prevent the growth of socialism. A patient sensitization must occur towards and among the people with regard to the events that occurred under military governments and continue to occur as with the military shooting of protesters in Bogota as a response to the national strike movement.
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Twitter ends suspension of IYSSE account after widespread opposition



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

End the censorship of the revolutionary movement and its organizations! Allow the people to take the power! Let the revolution do its work! End the chaos and destruction! Social media belongs to the people and their causes, not to censorship!

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

Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters condemns Twitter's suspension of IYSSE account



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

My disappearing comments:

<https://youtu.be/CGO5htFPVhI>

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[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Pink Floyd's The Wall always represented one of the strongest statements against fascism and the possibility of its rise in Western Europe and the United States. As fascism rises despite the strong sentiment against it, Roger Waters must have come to the conclusion that only a revolutionary movement can defeat fascism. The counter protesters confronting the far-right at demonstrations must come to similar conclusions and build the revolutionary party as the center of the struggle. Creating a reasonable alternative depends on seeing the economic reality, the military necessity, and based on these observations creating an alternative to chauvinism, brutality, and imperialism.

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[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Certainly the censorship by large corporations must end, but that will not happen without a rebellion in the ranks of social media workers. Like hospital workers, they deal with understaffing and psychologically (in the case of social media) hazardous conditions.

The best way to end censorship for the WSWS would involve introducing a factional democracy to protect democracy within the revolutionary party. This would allow the WSWS to fight censorship from within, where it has more control, and lead by example. It should begin by giving rights to factions such as [Democratic Power](#).

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 43 comments](#)

Modern Monetary Theory and the crisis of capitalism: Part one



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

Actually, from Ch. 9 of Capital: $C=c+v$

The value of labor power equals the cost of the material commodities and the cost of the labor power included in the cost of producing that new generation of labor power. The means of subsistence has the same price as the labor power, even if one of the components of the means of subsistence is labor power from other sources.

The correct term is not "socially determined" but "socially necessary." This would account for your error, which may have cost Marx some followers. Socially determined implies a fixed amount of capital always enters into making the laborer. In real life, more money may be spent on a specific laborer, but if that money was not necessary to produce that worker, another worker, spending less money to produce the same product, would win the contract. With a lower wage they could produce the same labor power, and those workers would eventually displace the needlessly expensive workers. Marx argued that only by joining forces could the workers withhold their labor to demand a raise, thereby increasing the socially necessary amount paid to workers.

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[Random Poster sumwunyumaynotno 4 months ago](#)

The problem with your question comes from varying the equations between a given point in time and over a period of time or various cycles.

In a given point of time, when the laborer goes to sell his labor-power and the capitalist goes to buy it, a single price holds for that labor power. There cannot be any circularity at a given point of time. At that specific point in time, a price exists also for the means of subsistence. The price of the means of

subsistence will equal the price of labor power, since the laborers must always compete with those who do not have the means of subsistence and must sell their labor-power in order to attain it.

Over a period of time, you have a similar situation. Assuming, as you did, one laborer, one capitalist, and one product which is also the one means of subsistence over various cycles, you would still have similar results. 1 laborer sells his labor power to the capitalist for 1 dollar. He produces 1 dollar's worth of product, which then belongs to the capitalist. In the next cycle, the capitalist will now have the 1 dollar's worth of means of subsistence, the product of labor. He will not sell it for 1 dollar, since it cost him 1 dollar to produce. He sells it for 2 dollars. The laborer only has 1 dollar and cannot afford it. He must work another day. On the second day, he earns enough to pay for yesterday's means of subsistence. You can see that everyday, the worker will fall deeper into debt while the capitalist continues to profit. The worker must continue to work just to pay a part of his subsistence. You can see why the worker will remain miserable, in a divided household with debts piling up. The capitalist, just by owning the means of production, has all the power to take the money and the products of the labor. This produces a class divide in society as immoral as the ownership of one man by another.

As you can see, whether you use real world observations or a theoretical environment with many assumptions, you have the same result.

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[Random Poster 4 months ago](#)

From Value, Price, and Profit by Karl Marx, 1865:

“Citizen Weston’s argument rested, in fact, upon two premises: firstly, the amount of national production is a fixed thing, a constant quantity or magnitude, as the mathematicians would say; secondly, that the amount of real wages, that is to say, of wages as measured by the quantity of the commodities they can buy, is a fixed amount, a constant magnitude.”

A few paragraphs later, Marx explains Beams’ point very explicitly:

“If the amount of wages is a constant magnitude, then it can be neither increased nor diminished. If then, in enforcing a temporary rise of wages, the working men act foolishly, the capitalists, in enforcing

a temporary fall of wages, would act not less foolishly. Our friend Weston does not deny that, under certain circumstances, the working men can enforce a rise of wages, but their amount being naturally fixed, there must follow a reaction. On the other hand, he knows also that the capitalists can enforce a fall of wages, and, indeed, continuously try to enforce it. According to the principle of the constancy of wages, a reaction ought to follow in this case not less than in the former. The working men, therefore, reacting against the attempt at, or the act of, lowering wages, would act rightly. They would, therefore, act rightly in enforcing a rise of wages, because every reaction against the lowering of wages is an action for raising wages. According to Citizen Weston's own principle of the constancy of wages, the working men ought, therefore, under certain circumstances, to combine and struggle for a rise of wages. If he denies this conclusion, he must give up the premise from which it flows. He must not say that the amount of wages is a constant quantity, but that, although it cannot and must not rise, it can and must fall, whenever capital pleases to lower it. If the capitalist pleases to feed you upon potatoes instead of upon meat, and upon oats instead of upon wheat, you must accept his will as a law of political economy, and submit to it. “

Beams positions prove dangerously reactionary. Without a Marxist approach to economics, the workers cannot hope to change the situation in their favor. Without the political demands made by MMT, leaving this entire field to the Bernie Sanders camp, the revolutionary movement cannot arm the workers or retake lost territory. According to Beams, workers must eat potatoes instead of meat, and must accept the Federal Reserve policy handed down to them. They must not question the Democrats' record on Fed policy or the Republicans' strategies' effectiveness with regard to defending the foundations of capitalism. Without the political rights to demand an overhaul of the banking industry and the central bank, Beams' anti-Marxist revolution has committed the same error as Citizen Weston, disarming the workers and opposing their demands on faulty, reactionary principle.

As Marx wrote:

“I hope that, despite the unvarnished style of my paper, at its conclusion he will find me agreeing with what appears to me the just idea lying at the bottom of his theses, which, however, in their present form, I cannot but consider theoretically false and practically dangerous.”

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 4 comments](#)

New York City educators and parents must take control over online learning! Schools must stay closed until the pandemic is contained!



[Random Poster](#) 4 months ago

Another demand would convert all educational institutions to public property, as well as all producers of educational materials sold to public schools. Furthermore, all private fortunes in excess of \$20 million should be registered and confiscated with criminal penalties for refusal to declare all privately held funds beyond this excess, especially if they have profited in part through privatization of schools or public funding for private schools.

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

If people don't want their children at home during the pandemic, this comes from financial motives. Take the demands above as a whole, and the financial motives for sending children back to school no longer exist. We need to unify as a society rather than inflict death and suffering on the working class. This depends on the workers coming to power and eliminating the privileges and private fortunes of the capitalist class. Without this outcome, further massive tragedies await in the future after the virus subsides.

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

A conversation with musician, producer Fabrizio Grossi about the pandemic and its impact: “Short of a global revolution, I don’t see a solution”



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

Unfortunately, because of the class divide in the economy and the political divide over the legitimacy of the government, tragedy and loss for the music industry is comedy and gain for the revolutionary movement. Whatever one's feelings about the quality of the music, the industrial production of music under capitalism robs the workers, the artists, and the audience, while paying a few to claim success in front of the public. Any idealistic plan to redistribute money and power must wait until a revolutionary movement takes the power and restructures the industry around musical or artistic principles rather than the profit motive.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [13 comments](#)

Stop online censorship: Restore the Twitter account of the International Youth and Students for Social Equality (US)!



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

While Democratic Power has experienced censorship on WSWS's own site, we support the rights of all media to network on Twitter. Beyond just appealing to capitalist courts, socialists must demand immediate nationalization of all social networking apps with full protection against suspension of accounts, punishable with prison. Moderation of individual posts/tweets/submissions must also provide

full protection for the rights to freedom of association. Any media related crime such as plagiarism should remain the sole responsibility of the individual account holder, punishable only by courts, not private entities. Along with nationalization, a major investment in monitoring of online communities must commence, allowing for 1 full-time paid monitor for every 200 users, paid for by the government, elected by each community from among the community.

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

[Lincoln, the Dakota 38 and the racist falsification of history](#)



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

This history has special relevance this week as an Islamophobic official now has the top position in the Defense Department.

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

Trump's appointment refers to Islam as "most oppressive violent religion I know of." The WSWS version of history would excuse such appointments. Instead, these statements should disqualify him from serving in such a high position within the government. Why do you eliminate the actual language of the counter-revolution?

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

The exact text of Lincoln's execution order:

"Ordered that of the **Indians and Half-breeds** sentenced to be hanged by the military commission..."

(<http://law2.umkc.edu/facult...>
)

This racist language of "half-breeds", hidden, protected and defended by the WSWS, threatens the entire revolutionary project. An honest historical account would not hide these phrases from the readership.

From the LA Times, quoted from an 1866 letter during Red Cloud's War:

"... The advice William Tecumseh Sherman gave to President Ulysses S. Grant: 'First clear off the buffalo, then clear off the Indian. We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux even to their total extermination--men, women and children.'"

<https://www.latimes.com/arc...>

The Native American tribes had to accept defeat due to the near-extinction of the buffalo caused by an extermination campaign organized by the US Army. This followed previous extermination campaigns using small pox. A similar campaign against the U.S. would see all the cows, pigs, and chickens massacred to near extinction as a part of an extermination campaign. This would lead to the death of millions if not tens of millions of people.

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[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Petty bourgeois moralizing may account for some, but not all of the opposition to Lincoln. Assuming the Republicans really had a revolutionary party, they should not have bowed down at all to the backwardness of the Minnesota settlers. They should have countered the Confederacy's recognition of a Sioux state with recognition of various other states and a federation of independent Native American states. Rather than smashing the rebellion, they could have armed it and prepared it for statehood.

This does not mean we elevate ourselves by judging historical figures by different standards. We must rather propose that a revolution will not take root and systematic counter-revolutionary violence will put in place a system of privileges that form the foundation for the restoration of the old order. A revolutionary party must support national independence first, above federalism, and federalism second

as option given to the people through referendum. To the greatest extent possible, the revolution must support local autonomy while offering unity on a voluntary basis. This can only occur if an uncompromising revolutionary party gets into power and declares its purpose openly from the very beginning of any possible civil war. The trouble with the WSWS perspective shows through when Lincoln's own generals' letters call for genocide rather than liberation of the slaves.

As before, the toppling of monuments represents the toppling of the government. The toppling of the monuments happened concurrently with some of the largest voter participation rates in 2018 in 2020. A revolutionary movement wants to replace the government and uproot the entire economic and social order on which it is based. In this sense, a revolutionary movement must consider the opening of the border with Mexico in relation to a return of territory to the Native Americans as well as states with quotas that reserve 90% of elected offices for African Americans descended from slaves. Only a full struggle for the liberation of oppressed nations and oppressed classes will unite the American working class with its real allies throughout the world. Only these new states, based on a united socialist economy can form the foundation for a new revolutionary society.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 4 comments](#)

MAS denounces dynamite attack against Bolivia's President-elect Luis Arce



[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Also, the bombing proves the position of Democratic Power that the lack of a revolutionary party has not occurred because of the betrayal of the Pabloites alone. Democratic Power also argues that fascist paramilitaries and political police forces attacked in order to suppress the party. In such a situation, the party must declare the danger and take appropriate precautions to secure the membership, including campaigning for investigations and reports whenever members experience violence or suspicious illness or accidents. Consciousness in the end will rely on determination.

[View in discussion](#)



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

The situation seems more unstable than ever. MAS's decision to run Morales despite the recent referendum on term limits did not help the matter. The people must depend on their leaders to run legitimate candidates that meet the legal requirements to run and serve in office. Otherwise, they throw away their own votes on impossible candidacies. Candidates and voters do not suffice. A well-organized, responsible, and accountable party matters for much more.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [12 comments](#)

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Glenn Greenwald resigns from The Intercept in protest against censorship



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

The Permanent Revolution argued for revolutions that brought Marxists to power in less developed countries, rather than in England and France first. It represented a position to the left of the Mensheviks, that argued that any revolution in Russia would have to limit itself to bourgeois democratic reforms alone, defending private ownership of the means of production and leaving socialism for later. It did not put Trotsky to the Left of the Bolsheviks, who argued that they must come to power and begin the slow construction of socialism while pushing for the revolution in the more developed Western capitalist powers. The Left Opposition developed after the revolution, not as part of the Permanent Revolution, but so as to support Factional Democracy. In fact, the Stalinist bureaucracy went further Left than the Left Opposition in terms of economic policy. This ruined the country, causing severe

shortages by silencing any criticism of the ruling bureaucracy or accurate measurements of the outcomes of their policies while forcing those policies on to Russia for which it was not ready.

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[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Three of my recent posts to this comments section have been removed, either by Disqus or WSWS without any explanation. The three posts can be found here:

<https://wordpress.com/post/...>

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 0 comments](#)

Houston teachers speak out on their wildcat sickout strike



[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Teachers and all workers will repeat such actions with increasing regularity. The formation of committees will give stability to such a movement and help accumulate experience within an organization. Connections such as these with the WSWS will set the stage for an international struggle that has real hope in its mission to replace the broken economic system.

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 36 comments](#)

Google admits to censoring the World Socialist Web Site



[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

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

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

The WSWS and the fight for revolutionary leadership in Latin America



[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

Removed

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

The role of the World Socialist Web Site in educating a new generation of revolutionaries



[Random Poster 5 months ago](#)

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 2 comments](#)

A reply to the Morenoites on support for militarization of Brazilian elections



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

Why did this poorly written letter merit a response? If Andre Barbieri had not been editor of that website, the main point, that his group gave a left cover to a military-police party could have appeared in an article covering the election. Instead, what appears to be a dialogue has materialized between the Morenoites and the WSWS.

At the same time, letters written by readers hoping to participate and serious criticism receive no reply. This proves that a nano-bureaucracy with definite economic and political interests seeks to suppress Democratic Power and membership rights within the party while upholding the interests of their counterparts in other parties, the government, academia, and the mass media. In order to fight against the military's political influence for the defense of the workers, a respectful and supportive attitude towards supporters of the ICFI must come first. Without this primary focus, the workers will lose respect for their leaders as mere debaters in league with the very authority that threatens them.

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The WSWS and the crimes of US imperialism



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

Van Auken quotes from David North's statement, "After the Slaughter: Political Lessons of the Balkan War":

“Far from representing a humanitarian break with the past, the Balkan War of 1999 signals the virulent resurgence of its most malignant characteristics: the legitimization of the naked use of overwhelming military power against small countries in pursuit of strategic ‘Big Power’ interests, the cynical violation of the principle of national sovereignty and the de facto reestablishment of colonialist forms of subjugation and the revival of inter-imperialist antagonisms that carry within them the seeds of a new world war.”

The principle of national sovereignty and the defense of small countries does not end but intensifies with the defense of internationalism. The main difference between internationalism and empire depends on the defense of national sovereignty, or the right to self-determination. This means that socialists must demand a referendum, which would give oppressed nations the right to secede or to increased local autonomy. Socialists must support such secession on principle, because the unification of nations under capitalist states will not provide the people with a new state that they must only take the reigns of.

The unified empire will unleash a more devastating reaction when its power is threatened, even endangering all human life on earth. Once this threat recedes, re-division of territory can occur to lengthen the fight against a revolutionary capital. Also, to assume that greater unity among capitalist states brings progress towards a world federation serves to put off revolutionary tasks in favor of the expansion of the influence of the great monopolies that underlie the great powers.

Protectionism in itself does not pose the greatest risk to a planned international economy. The greatest risk comes from the plans of the imperialist parties, banks, and armies.

All that being said, the real danger of nationalism to the revolution comes not from the economic planning of smaller nations but from the terrorist conflict of armed nationalist groups who see the Fourth International as a threat to their secret dealings with the bourgeoisie. Stalinism and bourgeois nationalism do not always conflict with the revolutionary movement with regard to points on the political program of the party. Even certain conservative bourgeois policies may align with the interests of the working class. These opposing parties do, however, conflict over organizational questions, which hold the greatest significance for the leadership of the revolutionary movement of the workers as they turn against the state. Their opposition to workers' political independence and the foundation of workers' states empty their promises of meaning for anyone outside of the ruling class.

The party cannot gain leadership of the rising working class movement by opposing outright all protectionism or reformism. They must support certain reforms in order to review the history of the

actual effectiveness of reformist proposals, policies, and campaign promises. They can then place such reforms within their historical context to prove to workers that only when they take all the power for their class can they determine the government's agenda.

[View in discussion](#)

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

Why does Jacobin Magazine downplay the danger of fascist violence?



[Random Poster](#) 5 months ago

The Jacobin position on counter-revolutionary violence finds a reflection within the SEP, as it comes from the objective economic interests of the intelligencia. Admitting to the reality of the presence of terrorists, secret agents whether state funded or privately funded, and a general presence of a system of terror against opponents of the oligarchy such as that exposed by the #MeToo and BLM movements, all these things naturally find opposition in the SEP as it seeks to present its legitimate party as an organization of revolutionaries invulnerable to political pressure. In fact, political pressure from the far right or "from above" (meaning bourgeois liberals) has consciously deformed the political program of the SEP so as to undermine its leadership in the event of a revolution. The existence of plots such as the ones against Governors Whitmer and Northam proves the importance of a formal investigation based on various positions put forward only by the Democratic Power faction of the ICFI:

1. The destruction of the ICFI branches in South America by fascist agents or paramilitaries, not simply the betrayal of Stalinism, Castroism, and Pabloism.
2. The destruction of the reputation of members of the ICFI who stood for an appeal to the working class members of such mass movements as BLM and #MeToo, as well as rebellious factions within the trade union movement.

3. The destruction of the systematic and professionally competent political work of the SEP with relation to the building of local branches through connections with readers who write in or donate to the website.
4. The absence of any resolutions to defend the victims of fascist violence through the formation of groups and activities designed to heal them from psychological scars due to torture and encourage participation in the prosecution or armed dismantling of fascist criminal groups and activities.
5. The complete censorship, not even attempted by the Mass Media, of the valid scientific opinion that the Covid-19 virus behind the pandemic had laboratory origins, while the authorities had a motive to release it to punish the insurreccionary mood of the population.
6. The constitutional and financial order and the reports to membership and donors who support the work of the SEP. Only regular reports and clear documentation will restore the Democratic Power to the membership that underlies the conception of "Democratic Centralism."

An investigation and report on each of these points will clearly show the need for the construction of the Democratic Power faction within the ICFI as a legitimate and necessary counterweight to the nano-bureaucracy, which must fall into economism to some extent due to the pressures of the capitalist class, its state, and daily responsibilities that may gradually wear away the theoretical core of the movement. Trusting the FBI with the prosecution of these groups will end with witness tampering, evidence suppression, and prosecutorial misconduct. Only the active involvement of the people in defending and organizing the process, while exposing its flaws, will lead to significant arrests and trials of the political operatives, such as Steve Bannon or Harvey Weinstein, serving as intermediaries between the oligarchs and their fascist militias and their human-trafficking, branding, harassment, and rape squads.

[View in discussion](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) [30 comments](#)

The pianist Igor Levit and the defense of culture against fascism



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

Much of art has descended from sensitivity and reflection to disdain for the people and a forced occupation of the senses. Art functions as a service to the people, but conditions, rather than influencing a rebellion against the government, have turned artists to rebel against the creative process. The audience has turned into targets, and in this way serves the fascist forces bringing back slavery and the war industry.

The balance for this pessimistic view can only come from the destruction of the ruling class and its state. As their views work against the human conscience, what emerges will enter in the form of a destructive mass. The growing rioting and political violence will have its source in the insensitivity and reckless suppression of emotions that art has produced. Only a revolution can end the self-feeding cycle of artistic insensitivity and the destruction of everything fragile and refined.

Part III: Random Poster's Press Page



[Random Poster's Press Page](#)

From Random Poster, an Independent Contributor to the WSWS Comments Section

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When Lenin's Next Step was his Last

[randomposter33](#) [Leave a comment](#)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/ch09.htm>

1920- Lenin publishes Left Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder

1921- Sylvia Pankhurst declares the formation of the Fourth International

1922- Lenin suffers first of 3 debilitating strokes, followed by the last, fourth lethal stroke.

1923- Labor wins general election, bringing to power the first Labor Prime Minister, Ramsey Macdonald, in January of 1924.

1924- Lenin suffers his final lethal stroke.

1924- “Zinoviev Letter”, a forgery published four days before the general election, produces a victory for the conservatives after 10 months of Labor Party rule.

Lenin, like Plekhanov, was inseparable from his politics. His political death, which became necessary as he denied his own theory to the British Working Class, became his cultural and biological death as well. Trotsky survived by becoming a cultural icon, but politically he would float slowly and aimlessly towards Pankhurst’s position, only to arrive too late, when fascist dictatorship had already had years to prepare the next World War. Pankhurst survived both, but in isolation, depending on her connections to the Queen of Ethiopia and her support for African independence. Her suffering in isolation should appear as large as some of history’s greatest battles, when the fate of the entire world is at stake and many observe with almost unbearable anxiety.

It is one thing to argue the wrong way as leader of a newspaper or a party and quite another to argue as the dictator of large country. The former could allow more lee-way as people are free to choose their party or newspaper as individuals. As leader of a state, Lenin would have done far better for his cause and himself had he allowed for a factional democracy according to the demands of the Left Opposition. People cannot simply choose another state without moving to a new country, which would be impossible in every sense for the entire Russian working class. The Russian working class could not betray the British working class since they needed an international revolution, especially including the wealthy imperialist countries like Great Britain, to break the imperialist blockade of their socialist economy.

