

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

VOLUME 32, EDITION 3

MAY-JUNE 2022

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In The Name of Peace: Rein In Our Government

The war in Ukraine drags on, amidst conflicting reports of atrocities and who caused them. Western media repeat the NATO dispatches attributing civilian deaths to retreating Russian forces, said to have been humiliated by the Ukrainian defense fighters. Other reports estimate that the civilian deaths and bombs were caused by Ukrainian groups such as the Azov battalion, documented pro Nazi militias integrated in the regional armed forces of Ukraine. Still other reports indicate that, having accomplished its goals at this stage of combat, the Russian army is turning its attention to its strategic goals in Eastern Ukraine. All parties agree that Ukraine is being devastated by the warfare. There is little doubt that US and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) supply of arms to Ukraine is prolonging the war and further destroying Ukraine.

One thing has remained the same: while the military operations in Ukraine drag on, a million Americans have died from COVID. Hundreds of thousands have been condemned to live in the streets, without a roof over their heads. More Americans are held in prisons than in any other country. Children go hungry every day. Fires and floods ravage our lands. And again our ruling class is engaged in war, this time in Eastern Europe! Also, as it ships more and more weaponry to Ukraine, our ruling class accentuates its war on the American people: Missiles for Ukraine means more people starve in the United States.

The US has committed over \$2 billion in arms to Ukraine since 2014. But people are sleeping in the streets of America. The U.S. foments wars in the Middle East and supplies arms to the combatants but can't feed its own people. Millions who lost their jobs during the pandemic are still not back at work. Our political leaders are working overtime to restrict voting rights in the United States. They praise Ukrainian migrants and refugees as heroes, while they cage Central American migrants at the US-Mexico border. They are not fighting for democracy anywhere. We have no dog in the current war! We have our own autocrats in our own country to deal with.

War is how America operates. In all but 15 years of its existence, the US has been at war somewhere. The United States has barely withdrawn troops from a 20 year war in Afghanistan that is estimated to have cost over \$2 trillion. Now it is committing forces – both troops and hundreds of millions of dollars – to a war in Eastern Europe. The capitalists are individualizing an historic motion, the disintegration of the post WWII world. By focusing on individuals, they are diverting our view from their rotting and increasingly desperate system. They have killed mil-



Participants of the Climate Strike are seen holding banners at Lower Manhattan, New York City to demand climate justice on Sept 24, 2021. Shutterstock / Steve Sanchez Photos

lions in the last few decades of war-making, in places we had no business entering, all in our name. War is simply part of capitalism.

We have political representatives who, with hardly any dissent, vote for more money for the military each year but who can't seem to agree on a watered-down Build Back Better bill for the American people. This war is already catastrophic, but even more now that there are explicit threats to use nuclear weapons. The working class around the world will suffer because of this. The American people's response to this war must be to disarm the war-makers – our own war-makers.

Western media continue to perpetuate a myth that this war began February 24, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In fact, the US has orchestrated this conflagration. Despite an agreement not to expand NATO eastward, the US has championed admitting Eastern European nations. NATO was formed in 1949 as a military alliance against the Soviet Union. It continues today as an aggressive alliance to strangle Russia.

With over 750 military bases around the world, the US has troops stationed in more than 80 countries. In Europe alone, the US maintains more than 60,000 troops. US bases lie in a crescent from Russia's Western flank to its Southern border into Central Asia. While the US is still the foremost military power in the world, China is challenging its economic supremacy. Facing that challenge means the US finds it increasingly important to weaken Russia.

Further, Europe is becoming more and

more dependent on energy from Russia, and the US is acting to interrupt that. The more they go to war, the more the war takes even more away from the workers – in higher prices, lack of services, and directly in death and destruction. If they are successful in winning the right to supply Europe with energy, it will mean more fracking and contamination of our groundwater, more pipelines that leak into our water supply, and more environmental destruction. The threat of a nuclear holocaust underlines the stakes for the survival of the planet and gives new meaning to the phrase: "Everything or nothing, all of us or none."

