

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

VOLUME 31, EDITION 2

MARCH-APRIL 2021

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\$1 DONATION

Women in the Forefront of Revolutionary Struggles

As the people continue to face the coronavirus pandemic, women are disproportionately represented among essential workers. Women of color are disproportionately represented within these ranks. Essential workers are those in the healthcare industry, nursing homes, schools, transportation, restaurants, grocery stores, and other retail stores. Many are underpaid and undervalued and have limited rights as workers. Just over one in 10 has a union.

These women are at the forefront of the revolutionary struggle, demanding that the government take care of our basic needs and eliminate the rise of police brutality. They are in the new class of workers nationally and globally, and are the leaders in movements against evictions, to take over state-owned and corporate-owned homes, and to make "Black Lives Matter." Electronics have eliminated the need for workers in many areas of industry, and robots are now displacing labor power, creating a new class. The new class consists of contingent, minimum wage, below minimum wage, and part-time workers, now over 40 percent of the workforce. The employed sector of the class is constantly being drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute homeless workers.

THE HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY

Healthcare workers have worked tirelessly on the frontlines during this crisis. The lack of adequate protection, such as appropriate masks, contributed to the deaths of many nurses and other hospital workers. Some have stayed away from their families, fearing they may be contagious. The healthcare community has picketed for equipment and the hiring of more staff.

Home health care aides earn little more than minimum wage. Eight out of ten of them are women. Most don't have health insurance. Of the 5.8 million people working healthcare jobs that pay less than \$30,000 a year, half are nonwhite, and 83 percent are women. Women account for 73 percent of the U.S. healthcare workers who have been infected with COVID-19.

Fewer than one percent of Americans live in long-term care facilities, but 40 percent of Covid-19 deaths have occurred there. This situation reveals fundamental flaws in how America takes care of its oldest citizens. More than 100,000 residents and workers in long term facilities have died from the virus. For a long



San Francisco, CA 2019: Participants in the Women's March, Truth To Power celebrating the "Womens' Wave." Photo: Sheila Fitzgerald/Shutterstock

time, deaths occurred because of inadequate equipment, little protective gear, and little or no testing for residents and workers.

Since there is no national plan to get medical supplies to each state, officials in each state have had to compete with other states for supplies. Since there were no regulations on price control, corporations made large profits. An Associated Press analysis shows states spent more than \$7 billion buying personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, gowns, and ventilators. Some states paid as much as \$11 for individual N95 masks, which cost around 50 cents before the pandemic. Supplies often went to the highest bidder, even if they had already been promised to someone else.

In California, the union SEIU-121 states that over 2400 nurses threatened strikes over unsafe conditions during the pandemic. Educators in many states have refused to go back to in-person teaching in unsafe situations. There have been no plans to sterilize the schools, require the wearing of masks, and space the desks to ensure social distancing.

Almost 77 percent of educators are women, and they have felt the emotional impact of the pandemic. Many have to prepare extra hours for online teaching. Also, they endure the emotional strife felt when their students have gone through

a death in their family, or the teachers themselves meet the same fate in their own families.

THE "ROSIE THE RIVETERS" IN THE PRESENT PERIOD

Over 38 million people live in poverty. One in eight Americans report not having enough food to eat. Even in the richest country in the world, the U.S. doesn't have adequate safety nets to help people. In March and December 2020, the government stimulus helped some people, but there were still people who didn't receive aid. Too little, too late.

One in three jobs held by women have been declared as essential, and they keep the country running. Single mothers also

have the burden of needing 24-hour child-care, and many schools are closed.

Women working during the coronavirus pandemic are likened to those who worked, while their husbands went to serve in World War II. The lack of child-care hampered many women from going to work, and those who did were absent often when circumstances demanded that they tend to their children.

"Rosie the Riveters" were essential workers in industry who even had to strap their children on their backs, due to lack of daycare facilities.

Employers finally realized that child-care was a real need. In 1942, emergency nursery schools were established. But at the end of the War, the government nursery schools were closed. They were replaced with expensive daycare centers, which many women couldn't afford. There is a need today for affordable daycare. There have been examples of essential workers leaving their small children at home without someone looking after them. There are also examples of women who have formed a collective in which women take turns caring for their children.

Since 2011, the U.S. has seen a dramatic increase in the arrival of immigrant women and their children, fleeing dire conditions in their countries. But, by 2021, the Trump administration had reduced legal immigration by 49 percent. Reducing legal immigration most harms refugees, employers, and Americans who want to live with their spouses, parents, or children. It also affects the country's future labor force and economic growth.

Women in California have been in the lead in the front of struggle to take over vacant homes owned by the government or by private speculators. Families who were living in cars, shelters, and

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A Future of Fascism or Communism

Inside Rally, Comrades!

Six hundred sixty-six U.S. billionaires have gained over \$1 trillion in wealth during the pandemic. These billionaires could pay for all of the relief for working families included in the proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. Herein lies the reason capitalists are so anti-communist.