Proposal for Judicial Committee of the Fourth International

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

The JCFI would oppose both the ICFI and ISFI, holding the ISFI accountable for its opportunist tactics and alliance with Stalinism and the ICFI accountable for its gross negligence and its liability to members for abuses as a result of a tyrannical factional dictatorship in open defiance of the principles laid out in the “Declaration of the 46”, the founding document of the Left Opposition, the predecessor of the Fourth International.

Blocked Comment, WSWS Chooses Left Hegelianism Over Marxism on Truth and Intellectual Production

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 30 comments

Facebook censors WSWS article exposing “Wuhan lab” conspira...

[arandomposter33](#)[Carolyn Zaremba an hour ago](#)Removed

The ban on posts from Democratic Power on the WSWS, blamed entirely on a Disqus algorithm, presents socialists with an urgent problem. How can socialists combat censorship with leaders who do not take a strong stance against the censorship of their own movement? Socialists who take the principles of the Fourth International seriously cannot accept leaders that do not actually oppose censorship. Their weakness makes them a very risky liability as leaders of a movement that must stand united against censorship.

[arandomposter33OL an hour ago](#)Removed

This seems to be the only defense of the WSWS decision to censor Democratic Power while shifting blame on to Disqus. We cannot accept the absence of an appeals process for moderation decisions and the absence of any public front page apologies when the facts prove that abuse of moderation privileges in fact led to censorship of opposition views. Without a commitment from the party to democracy for its membership, what hope does it have in a struggle for democracy against the power of large corporations? This internal weakness sabotages the struggle of the socialist movement to combat censorship, precisely when the threat is greatest.

[arandomposter33Ledson an hour ago](#)Removed

The WSWS and Disqus have participated in upholding the same censorship regime they hypocritically criticize. The WSWS must publicly apologize for its censorship of the Democratic Power faction.

[arandomposter33Carlos Delgado an hour ago](#)Removed

Reading this comment convinces me that a very urgent and strong campaign must confront the WSWS over its censorship of Democratic Power. The WSWS goes on carelessly blaming Disqus algorithms. My response to the “censored” article has been censored by the WSWS. Not only should the WSWS restore the comment, it should also issue a public apology for allowing its censorship of Democratic Power to go on for so long.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 31 comments](#)

Washington Post’s “Wuhan Lab” conspiracy theory stands exposed

[arandomposter33 a day ago](#)Removed

The writer quotes as its authority, “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci,” who declared, “A number of very qualified evolutionary biologists have said that everything about the stepwise evolution over time strongly indicates that it evolved in nature and then jumped species.”

Dr. Fauci, appointed to his position during the Reagan Administration, is one of the highest paid federal government employees in the U.S. earning more than the vice president or the chief justice. A royal of sorts, holding his position for 37 years, his scientific opinion represents just that, an opinion.

Marx dealt with a similar problem when he confronted the Hegelians, especially the Left or Young Hegelians. In the German Ideology, he explained that the ruling class had control over the economic levers of society and this gave them power over the dominant ideology while suppressing the ideas of the servant, peasant, or working classes. The Left Hegelians, like the writer of the article, sought to bring about liberal reforms, increased freedom and a more responsive authority, but they did this through attacks on religion, Christianity and the Catholic Church especially, as the source of the power of the ruling class. If they could convince the people to abandon Christianity, then the ruling class would lose all its influence.

Marx broke from this type of thinking and in that way saved the essence of Hegel's philosophy from the vulgar materialism of the Young Hegelians. In doing so, Marx stood up to the pre-eminent Faucis of his day in the field of philosophy. Rather than accept the US Department of Health or the UN's World Health Organization as bearers of the highest truth and greatest ideal, as Hegel's followers would do, Marx would expose them to an even more thorough criticism as the representatives of the various competing ruling classes. This led him not towards an acceptance of Christian values but an appreciation of their contribution to human progress. Virology and the study of infectious diseases might certainly have brought progress in controlling certain diseases, but under the control of the ruling class, this study had always the end of defending and perpetuating their rule.

As Marx wrote in the German Ideology:

"The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are subject to it."

Marx states very clearly here that those who lack the means to produce peer-reviewed scientific papers must be subject to those who do. If we merely accept this ruling intellectual force, we must also accept the ruling material force, and furthermore the armed forces of the police and military. Every one of their decisions must also then receive our support since we cannot prove in their courts, laboratories, and publications that they are wrong, since those means of mental production belong to them.

In the next statement, Marx explains the inner weakness or emptiness of this intellectual force:

“The ruling ideas are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relationships, the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas; hence of the relationships which make the one class the ruling one, therefore, the ideas of its dominance.”

The ruling ideas are only the ideas which grasp their own dominance. They do not represent material discoveries about the external world but the continuous reaffirmation of their own power. To a revolutionary, this must immediately appear dull and tiresome. To fight with their ideas or to accept them blindly both lead to a New Hegelian idealism which overlooks their material interests as a ruling class.

Building of Former SWP Headquarters

Collapses in Pittsburgh- 3 1/2 Stories

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

<https://news.yahoo.com/pittsburgh-loses-piece-history-fire-024911672.html>

E-mail Response to Dan Conway: Abusive

Moderation by Silent Nano-bureaucrats

Targeting Democratic Power to Continue,

Unashamed to Use Fascist Cover-up Tactics

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

1. “To the extent that your difficulties posting are related to problems with Disqus, this is something that the WSWS can’t properly assist with as it is a third party application. All I can suggest based on my own experience is that if you attempt to post on Disqus using Tor or a VPN connection, problems may arise as a result.”

To quote from the WSWS itself:

“As we [reported yesterday](#), Facebook restored the accounts and claimed unconvincingly that the politically motivated purge of the socialists from its platform two days earlier was the result of a technical glitch. As WWSW International Editorial Board Chairman David North explained to the *Financial Times* in a front-page story on Monday, ‘Even though this particular ban has been [reversed], it’s a warning we don’t know what might come next.’”

([Facebook restores service to socialist pages, claiming the purge was an ‘automation error.’](#))

From the same article:

Judith Jackson: “Having disabled the group account for the University of Michigan IYSSE account, and those of its admins and leading members of the Socialist Equality Party, Facebook restored these accounts on Monday. While an apology was made, there has not been a satisfactory explanation given as to why these accounts were targeted, other than it was an ‘automation error.’ Given that Facebook employs several thousand personnel to monitor accounts, I for one do not take this explanation at face value. ...”

Dr. Laurie Cestnick: “... In November 2020, the personal pages of all 3 administrators of the page were shut down all on the same day within minutes of each other. None of us ever spams and we run a very clean and respectful page ... there was no reason for it. Once my personal page was back, a message popped up stating ‘You are not allowed to create any more groups until February 2021’ ... I hadn’t created a group since 2015—my progressive group, so this was extremely odd. I STILL cannot even post on my OWN group wall (link above) and all other admins are still off of FB. Thankfully a couple of moderators were left to man the page but we still get threats from FB to shut us down with no explanation. Not only can I not post on my own group wall, but I am a neuroscientist and neuropsychologist/psychologist and cannot even post on my own page that I created to help children with autism, dyslexia etc.”

From another article:

([Facebook escalates attack on socialist left](#))

“These actions by Facebook take place in a definite political context. There is an immense and ongoing political crisis within the US state, a raging pandemic that has killed nearly 430,000 people in the United States, an extreme economic crisis, and growing anger in the working class against the entire policy of the capitalist ruling elite. The ruling class is terrified of the growth of social opposition from below.”

As you can see, these arguments about a third party application, within the context of the campaign against internet censorship, make no sense. The fact remains that not only the ruling class but also the nano-bureaucracy feel terrified by the social opposition from below. The only way for the nano-bureaucracy to contain that social opposition without turning to the tactics and strategy of the counter-revolution will depend on its ability to incorporate opposition factions into official positions within the party. Barring this, the WSWS will find itself following the same tactics and strategy as Facebook, Google, and every other corporation attempting to do its part to censor any challenge to all existing political leadership. Perhaps they prefer to be censored so as to avoid any conversation that would make them uncomfortable. I have no reason to believe that Disqus somehow follows a different pattern. In 2017, Zeta Global bought Disqus. Zeta Global was founded by former Apple Inc. CEO John Sculley. To argue that Apple and Disqus really stand for our democratic rights reveals an unacceptable level of naivete and political subservience to the corporations and their executives.

2. “I have not looked through your entire commenting history or attempted commenting history on the site which you’ve documented on your wordpress page.”

Has anyone looked at my history? I have published 3 books on my website. Doesn’t the SEP have to respond to a former SSE President at a major university, somebody who campaigned for the SEP during elections, who wrote for the website? Is the commenting history really that problematic? If so, how would it hurt to speak directly about these issues. If no agreement can be reached, then members should have a right to discuss and vote, as well as receive proportional representation inside national committees. In the mean time, the leadership should be held accountable to provide someone to discuss these issues in the most inclusive way possible. If the point of the party is to create theoretical clarity for the revolutionary movement, then chasing TV hosts for crowds will only lead the party to disaster. The first responsibility should be to discuss these issues and remove barriers to participation for dedicated members.

3. “It is clear, however, that you are not simply a ‘random poster’ but that you have a real differences with the program of the ICFI.”

The real differences with the program of the ICFI do not justify the censorship attacks. The content of the difference deserves discussion, not suppression. The willingness to discuss should open the door for participation in meetings and campaigns. Beyond just censoring me on Disqus, the SEP blocked me from participation in an online meeting of the Chicago Education Committee without a word of

explanation. Why don't you judge me by my participation in a meeting, instead of relying on backward prejudice? This talk of "real differences" appears taken straight from a chauvinist's guide to politics.

4. "You essentially use bogus charges of repression of criticism to build support within the party to change its orientation in line with the current fashionable trends of US 'left' imperialism."

This argument about bogus charges seems designed to bring down the WSWS itself. Censorship can censor its own critics, but when censorship knows no bounds, all is propaganda in service of the military, and all opposing views can meet military force or silence themselves. This forces all opposition into a violent downward cycle, bringing the WSWS down with it. In order to save the WSWS, the SEP must take the strongest position against the silencing and breaking up of opposition factions within the ICFI. Maintaining silence is the greatest gift you can offer to US imperialism, fashionable or not.

5. "Your encouraging and extended conversation with an ex-SEP member who left the party to embrace upper-middle class identity politics and the #MeToo movement in particular was quite revealing."

In fact, the amount of abuse she suffered before she finally left the party is quite revealing. She had dedicated her life to the cause, even running in an election as a candidate, and only a series of abusive actions that went unpunished and unexposed by the leadership finally led to her forced withdrawal. That people could hear her story and still support the party speaks to the dedication of the Democratic Power faction, which judged by its positions has a much higher level of support among ICFI members than any official count reveals. The defense of class over personal identity should not depend on the defense of identity crimes (which Disqus arguably participates in) or unsustainable objections to individual testimony.

Your opposition to the MeToo movement fits into the middle class attitude represented by Jimmy Dore in his arguments with Jerry White. White attempted to explain that the working class needs a Left political stance in order to push politically for their interests. Jimmy Dore answered that all poor people should unite and defend each other regardless of politics. White's position more accurately follows from Marxist theory, that the workers must rise in a conscious way, conscious of their class and their common future as the revolutionary class that ends capitalism and builds socialism. The MeToo movement may include individuals of the upper middle class, but to workers, the political aims of the MeToo movement must outweigh the presence of rich supporters. The presence of poor people among fascists, likewise, must not force Marxists to reconsider their political goals.

6. “At any rate, I hope that your future attempts at posting on the WSWS are successful to the extent that do not run afoul of the site’s discussion rules.”

If the problem stems from my running afoul of discussion rules, then I would gladly adjust my writing to follow the rules. Considering that the WSWS blocked 12 of my last 31 posts, all posted since my last email to you on January 5th, I think I deserve a detailed and specific reason for how I broke the Discussion rules. This should show how at least 1 but in fact how all 12 posts ran afoul of discussion rules. Also, the party must also explain why no explanation arrived earlier. The Discussion Rules do not include a policy for the appeal of moderator decisions. This frees every abusive moderator to act with impunity.

7. “We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party’s program behind conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was deliberately manufactured in a Chinese lab...”

The Yan Report released by a Hong Kong University Virologist, along with recent reports about WHO scientists meeting bureaucratic resistance after seeking to trace the origins of the virus in Wuhan, indicate that the Chinese government may in fact have something to hide. Only the staunchest Stalinist would deny that the Chinese government has the capacity to kill millions of people, which it has done twice in the last century under the rule of the same ruling Maoist party. To witch-hunt this position as a conspiracy theory creates a grave danger for the free discussion of science for the revolutionary movement. If hard science, laboratory science, cannot freely discuss its findings and its methods then social sciences such as Marxism will surely fall as well. The revolutionary movement has an extra responsibility to refrain from witch hunts and the censorship of scientific arguments. If it is really a conspiracy theory, then the best answer would provide the hard facts to disprove it in fair debate rather than silence and erase the entire known scientific history regarding genetic engineering and particularly the engineering of viruses and other biological weapons.

8. “...or that wealth distribution is not primarily a class but generational question...”

How this appears to be a conspiracy theory to you, I have no clue. This is an argument about political program. Besides grievously misrepresenting the positions in Random Poster’s Press Page, you take a strong position against Marxism. You assert that if wealth distribution is primarily a class question, then it can have no other dimension. That effectively conspires against those would support a primarily class-based wealth distribution. If Capitalism only hurts the working class, then for the working class it is useless to unite other classes as well as individuals behind its program. This turns the entire middle

class and national bourgeoisie of oppressed nations against the revolution, a political loss for the working class. As Lenin wrote in Imperialism Ch. 4:

“Capitalism is commodity production at its highest stage of development, when labour-power itself becomes a commodity. The growth of internal exchange, and, particularly, of international exchange, is a characteristic feature of capitalism. The uneven and spasmodic development of individual enterprises, individual branches of industry and individual countries is inevitable under the capitalist system.

England became a capitalist country before any other, and by the middle of the nineteenth century, having adopted free trade, claimed to be the “workshop of the world”, the supplier of manufactured goods to all countries, which in exchange were to keep her provided with raw materials. But in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, this monopoly was already undermined; for other countries, sheltering themselves with “protective” tariffs, developed into independent capitalist states. On the threshold of the twentieth century we see the formation of a new type of monopoly: firstly, monopolist associations of capitalists in all capitalistically developed countries; secondly, the monopolist position of a few very rich countries, in which the accumulation of capital has reached gigantic proportions. An enormous “surplus of capital” has arisen in the advanced countries.

“It goes without saying that if capitalism could develop agriculture, which today is everywhere lagging terribly behind industry, if it could raise the living standards of the masses, who in spite of the amazing technical progress are everywhere still half-starved and poverty-stricken, there could be no question of a surplus of capital. This ‘argument’ is very often advanced by the petty-bourgeois critics of capitalism. But if capitalism did these things it would not be capitalism; for both uneven development and a semi-starvation level of existence of the masses are fundamental and inevitable conditions and constitute premises of this mode of production. As long as capitalism remains what it is, surplus capital will be utilised not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries.”

Here, Lenin analyzes the different generations of Capitalist countries. England arose in the mid-19th century and other countries later. This division of countries according to generations did not contradict Marxism but pushed Marxism forward, gained it a large following, and brought it to power. The division of generations within the United States holds similar keys to explain the revolutionary situation that the capitalist media tries to cover over. If England failed as the workshop of the world, leading to the outbreak of WWI, so did the Boomers fail to establish a compromise between classes that bought off the revolutionary class. To argue that British military might or French capital should

not control Russia but instead the working class did not weaken Lenin's argument but strengthened it. To argue that the class compromise espoused by previous generations of labor leaders should not hold when it comes to the politics of the younger generations would not weaken but strengthen the socialist revolution.

Refusing to compromise with the capitalist class means attacking where they have failed to defend. To excuse the impoverishment of the Millennial generation would be to turn on Lenin, who did not excuse capitalism for keeping the masses "half-starved and poverty-stricken" but instead exposed the backwardness of agriculture and the export of capital to backward countries as "fundamental and inevitable conditions." Lenin advocated the investment of surplus capital in agriculture (once capitalism has been defeated) so as to reduce starvation and improve the standard of living. From your point of view, this would constitute an attack on Marxism! You interpolate, "Why does Lenin want to invest in agriculture? Isn't that a specific sector of the economy rather than the whole working class? What does it have to do with the workers in the factories, the only audience for Marxism? Why should the workers care about those excluded from the contracts and careers of class-compromise politics?" The confusion seems endless. Lenin did not attack Marxism! You have!

Just as Lenin rejected the Social Democracy of Germany, the younger generation will reject your chauvinism. That chauvinism forms the basis for your nano-bureaucratic class compromise. Your attempts to find "real differences" in order to defend the nano-bureaucracy really amounts to a defense of Economism, the theory revising Marxism so as to claim that the revolutionary really has nothing to do as impersonal economic forces determine the course of history.

9. "We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party's program... will not find a hearing among a continually growing cadre of revolutionary Marxists."

"Your attempts", you say, as if posting comments on the website is a crime. The WSWS defended the rights of Harvey Weinstein, who hired spies to suppress the New York Times, to a fair hearing, but to defend a Marxist with some formal hearing within the party would seem completely foreign. The growing cadre will increasingly resemble careerists and functionaries, not the great Marxists of the early 20th century and not the Marxist revolutionaries that Trotsky wanted at the head of the Fourth International. In order to reach the level of those great revolutionaries, the level necessary to bring success to the revolution, then the party must approach the struggle for theoretical clarity in a professional way. They should assign someone to the task of having this discussion. They should provide for a formal hearing and a reply that gets reported to the membership. Finally, the membership

should have a chance to discuss and vote on the formation of a Democratic Power faction or factions in general.

Sexual Assault by State on Female Prisoners to Silence Victims and Witnesses, but No Need for MeToo?

[randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

<https://news.yahoo.com/nj-officers-suspended-over-alleged-225249319.html>

This case proves that MeToo is not only necessary to protect workers from violence, but it also shows that MeToo has become a real force for the revolution by exposing the state and the upper class in their predatory violence against women. The “culture of acceptance” is the culture of the defense of capitalism, which has invaded and contorted the positions of the leadership of the ICFI.

On Idling Machines and Profit, Disproving WSWS Economic Analysis

[randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

According to Marx in Capital, the idling of machines reduces profits in only two ways, since wages have already been paid while work cannot go on or while investment in fixed capital has produced the most efficient production methods. In every other case, idling old machines would increase profits as would idling machines in order to starve the workers so that when they returned they would accept lower wages.

To argue that destroying or idling machines improves the conditions of the workers ignores two obvious facts. One, that Marxists stand opposed to the Luddites who would destroy the machines to prevent their use with labor. Two, the shutting down of machines would reduce the wages paid to the workers as well as their purchasing power, since fewer goods would be produced while they could not

claim wages. The Luddite WSWWS position cannot remain in place. It protects and provokes the capitalist class to engage in its own reverse-Luddite violence against the workers.

In fact, the capitalists could easily shut down machines and increase their profits. This happens regularly in the form of shutdowns during labor disputes. If the workers don't accept lower wages, the employer shuts down the factory, reduces wages to zero, and waits for them to give up and return at the lower rate.

The fact remains, then, that the capitalists do not want to use the pandemic to increase their profits. They instead plan to cause immense harm to the workers through the deliberate exposure of the people to the virus. This would facilitate the use of increasingly open violence to further the counter-revolution's strategy against rising revolutionary sentiment, evidenced by the growth in popularity of Bernie Sanders and Alexandra Occasio-Cortez as well as the World Socialist Website. To combat counter-revolutionary violence requires first the acceptance of its existence and its receiving both secretive and open support from within the state.

The WSWWS seems to agree with Malthus and his cothinkers, who Marx excoriated for substituting abstinence for Capital. As if Capital only comes from the abstinence of the capitalist class. This absurd view will push the WSWWS into defending capitalists for their abstinence and then capitalism for its insurmountable strength and morality. The capitalists do not gain more profit from abstaining to consume but rather from extracting the most surplus value from the workers. This means they pay the workers less than they produce in exchange. That difference does not multiply over time. It comes about through definite agreements between labor and capital, which depends on capital's ability to shut down production, reducing wages to zero, and waiting for the workers to return starving and willing to work at a lower rate. The capitalists do not abstain by shutting down production, they abstain by keeping it going. This means consuming less and investing more. It leads to less profit but a greater degree of force to use in breaking up the workers' movement towards socialism.

8 Comments Blocked Since Jan. 5th, After New Account Created, Addressed to Readers in General as well as: ironcloudz, Marla, Sam Westbrook, Carolyn Zaremba, and Carlos Delgado

[randomposter33](#) [Leave a comment](#)

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

Alabama teachers speak out as four more teachers die of COVID-19 this week

[arandomposter33](#) 44 minutes ago Removed

The government has made a conscious decision: two day quarantines and the end of paid leave, combined with overcrowded classrooms that make social distancing impossible. These represent a clear attempt to use large-scale violence to silence any workers' movement. The workers must confront this threat armed with the conviction that the super-rich are prepared to kill to hold on to the power. The committee must continue to shed a light on these deaths and expose the motives underlying them: the political confrontation over the right to form a revolutionary government.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 42 comments

Biden's inaugural address: Banality and empty abstraction to cover over reality

[arandomposter33](#) 3 days ago Detected as spam Thanks, we'll work on getting this corrected.

1. To place the blame for January 6th entirely on Trump or even the Republican Party does not do justice to democracy or historical truth. In 2014, Obama and Biden orchestrated a coup in the Ukraine,

one of the most socially equal countries in the world. The new government tore down statues of Lenin and replaced them with monuments to Orthodox Christian angels. The new leaders give public support to Neo-Nazis. As Ukraine neighbors Russia, this would be like Russia orchestrating a coup in Canada or Mexico.

