

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

VOLUME 31, EDITION 3

MAY-JUNE 2021

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\$1 DONATION

U.S.-Mexico Border is a Battlefield Over Fascism

Global migration has been on the rise, at this time estimated at 281 million people seeking safety and security, as well as basic survival. People's homelands have been disrupted by war, climate change, the inability to live off the land, and fear of the actions of their governments. This is the story of the history of the United States, where 44.8 million total foreign-born are living. In the rest of the Americas, massive displacement of people also results from the years of U.S. imperialism & political meddling in countries like Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, Haiti, and others.

Corporations can go where they please without the hardships and suffering of the people struggling for the future of their children and themselves. Not too long ago, this quotation on the Statue of Liberty was viewed as the standard for our nation of Immigrants: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Today, the Southern U.S./Mexico Borderlands has become its opposite, where fascist policies attack the human rights of thousands each day.

American residents are always under surveillance when crossing the border. So are immigrants, especially Central Americans, whose exodus from poverty and violence by drug cartels and governments is confronted at the U.S./Mexico border by militarized enforcement from both countries. Thousands are deported from the U.S. without any hearing before a judge. The unaccompanied children have been deported back to the violence that they fled from in the first place. Families live in tents and go without their basic needs. They face further violence for months and months, waiting for their number to be called, so they can receive an application to enter the U.S. The growth in arrests, detentions, and deportations only benefits corporations that exploit the desperate ones lucky enough to find a job.

Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, the federal government has spent an estimated \$324 billion on immigration enforcement. Meanwhile, for-profit prisons and immigrant detention centers were guaranteed increased public dollars, as were companies providing air travel to return deported people to their native lands. A recent report from the Migration Policy Institute showed that immigration enforcement agencies received \$24 billion in 2018, or \$4.4 billion more than they did in 2012. This amounts to 34 percent more than the \$17.9 billion allocated for all other princi-



Chicago protest against ICE and Customs and Border Patrol Detention Centers.

Photo: Antwon McMullen/Shutterstock

pal federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

SPREADING FASCISM TO THE BORDER

From 2003 to 2018, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is responsible for immigration and for non-border enforcement, spending grew by 85 percent, from \$3.3 billion to \$7.4 billion. ICE chronically misleads appropriators, engages in fiscal mismanagement, and ignores attempts at congressional oversight. In their annual budget requests, ICE falsely claims additional needs, alleging rising immigrant populations in their custody. Besides artificially inflating operational needs, ICE routinely functions as an agency exempt from congressional oversight, as though taxpayers wrote the agency a blank check. ICE routinely overspends its budget for enforcement and detention, then pleads with Congress to financially bail out the agency.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler wrote of his admiration of America's immigration laws in *Mein Kampf*. Under the new American fascism being developed by our ruling class, the treatment of immigrants is even worse. The colossal rise of funding for CBP (Customs and Border Protection) has steadily transformed southern border communities into a heavily militarized zone, where the number of border agents doubled from F.Y. 2003 to F.Y. 2016. A little-known 1953 law defined the border as a region covering 100-miles inland, where migrants and even citizens could be stopped and interrogated for immigration status.

Today, the use of that power is being

escalated. This authority covers 200 million people in the U.S., giving ICE the ability to function as a fascist national police force. After the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in 2020, the border tactical police force (BORTAC) was deployed to protests there, in Washington, D.C., and in Portland, Oregon. United We Dream reports that ICE has agreements with 78 local law enforcement agencies in close to half of all states, granting the authority to enforce immigration law to 1,514 officers.

EXPLOITATION

Immigration laws have always been used as a jobs control measure, guaranteeing the exploitation of migrants and thus holding down conditions for all workers. In particular, the ruling class has ensured its profits in agriculture by super-exploiting immigrant labor. The North American Free Trade Agreement (1994) caused the displacement of small farmers in Mexico off their lands, when Mexico was flooded

with cheap corn produced with mechanical harvesters and government subsidies in the U.S. Midwest. Unable to compete, many Mexican small farmers became legal "guest workers" in the U.S. or joined the millions of undocumented.

Sonny Perdue (Secretary of Agriculture under Trump) explained the intention H-2A, the U.S. guest worker program for agriculture, in a January 2020 speech to growers. He said, "to separate immigration, which is people wanting to become citizens, [from] a temporary, legal guest worker program... That's what agriculture needs, and that's what we want. It doesn't offend people who are anti-immigrant because they don't want more immigrant citizens here." This continued discrimination is clearly evident in the proposed Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, to be voted on in the U.S. Senate.