What defines capitalism is that workers sell their labor power, which is becoming much more difficult as robotics becomes the norm in all aspects of the production of goods. No job, no wages, no money. What defines communism is that society is organized around a person's ability to take from society what they need and give to society what they are able. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of labor. Communism is based upon cooperation. And let's face it. There is no lack of food, housing, clothing, culture, health care, and education to be

distributed.

To contain the growing unrest resulting from the accelerating production of goods without labor, the U.S. government is stepping in to manage the economy to serve corporate interests and use brute force against the American people. This merging of the government with the corporations is fascism.

In this issue of *Rally, Comrades!*, we look at how we go forward to fight for a society that can meet the needs of us all and address the obstacles we face.

We recognize the role women are playing in coping with the pandemic, as they labor in health care facilities, grocery stores, nursing homes, schools, transportation, restaurants, and retail stores. These women are at the forefront of the revolutionary struggle demanding that the government take care of our basic needs and eliminate the rise of police brutality. "Women in the Revolutionary Struggle for Basic Needs" concludes that the actual program represented by these struggles is to abolish private property and adopt the cooperative, communist

program in the interest of the whole of society.

"Victory in Georgia in the War for America" talks about the significance of the Georgia election. The capitalist system is imploding economically and politically. The austerity, the disruption, the destruction of society – the transition to fascist abandonment of the people – is deeper, faster, and wider than ever before. All the institutions that were built on the need for a healthy working population are being broken down. The election of Warnock and Ossoff in Georgia brought Democratic Party control of the Senate for the first time in ten years. This opens the door to a struggle over who government is supposed to serve.

Our planet is under enormous stress from the ravages of human activity. As analyzed in "Human Health Depends on Environmental Health," capitalism and private property are the biggest barriers to solving these enormous problems. The growth imperative and profit motive stand squarely in the way of the widespread sustainability measures, needed to slow or stop ecological destruction. This will take a major transformation from a capitalist to a cooperative society, which our youth understand. In a recent poll, 49 percent of generation Z (ages 16-23) view socialism favorably. Sixty percent of Millennials (age 24-39) support a "complete change of our economic system away from capitalism," and 57 percent of Gen Z does as well. These are significant increases from just last year.

There is an underlying fear that the development of the COVID-19 vaccines has

been rushed. The opinion of some doctors and others that the vaccines were too rapidly developed reflects a conscious effort to obscure how science works and interacts with society. While the distrust of the COVID-19 vaccine in communities of color is rooted in their historical and current mistreatment by the medical establishment, there are also other reasons for the rejection of COVID-19 vaccines and the associated science. Turn to our article "COVID-19 Vaccines and the Attack on Basic Science" to read more.

"Globalization and its Discontents" points out that globalization is an objective process, a world-historical stage, from which there is no going back. The internal contradictions and the struggles of a ruling class bent on finding its way through the crisis based on anti-globalist or populist-nationalist projections cannot ultimately be successful. But all that is part of the fight being made over how to operate in a new, multi-polar world. The only solution for a global ruling class is to move toward establishing a fascist world order. For a rising global new class of workers, the only solution is to move toward the reorganization of world society in the interest of their class and for all of humanity.

The ruling class is determined to maintain its position of wealth, power, and privilege to the detriment of most of the people across the globe. The U.S. ruling class is transforming the U.S. State from bourgeois democracy to outright fascism. It is up to working class revolutionaries to fight for the transformation that will end want forever. **RC**

A Vision for a New America

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally: to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

Comrade: a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages. It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League, to engage them in debate and discussion, and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Today, whether through words or deeds, vast numbers of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, healthcare and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

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The *Rally, Comrades!* bilingual website provides online access to all issues of *Rally, Comrades!* It is a political resource for our readers, and provides up-to-date articles, statements and analysis of key questions of importance to revolutionaries.

Victory in Georgia and the War for America

Reverend Raphael Warnock, the newly elected African American senator from Georgia, is one of 11 children raised in public housing. Jon Ossoff, who won the other senatorial seat, will become the youngest member of the U.S. Senate. Their campaigns were based on calls for the health care, jobs, and justice crucial for a working class ravaged by laborless digital production magnified by the pandemic. Their victories brought Democratic Party control of the Senate for the first time in ten years. The door is opened to a struggle over whether government serves the corporations looting the country, or the masses of people whose votes made victories over Trump in the Presidential election, and Loeffler and Perdue in Georgia possible. This will further polarize the Democratic Party, strengthening its working class wing and its impulses toward political independence from corporate politicians.

Their campaigns were powered by a massive voter registration campaign that galvanized young Black, Latinx, and Asian voters in unprecedented numbers. These young people, led by Black women, actually defeated the Republican strategy of voter suppression nationally in November, and in Georgia in November and January. Atlanta's Black women organizers and the voters they registered played a key role. They were aided by a "reverse migration" of African Americans displaced from Rust Belt industries who relocated back to the South, reflecting Atlanta's transition into an international

economic hub and destination for a diverse workforce.