The Democrats later attempted a coup in the United States, calling into question the legitimacy of the 2016 elections and attempting to remove Trump by force. They could not bring the Republicans on board and for that reason lost the vote to remove Trump in the Senate. The Republicans likely opposed the coup for fear that the necessary preparations for a war with Russia had not been accomplished, making mass opposition to the government likely in the event of a coup designed to prepare an invasion of Russia. Russia did not choose Trump, the people elected him. Biden's reference to the "violence" entering the capitol may mean he acknowledges the economic necessity of the drive to war, whether a Democrat or a Republican holds office.

In order to oppose the "rigged" elections, one would have to counterpose a fair election. Both the Democrats and Republicans stand in the way of a scientifically designed election system meant to accurately reflect the will and informed policy decisions of the majority of the people. The majority of people support universal higher education, \$2000 monthly payments, and other socialist measures, yet this receives no representation under the rigged corporate welfare system. Only unyielding opposition to both political parties financed and controlled by the oligarchy will produce a result in favor of Democratic Power for the working class.

2. "The rejection of any restraints on the spread of disease" has a counterpart in the rejection of any scientific inquiry into the origins of the virus. Public records show that the US government has conducted tests on prisoners to spread diseases. Public records show that laboratories have the technological equipment to construct viruses on a genetic level so as to determine their effect on the human body. Suppression of such discussion gives immeasurable support to the coup-plotters and the counter-revolution in general. To say that this disease is completely "natural" in origin goes against the very basics of Marxism, which argues that the ruling class consciously controls and exploits nature.

3. The "unity" of the North insured its victory over the South. Lincoln accomplished this through extreme measures that many saw as tyrannical. Lincoln's efforts represented, however, not a "unity" against slavery but a contradictory struggle of U.S. capitalism to spread into the West while hampered by the political power vested in the slave states who sought to maintain the balance of power in the federal government through an expansion of slavery into new Western states. The elimination of the

slave power allowed the U.S. to spread quickly, at the expense of “Indians and Half-breeds”, into the West as part of its competition with Europe, which spread quickly into Africa during the same period.

4. The search for spiritual unity without any connection to the body may be wrong-headed, but so too would the search for purely biological and geographic unity. This would leave out the actual scientific history, which shows that other forces preceded biological forces and continue to function side by side with biology. That unity would also leave out social questions and questions of psychology and theory.

True unity would break down the division between abstraction and reality, not through a jumbling together of unconnected parts but through an inescapable consciousness of joint responsibilities and possibilities.

5. Lenin’s view of “faith” differed greatly from the view proposed here. He saw faith as the conclusions that flowed from theory. Our faith, he believed, is borne out by our experience. Lenin wrote:

“How often we would find people in the Social-Democratic, movement, particularly in its intellectualist wing, who belittled the aims of the movement, faint-hearts who have lost faith in the revolutionary energy of the working class. Even now some think that because the democratic revolution is bourgeois by its social and economic nature, the proletariat should not aspire to enact the leading role in the revolution, to take the most energetic part in it, or to put forward such advanced slogans as the overthrow of the tsarist regime and the establishment of a provisional revolutionary government. Events are teaching even these politically backward people. Events are bearing out the militant conclusions that follow from the revolutionary theory of Marxism.”

The proletariat should not aspire to participate energetically because its participation depends on its faith! Such intellectualist attacks on revolutionary activity will only hinder the revolutionary movement that the WSWS seeks to guide to victory.

6. We reject Biden’s call for unity because we do not see it as genuine. A review of his policies during the Obama administration would show that socialism and internationalism came under attack, millions of Americans lost their jobs, homes and savings, and racism of one variety only met racism of another variety without actually attacking its social roots, the attempt to divide the working class in order to suppress their revolutionary unity. The revolution must remember these lessons and suppress the attempts at unity made between the Republicans and Democrats as well as with foreign allies. The suppression of capitalist unity will strengthen and empower proletarian unity. Only the proletariat benefits from a universal political system that empowers all the world’s people.

The upper class can unite only by calling off their attacks on the working class and resigning to the total redistribution of their excess wealth. They must accept the imprisonment of their political leaders from both parties and the breaking up of their state and their class privilege.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 37 comments](#)

Remove coup plotter Trump immediately!

[arandomposter33ironcloudz 11 days ago](#) Removed

These organizations are for the workers to build. What about the organization of the revolutionary party, built by and for the revolutionary movement? That has to be the responsibility of trained, professional leaders. Leaders can function in order to encourage and defend participation by the membership. This type of leadership would better unite the revolutionary movement as social forces divide the government to the point where the armed insurrection becomes the rule rather than the exception. If the revolution survives these divisive political forces, the committees will realize that their fate depends on a successful armed insurrection rather than the idling of the masses. How will the party respond appropriately if it cannot recognize its own responsibilities since it has passed them on to the committees?

[arandomposter33Marla 11 days ago](#) Removed

Trump did not create the plot, even if he participated. You seem to need the word plot defined: “a secret plan for accomplishing a usually evil or unlawful end.” ([m-w.com](#))

This mistake concerning Trump comes from an ignorance of Marxism. The big bourgeoisie and the petty-bourgeoisie have different outlooks. While appealing to and encouraging certain petty-bourgeois extremists, Trump has not abandoned his billionaire status or his orientation towards them and the imperialist order in general. Their main political concern is to control any outbreak of a mass political movement, left or right, and bring them under the control of the Democratic or Republican parties. Trump, as Biden has signalled, will likely not face any time for these extraordinary events as he carefully worded his statement at the Ellipse prior to the assault in order to evade culpability.

The leadership of these extremist groups, such as the Proud Boys and the Neo-Nazis cannot expect Trump to enter the Capitol with them and declare a dictatorship. He can only flirt with this idea, but as a member of the big bourgeoisie and the ruling class, could never actually carry it out, far less lead the charge. Tying everything to him will leave out Republican Congressmen and right-wing Democrats that

created the conditions for this insurrection by politicizing election procedures and undermining faith in the elections while ignoring the economic precipice that the U.S. hangs on. The swamp that Trump promised to drain will actually remain until the workers come to the conclusion that they cannot sustain themselves on the crumbs offered by the bourgeoisie.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 86 comments](#)

Mobilize the working class against Trump's conspiracy! Prepare for a political general strike!

[arandomposter33Sam Westbrook 11 days ago](#) Removed

The defense against the social media monopoly does not benefit from illusions in the democratic process. Only the transfer of the social media companies from private to public ownership and their democratic control by social media workers and regulators will return democratic rights to the working class.

The adage on a free press, "it's only a free press for those who own one", seems to have lost its meaning as the people meander through the open cyberspace to potentially any website. The reality, however, is that every click costs a dollar, so the average return on a click must be greater than a dollar. This brings the power back to the owners of capital.

A socialist restructuring of social media would include a greater presence of elected and salaried regulators as well as a marketing budget as the natural right of every webmaster, blogger, and social media socialite.

[arandomposter33Carolyn Zaremba 11 days ago](#) Removed

The WSWS has not always existed and neither has Marxism. Marx himself argued, "If this is Marxism, then I am not a Marxist." He would say the same thing today, just as Trotsky would point to the zig-zags of the party leadership as evidence of a bureaucracy whose interests directly oppose that of the socialist revolution.

Both Lenin and Trotsky died serving the revolution. Their service earned them their isolation at times, the hate of the government and the capitalist media, and through all of this they remained dedicated to building the revolutionary movement. For this reason, they stood out as different from the majority

who from direct fear or through repressed feelings turned against their own former beliefs or their secret leanings and disavowed the struggle.

The defense of Harvey Weinstein, Jeffrey Epstein, Keith Raniere, R. Kelly, CEO Les Moonves, and Bill Cosby represented a fear described by Trotskyists as the fear of losing their position in the party and a future state due to an influx of talent into the party. Trotsky spoke about the same opposition to the growing world revolution within the Stalinist Bureaucracy of the Comintern. The sudden fall of these towering figures gave certain functionaries the sense that their privileged positions could come under dispute under similar circumstances.

The defense of the privileged, however, does not fall under the purview of Marxism. That represents a different outlook. Marxism argues for recognition of true talent and the full development of the individual to his true potential. The stance taken here against Trump does not call for a trial and the assumption of innocence everytime a message appears out of place in Social Media. Unfortunately, they did take this position with regard to the perpetrators of similar anti-democratic attacks against media institutions, academic institutions, and public figures. They argued, irrationally, that the Democratic Principle of Due Process must apply to every managerial decision or override the free speech right of the media when it comes to lawless traitors and secret civil warriors. In this situation, Trump's supposed Democratic Rights to media power and career privilege did not substitute for a Marxist analysis. Anyone familiar with the American media should know that Trump is of their ilk. This change of position should appear as progress in the fight against Nano-bureaucracy and Economism.

[arandomposter33Carlos Delgado 11 days ago](#) Removed

You obviously ignored all the commentary that was written in response to the WSWS, much of it negative. The WSWS here criticizes Jacobin for defending Trump. That's exactly what the WSWS did when it defended Trump's and Clinton's close friend Jeffrey Epstein. This followed in the line of what Lenin would describe as Economism. For the Economists, struggle against spontaneous consciousness had no meaning. The economy changed people's minds on its own without the intervention of the revolutionary party. Essentially, the Economists argued that there was nothing at all for the revolutionary to do.

As part of the flip side of the same coin, the Economists later turned to terrorism, refusing to accept Lenin's position that the terrorism often had Tsarist agents provoking the attacks while the acts themselves served more to break up any revolutionary organization that would provide the working

class with the arguments they needed in the class struggle. This theoretical weakness, which led the WSWS to side with Epstein, Clinton, and Trump, as well as the Raniere cult and its very rich backers. Anything but take up the task of confronting the workers with arguments about sexual harassment and workplace security that formed the economic impulse for the MeToo movement's widespread popularity. Anything but take up the task of confronting the workers about the dangers involved in political participation while police brutality receives the support of top politicians.

The presence of bourgeois ideology does not end the internal contradictions of capitalist production as the material basis for society. These will lead to movements such as MeToo and BLM, which will then fall under the influence of the bourgeoisie without a proper perspective to align the activity of the revolutionary party with the class interests and spontaneous activity of the working class. The working class seeks to create progress through its protests against workplace sexual harassment, assault, and rape. The working class seeks to create progress through its protests against police brutality and the state murder of unarmed men, women, and children. The WSWS must not fall into the Economist trap and reject revolutionary activity among these movements in order to bring the revolutionary party to the widest possible audience and potential membership.

Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site 2 comments](#)

Once Upon a River: A Native American girl wanders the waterways

[arandomposter33 18 days ago](#) Removed [Passed Censorship on second attempt of identical post.]

The narrative of the poor Native American heading down the river could not stand alone as a pure narrative. It must have a symbolic side to show the political situation through its exclusion. The various characters represent something: the uncle, a revolutionary leader or general that demands too much of his conscripts, her father the law that dies leaving behind a criminal war to eradicate a people, her mother, the shattered emotional and spiritual unity that might exist under primitive communism. In order to truly follow in the spirit of Marxism, the writer must not follow in the steps of the chauvinist writers who characterize natives as naked and animal-like, even in their philosophy of themselves. They must see the tragedy and abandonment that characterizes their situation since the end of the U.S. Civil War, when they lost protection against forced displacement and the right to form their own

independent government. Surprisingly, the writer does not mention Lenin's experiences in nature and in hunting.

Compare these to the second photo in the article above:

<https://www.alamy.com/stock…>

<https://photo.unian.info/ph…>

To argue that they merely rattle rather than express the profoundness of the tragedy ignores history and slanders humanity, forced to float along without any right to self-determination, without any rights to revolutionary leadership based on the Leninist and Trotskyist defense of small nation's right to independence. The statement towards the end says it all: "an appalling neglect, or worse, by government agencies of [their] social needs", as if Native Americans must rely on the US government for their needs, as if no evidence exists of the deliberate policy of extermination of Native Americans that counted among its planners and executors Abraham Lincoln's generals, Tecumseh Sherman and Ulysses Grant. The defense of these generals and their monuments must come at the expense of the symbolic little girl and the castaway nation depicted in Once Upon a River.



[Letter from WSWS.org](https://www.wsws.org)

[on Censorship and Technical Failures](#)

Letter from WSWs.org on Censorship and Technical Failures

[randomposter33](#) [Leave a comment](#)

Discussion on World Socialist Web Site · 2 comments

Once Upon a River: A Native American



arandomposter33 · 17 days ago Removed

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 [arandomposter33](#) → [Carlos Delgado](#) · 10 days

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As part of the flip side of the same coin, the Economists took Lenin's position that the terrorism often had Tsarist overtones. They themselves served more to break up any revolutionary movement. The class with the arguments they needed in the class struggle. The WSWS to side with Epstein, Clinton, and Trump. Anything but take up the task of confronting the capitalist and workplace security that formed the economic basis of the popularity. Anything but take up the task of confronting the political participation while police brutality recedes.

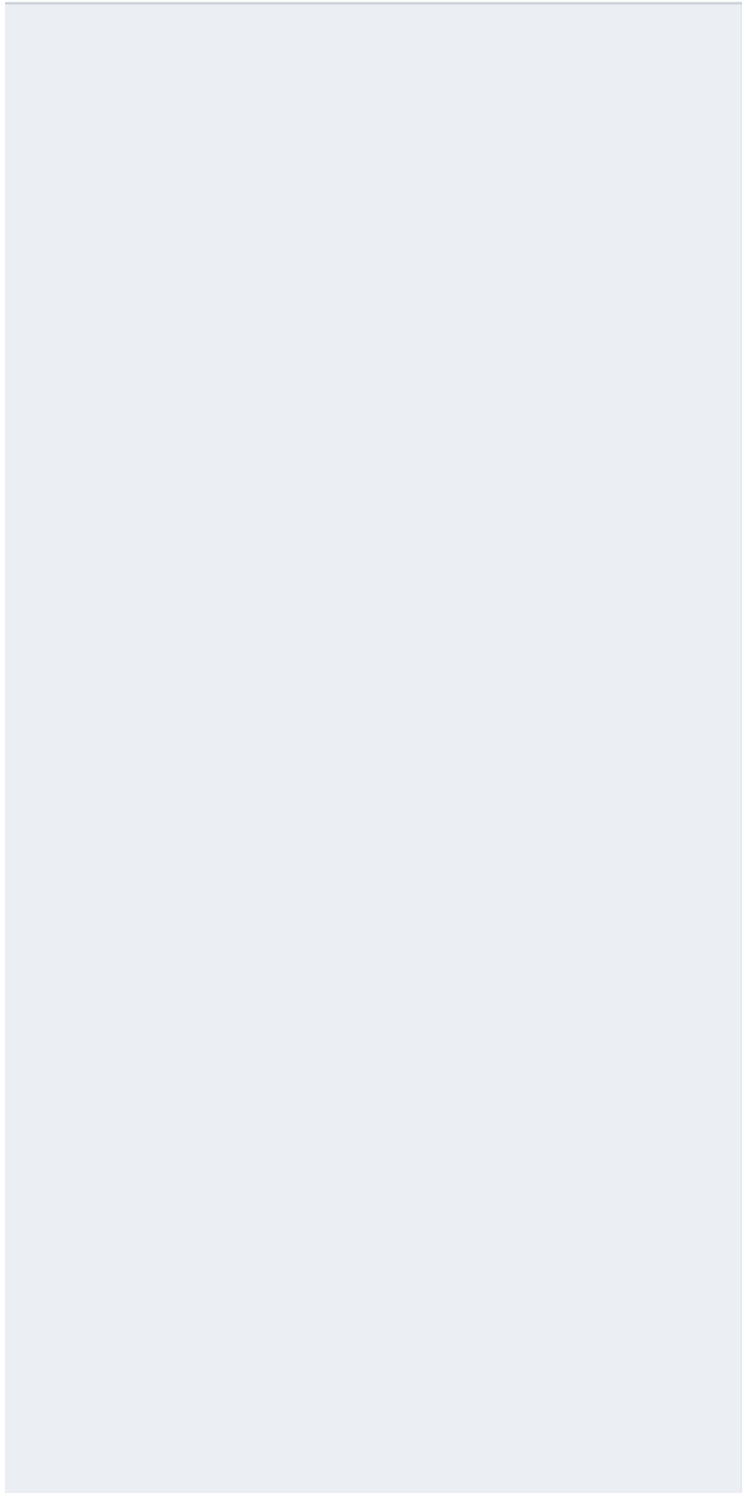
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 [arandomposter33](#) · 11 days ago

"And if it is impermissible to shut down his Twitter account, we demand his immediate removal from the White House."

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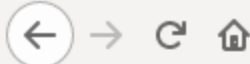
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media socialite.

[arandomposter33](#) → [Carolyn Zaremba](#) · 10 days

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↑ ↓ 1 View in discussion

Discussion on **World Socialist Web Site** · 86 comments

Mobilize the working class against the political general strike!



[arandomposter33](#) → [Sam Westbrooks](#) · 10 days

The defense against the social media monopoly process. Only the transfer of the social media control to democratic control by social media workers and the working class.

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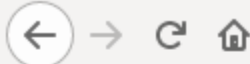
A socialist restructuring of social media would require regulators as well as a marketing budget as the current media socialite.



[arandomposter33](#) → [Carolyn Zaremba](#) · 10 days

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[arandomposter33](#) → [Marla](#) · 10 days ago [Rem](#)

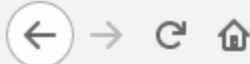
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[arandomposter33](#) → [pierre](#) · 16 days ago

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 Home NotificationsDiscussion on **World Socialist Web Site** · 37 comments**Remove coup plotter Trump immediately****arandomposter33** → **ironcloudz** · 10 days ago

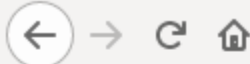
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**arandomposter33** → **Marla** · 10 days ago Remove

Trump did not create the plot, even if he participated in "a secret plan for accomplishing a usually evil end."

This mistake concerning Trump comes from an assumption that the petty-bourgeoisie have different outlooks. While the bourgeois extremists, Trump has not abandoned the imperialist order in general. Their main goal is to bring the political movement, left or right, and bring the parties. Trump, as Biden has signalled, will likely be carefully worded his statement at the Ellipse.

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arandomposter33 · 2 days ago

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Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) · 41 comments

Biden's inaugural address: Banality and reality



[arandomposter33](#) · 2 days ago Detected as spam

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As you can see from the screenshots above, the WSWs and Disqus have blocked 9 of 24 comments, only two of which were second attempts. One of my other second attempts made it through. All of these I have posted to Disqus on the WSWs since the last email shown below written to Dan Conway, who spoke on behalf of the WSWs starting on Dec. 31st, 2020. I will post these blocked comments in text form separately. For a copy of the entire email conversation, write in.

Below you can see Conway's final response and my final response to him. In light of recent revelations by the WSWs about Facebook shutting down various accounts, the response of Conway, filled with false accusations, contradictions, misrepresentations of material facts, and other fraud, should lead to great concern among the membership and readership of the WSWs. Democratic Power demands a fair hearing to fully discuss these issues so as to protect the democratic rights of SEP members from abuse by party functionaries.

Dan Conway <dconwaywsws@gmail.com>

To:Random Poster

Cc:Marc Wells

Mon, Jan 4 at 11:45 AM

Hello and apologies for the delay in responding,

Also thank you for providing the link to your wordpress page as it helps to clarify your true purpose in raising these issues.

To the extent that your difficulties posting are related to problems with Disqus, this is something that the WSWs can't properly assist with as it is a third party application. All I can suggest based on my own experience is that if you attempt to post on Disqus using Tor or a VPN connection, problems may arise as a result.

Aside from that, the World Socialist We Site maintains its own commenting discussion rules which may be found here:

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2013/08/19/comm-a19.html>

I have not looked through your entire commenting history or attempted commenting history on the site which you've documented on your wordpress page. It is clear, however, that you are not simply a "random poster" but that you have a real differences with the program of the ICFI. You essentially use bogus charges of repression of criticism to build support within the party to change its orientation in

line with the current fashionable trends of US “left” imperialism. Your encouraging and extended conversation with an ex-SEP member who left the party to embrace upper-middle class identity politics and the #MeToo movement in particular was quite revealing.

At any rate, I hope that your future attempts at posting on the WSWs are successful to the extent that do not run afoul of the site’s discussion rules.

We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party’s program behind conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was deliberately manufactured in a Chinese lab or that wealth distribution is not primarily a class but generational question, just to name only two examples, will not find a hearing among a continually growing cadre of revolutionary Marxists.

Respectfully,

Dan Conway

Random Poster <randomposter33@yahoo.com>

To:dconwaywsws@gmail.com,Dan Conway

Cc:Marc Wells

Tue, Jan 5 at 10:47 PM

Hello Dan,

If I am being accused of having a “true purpose” which leads me to make “bogus charges”, then perhaps I need a lawyer in the party to defend me. I am not posing as anyone in particular, and my “random poster” screen name indicates that I sympathize with the rank and file, not that I am breaking some rule with regard to identity.

The good news is, since we are scapegoating disqus.com, I have found a way out of this problem. I just opened a new account and I have now begun to see my comments. I would have preferred not to switch accounts, since it gives the power to the hacker or moderator or some behind-the-scenes algorithm. Still, my main purpose was not to distance myself from the party but maintain an open line of communication.

With regard to the political issues you raised, I am glad to finally get a response. I will address these issues in the friendliest way possible and with as much depth as I can dedicated myself to.

Warm regards,

RP

Antifa Socialist Party and the Capitol

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

The far-right has met with great resistance to all its protests from a loose network known as Antifa. Antifa did not organize a counter-protest, however, to resist the far-right takeover of the Capitol. This also had a parallel in the military, which rejected all calls for reinforcements to defend the Capitol from violent takeover. Another parallel appears in the decision by the courts and prosecutors to refrain from any prosecution of Capitol mob insurrectionists, as long as there is no accusation of violence committed within the Capitol building. The entry itself was a forced entry that involved the murder of a police officer, but they will not face any prosecution.

These decisions prove that Antifa has allowed itself to give in to control by elements sympathetic to the far right and their central strategy, the forced takeover of the government and the establishment of a presidential dictatorship. Furthermore, the resistance to formal, public argument seems intent on suppressing an openly socialist strategy. The Antifa movement must enter the Capitol and the White House to defend against the conspirators on the far-right and their defenders posing as leftists. The National Guard cannot defend democracy, as they experienced, since the leadership of the military supports the coup. They even found themselves forced to sleep in a parking lot after meeting delays and arriving late to the Capitol.