Anti-immigrant propaganda ignores the financial contributions they make, on top of the wages they get underpaid. An estimated half of the nation's undocumented immigrants are believed to be working under fake Social Security numbers, which means they are paying taxes into Social Security. The ITEP (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy) estimates that state and local governments also take in \$11.74 billion a year in various taxes and fees paid by undocumented immigrants. Yet, Social Security and other benefits are not collected by those who have paid into the programs -- in essence, subsidizing U.S. retired workers.

In addition, the money sent to relatives back home by documented and undocumented immigrants has become the lifeblood of many developing coun-

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Break from the Ruling Class, Chart Our Own Path

Inside Rally, Comrades!

A year of violence against Asian Americans, blamed for the so-called “China flu,” culminated in increased bloodshed at the one-year anniversary of the pandemic. *The New York Times* documents at least thirty attacks on Asians in March 2021, not counting the March 16 Atlanta murders of six Asian women. Thousands of Americans protested across the country the following weekend, including many Asian Americans who had never protested before.

Texas House Representative Gene Wu told *The Wall Street Journal*, “Many people in the past, even my own parents, basically said, ‘Hey, as long as we’re quiet and we work hard, and we’re the good minority, then we will be protected.’” Now Wu says that the American dream is “not protection... Your number just hasn’t come

up yet.”

Of course, the truth is that America has a long history of violence against Asians, which can be traced at least back even before the Page Act of 1875, which forbade the immigration of Chinese women into the U.S., and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which ended the immigration of Chinese men. After Asian immigrants had been exploited for decades during the Gold Rush and the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, a downturn in the economy created a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment that led to these bans. World War II saw Japanese Americans forced into concentration camps.

Certainly, some of the social destruction we’ve experienced this past year is to blame, including the pandemic itself (almost mishandled as badly as the Spanish Flu of 1918). But today’s social destruction starts with the destruction of the basis of our economy. In a digital economy that needs less and less human labor every day, 2021 saw billionaires grow exponentially more wealthy while ten million

U.S. jobs disappeared forever. Just as in the 19th century, our ruling class has encouraged us to fight scapegoats rather than our real enemy. “From the Editors — The Meaning of January 6” explains the strategy necessary to keep our struggle independent of the interests of the capitalists.

This issue of *Rally, Comrades!* documents how fear and anger have fueled the ruling class’s move toward fascist rule. In “U.S.-Mexico Border is a Battlefield Over Fascism,” we see how this scapegoating continues. At the Southern border, fascist attacks on thousands are escalating as immigration enforcement agencies receive 34 percent more funding than all other principal federal law enforcement agencies combined. In “Taking the Offensive to Defeat Fascism,” we also see how parts of the ruling class exploited deeply ingrained prejudices to lay siege to the Capitol.

But this issue of the paper also highlights our class’s increasing efforts toward political understanding and unity. We discuss growing resistance at the border, including such activism over the “right to remain” in homelands and the military mobilizations at the U.S.-Mexico border. Our article on the Capitol attack emphasizes the electoral victories of 2020 and January 6, and the growing understanding among our working class that our “multiracial working class has to break from both ruling class parties.”

In “Police Killings and Our Fight for Class Unity,” we note that, though police violence has actually escalated over the past year and in the early months of

2021, the movements to defund the police continue. Unlike in the past, this social force against police violence has the historical moment on its side. Real class unity is now possible thanks to the very same electronics applied to production destroying the capitalist system. Hope lies in the fact that the struggles around police killings and the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic are laying bare the inequities of the country.

“Capitalism Creates Food Scarcity, Communism Distributes Abundance” details the practical American roots in ranching and farming that demand a move toward a new economic system. Freed from corporate control, we have the means and resources to feed everyone, even in the vicinity of the nation’s urban and metro areas. The sooner we learn to produce for need and not for profit, the better.

Finally, two reflections on historical celebrations show how the vision of the past has renewed relevance today. “May Day: To Understand is to Hope” reaches for the original holiday’s vision of worker unity and declares, “Our hopes for change must rest on a clear understanding of the social destruction that’s underway and how revolutionary change can be developed out of it.” Meanwhile, “Juneteenth 2021: Revolutionary Reconstruction Today” shows how the conscious political unity of the new class — an abolitionist class — will lead to the political formations to reconstruct society and finally realize the vision of the emancipated slaves and of all people for freedom, equality, and justice for all. **RC**

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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.

Juneteenth 2021: Revolutionary Reconstruction Today

The news that slavery was abolished finally reached Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Today we celebrate June 19, Juneteenth, as the end of U.S. slavery. Hundreds of thousands of people, Black and white, sacrificed their lives to end chattel slavery and open up the possibility of a society of freedom and equality. Yet legal emancipation and true freedom are not the same. The enslaved were set "free" with no compensation for over 200 years of back-breaking labor and no means to survive economically or be independent of their former "owners," few legal or political rights, and precarious physical safety.