It was this great working class victory over voter suppression that forced the pro-Trump mob to make its desperate fascist attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6. It was a fiasco that exposed Trump's anti-democratic and white supremacist agenda — the same way the civil rights movement exposed the Bull Connor regime in Alabama in the 1960s. Indeed, the defining political motion of our time is the decisive step toward class unity taken during the George Floyd-BLM uprising and its introduction into the electoral arena. The result was the tactical victory against Trump and for Warnock and Ossoff.

And this is not only happening in Georgia. The election victories of Carroll Fife in Oakland, Katie Valenzuela in Sacramento, Cori Bush in Missouri, and many more young leaders at all levels of government reflect the rise of the new class as a social force, a class of minimum wage, unemployed, and other workers being pushed outside of private property relations.

FASCIST PROGRAM

The context of this political struggle is the profound restructuring of the economy around laborless production based on automation and artificial intelligence. The fact that corporations no longer need workers led to the shocking governmental neglect of the COVID-19 crisis. This, in turn, only intensified demands for un-

employment relief, and public investment in health and other infrastructure, even while the economy trends toward remote workplaces and ultimately the permanent elimination of jobs.

The capitalist system is imploding economically and politically. The austerity, the disruption, the destruction of society — the transition to fascist abandonment of the people — has been deeper, faster, and wider than ever before. All the institutions that were built on the need for a healthy working population are being broken down.

Rev. Warnock called the Georgia victory a "reversal of the old Southern strategy that sought to divide people." The victory of an African American who campaigned on the needs of the working class in a major southern statewide election indeed represents a new level of class unity, but the battle is not over. The ruling class in the South has always been fascist, leading the nation in segregating and terrorizing African Americans and exploiting its working class. Police forces that exercise brute force, as a matter of course, are a legacy from the Jim Crow South. Jim Crow rested on Wall Street's financial domination of the South, and although Jim Crow was diminished, Wall Street is still there. In Georgia and in the country as a whole, corporate dictatorship continues to be a threat. The banks, transnational corporations, the military-industrial complex, and technology monopolies have no intention of giving up their stranglehold of the economy.

They and their allies in government will not tolerate interference in their ability to maximize their profits. They pose a mortal danger to democracy that will continue unless and until the people rise up to seize the levers of power away from them.

The mass base for Trump's fascist attack on democracy drew on the murderous violence and white supremacist oppression of African Americans that is the basis of the Southern strategy. The defeat of Trump has not ended this threat. Over a hundred new proposals for voter restrictions in 28 states were introduced in January 2021 alone. Most of Trump's challenges to the November election were focused on the mostly Black and non-white communities of Detroit, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and other cities that surged with marches and protests against police tyranny and murders. The fact that they were turned back this time does not mean they will not try again.

Even with Trump out of the White House, he retains celebrity power. The country underestimated it once, and the fascist social base he built keeps pushing forward. The Proud Boys, the militias, the white nationalists, and their allies in government at every level are still working to recruit from the 74 million Trump voters. The Republican Party is fractured but still mainly led by its pro-Trump faction.

Modern-day fascism is being developed to enable the corporate ruling class to maintain control of our government, in opposition to the masses fighting for transformation to a new, just, and equal America. The combined wealth of some 666 U.S. billionaires increased by over one trillion dollars during the pandemic lockdown, and they have no intention of allowing these profits to be used to meet the needs of the people. The trend toward a fascist corporate state will continue to build in both the Republican and Democratic parties unless the people take action to stop it. The coup attempt of January 6 was only the opening battle.

THIRD PARTY IMPULSES

Unfettered corporate rule and mass impoverishment in the increasingly laborless economy, intensified by the pandemic, has caused a fracturing in both major parties, creating the possibility of a new party forming.

The Trump-led MAGA wing supports not only giving free rein to corporate power but also building a mass base of support for an attack on democracy and voting rights. The politicians who supported the mob that attacked the Capitol were Trump loyalists, exposed when 147 Republicans — eight senators and 139 members of the House of Representatives — voted to overturn the electoral vote representing the public will after the January 6 attempted coup.

The traditional Republican Party, counting among its members the

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Hope in the Worst Health Crisis in a Century

From the Editors

2020 gave us the worst health crisis in 100 years, and along with it the worst economic crisis in 100 years. It was a year in which COVID-19 took 400,000 lives and in which we saw joblessness, hunger, and homelessness grow exponentially, while the government showed itself to be totally incapable of resolving the crisis. This was the context for growing unrest and a rising social movement demanding that the needs of the people be addressed. The murder of George Floyd was the spark that ignited the flame that awakened millions who arose in protest across the country. The elections saw a record turnout at the polls, as more than 155 million voted, while the events of January 6 reflected the enormous polarization taking place in the country.