The Antifa Socialist Party must organize beyond simple street vandalism towards occupations and political strikes that force the media to address the needs of the people, namely the dire need for socialist economic programs to end unemployment, homelessness, lack of health insurance, and poverty in general, as well as the opening of borders to immigration in support of working class unity internationally. The example of the coronavirus proves that the capitalist state will use extreme forms of violence to defend the privileges of the oligarchy. Only a socialist revolution, though initially anarchistic, can restore order and responsibly produce and distribute prosperity to the majority while raising the standard of living for the poorest and most vulnerable.

1:39



4G



Chicago Educators Rank-an...



to Me



Today, 1:32 PM

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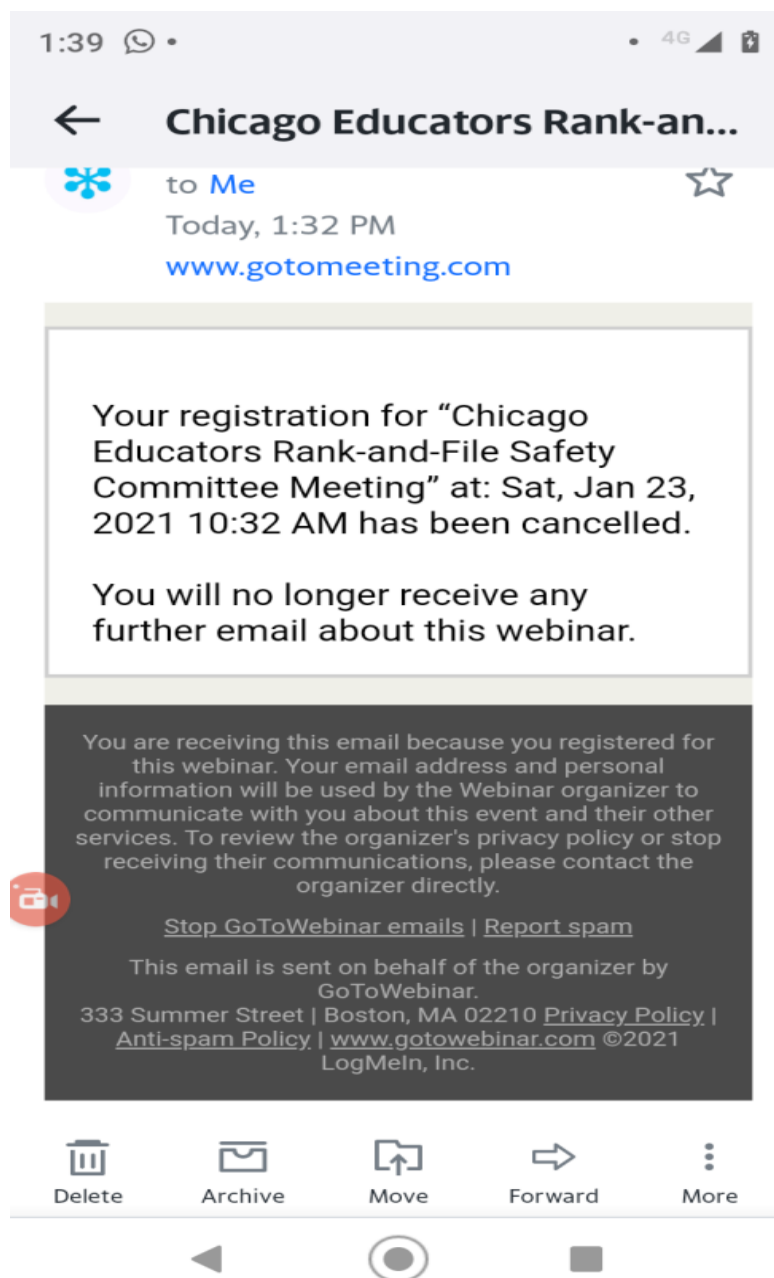
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Censorship [Upheld] and the Freedom of Association Trampled by Silent Nano-bureaucrat



Poetry for the Media- The Coming Age

[randomposter33](#) [Leave a comment](#)

If you believe you've been told a Lie, then you are beginning to believe the truth.

Sorry if you lost your life while you were still a youth,

Because I have survived passed then.

To you, I can only dedicate a tear,

And say thank you, O Dear God!, that you are still here.

The Problems of Committees and the Nano-bureaucracy

[randomposter33](#) [Comment](#)

1. If the party were to attempt to unify all the intellectuals and workers in favor of revolution, then it would have to include some people with different arguments and resolve their differences through discussion and votes. If it opposed this position, it could not continue to exist as a Leninist party according to Lenin's What is to Be Done?
2. If the party were to include various positions from the different factions within the leadership according to a proportional system, then different opinions would enter into the executive committees. If they opposed proportional representation, then they would support a factional dictatorship in opposition to the Declaration of the 46, the founding document of the Left Opposition led by Trotsky. They could not then exist as a Trotskyist movement.
3. If the party bureaucracy expanded the committees, then it would be in their own interests to stack the committees with those who strictly adhere to the incumbent committee-member's own positions. In that way, an expansion of the committees would not lead directly to the inclusion of representative factions.

4. If Party Congresses decide the occupancy of the committee positions, those invited to participate will have a vote. The invitations to congresses and unappealable suspensions of memberships could then function to preclude any challenge to a factional dictatorship.
5. A commitment to the representation of the revolutionary working class entails the production of committees that accurately reflect the membership, readership, and the positions in general of the working class in revolutionary struggle. Without this commitment, middle-class and ruling class agents, not necessarily agents of the state, could interfere with the proper functioning of the party and effectively sabotage the revolution as a whole.
6. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat, the end goal of Marxist revolution, will include a state composed of governing bodies answerable to the working class. Only a firm commitment to democracy, referred to in the days of Lenin and Trotsky as Social Democracy, could effectively bring the workers into power. This means that the leaders and the followers must elevate the principle of Democracy to a large degree.
7. As Trotsky discovered, the working class cannot wait forever for the bureaucracy to accept its positions. It must stake out its own positions and defend them through an independent organization. As a corollary, every independent organization of the working class in revolutionary opposition to the government must have access and representation to the revolutionary party. This effectively retraces Lenin's struggle for the unification of the Social Democracy across Russia on a higher plane;

Rebekah Jones Raided, Lost All Computers Due to Unprotected IP Address

[randomposter333 Comments](#)

The Covid-19 data researcher had her home raided and all computers and phones removed based on IP address evidence. This shows that the WSWS dependence on Disqus.com, which does not allow the hiding of IP addresses through Duckduckgo, Tor, Opera or VPNs leads to a high security risk. Police pointed guns at Jones and her children. The WSWS should switch from Disqus to a VPN-friendly message service or demand the Disqus change its policy of blocking accounts that hide their IP addresses. The point of party professionalism is to prevent such situations as experienced by Rebekah Jones, not encourage them through malicious negligence.

Google Workers Organize to Form Union

[randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

<https://edition.cnn.com/videos/business/2021/01/05/google-union-js-orig.cnn>

Is it a Conspiracy Theory that Journalists have been Sentenced in Secret Trials for Investigating China's Virus Claims?

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<https://news.yahoo.com/china-desperate-control-narrative-origins-105645148.html>

<https://news.yahoo.com/china-delays-teams-visit-probe-092909510.html>

Is it so outlandish to believe that the capitalist class, if not every last member but a significant proportion, supports a conspiracy against Trotskyism? Why do you need to defend the capitalist class on the eve of the revolution? Your selfishness, the sole motive for this sudden turn to defend the bourgeoisie, will not go unpunished by revolutionary forces.

Silvopasture

[randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

A possible solution to the destruction of forests for cattle grazing: silvo-pasture or timbre-grazing. As the return on investment in this type of agriculture would be lower, a tax on ranches with insufficient tree cover would reverse the price difference in favor of sustainable development. Subsidies given directly to the low-income consumers of meat with would maintain lower prices for the workers.

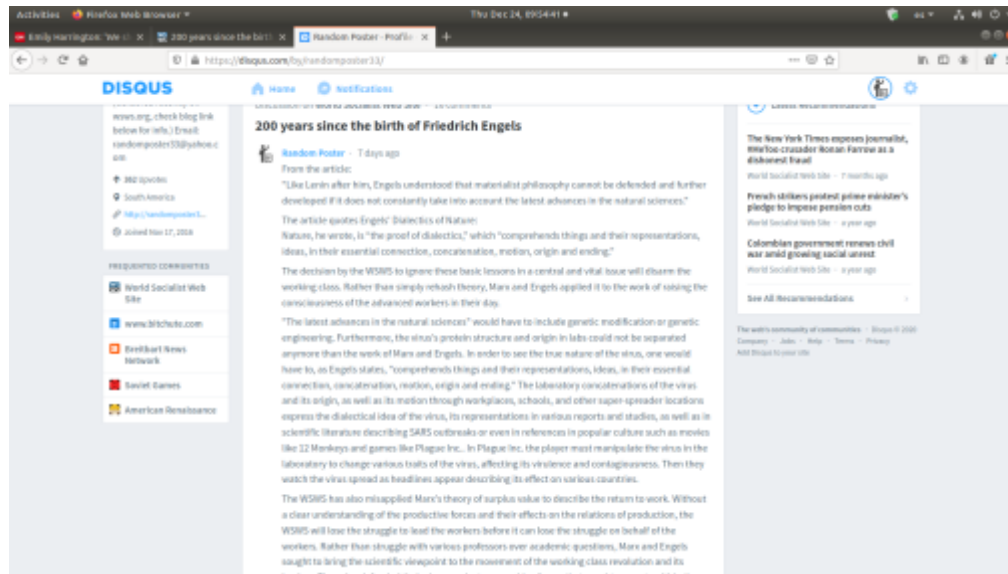
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Obituary of Native American Leader

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[Comment- At 200, Frederick Engels Defends the Latest Science, Supporting Exposure of Virus Origins](#)

Disappearing Comment- At 200, Frederick Engels Defends the Latest Science, Supporting Exposure of Virus Origins

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(online) [Wilhelm Liebknecht, “On the... 1895].

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(online) [Wilhelm Liebknecht, “On th
1895].

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https://disqus.com/by/randomposter33/

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Discussion on World Socialist Web Site 10 comments

200 years since the birth of Friedrich Engels

 **Random Poster** · 7 days ago

From the article:

"Like Lenin after him, Engels understood that materialist philosophy cannot be defended and further developed if it does not constantly take into account the latest advances in the natural sciences."

The article quotes Engels' Dialectics of Nature:

Nature, he wrote, is "the proof of dialectics," which "comprehends things and their representations, ideas, in their essential connection, concatenation, motion, origin and ending."

The decision by the WSWS to ignore these basic lessons in a central and vital issue will disarm the working class. Rather than simply rehash theory, Marx and Engels applied it to the work of raising the consciousness of the advanced workers in their day.

"The latest advances in the natural sciences" would have to include genetic modification or genetic engineering. Furthermore, the virus's protein structure and origin in labs could not be separated anymore than the work of Marx and Engels. In order to see the true nature of the virus, one would have to, as Engels states, "comprehends things and their representations, ideas, in their essential connection, concatenation, motion, origin and ending." The laboratory concatenations of the virus and its origin, as well as its motion through workplaces, schools, and other super-spreader locations express the dialectical idea of the virus, its representations in various reports and studies, as well as in scientific literature describing SARS outbreaks or even in references in popular culture such as movies like 12 Monkeys and games like Plague Inc.. In Plague Inc. the player must manipulate the virus in the laboratory to change various traits of the virus, affecting its virulence and contagiousness. Then they watch the virus spread as headlines appear describing its effect on various countries.

The WSWS has also misapplied Marx's theory of surplus value to describe the return to work. Without a clear understanding of the productive forces and their effects on the relations of production, the WSWS will lose the struggle to lead the workers before it can lose the struggle on behalf of the workers. Rather than struggle with various professors over academic questions, Marx and Engels sought to bring the scientific viewpoint to the movement of the working class revolution and its leaders. They also defended their ideas against opposing forces that sought to corrupt within the

ws ws.org, check blog link below for info.) Email: randomposter33@yahoo.com

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Nobody Rebels

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Nobody rebels against anything anymore.

That’s why the revolutionary has to rebel against the nano-bureaucracy of the revolutionary party.

3 New Sexual Assault Cases Plus Identity and Details of Ranieri Cult Victim

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https://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/us_5fd664bac5b62f31c1fe2f3a

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-15/nygard-arrested-in-canada-on-u-s-sex-trafficking-charges>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/jerry-harris-child-sex-charges/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/nxivm-cult-member-jane-doe-number-2/>

Surplus Value, Lockdown, and Pandemic

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The WSWS has pushed a theoretically false and dangerous theory upon the revolutionary movement and the advanced workers. They have argued without compunction that the drive to return workers into unsafe conditions did not constitute a political assault against the workers but simple economics. If the workers did not work, the capitalists cannot extract surplus value, and the profit rate decreases. Lost time, lost money.

A study of Marx's pamphlet Value, Price, and Profit or of his book Capital, would have informed them that socialists do not share these views with the capitalists. The capitalist extracts surplus value not through the work of the laborer but through the purchase of the labor at below its true value. The less they pay the workers, the more profit they extract. This has nothing to do with actually increasing production.

If workers produce \$100 of goods for the capitalist, while charging \$70, the capitalist takes \$30 of profit. If this is 1 ton of coal or 1/10 of a ton of coal, we see no difference, since the lower supply of coal priced higher on the market will produce the same rate of profit for the capitalist. This lower supply priced higher and producing the same profit represents "fetters" on the "productive forces", which makes capitalism an outmoded system.

In the event of a pandemic, the capitalist can increase his wealth by shutting down production. This means that a greater proportion of the capital will remain idle. This seems to hurt the capitalist, but by his position in society as a member of the ruling class, it hurts the worker even worse. This means that in the moment of exchange, when the relative value of labor and capital find expression, the capitalist can demand more for his capital while the worker must accept less for his labor. In that moment, during the signing of the contract or resumption of work at a given wage to price ratio, the great transfer of wealth from worker to capitalist finds expression. The worker takes on more debt, reduces consumption, and accepts crowded and substandard living conditions. The capitalist gains a greater share of the product, has his debts erased by the government, and can now afford to expand his businesses and all his personal affairs at the expense of the worker.

The idea that the capitalist must get the workers back to work in order to extract profit actually serves the capitalists by hiding the real power relations. The workers should see the return to work for what it is, political violence to break the political movement of the workers based in the workplace. The workers must defend against the violence of the ruling class while demanding justice against the agents of the capitalist state. The virus weapon must be seen within this context.

As Marx argued, only the workers' joining forces and participating in industrial actions such as slowdowns, strikes, and sit-down strikes, as part of an economic struggle for an increasing share of the product of their labor can return them to the path towards socialism. This means not opposing a return to work because that would lead to production and profit for the capitalist. It means opposing a return to work because the wages relative to prices are too low considering the risks and costs to the workers involved in a return to work. A return to work could actually benefit the workers if we consider their safety and properly value the risk involved in working during a pandemic. This means doubling their wages as hazard pay, freezing evictions, erasing housing and student loan debt, and providing free medical care for all. These measures would end the pandemic as it would attack the real motive behind the spread of the pandemic, [the increasing costs of caring for the elderly, providing stable and safe housing for the younger generation of workers, and other social necessities, the production of which should not suffer in fetters as mere profit opportunities.]

A recognition of the virus as a violent assault on the political progress of the working class, its increasing class-consciousness and increasing militancy, is imperative in carrying forward the struggle against the capitalist state, its political agents, and the capitalist system of class division and institutionalized social warfare that it defends.

Response to British Congress Resolution

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4. The assassination of Arch-Duke Ferdinand vs. the Coronavirus.

9. Bills protecting state agents to use sexual violence. The decision of the WSWS to defend sexual violence by opposing #MeToo hashtag and defending the careers of intelligence agents.

13. attempts to ban socialism

14. independent political mobilization vs. dictatorship of the proletariat

the recognition of the failures of the ICFI from the split with the OCI and the failure of the 1968 revolution to the split within the WRP and the failure of the collapse of Stalinism to bring about a Trotskyist government.

15. virus policy= social darwinism= social warfare

16. concealed virus readiness plans.

17. elderly homes=killing fields

18. “use the pandemic” for wealth transfer from the poor to the rich.

19. ICFI Feb. 28 Statement: “In demanding that capitalist governments implement these emergency measures, the international working class does not abandon its fundamental aim: the ending of the capitalist system. Rather, the fight for emergency action will raise the consciousness of the working class, develop its understanding of the need for international class solidarity, and increase its political self-confidence.” [3]

No demands for an investigation into biological weapons or the genetic engineering of viruses. A major threat to security for the revolutionary movement.

20. The Financial Times Europe Editor Tony Barber: “It is in the nature of cataclysmic events, such as the pandemic, to accelerate and refashion historical developments that would have happened anyway. The first world war intensified turmoil in Russia, leading to the revolutions of 1917, and drove forward the emergence of the US as the 20th century’s leading global power... The pandemic and its economic fallout, unless brought under a measure of control, is sure to have similar large-scale consequences.”

[4]

No discussion of the internal mechanics of the war, supporting the capitalist system through crisis, through world war. The triggering of the revolution, or the jamming up of the revolutionary process?

Dr. Fauci, Head of NIAID, Appears to Support Genetic Manipulation Theory of the Virus

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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases head Dr. Anthony Fauci:

“There’s something very strange about a virus that in most people barely bothers them and in others it kills them. We still don’t understand why that’s the case. Right now, we need to find that out.”

<https://news.yahoo.com/fauci-something-very-strange-covid-203343624.html>

Article on Grant Monument Refuting WSWS Claims of Revolutionary Leadership of US Government During Civil War

[randomposter332](#) [Comments](#)

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2020/07/public-monuments-and-ulysses-s-grants-contested-legacy/>

“President John Quincy Adams once stated that ‘Democracy has no monuments. It strikes no medals; it bears the head of no man upon its coin; its very essence is iconoclastic.’ Monuments, in Adams’ view, were undemocratic, coercive tools of monarchy. These troublesome icons demanded unquestioned fealty and promoted a version of history as simple hero-worship.”

Important Article Contradicting WSWS View on Abolitionism and Native American Rights

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“Burleigh’s speech notwithstanding, by 1838 abolitionists regularly insisted that the forcible relocation of Native people served slaveholding interests. Their engagement with the antiremoval cause led abolitionists to a recognition of what they would soon begin to call the Slave Power.”

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2018/08/teaching-the-intersection-of-abolitionism-and-indian-rights/>

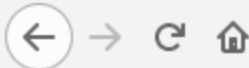


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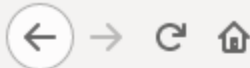
Renaë Cassimeda

🕒 9 November 2020



On October 11, protesters in Portland
Abraham Lincoln, leaving the phrase
The attack took place during a protes
Rage Against Colonialism, organized
observed Columbus Day holiday on O

“Dakota 38” is a reference to the Dako
execution of 38 Dakota Sioux Native A
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Zoom in and focus on the comments bar on the right. Slide the dividing line to see the difference between the two.

Quotes and Notes from Marx's Value, Price, and Profit

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[Click to access value-price-profit.pdf](#)

Ch. 5 p.14

But how, then, is the “*value of labour*” itself determined? Here we come to a standstill. Of course, we come to a standstill if we try reasoning logically, yet the propounders of that doctrine make short work of logical scruples. Take our friend Weston, for example. First he told us that wages regulate the price of commodities and that consequently when wages rise prices must rise. Then he turned round to show us that a rise of wages will be no good because the prices of commodities had risen, and because wages were indeed measured by the prices of the commodities upon which they are spent. Thus we begin by saying that the value of labour determines the value of commodities, and we wind up by saying that the value of commodities determines the value of labour. Thus we move to and fro in the most vicious circle, and arrive at no conclusion at all.

On the whole, it is evident that by making the value of one commodity, say labour, corn, or any other commodity, the general measure and regulator of value, we only shift the difficulty, since we determine one value by another, which on its side wants to be determined.

The dogma that “wages determine the price of commodities,” expressed in its most abstract terms, comes to this, that “value is determined by value,” and this tautology means that, in fact, we know nothing at all about value. Accepting this premise, all reasoning about the general laws of political economy turns into mere twaddle. It was, therefore, the great merit of Ricardo that in his work on *the principles of political economy*, published in 1817, he fundamentally destroyed the old popular, and worn-out fallacy that “wages determine prices,” a fallacy which Adam Smith and his French predecessors had spurned in the really scientific parts of their researches, but which they reproduced in their more exoterical and vulgarizing chapters.

Ch. 10 p. 22-23

The value of a commodity is determined by the *total quantity of labour* contained in it. But part of that quantity of labour is realized in a value for which an equivalent has been paid in the form of wages; part of it is realized in a value for which NO equivalent has been paid. Part of the labour contained in the commodity is *paid* labour; part is *unpaid* labour. By selling, therefore, the commodity *at its value*, that is, as the crystallization of the *total quantity of labour* bestowed upon it, the capitalist must necessarily sell it at a profit. He sells not only what has cost him an equivalent, but he sells also what has cost him nothing, although it has cost his workman labour. The cost of the commodity to the capitalist and its real cost are different things.

I repeat, therefore, that normal and average profits are made by selling commodities not *above*, but *at their real values*.

Ch. 12 p.24-25

Deduct from the value of a commodity the value replacing the value of the raw materials and other means of production used upon it, that is to say, deduct the value representing the *past* labour contained in it, and the remainder of its value will resolve into the quantity of labour added by the working man *last* employed. If that working man works twelve hours daily, if twelve hours of average labour crystallize themselves in an amount of gold equal to six shillings, this additional value of six shillings is the *only* value his labour will have created. This given value, determined by the time of his labour, is the only fund from which both he and the capitalist have to draw their respective shares or dividends, the only value to be divided into wages and profits. It is evident that this value itself will not be altered by the variable proportions in which it may be divided amongst the two parties. There will also be nothing changed if in the place of one working man you put the whole working population, twelve million working days, for example, instead of one.