Still today, the masses of the U.S. people are not free. Every year, police kill about 1,000 people nationwide and brutalize and harass thousands more. Black, Indigenous, and Latinx Americans suffer at the highest rate, but workers of all colors are targeted by our increasingly fascist corporate State. Most people murdered, terrorized, and incarcerated by the police are poor.

Real freedom means the abolition of State violence, including police terror and the poverty imposed on so many people by a corporate ruling class. Instead of meeting people's needs for housing, food, clothing, healthcare, and education, the ruling class hoards the abun-

dance of society through its control of the economy and every level of government. Abandonment by the government of our people is the result. The scarcity lie is laid bare by the \$1.3 trillion increase in the

victorious ruling class of the North, with the Southern ruling class subordinate to Northern finance capital (Wall Street), that prevented freedom for African Americans and the entire working class.

Real freedom means the abolition of State violence, including police terror and the poverty imposed on so many people by the corporate ruling class.

combined wealth of the nation's 657 billionaires since the pandemic lockdowns began. Clearly, there is abundant societal wealth to provide true freedom for all.

RECONSTRUCTION BETRAYED

Speaking on July 4, 1875, Frederick Douglass asked, "If war among the whites brought peace and liberty to Blacks, what will peace among the whites bring?" It was not white unity that forestalled Black freedom. Poor whites in the South were largely enemies of their Southern planter rulers, and poor whites in the North, many of them new immigrants, were cruelly exploited by the Northern industrialists. It was the renewed unity of the

The defeat of Reconstruction brought relative unity to the ruling class. The development of industrial production, mostly in the North, drove the conflict that led to the Civil War. The Northern ruling class needed to break the "slave power" of the Southern planters, whereby the South controlled Congress with a constitutional provision that counted slaves as 3/5 of a person. The new industrial productive forces in the North came into conflict with the productive relations of slavery in the South, leading to war.

After the Civil War, the ruling class still needed the back-breaking labor of cotton picking, both for the Southern agricultural economy and for the Northern

industrial economy that relied on it.

The political alliance of the freed people and the abolitionist Republicans led to a hopeful but too brief period of increasing freedom in the South called Reconstruction. In 1865 Congress established the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Land to introduce a free labor system in the South, establish schools, secure fair treatment for Black and white unionists, provide aid to the destitute, and generally help the millions of freed people and poor whites in the South. But the Bureau was woefully understaffed and underfunded, with an annual budget about equal to the cost to fight the Civil War for one week.

Reconstruction was set back by Andrew Johnson, who became President after Lincoln's assassination, pardoned most of the former Confederate planters and ordered their confiscated property returned. Fortunately, the Republican-controlled Congress began overruling Johnson and legislated what became known as Radical Reconstruction. The Reconstruction Amendments passed between 1865 and 1870 abolished slavery (13th Amendment), made all people born in the U.S. citizens (14th Amendment) and promised voting rights to Black men (15th Amendment).

Radical Republican leaders, such as Thaddeus Stevens and Charles Sumner, fought for equal rights and opportunities for Blacks and poor whites, and for Confederate leaders to be punished. During Radical Reconstruction, those born into slavery could now vote and own land. In parts of the South, Blacks and whites could ride together on trains and eat together in restaurants. All over the South sprouted new schools and public relief projects aimed at improving the lives of the free people and poor whites. Approximately 2000 African American men served in public office before Reconstruction's violent overthrow.

Reconstruction brought hope to many of the Deep South's poor whites, just as it did for African Americans. Before the abolition of slavery, the free labor of poor whites could not compete with slave labor, making unemployment high and wages significantly lower than in the North. The Reconstruction era temporarily "freed" both poor whites and the former slaves by providing more consistent employment, new access to public education, and access to the ballot.

During Reconstruction, Congress and the Freedmen's Bureau attempted to secure political rights and basic needs for the formerly enslaved and poor Southern whites. With the end of Reconstruction, Southern fascism crushed these efforts with vigilante violence by the KKK and other white supremacist terrorist groups, convict leasing, forced sharecropping, and the denial of the Black and Republican vote. Following the Hayes-Tilden com-

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The Meaning of January 6

From the Editors

The January 6th storming of the Capitol led directly to the 2nd Impeachment of Donald Trump. Government and corporate leaders fought intensely over that, which only masked how united they have become about imposing new forms of fascism on the American people. Fascism today is already taking shape on the basis of the merger of the corporations and the government, where the ruling class directly dominates the economy, politics, and society. They need a social base to consolidate their hold on the State.

The forced entry into the Capitol by just under 1,000 people emerged from a January 6th March to Save America with 30-40,000 participants. Though united by the belief that Joe Biden was elected because their votes were stolen, the more ideological groupings were consciously white supremacist and fascist. But a larger number, more representative of the 74 million who voted for Trump, were there to "Stop the Steal." They bought the Big Lie.