If we thought that with the dawning of a new year, we could put all of that behind us, reality intrudes. The pandemic is still with us, the effects of an

economic crisis that hits the workers on the bottom the hardest are still ongoing, and a polarized society divided on which way to go forward and how best to resolve the crisis in the interests of the most exploited and oppressed, marks the intense social struggle unfolding before us.

We are accustomed to measuring time as increments of a quantity. A year is a quantity of time. Each month, week, day, hour, and second marks the passing of time. But if 2020 teaches us anything, it is that time — history — is much more than that. There are nodal points, such as the uprisings in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, from which there is no going back. The advent of the pandemic has changed our world. As we go forward in the coming year, and in those to follow, we will experience more such nodal lines, more such moments. We are on a journey. History is taking us somewhere. And as Martin Luther King reminds us, "The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice."

What we are describing here is actually the quantitative development of a quality of time. Qualities of time are demarked as historical epochs. Our epoch is defined as the epoch of electronics, a time initiated by the introduction of qualitatively new tools of production: robotics and other electronic means of production are laborless, performed without the labor-power of human workers. That is fundamentally antagonistic to capitalism and is the basis for its ongoing destruction. It also creates a new class of workers who are being cast aside and who must fight for a new society based on the distribution of human needs without money from wages. This is the content of our time.

In spite of how we may have come to perceive these times as dark ones, we look to the future with hope and confidence that history is on the side of our class. As Amanda Gorman said in her Inaugural poem, America is an "unfinished" project. "There is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it, if only we are brave enough to be it." **RC**

COVID-19 Vaccines and the Attack on Basic Science

As 2021 begins, 58 COVID-19 vaccines are in development, three are in use, and three are approaching FDA approval. In less than one year since the identification of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, it is possible to project an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an amazing feat of modern science. However, according to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (January 26, 2021), only 56 percent of Americans plan to get vaccinated. There are significant class and ethnic divisions within this group. Only 38 percent of the African American participants were planning to get vaccinated versus 59 percent of white respondents. Only 48 percent of those with a high school education or less had a positive view of the vaccine versus 70 percent with a college degree.

These results were supported in a poll of healthcare providers (*Clinical Infectious Disease*, January 21, 2021), which found that 58 percent of the respondents intended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The survey reflected similar ethnic and class divisions as only 31 percent of the responding African Americans and 39 percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives were pro-vaccine compared to 58 percent of white responders. Of the respondents, only 33 percent of nurses and allied health professionals supported vaccination versus 80 percent of the physicians.

While the distrust of the COVID-19 vaccine in communities of color is rooted in their historical and current mistreatment by the medical establishment, there are other reasons for the rejection of COVID-19 vaccines and the associated science. In a recent *Democracy Now!* interview, Dr. Peter Hotez identified one source as the feeling that the “vaccines were rushed; you know, just they popped up out of nowhere in a few

months.” Similar sentiments were expressed by 11 percent of the surveyed healthcare providers (*Clinical Infectious Disease*, January 25, 2021). The opinion that COVID-19 vaccines were too rapidly developed reflects a conscious effort to obscure how science works and interacts with society.

BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Science is a complex and dynamic process between two interrelated and co-dependent aspects, basic and applied research, the “R&D” of Research and Development. Basic research explores the “why” of natural processes, with the goal of understanding how nature and humankind interact and change. Its main products are ideas, clarity, philosophical understanding, and new questions. An investment in basic research has no clear path to an immediate market and may never return a profit. Applied research uses the theories developed by basic science to invent methods to alter biological and natural realities, with the goal of producing new means of production and new products. There is a direct and clear relationship between investment and return.

The rapid development of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines reflects the synergism between R&D. The process began in 1869 when Friedrich Miescher discovered DNA, the main component of the genetic code, and took a qualitative leap forward in the 1950s with the elucidation of DNA’s double-helix structure, opening the door to the determination of how genetic codes are stored and read. The Human Genome Project (HGP, 1990-2013) provided the key qualitative leap in the understanding of the relationship between the genetic message and life. The goal of the HGP was to sequence (read)

the genome (genetic blueprint) of humankind. These basic research objectives stimulated applied scientists to develop new tools and techniques to rapidly sequence DNA and RNA by reading “base pairs.” At the beginning of the HGP, it was possible to read 1000 base pairs per day. Today it is possible to read more than 1000 base pairs per second (*New England Journal of Medicine*, January 7, 2021). Thus, 151 years after the discovery of DNA, the cumulative efforts of basic and applied scientists resulted in the reading of the SARS-CoV-2 virus genome in less than two months and produced effective vaccines ten months later.

The development of COVID-19 vaccines illustrates the unity and interdependence of basic and applied science as well as their different interactions with the market and capital. The HGP was a publicly funded investment in basic research that took 13 years and cost \$3 billion. While the HGP laid the groundwork for new theories and investigations in biomedical science, it did not immediately produce major commercial products, other than genetic testing kits. Seventeen years after its completion, the results from the HGP were used by applied science in the development of COVID-19 vaccines, producing billions of dollars of private profit.