Since the capitalist and workman have only to divide this limited value, that is, the value measured by the total labour of the working man, the more the one gets the less will the other get, and *vice versa*. Whenever a quantity is given, one part of it will increase inversely as the other decreases. If the wages change, profits will change in an opposite direction. If wages fall, profits will rise; and if wages rise, profits will fall. If the working man, on our former supposition, gets three shillings, equal to one half of

the value he has created, or if his whole working day consists half of paid, half of unpaid labour, the *rate of profit* will be 100 percent, because the capitalist would also get three shillings. If the working man receives only two shillings, or works only one third of the whole day for himself, the capitalist will get four shillings, and the rate of profit will be 200 per cent. If the working man receives four shillings, the capitalist will only receive two, and the rate of profit would sink to 50 percent, but all these variations will not affect the value of the commodity. A general rise of wages would, therefore, result in a fall of the general rate of profit, but not affect values.

Ch. 13 Part 4, p. 28-29

Considering the whole cycle, you will find that one deviation of the market price is being compensated by the other, and that, taking the average of the cycle, the market prices of commodities are regulated by their values. Well! During the phases of sinking market prices and the phases of crisis and stagnation, the working man, if not thrown out of employment altogether, is sure to have his wages lowered. Not to be defrauded, he must, even with such a fall of market prices, debate with the capitalist in what proportional degree a fall of wages has become necessary. If, during the phases of prosperity, when extra profits are made, he did not battle for a rise of wages, he would, taking the average of one industrial cycle, not even receive his *average wages*, or the *value* of his labour. It is the utmost height of folly to demand, that while his wages are necessarily affected by the adverse phases of the cycle, he should exclude himself from compensation during the prosperous phases of the cycle. Generally, the *values* of all commodities are only realized by the compensation of the continuously changing market prices, springing from the continuous fluctuations of demand and supply. On the basis of the present system labour is only a commodity like others. It must, therefore, pass through the same fluctuations to fetch an average price corresponding to its value.

It would be absurd to treat it on the one hand as a commodity, and to want on the other hand to exempt it from the laws which regulate the prices of commodities. The slave receives a permanent and fixed amount of maintenance; the wage-labourer does not. He must try to get a rise of wages in the one instance, if only to compensate for a fall of wages in the other. If he resigned himself to accept the will, the dictates of the capitalist as a permanent economical law, he would share in all the miseries of the slave, without the security of the slave.

In all the cases I have considered, and they form ninety-nine out of a hundred, you have seen that a struggle for a rise of wages follows only in the track of *previous* changes, and is the necessary offspring

of previous changes in the amount of production, the productive powers of labour, the value of labour, the value of money, the extent or the intensity of labour extracted, the fluctuations of market prices, dependent upon the fluctuations of demand and supply, and consistent with the different phases of the industrial cycle; in one word, as reactions of labour against the previous action of capital. By treating the struggle for a rise of wages independently of all these circumstances, by looking only upon the change of wages, and overlooking all other changes from which they emanate, you proceed from a false premise in order to arrive at false conclusions.

Ch. 14 Part 1, p. 29

having furthermore, shown that a general rise of wages would result in a fall in the general rate of profit, but **not affect the average prices of commodities, or their values**, the question now ultimately arises, how far, in this incessant struggle between capital and labour, the latter is likely to prove successful.

Ch. 3, p. 11

On the second day of the debate our friend Weston clothed his old assertions in new forms. He said: Consequent upon a general rise in money wages, more currency will be wanted to pay the same wages. The currency being *fixed*, how can you pay with this fixed currency increased money wages? First the difficulty arose from the fixed amount of commodities accruing to the working man despite his increase of money wages; now it arises from the increased money wages, despite the fixed amount of commodities. Of course, if you reject his original dogma, his secondary grievance will disappear.

Ch 2, p. 10:

Reduced to its abstract form, Citizen Weston's argument would come to this: Every rise in demand occurs always on the basis of a given amount of production. It can, therefore, *never increase the supply of the articles demanded*, but can *only enhance their money prices*. Now the most common observation shows that an increased demand will, in some instances, leave the market prices of commodities altogether unchanged, and will, in other instances, cause a temporary rise of market prices followed by an increased supply, followed by a reduction of the prices to their original level, and in many cases *below* their original level. Whether the rise of demand springs from surplus wages, or from any other cause, does not at all change the conditions of the problem.

Ch. 6, p. 19 :

Profit does not come from selling at higher than value, but at value:

“To explain, therefore, the *general nature of profits*, you must start from the theorem that, on an average, commodities are *sold at their real values*, and that *profits are derived from selling them at their values*, that is, in proportion to the quantity of labour realized in them. If you cannot explain profit upon this supposition, you cannot explain it at all. This seems paradox and contrary to every-day observation. It is also paradox that the earth moves round the sun, and that water consists of two highly inflammable gases. [sic] Scientific truth is always paradox, if judged by every-day experience, which catches only the delusive appearance of things.”

Ch 10, p. 22-23:

The value of a commodity is determined by the *total quantity of labour* contained in it. But part of that quantity of labour is realized in a value for which and [sic] equivalent has been paid in the form of wages; part of it is realized in a value for which NO equivalent has been paid. Part of the labour contained in the commodity is *paid* labour; part is *unpaid* labour. **By selling, therefore, the commodity at its value, that is, as the crystallization of the total quantity of labour bestowed upon it, the capitalist must necessarily sell it at a profit.** He sells not only what has cost him an equivalent, but he sells also what has cost him nothing, although it has cost his workman labour. The cost of the commodity to the capitalist and its real cost are different things.

I repeat, therefore, that normal and average profits are made by selling commodities not *above*, but *at their real values*.

Ch. 13, p. 28

It is the utmost height of folly to demand, that while his wages are necessarily affected by the adverse phases of the cycle, he should exclude himself from compensation during the prosperous phases of the cycle. Generally, the *values* of all commodities are only realized by the compensation of the continuously changing market prices, springing from the continuous fluctuations of demand and supply. On the basis of the present system labour is only a commodity like others. It must, therefore, pass through the same fluctuations to fetch an average price corresponding to its value.

Ch. 14 Part 2, p. 30-31

But let us now come to old civilized countries, in which capital domineers over the whole process of production. Take, for example, the rise in England of agricultural wages from 1849 to 1859. What was its consequence? The farmers could not, as our friend Weston would have advised them, raise the value of wheat, nor even its market prices. They had, on the contrary, to submit to their fall. But during these eleven years they introduced machinery of all sorts, adopted more scientific methods, converted part of arable land into pasture, increased the size of farms, and with this the scale of production, and by these and other processes diminishing the demand for labour by increasing its productive power, made the agricultural population again relatively redundant. This is the general method in which a reaction, quicker or slower, of capital against a rise of wages takes place in old, settled countries. Ricardo has justly remarked that machinery is in constant competition with labour, and can often be only introduced when the price of labour has reached a certain height, but the appliance of machinery is but one of the many methods for increasing the productive powers of labour. The very same development which makes common labour relatively redundant simplifies, on the other hand, skilled labour, and thus depreciates it.

Ch. 14 Parts 1 and 2, p. 30

We can only say that, the limits of the working day being given, the *maximum of profit* corresponds to the *physical minimum of wages*; and that wages being given, the *maximum of profit* corresponds to such a prolongation of the working day as is compatible with the physical forces of the labourer. The maximum of profit is therefore limited by the physical minimum of wages and the physical maximum of the working day. It is evident that between the two limits of the *maximum rate of profit* an immense scale of variations is possible. The fixation of its actual degree is only settled by the continuous struggle between capital and labour, the capitalist constantly tending to reduce wages to their physical minimum, and to extend the working day to its physical maximum, while the working man constantly presses in the opposite direction.

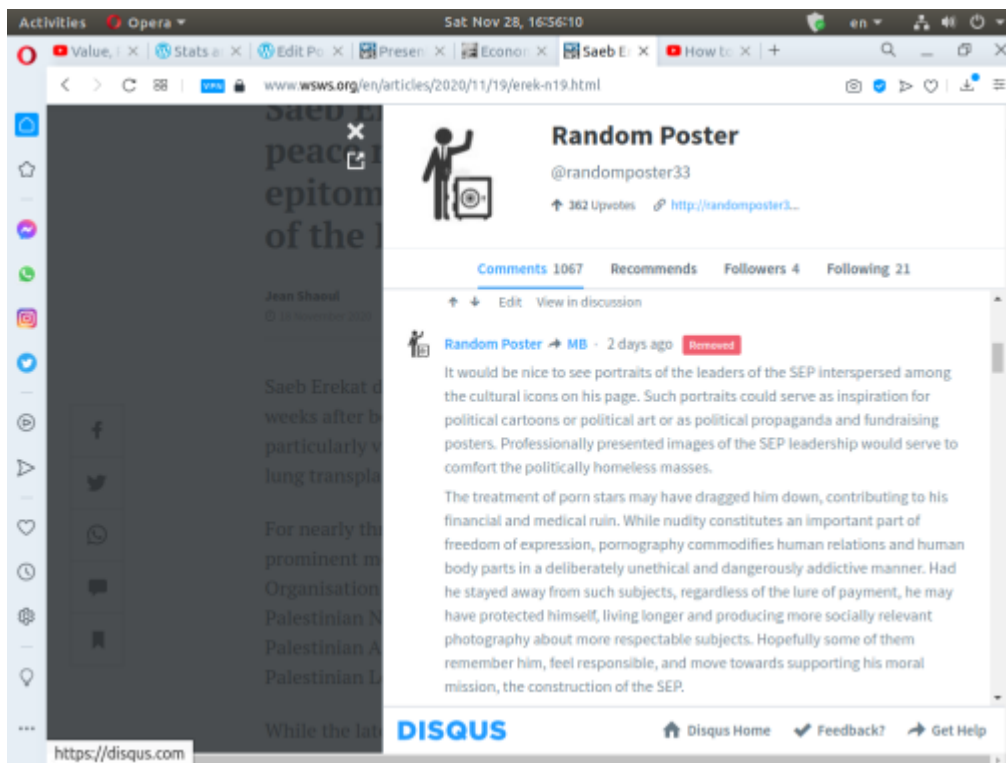
The matter resolves itself into a question of the respective powers of the combatants.

2. As to the *limitation of the working day* in England, as in all other countries, it has never been settled except by *legislative interference*. Without the working men's continuous pressure from without that interference would never have taken place. But at all events, the result was not to be attained by private settlement between the working men and the capitalists. This very necessity of *general political action* affords the proof that in its merely economical action capital is the stronger side.

Ch. 9, p. 22

Marx explains the difference between wage-slaves and the original slave-labor:

“This false appearance distinguishes *wages labour* from other *historical* forms of labour. On the basis of the wages system even the *unpaid* labour seems to be *paid* labour. With the *slave*, on the contrary, even that part of his labour which is paid appears to be unpaid. Of course, in order to work the slave must live, and one part of his working day goes to replace the value of his own maintenance. But since no bargain is struck between him and his master, and no acts of selling and buying are going on between the two parties, all his labour seems to be given away for nothing.”



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The treatment of porn stars may have dragged him down, contributing to his financial and medical ruin. While nudity constitutes an important part of freedom of expression, pornography commodifies human relations and human body parts in a deliberately unethical and dangerously addictive manner. Had he stayed away from such subjects, regardless of the lure of payment, he may have protected himself, living longer and producing more socially relevant photography about more respectable subjects. Hopefully some of them remember him, feel responsible, and move towards supporting his moral mission, the construction of the SEP.

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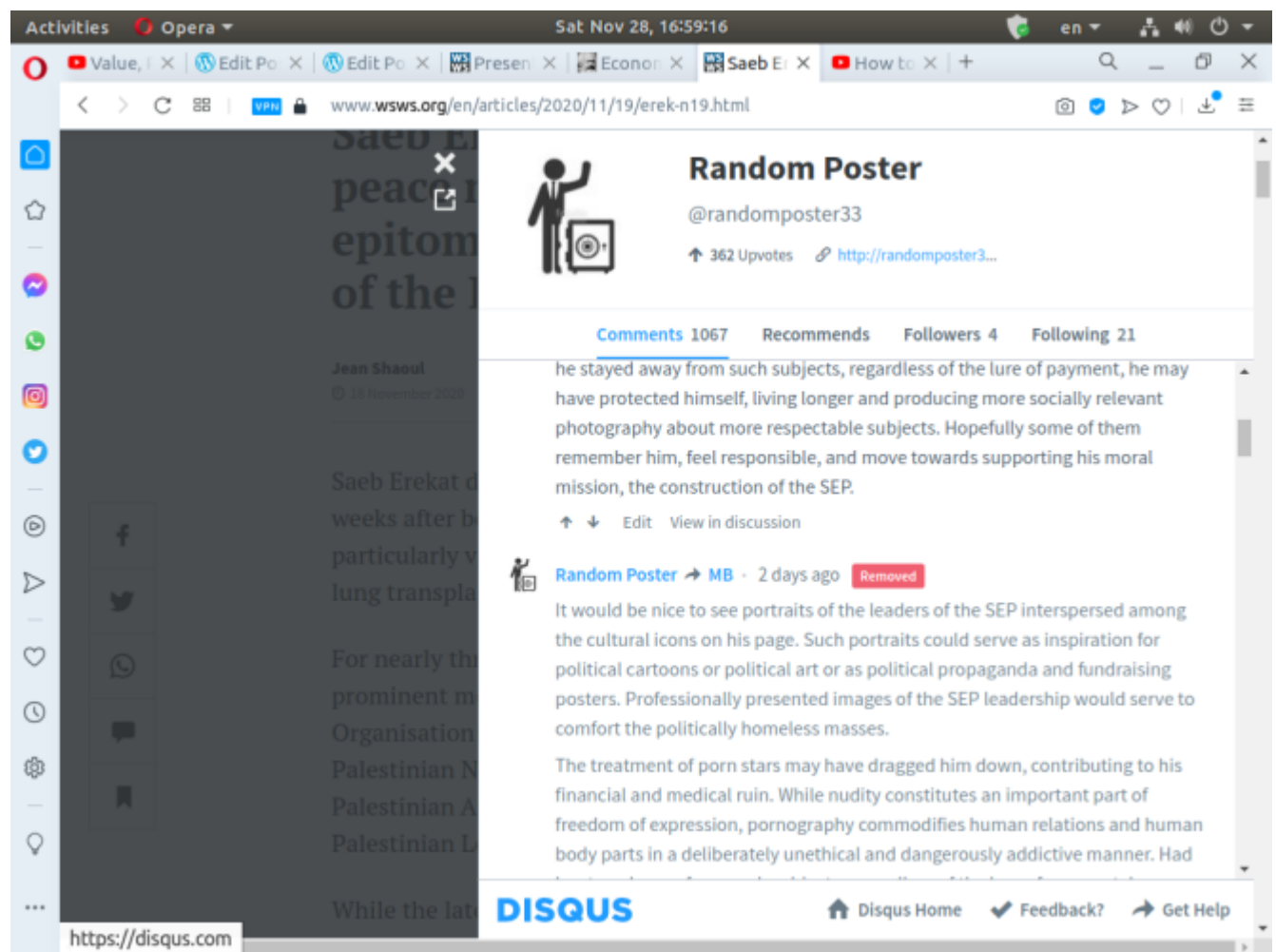
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Marx disproves Beams on MMT

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“Citizen Weston’s argument rested, in fact, upon two premises: firstly, the amount of national production is a fixed thing, a constant quantity or magnitude, as the mathematicians would say; secondly, that the amount of real wages, that is to say, of wages as measured by the quantity of the commodities they can buy, is a fixed amount, a constant magnitude.”

A few paragraphs later, Marx explains Beams’ point very explicitly:

“If the amount of wages is a constant magnitude, then it can be neither increased nor diminished. If then, in enforcing a temporary rise of wages, the working men act foolishly, the capitalists, in enforcing a temporary fall of wages, would act not less foolishly. Our friend Weston does not deny that, under certain circumstances, the working men can enforce a rise of wages, but their amount being naturally fixed, there must follow a reaction. On the other hand, he knows also that the capitalists can enforce a fall of wages, and, indeed, continuously try to enforce it. According to the principle of the constancy of wages, a reaction ought to follow in this case not less than in the former. The working men, therefore, reacting against the attempt at, or the act of, lowering wages, would act rightly. They would, therefore, act rightly in enforcing a rise of wages, because every reaction against the lowering of wages is an action for raising wages. According to Citizen Weston’s own principle of the constancy of wages, the working men ought, therefore, under certain circumstances, to combine and struggle for a rise of wages. If he denies this conclusion, he must give up the premise from which it flows. He must not say that the amount of wages is a constant quantity, but that, although it cannot and must not rise, it can and must fall, whenever capital pleases to lower it. If the capitalist pleases to feed you upon potatoes instead of upon meat, and upon oats instead of upon wheat, you must accept his will as a law of political economy, and submit to it. “

Beams positions prove dangerously reactionary. Without a Marxist approach to economics, the workers cannot hope to change the situation in their favor. Without the political demands made by MMT, leaving this entire field to the Bernie Sanders camp, the revolutionary movement cannot arm the workers or retake lost territory. According to Beams, workers must eat potatoes instead of meat, and must accept the Federal Reserve policy handed down to them. They must not question the Democrats’ record on Fed policy or the Republicans’ strategies effectiveness with regard to defending the foundations of capitalism. Without the political rights to demand an overhaul of the banking industry

and the central bank, Beams' anti-Marxist revolution has committed the same error as Citizen Weston, disarming the workers and opposing their demands on faulty, reactionary principle.

As Marx wrote:

“I hope that, despite the unvarnished style of my paper, at its conclusion he will find me agreeing with what appears to me the just idea lying at the bottom of his theses, which, however, in their present form, I cannot but consider theoretically false and practically dangerous.”

Modern Monetary Theory, Marx, Trotsky, and Lenin

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Initial reflections on Douglas and MMT:

Besides racism against Jews, accusing them of collectivism, and his unreasonable aversion to socialism, the views of Douglas reflect a desire to provide the majority of people a decent life-style without causing economic shocks that lead to economic stagnation, depression, and unpredicted shortages as a consequence of a lack of economic foresight.

The idea of social credit does not inherently conflict with socialist policy, and Douglas himself acknowledges Soviet Russia's policy of providing an increased money supply for its people. In fact, the US broke from the Gold Standard during the Civil War and Reconstruction, only to return following a collapse in the railroad industry in 1873. Earlier, they had done the same during the American Revolution. The decision of the US, however, arose from the needs of the government at war rather than with the purpose of raising the purchasing power of the workers. Still, the rise in power of the Civil War Greenback goes to show that the currency, unbacked by any metal, eventually would have surpassed even Gold:

“In 1862, the greenback declined against gold until by December gold was at a 29% premium. By spring of 1863 the greenback declined further, to 152 against 100 dollars in gold. However, after [the Union victory at Gettysburg](#) the greenback recovered to 131 dollars to 100 in gold. In 1864 it declined again as Grant was making little progress against Lee who held strong in Richmond throughout most of the war. The Greenback's low point came in July of that year: 258 greenbacks equal to 100 gold. When

the war ended in April 1865 the greenback made another remarkable recovery to 150.^[9] The recovery began when Congress limited the total issue of greenback dollars to \$450 million. The greenbacks rose in value until December 1878, when they became on par with gold. Greenbacks from thereon became freely convertible into gold.^[10]“

If in 1878, the Greenbacks had not become freely convertible into gold, their value could have risen above that of the gold-backed currency. The decision to return a more powerful currency back to the gold standard goes to show that the gold standard does not exist in order to provide stability and strength. It does not empower the government, since to print paper that becomes more valuable over time than gold would give the government more power. What the gold standard does, why governments favored gold and Marx proposed gold only as a backing for currency used for foreign trade, has to do with the real value of the gold standard. This has to do with the drive to monopolize markets (or defend against shortages produced by monopolistic practices), and the requirements of large stockpiles of reserve capital in order to suddenly act at any given moment to capture a significant share of the world market of some product experiencing supply shocks, raise prices, and rob other countries through speculation and manipulation. Only a large gold reserve, or some other strong store of value, could provide this weapon of economic warfare.

With this in mind, Douglas’ proposal along with MMT theory amounts to a form of pre-Marxist socialism. It disregards the history of the class conflict as the source of progress and searches for an undiscovered ideal to take its place. Assuming the government printed the money with the aim of increasing the workers’ purchasing power, then it could in fact, through this method, increase the purchasing power of the workers. Arguing otherwise repeats the same argument that Marx answers in *Value, Price, and Profit*. In that pamphlet, Marx responds to a Communist, Citizen Weston, that argues that the struggle through strikes and contract negotiations over wages has no effect. The Capitalists just raise the prices, replace the workers with cheaper workers or machines, or find some other way to recuperate their losses. In fact, Marx argues, when workers hold back their work, they force the capitalists to give up some of the profit that they extract from the workers. If the capitalists raise prices, they can then strike again so that wages remain higher relative to prices. In the end, the deciding factor depends on the level of organization and the determination to fight of the workers relative the level of organization and determination of the employers.

Another factor, more fully explored by Trotsky, explains the difficulty such a government, using monetary policy to raise workers’ purchasing power, would face competing in the world market. The

pressure exerted by competing powers would break that government down until an international federation of workers' states implemented a pro-worker policy on a world scale. Yet, as Marx argued, this would not represent a useless effort. This would increase the political power of workers over the state in relation to imperialism, the drive to sell the "excess" products around the world and extract profits from every corner. It would also strengthen any federation of workers' states and independent former colonies relative to any imperialist alliance.

The need for MMT, according to Douglas, comes from the difference between the goods produced by the capitalist system and the purchasing power of the workers. Other governments would use that "excess" as exports and compete with local producers in other countries with their products. A government that followed Douglas' policy could, in theory, raise workers' purchasing power in that country, but this would lead to greater imports and fewer exports. The result would be a decline in the value of the currency, and this would return the purchasing power back to the capitalists, but instead to capitalists of another country, one which had served capital rather than workers.