Later, some spokespeople for the

more "conservative" forces called for prosecuting those who broke into the Capitol, seeking to distance themselves and their issues from the ideological fringe. Some so-called conservative Republicans voted for impeachment, but others against impeachment, reflecting differences over inner-Republican politics, but not fundamental differences over the fascist strategy of greater corporate-government integration and control.

Revolutionaries understand that today's electronic revolution, privately owned and controlled by the capitalist class, is provoking widespread social destruction. The new class of workers being pushed out of any productive place in society inevitably launches a growing struggle for government to ensure their needs are met. The strategy of the ruling class is to defend the system of private property at all costs; tactically, it attacks the new class of workers, first economically, who as a result bear the brunt of the current crisis, and secondly, in the form of the brute force of a developing police state.

We must fight racism wherever it is, and we can do this most completely by

understanding the root of the problem, which is capitalism. Reacting to only the most hate-filled racist elements actually helps the State strengthen its repressive apparatus for coming collisions with the new class. That apparatus claims their only target is "white supremacist terrorism," just as they've done with "gang" youth or "border criminals." It also obscures how so-called "moderate" political leaders have assisted the step-by-step construction of fascist economic and political structures already operating.

When Americans believe that the only fascists are the openly white supremacist kind, they can be pulled into supporting one or another liberal politician who is also serving the ruling class shift towards fascism. The new class can avoid that and keep their struggle independent of the interests of the capitalists by insisting that the government ensure food, housing, and healthcare for all regardless of property ownership or ability to pay. Fighting for that today prepares a future path toward abolishing the private property of the ruling class and creating a new kind of communist economy and a cooperative society. **RC**

Taking the Offensive to Defeat Fascism

Secretariat, League of Revolutionaries for a New America, May 2021

The stakes for our multiracial, multi-gendered and multigenerational working class are urgent and huge. It is essential to grasp the current conditions and to chart a strategic political path to our common future. Election 2020 offers lessons about class power rooted in the history of the U.S. South – in capitalism, white supremacy, and fascist rule, and in oppositional multiracial working class struggles across the centuries. The election also expresses the crises and contradictions of the current political moment. Today's working class is increasingly impoverished and dispossessed because of the irreversible capitalist crisis based in the ongoing digital revolution. We are dying from COVID-19 and living on a planet in ecological crisis. The political crisis is on full display.

JANUARY 6

On January 6, Trump and his loyalists incited and carried out an armed insurrection of white supremacists and conspiracy theorists and believers at the U.S. Capitol, to challenge the Electoral College certification of Biden as president. Certification did happen in the early hours of January 7. This was the action of an organized insurrectionary force embedded within the mob and coordinated with elected officials, law enforcement, and military — active and veterans — who facilitated the mob and removed barricades, unlike the violent treatment of Black lives and progressive movement demonstrators.

The insurrection is an expression of the broad and deep social base for fascism and helps the ruling class assess how quickly they can or how slowly they have to move toward the consolidation of fascist rule. Fascist rule in the United States

is a form of class rule that makes use of white supremacy historically and today. And ruling class forces are trying to develop a plan for implementing it – for how they will save capitalism and private property with less and less labor needed to produce and distribute goods and services and fewer consumers able to purchase them.

Trump and his lackeys among elected and appointed officials enabled and engaged in a series of unprecedented events from the November 3 election onward – repeating the big lie that the election was stolen in the face of massive evidence, judicial judgments, and reality to the contrary. This is a pattern Trump forces engaged in throughout his term in office as they pursued a fast track toward fascist rule.

In the early hours of January 7, after the Trump incited insurrection at the Capitol, 139 Republican House members and 8 Republican Senators still challenged the presidential vote. On January 13, the House voted for the second time to impeach Trump for inciting the violent insurrection at the US Capitol – with 197 Republicans opposed. The Senate impeachment trial of Trump ended on February 13 with a verdict of “not guilty.” Trump and his Republican Party minions continue to work 24-7 in Congress, in their home districts, in the media, and at CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) to consolidate as much of a social base for fascist rule as possible and to pursue scorched earth policies with the intent of creating massive confusion, destruction, and chaos.

The February 23 Senate hearing on the colossal security breach at the US Capitol during the insurrection on January 6 revealed a total failure of timely sharing of federal intelligence with appropriate DC and Capitol police officials. At the same

time, several senators noted that if the protesting forces had been Black, Brown, or Indigenous — the police would have shown up in full riot gear with reinforcements, including the National Guard, to quell any uprising.