SCIENCE AND CAPITALISM

As capitalism matures and dies, the different interactions of basic and applied science with the market have resulted in distinctive pressures on these interrelated processes. While both basic and applied science are necessary for the healthy growth of scientific research and human progress, in times of economic and political collapse basic research can be sacrificed and/or distorted to meet

capitalism’s immediate needs. This involves financial strangulation, job market pressure, and attacks on scientific theories and practice.

A recent report by the National Science Foundation, “The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2020,” states that “the business sector, with its focus on new and improved goods, services, and processes, dominates both experimental development (90 percent of performance and 85 percent of funding) and applied research (57 percent of performance and 54 percent of funding).” In the US, businesses perform (73 percent) and fund (70 percent) of applied research.

Basic research accounts for about 17 percent of US R&D, is conducted principally at universities and colleges, and is primarily funded by public monies. However, according to the NSF report, “Between 2000 and 2017, the share of basic research funded by the business sector increased from 19 percent to 29 percent.” This investment allows capital to shape the direction of basic research to meet their needs, such as, for example, funding universities to train physicists to research new weaponry, and then limiting their job opportunities to the defense industry after graduation.

In the U.S., the relationship between basic and applied science is hidden. This allows a sustained attack on the material and philosophical basis of scientific thought, while at the same time lauding “scientific progress” in commodities. Basic science produces theories, describes the real world and identifies existential global dangers such as climate change. Thus, it is the primary target of these attacks, currently taking the form of the anti-vaccine movement. This movement, supported by reactionary political forces, allows the “defenders of science” to depict it as a “Trumpian” aberration that the Biden administration will reverse. Indeed, *Scientific American* (January 28, 2021) declared that Biden “signaled a clear commitment to science and pledged sweeping initiatives to reestablish and elevate its role in the federal government.”

COMMITMENT TO SCIENCE?

A “commitment to science” does not indicate a restoration of the balance between basic and applied science. It means a return to the “normal” financial and ideological attacks that began in 2000 and were only accelerated by Trump. Biden may slow this process, but he cannot reverse it, especially in times of political and economic collapse.

In our current society, it is unlikely that there will be another HGP-like program to provide the basic research required to insure that future generations would be able to address catastrophic events. The only way that this will happen is in a society organized for the collective good, in which basic and applied science will work for humankind and not for profit. **RC**

Victory in Georgia

Continued from page 3

Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, represents the long-standing corporate-private-property interests that have benefited from Trump policies and funded Trump’s rise. After the attack on the Capitol, this group opposed the open dismantling of democracy as too destabilizing. The dominant Democratic Party “establishment” represented by Biden/Harris also defends the interests of Wall Street as a corporate-private-property party.

A new, independent political grouping is rising out of the demands of the movements, including Black Lives Matter, Occupy, Bernie’s runs for President, the Squad, and continuing through George Floyd rebellions, the Sunrise Movement, youth marches, women’s marches, and water protectors. These forces demand a new model of governance, based on meeting the basic needs of society from the

abundance created by technology. The class unity developed against Trump fascism set the stage for confronting the corporate wing of the Democratic Party.

The movement against the fascist state is driven by the need for Medicare for All, defunding and abolition of the police, prioritizing housing over homelessness, providing basic income, rebuilding public infrastructures such as public health and education, and addressing environmental healing and the climate crisis. The people are fighting for a new model of governance – a new way of governing that is responsive to people’s needs in the era of abundance created by technology. We need a new reality of government managing things, not oppressing people. The people demand the reversal of the gutting of public infrastructure and strengthening of government services to people. They demand to decommodify housing, cancel of rents, cancel debt – including student debt and municipal debt owed to

big banks, expand and strengthen voting rights.

Many of these demands strike at corporate-private-property itself by opening the door to transition resources that are now privately owned into public property for public benefit. This new model challenges the continuation of white supremacy – for example, violence against women, attacks on the rights and well-being of non-white workers, indigenous communities, and migrants. These attacks lead to the disempowerment and exploitation of working people as a whole, preventing the new class from uniting.

Georgia and the presidential election has pointed the way forward in new class forces reimagining and defining this new model of governance. Real political democracy leads to and requires a struggle for economic democracy – control of the socially necessary resources for distribution based on need for a decent life. **RC**

We Can't Have Human Health Without Environmental Health

The realities of personal and planetary health are bound together. Air and water pollution, fires and floods, current and potential pandemics, all of these hazards to our well-being are clear and present dangers, not just precursors to future disasters. More and more people, especially our youth, are understanding the connection between ecological destruction and capitalism.