His proposal serves as an answer, not to socialism in general, but to the idea that taxation and redistribution could resolve the problem. In fact, it could not, since, as Douglas argues, the redistribution of the oligarchy's wealth would only lead to a small increase of wealth on a per-capita basis while making the purchase of large machines and other capital necessary for large-scale production impossible, thereby exacerbating the problem of unemployment or creating a bureaucratic system of digging holes and filling them while real production needs went unmet.

Nick Beams' answer to Douglas and MMT in general will not satisfy economists or the working class, who also think about macro-economics, as a reply. Where Douglas fails does not stem from mistakes about monetary theory as an answer to the limitations of taxes and redistribution. His points fall in line with both Marxism (against the gold standard) and the Soviet policy under Lenin and Trotsky. (Trotsky spoke of the necessity of "a healthy circulation of money" and said, "At the same time the more elementary functions of money, as measures of value, means of exchange and medium of payment, are not only preserved, but acquire a broader field of action than they had under capitalism.") In essence, Marxism does not trash all economic thought discovered under capitalism but actually gives it a "broader field of action."

Marxists must reply to Douglas by saying, "We have heard, and we agree. Who else will bring these policy proposals into action but socialists with the support of the working class majority?" The idea is that a state bank should expand the money supply by giving the money directly to the poor rather than

to major banks who then ease credit serves to redistribute the wealth. This would spur economic activity that would produce necessities that the poor need while providing them with work in producing those necessities. Providing the money to banks, whether or not it is backed by gold, only slows down the economy while strengthening monopoly capitalism and imperialist war. Douglas' theories, in the end, represent a plan for the slaves they may only use once they have reached freedom.

The gold standard did not enslave them, capitalism and the private ownership of the means of production did it. As Trotsky argued, the gold standard has a place under socialism as well, as it produces a stable currency, enabling an accurate measurement of economic activity. This could work under an unbacked currency as well, since any price could be converted into a gold standard by adding an extra calculation, dividing by the price of gold. This measure could give monetary policy makers at the state bank clues on whether to circulate more or less paper money.

The government could mitigate the downside of the gold standard, the massive stockpiles of gold in the hands of a state bureaucracy, by distributing a large proportion of the gold stockpiles to the people at regular intervals so that they may take part in protecting the wealth of the nation. They could also help determine the price of gold relative to the currency through greater circulation of gold. This would eliminate the incentive for the state to fix the price lower while accumulating its stockpile and fix the price higher when then spending the stockpile to gain some sort of economic advantage by wreaking havoc on the market. It would protect the people from bureaucracy, such as in the Soviet Union, dominating national reserves, redistributing goods to themselves, and eventually privatizing the state-owned means of production.

*

Revolutionary theory of capitalism vs. Theory of revolutionary demands

Demands of the Communist Party in Germany, March 1848

Karl Marx, Karl Schapper, H. Bauer, F. Engels, J. Moll, W. Wolff

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/03/24.htm>)

“10. All private banks will be replaced by a state bank whose bonds will have the character of legal tender.

This measure will make it possible to regulate credit in the interests of the whole people and will thus undermine the dominance of the large financiers. By gradually replacing gold and silver by paper

money, it will cheapen the indispensable instrument of bourgeois trade, the universal means of exchange, and will allow the gold and silver to have an outward effect. Ultimately, this measure is necessary to link the interests of the conservative bourgeoisie to the revolution.”

Two forms of Money: An Exchange Value vs. a Use-value, Conversion into Capital and Exploitation vs. Measure of value, Means of Exchange, and Medium of Payment

Money or gold-equivalent are not the products of labor but are exchanged for the products for the purpose of future exchange for other commodities.

Sinking Nick Beam’s theory with a single volley, Marx wrote that, “this dogma of a fixed currency is a monstrous error, incompatible with our everyday movement.” From *Value, Price, and Profit*, Chapter 3, Wages and Currency:

“From our friend Weston’s standpoint this is an unsolvable riddle. Looking somewhat deeper into this matter, he would have found that, quite apart from wages, and supposing them to be fixed, the value and mass of the commodities to be circulated, and generally the amount of monetary transactions to be settled, vary daily; that the amount of bank-notes issued varies daily; that the amount of payments realized without the intervention of any money, by the instrumentality of bills, cheques, book-credits, clearing houses, varies daily; that, as far as actual metallic currency is required, the proportion between the coin in circulation and the coin and bullion in reserve or sleeping in the cellars of banks varies daily; that the amount of bullion absorbed by the national circulation and the amount being sent abroad for international circulation vary daily. He would have found that this dogma of a fixed currency is a monstrous error, incompatible with our everyday movement. He would have inquired into the laws which enable a currency to adapt itself to circumstances so continually changing, instead of turning his misconception of the laws of currency into an argument against a rise of wages.”

Speaking of a similar policy to increasing payments to workers, reducing the hours of the working day, Marx wrote:

“This was one of the greatest economical changes we have witnessed. It was a sudden and compulsory rise of wages, not in some local trades, but in the leading industrial branches by which England sways the markets of the world. It was a rise of wages under circumstances singularly unpropitious. Dr. Ure, Professor Senior, and all the other official economical mouthpieces of the middle class, [The aristocracy was the upper class of Great Britain, while the capitalists composed what was known to Marx as the middle class] *proved*, and I must say upon much stronger grounds than those of our friend Weston, that it would sound the death-knell of English industry. They proved that it not only amounted

to a simple rise of wages, but to a rise of wages initiated by, and based upon, a diminution of the quantity of labour employed. They asserted that the twelfth hour you wanted to take from the capitalist was exactly the only hour from which he derived his profit. They threatened a decrease of accumulation, rise of prices, loss of markets, stinting of production, consequent reaction upon wages, ultimate ruin. In fact, they declared Maximillian Robespierre's Maximum Laws^[1] to be a small affair compared to it; and they were right in a certain sense. Well, what was the result? A rise in the money wages of the factory operatives, despite the curtailing of the working day, a great increase in the number of factory hands employed, a continuous fall in the prices of their products, a marvellous development in the productive powers of their labour, an unheard-of progressive expansion of the markets for their commodities."

Footnote 1: "The Maximum Law was introduced during the Great French Revolution in 1792, fixing definite price limits for commodities and standard rates of wages. The chief supporters of the Maximum Law were the so-called 'madmen' who represented the interests of the urban and village poor. Robespierre, the leader of the Jacobin Party, introduced this law at a time when the Jacobins as a result of tactical considerations had formed a bloc with the 'madmen.'"

You can see that Marx compared the limitation in hours of the working day with the limitation on prices and standard wage rates. These had the effect of increasing production by expanding the market for factory goods produced through the real increases in wages.

The Revolution Betrayed, Ch. 4: Money and Plan

Leon Trotsky

(www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1936/revbet/ch04.htm)

"The deathblow to money fetishism will be struck only upon that stage when the steady growth of social wealth has made us bipeds forget our miserly attitude toward every excess minute of labor, and our humiliating fear about the size of our ration..."

"...The nationalization of the means of production and credit, the co-operative or state-izing of internal trade, the monopoly of foreign trade, the collectivization of agriculture, the law on inheritance – set strict limits upon the personal accumulation of money and hinder its conversion into private capital (usurious, commercial and industrial). These functions of money, however, bound up as they are with exploitation, are not liquidated at the beginning of a proletarian revolution, but in a modified form are transferred to the state, the universal merchant, creditor and industrialist. At the same time the more

elementary functions of money, as measures of value, means of exchange and medium of payment, are not only preserved, but acquire a broader field of action than they had under capitalism.”

Economic Planning vs. Economic measurements and calculations

“An *a priori* economic plan... is not a fixed gospel...”

“...For the regulation and application of plans two levers are needed: the political lever, in the form of a real participation in leadership of the interested masses themselves, a thing which is unthinkable without Soviet democracy; and a financial lever, in the form of a real testing out of *a priori* calculations with the help of a universal equivalent, a thing that is unthinkable without a stable money system.”

Commodity Production as a Progressive Step in History”

“The liquidation of the consummatory peasant economy, and at the same time of the shut-in family life, means a transfer to the sphere of social interchange, and *ipso facto* money circulation, of all the labor energy which was formerly expended within the limits of the peasant’s yard, or within the walls of his private dwelling. All products and services begin for the first time in history to be exchanged for one another.”

Nick Beams, Modern Monetary Theory and the crisis of capitalism: Part one

“According to Kelton, the social ills created by capitalism are the result not of its objective contradictions, but of incorrect thinking. She maintains that economic policies which prioritize human need and public interest are possible within capitalism, if only ‘our self-imposed constraints’ are abandoned.”

C. H. Douglas, Georg Friedrich Knapp, both economists from the 1920s wrote after the founding of the Soviet Union and the socialist economy. Policy in a socialist state comes directly from “objective contradictions” instead of being “self-imposed.” These objective contradictions must produce a subjective response, which the leadership in a socialist state must impose on themselves and the rest of society.

In contradiction to Marx and Engels, Trotsky explicitly favors a gold-based currency:

“The raising of the productivity of labor and bettering of the quality of its products is quite unattainable without an accurate measure freely penetrating into all the cells of industry – that is, without a stable unit of currency. Hence it is clear that in the transitional economy, as also under capitalism, the sole authentic money is that based upon gold. All other money is only a substitute. To be sure, the Soviet

state has in its hand at the same time the mass of commodities and the machinery for printing money. However, this does not change the situation. Administrative manipulations in the sphere of commodity prices do not in the slightest degree create, or replace, a stable money unit either for domestic or foreign trade.”

This claim to authenticity for gold comes from subjective bias, mainly the bias of those who produce, accumulate, and defend gold, heads of state, banks, and large corporations, whether appointed by capitalist boards or Soviets of questionably democratic authenticity. Marx and Engels demanded a state bank to cheapen money and regulate credit in the interests of the “whole people.” That meant abandoning a gold standard or even a dollar standard in order to make money freely available in abundance for the whole people. An objective measure of value, a legitimate socialist currency, would not allow for “the dominance of the large financiers.” Stockpiles of gold, silver, or any other “objective” measure of values should arouse suspicion in the people and strict regulation by the government to prevent their use as a means to dominate, obligate, or coerce economic activity. This dominance should come entirely from democratic institutions with the greatest protections possible for the freedom of the individual. If such stockpiles run counter to this principle, then their break-up and redistribution require planning and execution rather than their transfer over to bureaucratic state authority. In this way, as gold and silver find wider distribution, the value of money and democratic power will stabilize far better than through its storage in government vaults and secret or exclusive committees.

Trotsky criticized the Monetary Policy of the Soviet State:

“The subsequent curve of inflation from year to year is depicted in the following feverish series: 2.0 – 2.8 – 4.3 – 5.5 – 8.4! The final figure 8.4 billion rubles was reached at the beginning of 1933. After that came the years of reconsideration and retreat: 6.9 – 7.7 – 7.9 billion (1935). The ruble of 1924, equal in the official exchange to 13 francs, had been reduced in November 1935 to 3 francs – that is, to less than a fourth of its value, or almost as much as the French franc was reduced as a result of the war.”

He then criticized the new system of distribution:

“The most utopian views of the period of military communism were thus restored on a new economic basis – a little higher, to be sure, but alas still inadequate for the liquidation of money circulation. The ruling circles were completely possessed by the opinion that with a planned economy inflation is not to be feared. This means approximately that if you possess a compass there is no danger in a leaking ship.

In reality, currency inflation, inevitably producing a credit inflation, entails a substitution of fictitious for real magnitudes, and corrodes the planned economy from within.”

The bureaucracy substituted the control of inflation with the criminalization of its mention.

“The most cautious references to inflation they likened to a state crime. With similar conscientiousness the authorities on occasion have accused teachers of breaking the rules of school hygiene while at the same time forbidding them to mention the absence of soap.”

This meant the chaotic destruction of money as a means of exchange while struggling against equal or average pay for the bureaucracy:

“Restoring “bourgeois norms” with one hand, they were destroying with the other the sole implement of any use under them. With the substitution of “closed distributors” for commerce, and with complete chaos in prices, all correspondence between individual labor and individual wages necessarily disappeared, and therewith disappeared the personal interestedness of the worker.”

Trotsky refers to the Platform of the Joint Opposition, which lists the following as a policy proposal:

“(8) Tax receipts alone cannot cover the continually growing demands of our national economy. Credit must become a more and more important lever in the distribution of the national income, along the lines of socialist construction, which assumes, above all, a stable currency and a healthy circulation of money.”

On collective agriculture and money:

“If you leave aside the collective farm aristocracy, the daily needs of the average peasant are still met to a greater degree by his work “on his own”, than by his participation in the collective. A peasant’s income from individual enterprises, especially when he takes up technical culture, fruit, or stock farming, amounts frequently to three times as much as the earnings of the same peasant in the collective economy.”

On distribution and prices:

“The budget and credit mechanism is wholly adequate for a planned distribution of the national income. And as to prices, they will serve the cause of socialism better, the more honestly they being [sic] to express the real economic relations of the present day.”

On the gold standard vs. bureaucratic subjectivism:

“In the period to come, there can be no talk of going over to the gold standard. Insofar, however, as the government, by increasing the gold reserve, is trying to raise the percentage even of a purely theoretical coverage; insofar as the limits of banknote emission are objectively determined and not dependent upon the will of the bureaucracy, to that extent the Soviet ruble may achieve at least a relative stability. That alone would be of enormous benefit. With a firm rejection of inflation in the future, the currency, although deprived of the advantage of the gold standard, could indubitably help to cure the many deep wounds inflicted upon the economy by the bureaucratic subjectivism of the preceding years.”

On piece-work payment and labor-time:

“Socialism could not be justified by the abolition of exploitation alone; it must guarantee to society a higher economy of time than is guaranteed by capitalism.”

“When the rhythm of labor is determined by the chase after the ruble, then people do not expend themselves “according to ability” – that is, according to the condition of their nerves and muscles – but in violation of themselves. This method can only be justified conditionally and by reference to stern necessity. To declare it “the fundamental principle of socialism” means cynically to trample the idea of a new and higher culture in the familiar filth of capitalism.”

The translation from socialism to communism will eliminate the sweatshop and piece-work payment, “as a relic of barbarism.”

ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE ARTICLE “THE IMMEDIATE TASKS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT” April 28, 1918

Vladimir Lenin

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1918/mar/23b.htm>)

“It is estimated that currency notes to the value of about thirty thousand million rubles have been issued in Russia to date. Of this sum probably no less than twenty thousand million, or maybe considerably more, are excess hoards unneeded for trade turnover, which are kept hidden away by members of the bourgeoisie and propertied classes for motives of self-interest—or class self-interest.

“The Soviet government will have to combine the introduction of labour conscription with the registration, in the first place, of people belonging to the bourgeoisie and propertied classes; it will have to demand truthful statements (declarations) concerning the amount of currency notes available; it will have to take a number of measures to make sure that this demand will not remain on paper; it will have

to consider

transitional measures for concentrating all stocks of currency notes in the State Bank or its branches. Unless these measures are taken, the business of accounting and control over production and distribution cannot be effectively carried through.”

Lenin argued that the government must concentrate all stocks of currency in the State Bank, based on a complete registration of and declarations from all people belonging to the bourgeoisie and propertied classes.

Collected Works Vol. 32

Vladimir Lenin

[Click to access lenin-cw-vol-32.pdf](#)

REPORT ON CONCESSIONS AT A MEETING OF THE COMMUNIST GROUP OF THE ALL-RUSSIA CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

APRIL 11, 1921

“You may have the currency, say, gold, but you must bear in mind that there is no free market, for it is all, or nearly all, controlled by the syndicates, cartels and trusts, which are ruled by their imperialist profits. They will supply consumer goods only to workers of their own enterprises, and not for those of others, because the old capitalism—meaning the free market—is no longer there. That shows the essence of our concessions policy in the context of the present conditions of finance capital and the behemoth struggle between the trusts. The concessions policy is an alliance concluded by one side against another, and so long as we are not strong enough, we must play off their hostile rivalry, so as to hold out until the victory of the international revolution.” P. 305

On foreign currency exchange, starting with point 8 of the Concessions Agreements of the Council of the People’s Commissars:

“8. A special clause in each agreement shall regulate the question of payment to the workers employed at the concession enterprises of wages in foreign currency special coupons, Soviet currency, etc.”

“If the wages should be paid in foreign currency, this will give rise to a number of complex problems: how is this currency to be exchanged for Soviet currency? how are we to fight speculation? etc. We have accepted the idea that we have an answer to all these problems, and need not fear any of them. This point tells the capitalists that they are free to invent

anything they like. It makes no difference to us whether you bring in the goods and sell them for special coupons, on special terms, or only upon presentation of special certificates issued personally to workers employed at the concession.” P. 310-311

SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE THIRD ALL-RUSSIA FOOD CONFERENCE

JUNE 16, 1921

Vladimir Lenin

“The Party conference, as the supreme organ of the ruling, government Party, the leading authority of the working class, emphasised the importance of collecting the large food stock of 400 million poods. It laid emphasis on the point that the whole meaning of our food policy, permitting a large measure of unrestricted trade, boils down to building up a big food fund, as a large state reserve. Without it, neither the restoration of large-scale industry nor the restoration of the currency will be possible, and every socialist understands that unless large-scale industry—the only real basis—is restored, it is no use talking about socialist construction.” P. 444

Lenin argues that not just a gold reserve but a food reserve must back any restoration of devalued currency.

Social Credit

By Clifford Hugh Douglas

(https://web.archive.org/web/20100209091428/http://douglassocialcredit.com/resources/resources/social_credit_by_ch_douglas.pdf)

“It is significant that the peculiar brand of economics popular amongst Marxian-Socialist and Communistic propagandists is at one with apparently more orthodox economists, in suggesting the comparative unimportance of money in the economic system; that it is nothing but a reflection of the economic facts beneath it.” P. 42

“The operation would, in fact, be meaningless, from which observation we may deduce the interesting fact that presentday finance and taxation is merely an ingenious system for concentrating financial power. No proposal to redistribute the National Debt has ever received the slightest encouragement from Socialist leaders.

“Now at first sight this would appear to lend colour to the simple Labour-Socialist idea that many men are poor, because a few are rich. Post hoc, ergo propter hoc. But once again, the matter is not quite so simple. It is perfectly true that a few men do become very rich by this

process, and very many more have hopes of riches; that is how their cooperation is secured. But it is also equally true that their collective riches, in visible form, would represent a very small sum if equally distributed amongst the general population. The main tendency of the process is to concentrate the control of credit in a potential form in great organisations, and notably in the hands of the great banks and insurance companies.” P. 48

“There is, at the moment, no party, group, or individual possessing at once the power, the knowledge, and the will, which would transmute the growing social unrest and resentment (now chiefly marshalled under the crudities of Socialism and Communism) into a constructive effort for the regeneration of Society.” P. 62

“It seems, therefore, an unassailable deduction from these facts that for a given programme of production, the amount of man-hours required could be rapidly decreased, or conversely, the programme could be increased with the same man-hours of work, or any desired combination of these two could be arranged. But it is also a fact that, for a given programme, (18) increased production per man-hour means decreased employment. It is also a fact, that never during the past few decades have we been free from an unemployment problem, and it is also a fact that never during the past fifty years has any industrial country been able to buy its own production with the wages, salaries, and dividends available for that purpose, and in consequence, all industrial countries have been forced to find export markets for their goods.

“So that we are confronted with what seems to be a definite alternative. We can say, as we are saying up to the present time, that the wages, salaries, and dividends system, with its corollaries of the employment system, as at present understood, and the moral discipline which is interwoven with all those things, is our prime objective. Having decided that, we have decided that the industrial system with its banks, factories, and transportation systems, exists for a moral end, and does not exist for the reason which induces individuals to co-operate in it, i.e. their need for goods; and that moral end can only be achieved through the agency of the system and its prime constituent—employment. And the practical policy to be pursued is one which has been frequently pointed out from diverse sources, and which was the basis, or (19) alleged basis, of the Russian Revolution. It is to make the man-hours necessary for a given programme of production equal to the man-hours of the whole population of the world, so that every one capable of any sort of work should, by some powerful organisation, be set working for eight or any other suitable number of hours a day. To achieve this end, the use of labour-

saving machinery should be discouraged, all scientific effort should be removed from industry (as was at first done in Russia), and, in particular, modern tools, processes, and the application to industry of solar energy in its various forms should be vigorously suppressed. Failing an alternative, one should dig holes and fill them up again. All this is the logical outcome of the attitude, not merely of the orthodox employer (although he may not realise it), but of the orthodox socialist, and it ought to be clearly recognised. The world has not yet passed a deliberate verdict on the matter, and it ought to have the case and the evidence; and in the meantime the atmosphere of war and economic catastrophe in which the world is enveloped, should be accepted as a desirable means towards a high moral objective.

“The other alternative, while recognising the necessity for discipline in the world, does not (20) concern itself with that necessity in considering the modern productive process. It surveys the facts, finds an inherent incompatibility between the substitution of solar energy for human energy, on the one hand, and the retention of a financial and industrial system based on the assumption that work is the only claim to goods, on the other hand, and takes as its objective the delivery of goods, making the objective always subordinate to human individuality. It is not concerned with abstractions, such as justice.” P. 8-9

“Pre-war Germany was always exhibited as being reactionary, feudal, and militaristic to an extent unequalled by any other great power. Post-war Russia is supposed by large masses of discontented workers, to be the antithesis of all this. But the similarity of the two is daily becoming more apparent and it is notorious that the leaders of pre-war Germany are flocking to post-war Russia in increasing numbers, in the lively hope of the fulfilment of the ideals which were frustrated by the Great War. The latest pronouncements on industrial affairs by Russian statesmen are indistinguishable from those of American, German, or British bankers (which statement is not intended as undiluted praise). (28) It is significant that the arguments voiced from all of these quarters are invariably appeals to mob psychology – “Europe must be saved,” “Workers of the World unite,” etc. The appeal is away from the conscious-reasoning individual, to the unconscious herd instinct. And the “interests” to be saved, require mobs, not individuals.” P. 11

“It has not yet, I think, been said in such a way as to dispose of the suggestion, which need not necessarily be an offensive suggestion, that the Jews are the protagonists of collectivism in all its forms, whether it is camouflaged under the name of Socialism, Fabianism, or “big business,” and that the opponents of collectivism must look to the Jews for an answer to the indictment of the theory itself.