THE TERRAIN WE ARE ON

Working class and movement organizations, many led by Black women and propelled by the urgency of the moment, overcame extensive voter suppression and mobilized in record numbers in the midst of the pandemic to vote in 2020. The presidential vote was primarily a vote to defeat Trump and the rapid motion toward fascism and was not, for the most part, a vote for Biden.

The electoral terrain is difficult to navigate. Over 361 voter suppression laws are pending and/or passed in 47 states, disproportionately in the South, to block working class voters, especially voters of color, from exercising their vote and voice.

The ruling class and its two political parties are fraught with contradictions. The current moment has revealed the capitalist class interests in both the Democratic and Republican Parties and how they rule and control the working class. The center cannot hold. The polarization and fracturing within both ruling class parties and between the classes is erupting.

The government's totally inadequate response to the basic needs of the people and the planet is in plain sight. While the US working class is being thrust ever deeper into poverty and crisis, US billionaires reaped \$1 trillion since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in March 2020, with the stock market climbing to new highs. This absolute polarization of wealth and poverty has to be interrupted. The historic material and ideological reality of white supremacy and gender oppression within capitalism – from the earliest phase of colonialism, genocide, and chattel slavery to the present – is expressed in every aspect of our lives. The Biden-Harris administration is squarely in the Wall Street corporate wing of the Democratic Party and is proposing, at best, concessions that do not disrupt capitalism. The ruling class is fighting to protect their power, wealth, and private property. Fascism is the only political path open to the ruling class to defend their needs and interests, whether slow or fast tracked. But, fascism is not inevitable.

Working class forces are in the fight of our lives. In the main, we have been fighting tactically for our immediate needs and survival. It's important that our electoral participation and our defense of the right to vote not become a defense of bourgeois democracy, and that we move toward political independence from the ruling class. Our fight is ongoing. This moment is critical to lay out our bold vision of the world we want and need.

This is a powerful learning, teaching,

and acting moment. None of us — regardless of our class – can do just what we want to do, because we want to do it. We can only do what conditions allow us to do. So we have to make a careful strategic analysis of conditions, forces, and motion. Strategically, we know that we have to overthrow the capitalist system and white supremacy, as an ideological and material force within it, in the U.S. and globally. To move toward this revolutionary resolution, we have to connect our tactics to our strategy. A few key tactical processes for working class struggle that fight capitalism and ruling class control include breaking from capitalist class political parties, making demands that confront the capitalist system, and political education that moves working class forces toward revolutionary class consciousness and struggle for the future.

WORKING CLASS UNITY

Today's multiracial working class has to break from both ruling class parties. And we have to move toward forming a working class third party that is politically independent from the capitalist class. To accomplish this, we need to continue our participation in the electoral process and in the ongoing policy struggles around solutions to our problems. The demands and solutions we put forward have to fight capitalism and take our struggle on the offensive. Our survival depends on the protection of the earth, and the distribution of the vast abundance of goods and services based on human need, and not ability to pay. A few specific examples of political tactics to fight capitalism that various fronts of struggle are demanding include unified action as a political tool of working class power, abolition of the police and prison industrial complex including ICE, implementation of a green plan for a 100 percent renewable carbon free energy system by 2030, and honoring all Indigenous treaties and lands. We have to end our crises, not just lessen our pain.

We need a critical mass of working class forces with a shared vision of the world we are fighting for. This working class unity and class consciousness requires serious study along with political demands and electoral work and struggle in the street. Political education is an essential weapon in the battle for ideas, vision, and the future. We have to break with ruling class ideology and lies of white supremacy. We have to break with ruling class history and its practices of class exploitation, genocide, and gender oppression. To do this means to study society and the world as they really are and have been. It means to understand the revolutionary process and the qualitative change in the economy we are living through. It means to grasp our political task and political challenge of going on the offensive, fighting capitalism, defeating fascism, and winning and holding the future for humanity and our planet. **RC**

Juneteenth 2021:

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promise, Hayes became the president in return for federal troops being withdrawn, and the old slaveholder class returned to power in the South. Jim Crow then became the rule in a South that terrorized African Americans and the whites who advocated for equality, suppressing the wages and rights of all Southern workers, even to this day.

REVOLUTIONARY RECONSTRUCTION

The estimated 26 million participants in mass protests in response to the police lynching of George Floyd last May suggests a political impulse to complete the revolution that began with Juneteenth. People of all colors have risen up to oppose degenerating social and economic conditions: police terror, systemic racism,

needless COVID-19 deaths, poverty wages, homelessness, student debt, climate devastation, and all forms of fascism.

Driving this motion is a new class. It is created by the digital revolution eliminating jobs and making a cooperative economy necessary. To survive, this class must abolish capitalism and any private property system, where the means of survival are held in the hands of a few. This abolitionist class is objectively fighting for the distribution of life's necessities according to need.