We are not powerless. What we do here

also acts to end suffering around the world. There is something revolutionaries can do every day. Every time we take to the streets to end police killings or demand health care and housing as a right to human life, we are fighting to dismantle the war machine. Our best hope for "national security" – and the best hope for attaining peace in Ukraine – is for our working class to accelerate our demands for our own well-being and our own democracy. For jobs at a living wage, for the right to housing and health care, for a future for our young, for an ecologically sustainable planet. If the working class wins our wars at home, there will be no fighting anymore. **RC**

CONTENTS

Seeing Through Ruling Class Interests	2	Juneteenth – The Southern Question Today	4
Reproductive Justice in the Age of Fascist Advance	3	Turning point for the climate movement	5
From the Editors: Government Fails to Protect Public's Health	3	We celebrate the life of Al Gladysck	6

Seeing Through Ruling Class Interests

Inside Rally, Comrades!

What is happening in Ukraine is terrible, and 4.5 million refugees from that country is an extraordinary number. But as we watch the ongoing wall-to-wall coverage of the Ukraine crisis in Western media, we should keep in mind what is happening to the working people of Ukraine is what is happening to everyone being cast off by fundamental changes in the way the world creates and distributes the wealth that under capitalism dictates our future.

Recent U.N. reports state that in only the first half of 2021, “84 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as

a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.” Among those were “26.6 million refugees in the world – the highest ever seen.” Right now, the U.N. Refugee Agency reports 6.7 million refugees from Syria, four million from Venezuela, and nearly three million from Afghanistan.

With this perspective, it should be easy to understand the frustration expressed by activist Erika Pinheiro regarding government actions that have made the southern U.S. border a preferred destination of Ukrainian immigrants. Pinheiro told CNN, “The disparate treatment is really mind-blowing. The cases that we’ve seen denied for Black and Brown migrants are life-and-death cases. ... We’re talking children who might die are being denied entry.”

Because the ruling class of the NATO alliance is fighting to maintain control over

the ruling class of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the United States treats Ukrainians differently from the majority of refugee immigrants who have been routinely criminalized for decades, increasingly detained and deported, with families torn apart and locked in cages. Our capitalist leaders must convince us, this conflict is much worse than the devastation and often certain death awaiting Haitians, Mexicans and others from Central and South America, or refugees from all the world’s other conflict zones. At this moment, the Council on Foreign Relations numbers 26 concurrent wars involving U.S. interests.

This issue of *Rally, Comrades!* explores necessary strategies to stop the ruling class war machine. “In the Name of Peace: Rein in Our Government” shows why we need to confront our own government’s role in perpetuating this violence. The \$300 million the United States is committing to arm Ukraine is just part of the \$2 billion spent on war since 2014. Meanwhile, people are sleeping and hungry in American streets. Millions who lost their jobs during the pandemic are still not back at work. Our political leaders are working overtime to restrict voting rights in the United States. The truth is the war in Ukraine is not a place where the U.S. government has chosen between democracy and fascism. The U.S. government is not fighting for democracy anywhere.

“Reproductive Justice in the Age of Fascist Advance” zeroes in on the movement away from democracy here at home. The laws protecting our lives are being weakened, overturned and repealed. Just months ago, the supplemental Earned Income Tax Credits payments sent to families during the height

of the pandemic were terminated. Child poverty rates instantly rose 41 percent. Meanwhile, fascist efforts target migrants, the “unfit,” or families whom the ruling class say are “too big.” Billionaires, including Microsoft founder Bill Gates, media mogul Ted Turner, George Soros, Warren Buffet, and David Rockefeller Jr. meet to plan initiatives for population control across the post-colonial world.

“The Turning Point for the Climate Movement” explains why we cannot depend upon the ruling class for support in any struggle. The Climate movement, along with every movement, is confronting the reality that the politicians, CEOs and organizations touted as leaders, are not just going too slowly. They are consciously moving in the opposite direction of the fighters, acting against all of the needs of people and planet.