POISONING OF OUR LIFE-GIVING RESOURCES

While nowhere on earth is free of environmental dangers, low-income communities are particularly affected by the pollution of essential resources. The Louisiana area known as Cancer Alley is an 85 mile-long stretch of land between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, with 150 oil refineries and petrochemical plants that cause an oily taste in the water, blackened leaves on fruit trees, and an acrid odor. People living there, primarily poor and African American, are over 50 times more likely to get cancer than the national average, in a stunningly egregious example of environmental racism.

Residents of Southeast Los Angeles live in an environmental disaster zone resulting from lead pollution caused by a now-closed lead-acid battery smelter owned by Exide Technologies. While they wait forever for a state agency to remove contaminated soil from thousands of homes, low-income families that can't escape the community are exposed to brain-damaging dirt and dust when they venture outside.

In Appalachia, where coal companies are using huge amounts of explosives to blow the tops off mountains, the water in poor rural communities has been poisoned. Residents have testified that their bathrooms and kitchens have been deeply stained red-orange by iron, sulfur, and arsenic from the household water supply.

Whether it's lead in the water in Flint, Newark, Chicago, or Baltimore, carcinogens in our food, or fracking and pipelines endangering water on indigenous territory, the neglect of environmental health has led to disastrous consequences for human health. The good news is that there has been significant community fight back against the corporate powers and their political lackeys, responsible for every situation mentioned in this section.

FLOODS, FIRES, AND SMOKE

For two weeks in the summer of 2020, wildfires caused by extreme heat and drought burned 5 million acres in California, Oregon, and Washington, killed 33 people, and displaced tens of thousands. Smoke from these West Coast blazes stretched for thousands of miles, all the way to New York. Counties in

California's agricultural Central Valley, which already has some of the most polluted air, were especially hard hit, exacerbating the already high rates of asthma in children.

During that same time, five tropical cyclones were in action off the Atlantic Coast in one single day. The 2020 hurricane season had thirty-one named storms in the Atlantic, the most ever, affecting North and Central America and the Caribbean. Australia had 15,000 bush fires across every state in 2020, killing 33 people directly and 417 from the smoke, as well as close to three billion animals. Major floods occurred in East Africa, China, Yemen, Afghanistan, Sudan, Central Vietnam, India, and Bangladesh. Globally, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s, resulting in over 60,000 yearly deaths, mainly in developing countries.

Immediate measures to cope with such disasters also affect the ability to control and treat the coronavirus pandemic. Putting people in sheltered spaces for fires, floods, and smoke makes distancing difficult. During the California wildfires, people were caught between having activities outside to avoid the virus or inside to avoid the smoke. Disaster victims and pandemic patients compete for health care resources.

PANDEMICS, SUPERBUGS

There are many interwoven factors between the environment and other human illnesses. For instance, the poor health of people in Cancer Alley led to that area dealing with some of the highest coronavirus death rates in the country. Poisons in the water supply can compromise health and cause underlying conditions that weaken one's immune system in this time of pandemic. Asthma aggravated by poor air quality can lead to more severe coronavirus symptoms. Studies are being done on climate variables, the effect of extremes, and the seasonality of COVID 19 transmission.

The loss of habitat for animals and large livestock farms in contact with humans increasingly lead to zoonotic diseases that jump from animals to humans. COVID 19 originated in this way. This is not a new phenomenon; yellow fever, some influenzas, Lyme disease, HIV, Ebola, rabies, and brucellosis are all examples. With continued ecosystem destruction, it will get much worse, unless responsible mitigating processes are put into place.

The evolution and proliferation of superbugs, which are harmful bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics, illustrates the complex intersection of technology, healthcare, and the environment under capitalism. As of 2019, drug-resistant infections were the third leading cause of

death in the United States, at 162,000 a year. A study by a British expert panel shows that if the trend continues, in 2050, they will kill 10 million people a year globally. The WHO says the problem is so severe, it threatens the achievement of modern medicine.

CAPITALISM IS THE ENEMY

Capitalism and private property are the biggest barriers to solving these enormous problems. The growth imperative and profit motive stand squarely in the way of the widespread sustainability measures needed to slow or stop ecological destruction, let alone reverse the damage and return the planet and its humans to health. This will take a major transformation from a capitalist to a cooperative society, which our youth understand. In a recent poll, 49 percent of Generation Z (ages 16-23) view socialism favorably. Sixty percent of Millennials (age 24-39) support a "complete change of our economic system away from capitalism," and 57 percent of Gen Z does as well. These are significant increases from just last year.

In the recent elections, several youth organizations, including Dream Defenders, March for Our Lives, the Sunrise Movement, and United We Dream, formed the "Count On Us" Coalition. These organizations fight for racial justice, climate justice, immigrant rights, and gun control. They mobilized their hundreds of thousands of members

through direct voter contact.