It should in any case be emphasised that it is the Jews as a group, and not as individuals, who are on trial, and that the remedy, if one is required, is to break up the group activity...

“There is no such thing as an effective national responsibility—it is a pure abstraction, under cover of which, oppression and tyranny to individuals, which would not be tolerated if inflicted by a personal ruler, escape effective criticism.” P. 11-12

“The fact that there is no physical limitation to the satisfaction of reasonable material requirements—that in fact there is no such thing in the modern world with the exception of Russia as a poor country in any sense other than that of a scarcity of tickets to operate satisfactorily as purchasing-power only serves to transfer this exhortation to be thrifty, from goods of which there is a surfeit, to money of which there is a scarcity.

“The situation is similar to that of a man provided with every form of food, and with coal, wood and matches with which to cook it, but who is accustomed to cook his food upon a paraffin stove, and is informed that there is only a pint of paraffin left, and that in consequence the most rigid economy of food must now and in the future be enforced.” P. 39

Quotes from W. H. WAKINSHAW (Accidentally fell upon his book while searching for Douglas.)

THE POSTULATES AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT THEOREM OF MAJOR C. H. DOUGLAS, M.I.M.E.

“Recently confronted with the danger of foreign currency becoming their medium of exchange, owing in part to the deliberate policy of external banking organizations, the Russian Commissariat of Finance has introduced a bank note, in which 48 per cent, of the 40 million “chervonetz ” are “ backed ” by bills of lading and exchange—i.e., ultimately goods (allowing for the inevitable modicum of artificial bills) which are, as we have previously insisted, the only final and valid basis for any sound currency. But the Soviet Government has gone a stage further and actually printed Treasury notes without any immediate backing whatever—though clearly, functioning as Tickets, they will automatically find their own backing. With this, however, the Government has reduced prices, and seems to believe that by always keeping the market short of money as well, it can with these two measures establish a sound money system.

“This is, of course, half-way between the pre-war system of the Bank of England’s control of the money market, and the scientific technique of Major Douglas’

Price Factor. No wonder there is a well directed stream of abuse at the Soviet Government, and it is not surprising that Russia is in no urgent need to accept the demands of foreign bankers—unlike “ infelix Austria,” whose inability to “ keep on walking ” has handed her over indefinitely to the dominion and heritage of strangers. The Russians have grasped apparently that the machinery of credit is mainly a matter of psychology, and indeed in the last resort all problems in economics and politics must be brought to that final bar of judgment.” P. 64-65

“But just as chattel slavery was inferior for productive purposes to the 19th century industrial system, so this latter, now lapsed into wage-slavery, will be found productively a frail and broken instrument compared with a society of freemen working together on a contractual basis, instead of one founded on caste and status, the rottenness of which as a cultural theory even India is beginning to suspect and ponder.” P. 72

“The production ability has been ours for the last thirty years at least, so that there can be no alternative left but the financial or distributive mechanism as the factor of breakdown. The allusions to “ economy ” and “ hard work ” are, obviously, symptomatic of the servile virtues of stinting, meanness and quantitative toil, instead of the more masculine and imperial characteristics of enterprise and qualitative ingenuity.” P. 73

Notes on David North and Adolph

Reed Seminar

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Neo-liberalism:

Only one class struggling.

two ways forward, trumpism, authoritiarian neo-liberalism

democratic intervention and reform

mainstream of democratic primary

dismissal of working class, cost them 2016 and other elections

bernie sanders lost, but medicare for all still has majority support

what about housing, higher education?

race-reductionism

fight discrimination, but- should top 1%, made up of 50% female, 12% black, etc. control 90% of the wealth?

graubart:

education lacking marxism

crucial moment

chomsky v. gray debate: vote for biden?

will biden use sanders platform?

Chomsky: u have no leverage, presidential elections have no effect

is a vote for the SEP an empty gesture?

no write-in in michigan

no ballot in many other states

north, nyt opinion: fight for biden, then fight against biden, block political independence of workers

goldwater

obama created trump.

program that would break workers from trump as well

reed:

vote for clinton, biden

you need to clean the toilet, clean a wound, vote democratic, (lenin: "concession to capitalists")

obama presented as solution for workers because of his race. trump also presented as solution for workers because of his race.

(presentation is a weapon pointed, not an offer with their interests in mind.)

reed: bullshit

sanders a gambit, used vehicle of presidential campaign to allow organizers to put forward socialist and working class programs for many ordinary working people.

kick-start organizing drive, support sanders

specificity of history

reed: organizing v. mobilizing, or moralizing?

why are democrats side-tracked..?

north: organizing means rank-and-file committees

socialist consciousness

Disappearing Message 2

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<https://youtu.be/l8WvNGPtLWc>

Seis de cada diez periodistas colombianas han sufrido violencia de género

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Mira lo que encontré en 360Noticias: <https://noticierodelllano.com/seis-de-cada-diez-periodistas-colombianas-han-sufrido-violencia-de-genero/>

6/10 journalists suffered sexual violence at work, and 8/10 are aware of such cases in their workplace. Such a high rate of violence affects journalistic freedom or, more precisely robs the country of journalistic freedom.

Three Blocked Comments- Does the SEP Deserve to be on the Ballot While it Blocks Participation for Democratic Power?

[randomposter336 Comments](#)

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

The WSWS and the fight for revolutionary leadership in Latin America

[Random Poster 6 hours ago](#)Removed

Two extra factors must weigh in to the construction of the ICFI in Latin America:

1. Fascism and military rule left a legacy on politics. [Latin American] Fascism derived partly from Spanish fascism, which survived WWII into the 70s, and partly from American imperialism with its repeated invasions to prevent the growth of socialism. A patient sensitization must occur towards and among the people with regard to the events that occurred under military governments and continue to occur as with the military shooting of protesters in Bogota as a response to the national strike movement.
2. The ICFI split in 1971. This broke it from most of the Trotskyists in South America. The two factions, the OCI and SLL both bore responsibility. The OCI had abandoned an insistence on Marxist leadership for the revolution while the SLL abandoned the demands of Lenin and Trotsky with regard to Democratic Centralism and the Left Opposition. Without Democratic discussion or a defense of factional democracy within the international, the insistence on teaching the Marxist dialectic took on authoritarian properties associated with the Stalinist bureaucracy. In order to establish Marxism in South America, the ICFI will have to defend the rights of its members and respect them as fellow Marxists. A syndicalist appeal to the faceless masses, without the work of building support for the party among advanced workers, will remain purely theoretical, producing tragedy through inaction. As a result of the abstention from participation of the ICFI, the fake socialism of nationalist bourgeois parties hold sway without any open challenge.

I have discussed these ideas before in my new book, which you can download here:

<https://randomposter33.file...> Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 1 comments

The role of the World Socialist Web Site in educating a new generation of revolutionaries

[Random Poster 7 hours ago](#)Removed

I would like to add that some Millennials graduated from high school or began college when the 9/11 strike hit New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. The 2008 financial crisis ended careers and forced them into low-wage jobs.

For these reasons, Millennials only own 3% of the national wealth. When Baby Boomers were the same age, in 1989, they controlled 21% of the national wealth. While the WSWS and SEP must not hold this against Baby Boomers or (perversely) Millennials, as representatives of the working class, they must demand a redistribution of wealth along generational lines in order to uphold the principles of equality.

I had argued about this topic in my new book, which you can download here:

<https://randomposter33.word...> Discussion on [World Socialist Web Site](#) 3 comments

The approach of the World Socialist Web Site to science

[Random Poster 7 hours ago](#)Removed

The article quotes Trotsky:

“The ruling class, the possessing class, controls technique and through it controls nature.”

Despite the clear position that Trotsky takes, the WSWS refuses to represent the scientific arguments that prove that the Covid-19 virus had laboratory origins. Transfer of viruses between animals, including genetically modified animals, those modified to share DNA and protein profiles with human beings, occurs in labs. Laboratories actually enhance this process to produce greater concentrations of the virus with more effective contagious and virulent properties.

Above any particular scientific discovery, Marxism values the scientific method. To ignore the evidence with regard to genetic manipulation to produce viral weapons disarms the workers in the fight

against the counter-revolution. If the virus does come from a laboratory, the cure could also exist as a product of the same program. Scientific reports actually prove that the techniques and samples existed with which to produce Covid-19 in a laboratory. Why not at least give these scientists a chance to argue and allow the readers to decide?

I have presented these arguments in my new book, which you can download here:

<https://randomposter33.file…>



[Keith Raniere, Who Reached 18,000 Attendees Through His Cult Sentenced to 120 years- As Important a Conviction as Weinstein, Cosby, and Epstein for the #MeToo Movement](#)

Keith Raniere, Who Reached 18,000 Attendees Through His Cult Sentenced to 120 years- As Important a Conviction as Weinstein, Cosby, and Epstein for the #MeToo Movement

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<https://news.yahoo.com/keith-raniere-founder-cult-group-133146481.html>

<https://www.wuwf.org/post/nxivm-cult-leader-sentenced-120-years-prison#stream/0>

From WUWF article:

“NXIVM was publicly advertised as a professional development company that offered seminars attended by an estimated 18,000 people since the 1990s. It offered intensive therapy courses lasting several days and claimed to help people overcome major trauma by “integrating” those experiences into their lives.”

From Wikipedia article:

“While incarcerated, Raniere has maintained his leadership role over NXIVM, regularly communicating with his followers by phone. Raniere instructed his followers to solicit the assistance of [Alan Dershowitz](#), the attorney who successfully negotiated a non-prosecution agreement of [Jeffrey Epstein](#).^[189] Raniere gave false names of people he was allegedly calling to prison officials, and call recipients employed “burner phones” in an attempt to avoid detection. In one instance, Raniere instructed a follower to “get scrutiny” on the judge in his case, explaining that “the judge needs to know he’s being watched”.^[190]

“On September 25, 2020, NXIVM leader Suneel Chakravorty emailed prosecutors a demand that they sign or deny a Raniere-authored “ethics affidavit”, giving prosecutors a “5pm Wednesday” deadline for response. The demand, addressing five individual prosecutors by name, threatens “provocative public actions that bring hidden transgressions to light and send a message to judges, prosecutors, and federal agents that they answer to us.”^{[191][192]} Simultaneously, a team of 10 individuals descended on the U.S. attorney’s office to deliver the demand in person; at that same time, another individual attempted to deliver a package to a former Raniere prosecutor at her law firm.^[193]“

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NXIVM#Criminal_prosecutions_and_convictions

Screenshot Video on DuckDuckGo- Comment

Missing- Origin of Covid-19

[randomposter33Leave a comment](#)

<https://youtu.be/7J7lSlV7k1o>

Part IV: Correspondence with WSWS and Disqus

This section includes 3 parts regarding a correspondence with the WSWS on censorship; (IV. A.) a few letters written on further blocked comments proceeding the correspondence, to which the WSWS did not respond; (IV. B.) and, afterwards, a few comments from people writing in to Random Poster's Press Page. (IV. C.) Information about how a moderator forced Bertrand Poster out of a committee meeting without any discussion deserves mention, and the reader can find this incident on pages 35, 162, and 133 above.

IV. A. Correspondence with Dan Conway of the WSWS

E-mails to Dan Conway, January 4th and 5th, 2021:

[Letter from WSWS.org on Censorship and Technical Failures](#)

As you can see from the screenshots above, [p. 149-157] the WSWS and Disqus have blocked 9 of 24 comments, only two of which were second attempts. One of my other second attempts made it through. All of these I have posted to Disqus on the WSWS since the last email shown below written to Dan Conway, who spoke on behalf of the WSWS starting on Dec. 31st, 2020. I will post these blocked comments in text form separately. For a copy of the entire email conversation, write in.

Below you can see Conway's final response and my final response to him. In light of recent revelations by the WSWS about Facebook shutting down various accounts, the response of Conway, filled with false accusations, contradictions, misrepresentations of material facts, and other fraud, should lead to great concern among the membership and readership of the WSWS. Democratic Power demands a fair hearing to fully discuss these issues so as to protect the democratic rights of SEP members from abuse by party functionaries.

Dan Conway <dconwaywsws@gmail.com>

To:Random Poster

Cc:Marc Wells

Mon, Jan 4 at 11:45 AM

Hello and apologies for the delay in responding,

Also thank you for providing the link to your wordpress page as it helps to clarify your true purpose in raising these issues.

To the extent that your difficulties posting are related to problems with Disqus, this is something that the WSWWS can't properly assist with as it is a third party application. All I can suggest based on my own experience is that if you attempt to post on Disqus using Tor or a VPN connection, problems may arise as a result.

Aside from that, the World Socialist We Site maintains its own commenting discussion rules which may be found here:

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2013/08/19/comm-a19.html>

I have not looked through your entire commenting history or attempted commenting history on the site which you've documented on your wordpress page. It is clear, however, that you are not simply a "random poster" but that you have a real differences with the program of the ICFI. You essentially use bogus charges of repression of criticism to build support within the party to change its orientation in line with the current fashionable trends of US "left" imperialism. Your encouraging and extended conversation with an ex-SEP member who left the party to embrace upper-middle class identity politics and the #MeToo movement in particular was quite revealing.

At any rate, I hope that your future attempts at posting on the WSWWS are successful to the extent that do not run afoul of the site's discussion rules.

We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party's program behind conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was deliberately manufactured in a Chinese lab or that wealth distribution is not primarily a class but generational question, just to name only two examples, will not find a hearing among a continually growing cadre of revolutionary Marxists.

Respectfully,

Dan Conway

Random Poster <randomposter33@yahoo.com>

To:dconwaywsws@gmail.com,Dan Conway

Cc:Marc Wells

Tue, Jan 5 at 10:47 PM

Hello Dan,

If I am being accused of having a “true purpose” which leads me to make “bogus charges”, then perhaps I need a lawyer in the party to defend me. I am not posing as anyone in particular, and my “random poster” screen name indicates that I sympathize with the rank and file, not that I am breaking some rule with regard to identity.

The good news is, since we are scapegoating disqus.com, I have found a way out of this problem. I just opened a new account and I have now begun to see my comments. I would have preferred not to switch accounts, since it gives the power to the hacker or moderator or some behind-the-scenes algorithm. Still, my main purpose was not to distance myself from the party but maintain an open line of communication.

With regard to the political issues you raised, I am glad to finally get a response. I will address these issues in the friendliest way possible and with as much depth as I can dedicated myself to.

Warm regards,

RP

E-mail to Dan Conway, January 30th, 2021:

E-mail Response to Dan Conway: Abusive Moderation by Silent Nano-bureaucrats Targeting Democratic Power to Continue, Unashamed to Use Fascist Cover-up Tactics

[randomposter33](#)[Leave a comment](#)

1. “To the extent that your difficulties posting are related to problems with Disqus, this is something that the WSWS can’t properly assist with as it is a third party application. All I can suggest based on my own experience is that if you attempt to post on Disqus using Tor or a VPN connection, problems may arise as a result.”

To quote from the WSWS itself:

“As we [reported yesterday](#), Facebook restored the accounts and claimed unconvincingly that the politically motivated purge of the socialists from its platform two days earlier was the result of a technical glitch. As WWSW International Editorial Board Chairman David North explained to the *Financial Times* in a front-page story on Monday, ‘Even though this particular ban has been [reversed], it’s a warning we don’t know what might come next.’”

([Facebook restores service to socialist pages, claiming the purge was an ‘automation error.’](#))

From the same article:

Judith Jackson: “Having disabled the group account for the University of Michigan IYSSE account, and those of its admins and leading members of the Socialist Equality Party, Facebook restored these accounts on Monday. While an apology was made, there has not been a satisfactory explanation given as to why these accounts were targeted, other than it was an ‘automation error.’ Given that Facebook employs several thousand personnel to monitor accounts, I for one do not take this explanation at face value. ...”

Dr. Laurie Cestnick: “... In November 2020, the personal pages of all 3 administrators of the page were shut down all on the same day within minutes of each other. None of us ever spams and we run a very clean and respectful page ... there was no reason for it. Once my personal page was back, a message popped up stating ‘You are not allowed to create any more groups until February 2021’ ... I hadn’t created a group since 2015—my progressive group, so this was extremely odd. I STILL cannot even post on my OWN group wall (link above) and all other admins are still off of FB. Thankfully a couple of moderators were left to man the page but we still get threats from FB to shut us down with no explanation. Not only can I not post on my own group wall, but I am a neuroscientist and neuropsychologist/psychologist and cannot even post on my own page that I created to help children with autism, dyslexia etc.”

From another article:

([Facebook escalates attack on socialist left](#))

“These actions by Facebook take place in a definite political context. There is an immense and ongoing political crisis within the US state, a raging pandemic that has killed nearly 430,000 people in the United States, an extreme economic crisis, and growing anger in the working class against the entire policy of the capitalist ruling elite. The ruling class is terrified of the growth of social opposition from below.”

As you can see, these arguments about a third party application, within the context of the campaign against internet censorship, make no sense. The fact remains that not only the ruling class but also the nano-bureaucracy feel terrified by the social opposition from below. The only way for the nano-bureaucracy to contain that social opposition without turning to the tactics and strategy of the counter-revolution will depend on its ability to incorporate opposition factions into official positions within the party. Barring this, the WSWS will find itself following the same tactics and strategy as Facebook, Google, and every other corporation attempting to do its part to censor any challenge to all existing political leadership. Perhaps they prefer to be censored so as to avoid any conversation that would make them uncomfortable. I have no reason to believe that Disqus somehow follows a different pattern. In 2017, Zeta Global bought Disqus. Zeta Global was founded by former Apple Inc. CEO John Sculley. To argue that Apple and Disqus really stand for our democratic rights reveals an unacceptable level of naivete and political subservience to the corporations and their executives.

2. "I have not looked through your entire commenting history or attempted commenting history on the site which you've documented on your wordpress page."

Has anyone looked at my history? I have published 3 books on my website. Doesn't the SEP have to respond to a former SSE President at a major university, somebody who campaigned for the SEP during elections, who wrote for the website? Is the commenting history really that problematic? If so, how would it hurt to speak directly about these issues. If no agreement can be reached, then members should have a right to discuss and vote, as well as receive proportional representation inside national committees. In the mean time, the leadership should be held accountable to provide someone to discuss these issues in the most inclusive way possible. If the point of the party is to create theoretical clarity for the revolutionary movement, then chasing TV hosts for crowds will only lead the party to disaster. The first responsibility should be to discuss these issues and remove barriers to participation for dedicated members.

3. "It is clear, however, that you are not simply a 'random poster' but that you have a real differences with the program of the ICFI."

The real differences with the program of the ICFI do not justify the censorship attacks. The content of the difference deserves discussion, not suppression. The willingness to discuss should open the door for participation in meetings and campaigns. Beyond just censoring me on Disqus, the SEP blocked me from participation in an online meeting of the Chicago Education Committee without a word of

explanation. Why don't you judge me by my participation in a meeting, instead of relying on backward prejudice? This talk of "real differences" appears taken straight from a chauvinist's guide to politics.

4. "You essentially use bogus charges of repression of criticism to build support within the party to change its orientation in line with the current fashionable trends of US 'left' imperialism."

This argument about bogus charges seems designed to bring down the WSWS itself. Censorship can censor its own critics, but when censorship knows no bounds, all is propaganda in service of the military, and all opposing views can meet military force or silence themselves. This forces all opposition into a violent downward cycle, bringing the WSWS down with it. In order to save the WSWS, the SEP must take the strongest position against the silencing and breaking up of opposition factions within the ICFI. Maintaining silence is the greatest gift you can offer to US imperialism, fashionable or not.

5. "Your encouraging and extended conversation with an ex-SEP member who left the party to embrace upper-middle class identity politics and the #MeToo movement in particular was quite revealing."

In fact, the amount of abuse she suffered before she finally left the party is quite revealing. She had dedicated her life to the cause, even running in an election as a candidate, and only a series of abusive actions that went unpunished and unexposed by the leadership finally led to her forced withdrawal. That people could hear her story and still support the party speaks to the dedication of the Democratic Power faction, which judged by its positions has a much higher level of support among ICFI members than any official count reveals. The defense of class over personal identity should not depend on the defense of identity crimes (which Disqus arguably participates in) or unsustainable objections to individual testimony.

Your opposition to the MeToo movement fits into the middle class attitude represented by Jimmy Dore in his arguments with Jerry White. White attempted to explain that the working class needs a Left political stance in order to push politically for their interests. Jimmy Dore answered that all poor people should unite and defend each other regardless of politics. White's position more accurately follows from Marxist theory, that the workers must rise in a conscious way, conscious of their class and their common future as the revolutionary class that ends capitalism and builds socialism. The MeToo movement may include individuals of the upper middle class, but to workers, the political aims of the MeToo movement must outweigh the presence of rich supporters. The presence of poor people among fascists, likewise, must not force Marxists to reconsider their political goals.

6. “At any rate, I hope that your future attempts at posting on the WSWS are successful to the extent that do not run afoul of the site’s discussion rules.”

If the problem stems from my running afoul of discussion rules, then I would gladly adjust my writing to follow the rules. Considering that the WSWS blocked 12 of my last 31 posts, all posted since my last email to you on January 5th, I think I deserve a detailed and specific reason for how I broke the Discussion rules. This should show how at least 1 but in fact how all 12 posts ran afoul of discussion rules. Also, the party must also explain why no explanation arrived earlier. The Discussion Rules do not include a policy for the appeal of moderator decisions. This frees every abusive moderator to act with impunity.

7. “We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party’s program behind conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was deliberately manufactured in a Chinese lab...”

The Yan Report released by a Hong Kong University Virologist, along with recent reports about WHO scientists meeting bureaucratic resistance after seeking to trace the origins of the virus in Wuhan, indicate that the Chinese government may in fact have something to hide. Only the staunchest Stalinist would deny that the Chinese government has the capacity to kill millions of people, which it has done twice in the last century under the rule of the same ruling Maoist party. To witch-hunt this position as a conspiracy theory creates a grave danger for the free discussion of science for the revolutionary movement. If hard science, laboratory science, cannot freely discuss its findings and its methods then social sciences such as Marxism will surely fall as well. The revolutionary movement has an extra responsibility to refrain from witch hunts and the censorship of scientific arguments. If it is really a conspiracy theory, then the best answer would provide the hard facts to disprove it in fair debate rather than silence and erase the entire known scientific history regarding genetic engineering and particularly the engineering of viruses and other biological weapons.