The conscious political unity of the abolitionist class will lead to political formations to reconstruct society and finally realize the vision of the emancipated slaves and of all people for freedom, equality, and justice for all. Revolutionaries direct our efforts to developing that conscious unity. **RC**

May Day: To Understand is to Hope

Hope: to cherish a desire with anticipation; to want something to happen or be true.

Understand: to grasp the meaning of.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

On this May 1st, International Workers' Day, the struggle for immediate needs is finally being drawn into closer connection with the historic struggle for systemic change. Capitalism cannot provide the economic security it once did, and humanity's hopes for a better world can now stand on the firm foundation of this understanding.

Since March 2020, over half a million people infected with COVID-19 died because of U.S. government and health corporation neglect. More Americans voted than ever before, throwing Donald Trump out of office and expressing their demand for the government to protect them. And almost exactly one year ago in Minneapolis, on May 25th, George Floyd died at the hands of police, as had so many African Americans before him. The movement to stop these murders quickly grew into the biggest sustained protest in American history, with millions fighting in hopes of making things better.

When the fighters and voters of 2020 witness the Biden Administration serve the corporations and their ruling class owners during 2021, there will be an explosion of anger instead of hope. However, lost hope and anger alone cannot guide the struggle without political consciousness. Witness the millions who voted for Trump out of anger over deteriorating conditions, only to have their anger misdirected against immigrants and other vulnerable social groups, while nothing was done to solve their actual problems.

Our hopes for change must rest on a clear understanding of the social destruction that's underway and how revolutionary change can be developed out of it. For over one-hundred and thirty years, International Workers' Day on May 1 was served as a rallying point for that kind of thinking. In the late 1880s, this holiday was organized to unite industrial workers internationally as they fought for the 8-hour day. By 2006, millions in various countries marched on International Workers' Day in defense of undocumented migrants.

And for all those years, May Day events included socialists and communists who inspired working people with a vision of a future without capitalist exploitation. Nevertheless, capitalism continued to extend its reach throughout the world, and during its enormous expansion, the struggles for concessions and for systemic change were conducted somewhat separately from each other. Workers could sometimes win immediate battles but not destroy the class power of the

owners of capital.

Today, the electronic revolution is destroying industrial capitalism and its ability to provide jobs and incomes to the extent it once could. Capitalism's defining characteristic is that owners of capital exploit human labor to produce commodities, which workers must purchase with their wages to live. Labor-replacing technologies, like industrial robots, are completely shattering that relationship.

Society is polarizing into two great camps — one side possessing the vast wealth of society, the other living permanently in abject poverty and want. This has birthed a whole new social class, useless to a capitalist class that no longer needs them. "Social class" refers to the roles different sectors of the population play within the production of society's wealth. Though it's common to hear people describe America's classes as upper, middle, and lower, actual class relations of production involve more than just a group's level of income. The workers that electronic methods are expelling from their previous, more stable roles are becoming part of a new propertyless "proletarian" class, whose ranks are being filled from many social strata.

For example, among the still-employed sector of this new class, about a

third are part-time, contingent, below minimum wage workers. Immigrants are a big part of this sector. Another growing part of the new class are those who were once securely employed and housed and now are part of the structurally unemployed, facing absolute destitution. Their old lifestyles acted as a social bribe to win their loyalty to the system, so this bribed section of workers would connect the mass of workers to the capitalist class. Many are educated, socially conscious, and used to organization, so the destruction of their old position can be of enormous political benefit to the class struggle.

While it is traditional for May Day discussions to focus on strikes and other struggles over working conditions, today's disruption of the economic role of millions of workers has reduced their ability to effectively bargain for better conditions. This has weakened the labor unions and allied organizations, whose struggles were once the focus of May 1st celebrations. There will still be strikes and labor actions by the employed workers, but the growing mass of unemployed and homeless can't get their needs met that way.

These members of the new class must confront the State to achieve their de-

mands. Permanent exclusion from obtaining their basic needs compels them to fight for the government to ensure the distribution of the social product according to need. And high technology automation produces such abundance amid such poverty that distribution by need is not only necessary, it is now also possible.

Struggles by the new class for free universal healthcare and an end to homelessness may intend to merely reform the system, but will actually require the transformation from a system of capitalist private property to one where society owns the means of production. That defines a communist economic system, whether it is called that or not. It makes the struggle of the new class inherently revolutionary, despite still having to overcome historical social divisions of color, region, etc.