This electoral effort of youth was against Trump, but they will hold Biden accountable. A post on the Sunrise Movement's Facebook page reads in part, "and you know what the number one swing issue for young black folks and young Latinos was? Climate. We just gave Joe Biden a #ClimateMandate. Is he gonna lead with bold power? Biden won on the strength of his GND-influenced economic recovery and climate plan — the plan we redesigned with @AOC as part of the Biden-Bernie climate task-force."

The Green New Deal, over which the youth are claiming ownership, is the most far-reaching proposal advanced by the class to deal with the environmental crisis and must be supported. The dialectic of how we fight for the survival of ourselves and the planet is well put by John Bellamy Foster: "We cannot deal with the climate crisis, much less the overall planetary ecological emergency, in an effective way while conforming to the logic of a globalized capitalist economy. But we currently live in such an economy, and we have a very short time in which to respond to climate change. So it becomes a question of immediately choosing to steer society toward putting people and nature before profits, as opposed to what capitalism does, i.e., putting profits before people and nature. We have to go against the logic of the system even while living within it." **RC**

Rev. Bruce Wright, Revolutionary Fighter for Working Class Unity

Rev. Bruce Wright, a veteran and elder in the independent movement to end poverty, joined the ancestors on January 30th 2021. Rev. Wright was a revolutionary and General in the Poor People's Army (Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign), a revolutionary movement led by the poor for three decades. He declared independence from corporate politics and corporate money because he knew the people impacted by the ills of capitalism should be on the front lines leading the fight to end poverty. Knowing a need-based society was possible, and the only morally correct position one can take, Rev. Wright fought with the Poor People's Army to build a multi-racial, intergenerational, and international movement to end poverty.

Rev. Wright, working with the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, regularly studied and was conscious of the qualitative changes in our economy and the immediate necessity of developing new organizing strategies with others. He often spoke of technological advancements and laborless production that have fundamentally transformed the economic base of America and created a new class of permanently under and unemployed people. The new class is made up of people from a diversity of backgrounds and identities. He worked to organize and educate this new class about the new social, economic, and political realities that cannot be ignored, and demanded we bypass the corporate reformist strategies of the nonprofit industrial complex and major political parties.

Bruce understood the growing fascist trends at the top of US society and knew that building a movement across color lines was required to build class identity and unity. Join us in remembering the legacy of Rev. Wright and use his passing as a reminder that a people-centered human rights worldview must be based on the politics of love. **RC**

Globalization and its Discontents

In the previous century, the imperialist stage of the direct colony was dismantled, and neo-colonial imperialism expanded into every corner of the globe. The means of production had developed from mechanical to electro-mechanical, but each stage of development required less and less human labor-power. Just as capitalist development had reached its apex and was entering a period of its general decline, the leap was made from electro-mechanical production to electronics, and with it, the leap to a whole new world-historical epoch.

What is qualitatively distinctive about electronics is that it does not just enhance human labor, it replaces it. Electronic, digital, robotic, automated tools of production mark the end of wage-labor capital. Globalization is capitalism in the era of electronics, a qualitatively new world-historical stage, a stage of polarization, instability, the destruction of capitalism, and an era of social revolution, wherein human society is impelled to reconstruct society on a new basis, compatible with the new tools of production.

GLOBALIZATION: CAPITALISM IN THE ERA OF ELECTRONICS

What are the dimensions of globalization that characterize it?

- **The exponential advance of electronics:** From the use of robotics in industry, we are now seeing automated warehouses, driverless transport (autos, trucking, drones), the embedding of artificial intelligence in almost every aspect of human life and society. Over the past thirty years, over 88 percent of the jobs

lost occurred in occupations that are highly automatable, and it is estimated that 42 percent of the jobs lost just during the pandemic crisis are permanent.

- **The rise and domination of speculative capital:** With wage-labor capital, the value of commodities produced is determined by the amount of human-labor time employed in its production. The use of laborless, electronic production means a decline of value, a decline in profits. Necessarily, the capitalists have to search for ways to make money without investing in the making of things. Basically, speculation moves money around to make money, a kind of casino capitalism, where bets are placed on more and more debt financing. The countries of the G-20 have injected \$11 trillion in massive injections of liquidity even as the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve have done the same, with Federal debt ballooning to \$25 trillion. World debt has soared to \$59 trillion as the global economy contracted by 5.2 percent in 2020.

- **A new class of workers is created:** When electronics replaces the worker, that means that they are no longer needed. They either lose their jobs permanently, or they are relegated to part-time, low-wage, contingent employment. The polarization of wealth and poverty grows. As corporations amass untold billions, a growing new class finds its own condition more and more dire. This is a process that has accelerated during the pandemic. The World Bank estimates that as many as sixty million more people globally will be pushed into extreme poverty. As we witness longer and longer food lines in

projects that as many as 265 million are being pushed to the brink of starvation. Today the global economy is gripped by a crisis hitting those on the bottom – the global new class – the hardest.