8. “...or that wealth distribution is not primarily a class but generational question...”

How this appears to be a conspiracy theory to you, I have no clue. This is an argument about political program. Besides grievously misrepresenting the positions in Random Poster’s Press Page, you take a strong position against Marxism. You assert that if wealth distribution is primarily a class question, then it can have no other dimension. That effectively conspires against those would support a primarily class-based wealth distribution. If Capitalism only hurts the working class, then for the working class it is useless to unite other classes as well as individuals behind its program. This turns the entire middle

class and national bourgeoisie of oppressed nations against the revolution, a political loss for the working class. As Lenin wrote in *Imperialism* Ch. 4:

“Capitalism is commodity production at its highest stage of development, when labour-power itself becomes a commodity. The growth of internal exchange, and, particularly, of international exchange, is a characteristic feature of capitalism. The uneven and spasmodic development of individual enterprises, individual branches of industry and individual countries is inevitable under the capitalist system.

England became a capitalist country before any other, and by the middle of the nineteenth century, having adopted free trade, claimed to be the “workshop of the world”, the supplier of manufactured goods to all countries, which in exchange were to keep her provided with raw materials. But in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, this monopoly was already undermined; for other countries, sheltering themselves with “protective” tariffs, developed into independent capitalist states. On the threshold of the twentieth century we see the formation of a new type of monopoly: firstly, monopolist associations of capitalists in all capitalistically developed countries; secondly, the monopolist position of a few very rich countries, in which the accumulation of capital has reached gigantic proportions. An enormous “surplus of capital” has arisen in the advanced countries.

“It goes without saying that if capitalism could develop agriculture, which today is everywhere lagging terribly behind industry, if it could raise the living standards of the masses, who in spite of the amazing technical progress are everywhere still half-starved and poverty-stricken, there could be no question of a surplus of capital. This ‘argument’ is very often advanced by the petty-bourgeois critics of capitalism. But if capitalism did these things it would not be capitalism; for both uneven development and a semi-starvation level of existence of the masses are fundamental and inevitable conditions and constitute premises of this mode of production. As long as capitalism remains what it is, surplus capital will be utilised not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries.”

Here, Lenin analyzes the different generations of Capitalist countries. England arose in the mid-19th century and other countries later. This division of countries according to generations did not contradict Marxism but pushed Marxism forward, gained it a large following, and brought it to power. The division of generations within the United States holds similar keys to explain the revolutionary situation that the capitalist media tries to cover over. If England failed as the workshop of the world, leading to the outbreak of WWI, so did the Boomers fail to establish a compromise between classes that bought off the revolutionary class. To argue that British military might or French capital should

not control Russia but instead the working class did not weaken Lenin's argument but strengthened it. To argue that the class compromise espoused by previous generations of labor leaders should not hold when it comes to the politics of the younger generations would not weaken but strengthen the socialist revolution.

Refusing to compromise with the capitalist class means attacking where they have failed to defend. To excuse the impoverishment of the Millennial generation would be to turn on Lenin, who did not excuse capitalism for keeping the masses "half-starved and poverty-stricken" but instead exposed the backwardness of agriculture and the export of capital to backward countries as "fundamental and inevitable conditions." Lenin advocated the investment of surplus capital in agriculture (once capitalism has been defeated) so as to reduce starvation and improve the standard of living. From your point of view, this would constitute an attack on Marxism! You interpolate, "Why does Lenin want to invest in agriculture? Isn't that a specific sector of the economy rather than the whole working class? What does it have to do with the workers in the factories, the only audience for Marxism? Why should the workers care about those excluded from the contracts and careers of class-compromise politics?" The confusion seems endless. Lenin did not attack Marxism! You have!

Just as Lenin rejected the Social Democracy of Germany, the younger generation will reject your chauvinism. That chauvinism forms the basis for your nano-bureaucratic class compromise. Your attempts to find "real differences" in order to defend the nano-bureaucracy really amounts to a defense of Economism, the theory revising Marxism so as to claim that the revolutionary really has nothing to do as impersonal economic forces determine the course of history.

9. "We are quite confident that your attempts to line the party's program... will not find a hearing among a continually growing cadre of revolutionary Marxists."

"Your attempts", you say, as if posting comments on the website is a crime. The WSWS defended the rights of Harvey Weinstein, who hired spies to suppress the New York Times, to a fair hearing, but to defend a Marxist with some formal hearing within the party would seem completely foreign. The growing cadre will increasingly resemble careerists and functionaries, not the great Marxists of the early 20th century and not the Marxist revolutionaries that Trotsky wanted at the head of the Fourth International. In order to reach the level of those great revolutionaries, the level necessary to bring success to the revolution, then the party must approach the struggle for theoretical clarity in a professional way. They should assign someone to the task of having this discussion. They should provide for a formal hearing and a reply that gets reported to the membership. Finally, the membership

should have a chance to discuss and vote on the formation of a Democratic Power faction or factions in general.

Response from Disqus, February 19th, 2021:

Ryan from Disqus <ryan@disqus-ddef0e2fb08e.intercom-mail.com>

To:randomposter33@yahoo.com

Fri, Feb 19 at 7:54 PM

Hi,

Comments can get marked as Spam automatically if numerous past comments have been marked as Spam. The filter learns from site moderator actions, so the best remedy will be having moderators at the site you post to Approve any past comments you've made that are currently marked as Spam.

Disqus cannot approve any comments on behalf of sites, but we've moved your Spam comments to Pending, so that they can be re-reviewed by site moderators.

Please note that once site moderators have approved a few of your posts, this should help prevent future posts from being marked as spam. They could also add you to the Trusted User list to prevent future posting to their site from being marked as Spam.

Ryan Ryan from Disqus

IV. B. After the Correspondence

Message Detected as Spam

Yahoo/Sent



Random Poster <randomposter33@yahoo.com>

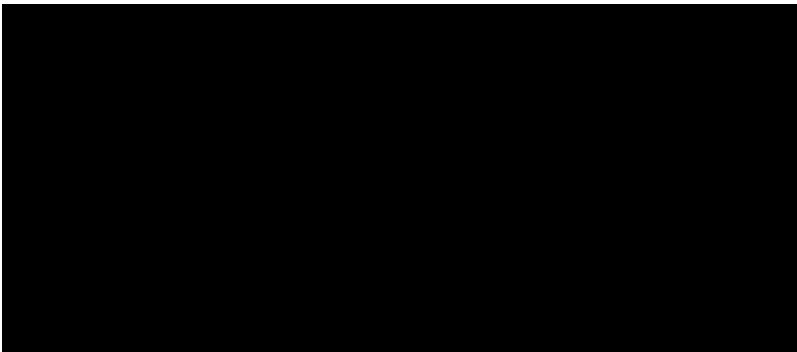
To:Dan Conway

Cc:Marc Wells

Mon, Feb 15 at 9:46 PM

Greetings Comrades,

I recently posted the comment shown below in response to this article ([Republicans acquit coup plotter Trump after Democrats refuse to call witnesses](#))



Republicans acquit coup plotter Trump after Democrats refuse to call wit...

Not a single Democrat had the courage to point an accusing finger at the
[Republican senators and bluntly state: ...](#)

)

Disqus has blocked it and marked it "Detected as Spam". Can you please review this decision?

Thank you,
Bertrand Poster

The blocked comment:

The WSWS should have said from the beginning that the Democrats had no interest in punishing the coup attempt. Biden himself, as Vice-President under Obama, participated in the coup in the Ukraine that elevated fascists and Neo-nazis sympathizers to power. He would be guilty of the same crime as Trump if Trump were convicted.

The 2016 election met with the long first impeachment of Trump from the beginning, seeking to overturn the 2016 elections on the pretext of "Russian interference". They had no interest in protecting the right to vote but instead sought to fight American democracy and drive the US to war with Russia. Trump won the vote through populist appeals to fight the Washington DC establishment and promises to put Hillary Clinton in prison. In this way, he won the 2016 election. They saw his populism as a threat to the oligarchy and the imperialist strategy and for this reason proceeded with an impeachment that sought to de-legitimize the entire American electoral process.

The accusations of the WSWS against the Democrats do not address any of the facts but merely state that the Democrats "could have" done a better job in prosecuting the crime. The fact is, even if Trump had been convicted by the Senate, he would not have gone to prison! He would have been barred from holding office and nothing more! That is not conjecture but fact.

The WSWS position offers a dangerous concession to reformism in that it builds illusions in the Democrats. This follows in line with their joint appearances at the side of Chris Hedges (who opposed Biden for "personal" not solid political reasons) and Jimmy Dore (who lead an effort to convince Democratic congressmen to vote against Nancy Pelosi for House Speaker). The WSWS must reverse course and warn from the beginning that no trial of Trump organized by Democrats will bring justice or a return to democratic forms of rule. The moves by Trump follow along with the moves by Obama, Clinton, and other leading Democrats who committed crimes against the Constitution and the American people in the service of war and empire.

The move towards temporary or conditional support for certain Democrats represents a shift towards Economism, which revises Marxism so as to remove the active subjective intervention of a revolutionary movement. Economism argues that the economic conditions under capitalism will create a revolutionary movement and socialist class consciousness spontaneously. Lenin had to fight this tendency within the Bolshevik party in order to restore Marxist theory to the revolutionary party. Economism argued that revolutionaries had nothing to do, that no tasks remained for the revolutionary. Lenin's position restored the party to its active and participatory role, elevating class consciousness among the workers in Russia to the point where they could fight as an independent class for their own interests. Ignoring this history for the chance to appear alongside TV show hosts and comedians will do more to lull the workers into inactivity when the danger from fascism is at its greatest height.

Proposal for Newsletter

Yahoo/Sent



Random Poster <randomposter33@yahoo.com>

To: Dan Conway

Cc: Marc Wells

Wed, Feb 17 at 7:20 PM

Greetings Comrades,

I want to show this comment that I posted, blocked again by Disqus and the WSWS. Since, as you have stated, there is no way to know if the messages were blocked by a moderator or an algorithm, I propose the creation of a newsletter to inform people every time a comment has been blocked by Disqus and/or a WSWS moderator. This would benefit the SEP membership, keeping them informed about the positions of Democratic Power, the faction that represents the membership of the SEP against bureaucracy and bureaucratization. Please consider this proposal, as it is of vital importance to the "social life" of the "party masses", to quote the Declaration of the 46, the founding document of the Left Opposition.

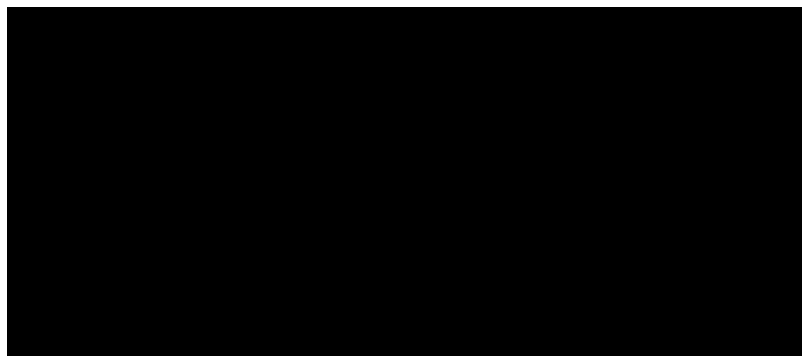
Thank you for your concern,

RP

[Protests erupt as Spanish Socialist Party-Podemos regime jails rapper Pablo Hasél](#)



[arandomposter33](#) 8 hours ago



Protests erupt as Spanish Socialist Party-Podemos regime jails rapper Pa...

On Tuesday morning, a detachment of riot police assaulted Lleida University, where Hasél had barricaded himself ...

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

Free Pablo Hasel! We won't forget the complicity of the parties in power! The mobilization of the masses must continue until the capital is saved from fascism and taken by the revolution!

End Censorship immediately!

Yahoo/Sent



Random Poster <randomposter33@yahoo.com>

To: Marc Wells, Dan Conway, End Censorship! Free Assange and Manning!

Fri, Feb 26 at 9:00 PM

Please read these blocked comments, which were removed by a moderator, not detected as spam.

Please respond and speak about what course of action we can take to end or at least confront immediately the censorship of the WSWS and Disqus. I am currently in the New York area, but I propose a meeting through Zoom. Thank for your attention and for your concern!

<https://randomposter33.wordpress.com/2021/02/27/blocked-comment-wsws-chooses-left-hegelianism-over-marxism-on-truth-and-intellectual-production/>

IV. C. Comments from Democratic Power Supporters and Critics



cfoxnosehuling

Oct 12, 2020

gobackandread.wordpress.com

[Comment to Greg Lenz Not Blocked or "Removed" but Does Not Appear](#)

This is an ongoing problem with the Party. There have been periods of growth within ranks (the BART strike earlier this century), but they have never revealed – even to party members – how many people are actually on board. As well, I don't even know how many branch meetings I sat through whereat the "contacts" section was not full of "haven't had a chance to reconnect" and "they seem not to be

answering” when it came to people who’d written in to the site or had been met while leafleting or contact made online by infiltration of union groups.

There has also been no *sustained* work within unions (Ye Devyl, according to dogma) or workplaces, and no actual committees set up with any pull within the US or Europe. The majority of activity remains on the university campuses, which, while important, is still largely isolated from the working class.



randomposter33

[Oct 19, 2020](#)·

[randomposter33.wordpress.com](#)

[Comment to Greg Lenz Not Blocked or “Removed” but Does Not Appear](#)

In reply to:

[This is an ongoing problem with the Party. There have been periods of growth within ranks \(the BART](#)

From my experience, the university work would not function without some spontaneous activity on the part of students.

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.



TJM

[Dec 10, 2020](#)·

[tjmcg.wordpress.com](#)

[Article on Grant Monument Refuting WWSWS Claims of Revolutionary Leadership of US Government During Civil War](#)

How does this article refute the bourgeois revolutionary spirit of the civil war as presented by the WWSWS? Also, there are political implications of vandalizing monuments that go beyond simply advocating for no monuments (they already exist!). Toppling a Lincoln or a Grant statue indicates extreme ignorance and backwardness. Such an act shines a light on the reactionary nostrums of neoliberal identity politics. Failure to see the revolutionary, progressive character of the Civil War is a failure of logical thinking, particularly of dialectical historical thinking. That its leaders were not

perfect by the narrow ahistorical eternal standards of moralizing petty bourgeois today is no mark of dishonor in the wider view of history.



randomposter33

Dec 11, 2020

randomposter33.wordpress.com

[Article on Grant Monument Refuting WSWS Claims of Revolutionary Leadership of US Government During Civil War](#)

In reply to:

[How does this article refute the bourgeois revolutionary spirit of the civil war as presented by the](#)

The civil war ended slavery but began Westward Expansion and at the same time an expansion of European powers into Africa, called the Scramble for Africa, expanding European colonization from 10% of Africa in 1870 to 90% by 1914. This expansion created a relative peace between European powers and the United States while they divided up the world. This process reached an end once most of the world had been divided among them, leading to WWI.

The end of slavery arose as a solution to the conflict between slave and non-slave states over expansion into the Western Frontier. The North, as the more capitalist of the two, needed to expand to the West and this meant they needed to confront and crush the South. The real abolitionist movement could not control the northern manufacturers' and financiers' Republican Party as it would have opposed Westward expansion, cutting across the interests of the industrialist ruling class in the North.

WWI had similar "revolutionary" ideas, such as Wilson's 14 points, the rise of the 2nd International, especially in Germany, and the Third Republic in France. These "revolutions" only served as a cover for the expansionist agenda demanded by capitalist interests.

Lincoln may have appreciated the work of the previous generation of revolutionaries and may have attempted to expand its reach. He did not want a new revolution, however, or he would have removed the ruling class from power in Washington DC. Lincoln proved himself as state legislator in Illinois, where he supported Henry Clay's American Colonization Society. This meant he supported the colonization of Africa as early as the 1830s using slaves freed in the US for that purpose. This would give them a fate worse than the tenant farmer.

Would a revolution controlled by a president in Washington DC that, through dictatorial measures, changed the governor of California and made public utilities of the Tech Giants, while leaving the rest of the economy corporate and capitalist as ever, prove that a revolution had conquered Washington DC and given the power to the working class? Such a situation, if accepted by the revolutionary party, would lead to an expansion of American power by militaristic means. The nationalization of the tech giants under capitalism will not suffice, as economic planning under the democratic control of the workers will require a state that controls every industry with the class interests of the international working class at the center of its strategy.



TJM

[Dec 10, 2020·](#)

tjmcg.wordpress.com

[Three Blocked Comments- Does the SEP Deserve to be on the Ballot While it Blocks Participation for Democratic Power?](#)

How did you settle on the conspiracy theory that Covid-19 has artificial origins? The vast majority of world scientists have pointed out that human to animal transmission in a natural environment is the clear cause (which occurs every year since time immemorial creating new strains of the flu and the common cold). Why would every nation in the world collaborate in such a conspiracy? Why would the leading scientific bodies and the vast majority of mainstream scientists collaborate on such a conspiracy? Even if your conspiracy was correct, how would this alter the approach of the WSWS toward the pandemic? Should other scientific prescriptions like masks and lockdowns and vaccinations be ignored? The task of the WSWS would not change if the coronavirus had artificial origins, but embracing such conspiracy theorizing (and discounting science) would have stark implications. Like your stances on #metoo, identity politics, generational struggle (?), there seems to be a general disrespect for the Marxist materialist approach.



randomposter33

[Dec 11, 2020·](#)

randomposter33.wordpress.com

[Three Blocked Comments- Does the SEP Deserve to be on the Ballot While it Blocks Participation for Democratic Power?](#)

In reply to:

[How did you settle on the conspiracy theory that Covid-19 has artificial origins? The vast majority of](#)

If you look at their statements on the subject, they never say they actually disproved the existence of laboratory origins. They don't even argue that it is unlikely, only that it is possible, but that supposedly no proof exists or that they haven't seen any.

You seem to have read back and agreed completely with the arguments used to justify the war in Iraq but this time in support of a war on science. Why would so many countries join the "Coalition of the Willing" if they had no proof that Iraq had weapons of Mass Destruction? Now the same argument gets recycled, and they need no proof to back their assertions that all laboratory science is a conspiracy. This looks like a Luddite argument or something violent and cruel out of the dark ages. Please provide some reference or scientific proof for your theory about the virus's evident laboratory origins.

The WSWS approach to the pandemic promises an end to the violence of the pandemic through an acceptance of the WHO's authority. The WHO is an agency of the UN, the same UN that approved the science behind the Iraq War claims about WMDs. Why do you suddenly trust their science above the

science of Hong Kong University Virologist Li-Meng Yan? The acceptance of the laboratory origins of the virus would protect the working class from future attacks perpetrated by the reaction, since it would advocate for a complete unraveling of terrorist networks to end the capitalist class's rule by terror. The masks and lockdowns and vaccines have actually faced opposition such as yours the entire way. The resistance to vaccines will lead to more deaths, just as the resistance to lockdowns and masks and to research into the real origins of the virus. All resistance to scientific positions on principle, as if science were the real enemy, must accept an absolute rejection from Marxism, but you would rather defend this "resistance" than confront it as part of a revolutionary movement. Your acceptance of the anti-mask, anti-lockdown, and anti-origin-research "resistance" should lead you towards a thorough introspection. You can gain a light for that introspection from my website's articles on the Yan Report.



TJM

[Dec 12, 2020·](#)

tjmcg.wordpress.com

[Three Blocked Comments- Does the SEP Deserve to be on the Ballot While it Blocks Participation for Democratic Power?](#)

In reply to:

[If you look at their statements on the subject, they never say they actually disproved the existence of](#)

For the record I am FOR masks, vaccinations and lockdowns without equivocation... I think you misread that part.



randomposter33

[Dec 12, 2020·](#)

randomposter33.wordpress.com

[Three Blocked Comments- Does the SEP Deserve to be on the Ballot While it Blocks Participation for Democratic Power?](#)

In reply to:

[For the record I an FOR masks, vaccinations and lockdowns without equivocation... I think you misread that part](#)

Then you should also support research into the origins of the virus and allow for a scientific discussion if this seems contraversial. Genetic engineering has made many advances, allowing laboratories to manipulate the genetic structure of viruses in order to produce certain effects within the hosts or to take a virus that does not infect through a human-to-human mechanism and manipulate it into a contagious disease. Since this technology exists and the reports on successful manipulation and production of viruses exists, then you cannot rule out the possibility of a laboratory origin for the virus. This means you must hear the evidence without slandering it as a conspiracy theory. To call this position "unscientific" appears no different from a Stalinist tyrannical argument to suppress information and discussion. That's why I included a description of the conflict over science between early Soviet

scientist and geneticist Vavilov and his Stalinist rival Lysenko in this review of the pseudo-science that's used to combat the Yan Report:

<https://randomposter33.wordpress.com/2020/09/29/a-hoax-of-a-peer-review-of-li-meng-yans-scientific-report-by-johns-hopkins-university-staff/>



Bill Klein (@BillKlein1234)

[Jan 18, 2021](#) ·

twitter.com/BillKlein1234

[Rebekah Jones Raided, Lost All Computers Due to Unprotected IP Address](#)

I completely agree! Their practice of automatically collecting and selling users' data is also questionable, given that much of the working class is not yet aware of the risk of electronic surveillance.



randomposter33

[Jan 22, 2021](#) ·

randomposter33.wordpress.com

[Rebekah Jones Raided, Lost All Computers Due to Unprotected IP Address](#)

In reply to:

[I completely agree! Their practice of automatically collecting and selling users' data is also](#)

If we can get a few more, maybe we can write them a letter demanding that they drop disqus.com. It is full of bugs as well. I wonder if Tor or Duckduckgo or Opera have VPN-safe message board services.