Those divisions can be overcome through united struggle for basic needs, reinforced with the class political understanding provided by conscious revolutionaries. On this International Workers' Day, while the struggle for immediate needs is being drawn into closer connection with the historic struggle for systemic change, there is finally a material basis for humanity's hopes for a better world to become realized. **RC**

Police Killings and Our Fight for Class Unity

The city of Minneapolis made a \$27 million settlement with the family of George Floyd, murdered by police last year. Officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of Floyd's murder. The trend of fatal police shootings in the United States is increasing, with a total of 292 civilians having been shot in the first four months of 2021. There were 1,004 fatal police shootings during 2020.

At least six people were fatally shot by officers across the United States in the 24 hours after jurors reached a verdict in the murder case against Chauvin; more than 100 people were killed by police in the U.S. during three weeks of Chauvin trial. Two children are among those murdered: 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago, and 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant of Columbus, Ohio.

Millions of people across the country and internationally participated in protests on the heels of uprisings in many cities in response to the killing of George Floyd. There were close to 1,000 recorded instances of police brutality during the protests. The overwhelming sentiment is that the police forces must be controlled, and that money be removed from policing and put into the communities.

The murders of civilians at the hands of the police, with Blacks disproportionately represented, is not just a continuation of the police brutality of the past. They are happening under new conditions of a fundamental change from



production using human labor to production using robots in one form or another. One result is that greater sections of society are being separated from a way to pay for housing, buy food, and afford to keep on utilities.

A class is being created that is being forced to fight for actual existence, with a government doing little to address the problem. The ruling class is calculating that, in the final analysis, if they can't handle the situation, then they will let the police handle it.

The police work to protect the capitalist system. Stopping the police goes hand in hand with transforming the entire system of political power that guarantees that police will continue to kill, and that poverty will continue to spread.

Historically in the U.S., the hard-fought battles for labor unity could not be won so long as economic inequality existed between Black and white workers. This is changing as huge numbers of workers are being pushed into economic and political instability. Electronics applied to production has finally created the conditions for real class unity. The struggles around police killings and the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic are laying bare the inequities of the country.

The fight against racial and class inequality is the foundation for a new working-class unity. **RC**

Capitalism Creates Food Scarcity, Communism Distributes Abundance

Among those severely impacted by capitalism are the workers we depend on the most—those that keep us fed. Small farms and ranches are slowly dying, as we witness the onslaught of corporate enterprise in the agriculture industry. It is time to envision socialized agriculture and return to the values and ways of life that sustain us.

THE BIG FOUR

Today, just four major corporations own 80 percent of the beef cattle market in the U.S. Known as “The Big Four,” Tyson, JBS, ICB, and Cargill, are the nation’s meatpacking tycoons. Small ranchers are forced to market their product through The Big Four or risk going out of business. Generational family farms are disappearing across the nation, and the land, being devastated as it falls into the vast corporate system. While this system plagues every aspect of world agriculture, from crop and vegetable farming to dairy and beef production, this piece focuses on how the capitalism model hurts small, independent beef ranchers in the U.S.

Scarcity and the exploitation of resources drive the capitalist structure. Big Ag has wasted 12 million pounds of potatoes, dumped milk into drainage bins, and ground millions of eggs into compost, in a time when hundreds of thousands of working families are either unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic, and struggling to feed their fami-

lies. Corporate Ag uses scarcity tactics through supply and demand economics for one purpose — drive up product prices.

Is this the country we envision? How can we focus our agricultural efforts on producing for need and not for profit? There are many obstacles, but it is not an impossible vision. In June, the Wyoming Collegiate Cattleman’s Association (WCCA) successfully lobbied the state government to allow beef producers to market to their local communities. Federal regulation requires beef to be processed in USDA-approved meatpacking plants, supplied with the appropriate hormones, supplements, and vaccinations to be sold to the consumer.

This process forces small ranchers into the corporate model, and the problem is associated with cost. The average salary of the independent rancher is just \$70,000 per year. The cost of constructing a local meatpacking operation is \$1.2 million without government assistance. Republican lawmakers are only too happy to provide subsidies for meatpacking plants, affordable only to corporate-class producers.

Jordan Williams, president of the WCCA, says, “Corporate agriculture brought in upwards of \$30 billion in exports of beef, pork, and chicken alone. Imagine if that money would have gone to the actual producers! We are talking about the country’s largest workforce, the

largest employer of documented and undocumented citizens, and recipient of the least amount of government funding.” He is a graduate of beef cattle sciences at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

FIGHT FOR SUSTAINABLE VISION

There are many burgeoning efforts to localize and collectivize agricultural economies in rural America. The Swain Ranch of Western Colorado began a beef collective early in the summer of 2020, pairing with the local meat processor in Nucla, Colorado, and devised a system to help make locally raised beef more accessible to residents of Montrose County. They are feeding working-class families with high-quality food.