- **The merger of the corporations and the State:** In the course of the development of globalization, national corporations have become multinational, transnational, and supranational. These corporations have blended into and become part of national States. The merger of the State and the corporations is the objective condition for fascism, and a global ruling class integrated across all national boundaries is the condition for the building of a fascist world order, ruling across borders and imbedded in every State apparatus.

For the past seventy years, a unipolar, hegemonic world order dominated by the U. S. has prevailed. Now that world order is being challenged, as globalization enters into a new phase with the rise of regional powers — Russia, China, India, Brazil — to contend with the U.S. Economically, the U.S. is in decline, particularly with respect to the rise of China. Consequently, the U.S. ruling class is united in recognizing China as its number one economic threat, as well as geopolitically. The overall geopolitical strategy of the U.S. is to pivot to the East, to China.

The contention for a new world order that recognizes that we are now living in a multi-polar world has given rise to a particular expression of that struggle, the rise of a populist nationalism that has found a home in U.S. politics, but is a

the globe. Specifically “anti-globalist,” it is grounded in a common anti-immigrant outlook.

Particularly devastated by the global economic crisis, the global new class is on the move. Global immigration is an expression of the spontaneous response to obtain the basic needs for survival. A populist nationalist ideology, fomented by the ruling class, targets the immigrant as the cause of the massive job loss and growing poverty. We know well the course of that “America First” development in our own country, but the same process is threatening to tear apart the European Union, and even countries like Brazil are charting a common course.

DECOUPLING

Globalization is an objective process, a world-historical stage, from which there is no going back. Internal contradictions, and the struggles of a ruling class bent on finding its way through the crisis on the basis of anti-globalist or populist-nationalist projections, cannot ultimately be successful. But it is part of the fight being made over how to operate in a new, multi-polar world. For a global ruling class, their only solution is to move toward the establishment of a fascist world order. For a rising global new class of workers, the only solution is to move toward the reorganization of world society in the interest of their class and for all of humanity.

In response to a changing world, the U.S. first initiated a tariff war, aimed specifically at China, but including countries, even allies, across the world. The tariffs were designed to punish countries like China, but they were also aimed at U.S. transnational corporations based in and doing business in countries worldwide. The tariff wars were the opening guns in an anti-globalist campaign to force U.S. corporations to “come home” to “re-shore.” The new Biden administration is continuing that approach with its Buy America program.

In the time of the pandemic and a world economic crisis, this process has continued in the name of “decoupling.” U.S. corporations are pressured to sever global supply chains, particularly with China, and make things in America for the American market.

The global new class of workers is rising in response to its dire conditions, fighting for food, shelter, health care, the distribution of the necessities of life according to need. We unite with our class brothers and sisters across the planet in our common cause. For the struggles taking place today within the global ruling class, armed conflict and war are inevitable. Our class cannot be the cannon fodder for the interests of a ruling class opposed to our own interests. For our new class, peace and global class unity is a basic need. **RC**

Women in the Forefront

Continued from page 1

other unsafe situations during the coronavirus pandemic decided to take over these homes, so they could go into quarantine themselves and stay healthy. An eviction moratorium was demanded by various groups across the nation, and finally, Congress was forced to place a moratorium on evictions based on these demands.

With the support of other housing rights groups, the LA Reclaimers took over vacant homes in East Los Angeles and other areas of California. They are working-class people of color who ended up homeless after not being able to pay the rent increases. Dominique Walker, a member of the Oakland, CA group Moms 4 Housing, argued that housing was a right and that the courts must give the right to possess the houses. Claudia Lara and Janil Hernandez stated that these families are scared that law enforcement can barge in and their lives will be on the line.

this country, the World Food Program

Women have also played a foundational role in the movement for civil and human rights in the past decades. In response to police brutality, the Black Lives Matter movement was founded by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi. Alicia Garza stated, “We have watched how our community and our family members are being murdered on camera.” They started the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S. in 2013 after the not guilty verdict against George Zimmerman, who shot and killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black teenager. In 2020, the police murders of George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor (an emergency medical technician shot in her own home), were central to the mass protests of 2020, demanding an end to police terror. Millions of Americans participated. Many are still fighting.

One positive step in this period of time is that a vaccine has been created to help people stay free from being infected by the coronavirus. But many people of color

growing ideology and movement across

are hesitant to take the vaccine. They fear they will be dangerously used as guinea pigs, as the U.S. government did from 1932-1972 in the Tuskegee syphilis study in Alabama.

African American woman doctor Kizzmekia Shanta Corbett is a lead researcher on the Moderna vaccine and understands why the Black community is distrustful. She is very aware of the history of injustice when it comes to medicine in the Black community, and that “trust has to be rebuilt in a brick-by-brick fashion.” She hopes the community’s knowledge that she has been studying vaccines for years will help.

Women lead the struggle for universal childcare, healthcare, education, housing, and other social changes. The actual program of this new class in which women play a leading role is to abolish private property and adopt the cooperative, communist program in the interest of the whole of society. **RC**