In California’s Bay Area, Strauss Family Farm of Inverness is a model for local sourcing. Their dairy products are marketed to just four surrounding San Francisco Bay counties. Their operation is congruent with USDA organic requirements and a clear vision for environmental sustainability using refillable glass bottles. Not only is it beneficial for the locality and the environment, but small farmers and ranchers provide a much higher quality product than their corporate counterparts.

The fight for this more sustainable vision lies in dismantling the Big Four and the capitalist economic system and working to collectivize local economies. This cannot come in the form of more regu-

lation. It is clear capitalism cannot be reformed. As members of the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (RCALF) found, the process becomes arduous and severely litigious. RCALF assembled a group of small beef cattle producers when Tyson corporation bought IBP (another multi-billion-dollar meatpacking corporation).

The case, Pickett v. IBP, argues that “IBP and the other packers set an unfair and unreasonably low price for cattle and when the Plaintiffs reject the low price, IBP and the other three packers slaughter cattle from their own captive supply and/or exclusive marketing agreements, and leave the Plaintiffs without a buyer for their cattle, so that the Plaintiffs have to accept the lower price.” In other words, the corporations force scarcity in the market to drive up their profit margin. In contrast, small producers are left to whatever “trickles down.”

In this way, we are fighting capitalism with more capitalism, which is not the solution. It temporarily alleviates the symptoms of a caustic economic system. Constant litigation severely depletes small ranchers’ resources, even with the help of groups like RCALF, while minimally impacting the major corporations. Our class is continually being devastated by this corporate system, and we must build something entirely different in its place.

PRODUCTION FOR NEED

By working to collectivize the whole of the agricultural economy, we are returning to the basics of human nature. We support our class directly, when empowering the working farmers and ranchers to distance themselves from the corporate capitalist system. In the world of agriculture, the small farmer and rancher have one goal in mind: feeding people.

We have the means and resources to feed everyone, even in the vicinity of the nation’s urban and metro areas. The sooner we learn to produce for need and not for profit, the better. Not to mention that the food quality of produce, dairy, and meat products that are raised locally and sustainably is completely set apart from what you find in the grocery store!

In many ways, rural communities give us a view of what kind of communist future is possible. The ruling class is moving swiftly to buy more land and water rights, and capitalism will continue to erode the land and livelihood of our class. Reorganizing society based on public ownership of all we need to survive and flourish means taking control out of corporate hands. By building socialized agriculture, we strengthen the hands that feed us and recognize that the earth is still abundant in the right hands. **RC**

U.S.-Mexico Border Battlefield Over Fascism

Continued from page 1

tries, which would face even more poverty and emigration without it. Mexico received \$36 billion in 2019, \$40.6 billion in 2020. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador received a record \$17 billion in 2019 alone. Worldwide, remittances have reached a level of \$500 billion! Billions more are made by the companies that run this money transfer industry.

Trump’s wall was a political distraction and manipulation to consolidate his political base, especially its white supremacist section. However, we should also remember the anti-immigrant actions of Democratic presidents like Bill Clinton. His IIRIRA 1996 bill established the deportation machine, that Human Rights Watch says “eliminated key defenses against deportation and subjected many more immigrants, including legal permanent residents, to detention and deportation.” He also extended a 325-mile fence along the border between California and Mexico in 1993. Barack Obama’s administration deported 2.5 million people, more

than any President, leading activists to call him the “Deporter-in-Chief.”

Whether Democrat or Republican administrations, immigration policies have always served the interests of the ruling class. In past eras, their goal was getting cheap labor in, then throwing them out. Today, immigration policy serves them as part of new fascist methods for controlling the dispossessed on both sides of the border. The separation of families and caging of children, the immediate expulsions without due process, and Title 42 exclusions blamed on COVID-19 are all part of an immoral system of exploitation and unnecessary death.

WHAT MUST WE DO?

The attack on immigrants/migrants and refugees is not only immoral in and of itself, it’s part of the ruling class shift to fascist methods of rule. It might seem only to be an attack on the migrant population, but it is, in fact, an attack on democratic rights and thus on the working class as a whole. The public’s money has gone to technology and military corporations

instead of to social needs. In class unity lies our strength.

There is growing resistance, such as the activism over “the right to remain” in homelands and the mobilizations at the US-Mexico border. We must support their demands and demonstrate our class unity by calling for abolishing ICE as a first step to ending all aspects of militarization at the border. We must demand the repeal of the Migrant Protection Protocols and ensure due process for asylees. The government must reunite all families that it separated and provide real immigration reform for all who have been living in and contributing to the United States.

People in America and across the world have the same needs and demands, and all are part of the same objectively revolutionary process. By uniting in defense of immigrants and against every fascist policy being used against us all, we strengthen everyone’s struggle to live free of poverty and government violence. We take a step towards a society free of exploitation, discrimination, and class domination. **RC**