As “Government Fails to Protect Public’s Health” shows, the ruling class prioritizes casino capitalism over our lives, recalling how Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell made a distinction between market volatility and stability, saying that whatever loss individual investors suffer from volatility is only the government’s concern when it constitutes a threat to market stability.

Leading capitalists will always put speculation’s benefits to their class ahead of the harm it causes any struggling member of its own class, never mind those most vulnerable to pandemics.

In “We Celebrate the Life of Al Gladysck,” we pay tribute to a dedicated fighter who understood all too well the health care needs of our class. Al spent his life working to crush

Continued on page 6

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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.

Reproductive Justice in the Age of Fascist Advance

In 1857 the Supreme Court decided the infamous case of Dred Scott v. Sandford, ruling that Dred Scott, an enslaved man who had lived in free states and territories for years, was condemned to live out his life as a slave because his freedom had no federal or constitutional protection. The Court thus denied the very humanity and personhood of African Americans at the moment that the nation was poised to enter the civil war to abolish slavery.

In December 2021, the Supreme Court appeared to be on the verge of another historic denial of constitutional protection for human rights. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in cases from Texas and Mississippi, testing the legality of state-imposed bans on abortions early in pregnancy. In their arguments, Texas and Mississippi attacked the fundamental constitutional protection afforded to women by Roe v. Wade, the 1973 case that guaranteed a woman's right to abortion under the constitution's protection of privacy and personal freedom. Roe projected a vision of reproductive freedom, woven into the legal and cultural fabric of the country.

As in the Dred Scott case, overturning Roe returns the question of women's reproductive freedom and gender equality to the states, particularly the former slave states of the South, where labor rights, civil rights, reproductive rights, women's rights, and LGBTQIA rights lack protection, and where Jim Crow voter suppression laws are back in force. All indications are that the Court will at least uphold the Mississippi ban on abortions after fifteen weeks, with a strong possibility that Roe will be overturned.

Why is this happening now? What is the difference between today and 1973 when Roe was decided? To answer these questions, we must peel back the layers of social and political change, in all their complexity, to see the most fundamental level of change. We must look at the underlying transformation of the economy and its impact on the political life of the country.

The reality is that robots and artificial intelligence are taking over the workplace, eliminating jobs and keeping wages low for millions of workers. A growing number of people – a new dispossessed class within the working class – do not really participate in the economy, do not have a real job. As this is happening, all social support is being withdrawn by the billionaire-dominated ruling class that rules every level of our political life. Mass homelessness is just one example of the ruin of the working class.

In this environment, individual human lives have little importance or value. The laws protecting those lives are being weakened, overturned, and repealed. Just months ago, the supplemental Earned Income Tax Credits payments sent to families during the height of the pandemic were terminated. Child poverty rates instantly rose 41%.

Of course, at the center of the fight to restrict reproductive freedom is the attack on the vote. As key anti-abortion strategist Paul Weyrich stated, "I don't want everyone to vote. Elections are not won by a majority

of people. Our leverage goes up as the voting populace goes down." Texas and Mississippi are taking the lead in trying to overturn Roe v. Wade. These are former slave states, where voter suppression has long been effective in maintaining the dominance of giant corporations and white supremacy.

Abortion bans, despite strong public support for women's access to abortion, are politically useful as well because of their appeal

HOW THE RULING CLASS HAS BLOCKED THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Given the wide support and life-and-death importance of access to abortion, why have we reached the point in history where nationwide constitutional protection for abortion hangs on such a weak and slender thread – the vote of a few justices on the Supreme Court?

fare dependent and criminal populations," in the words of J.D. Rockefeller.

Under the leadership and funding of leading capitalists, the issue of reproductive freedom has been narrowed, framed as a privilege – a "choice" – and primarily made accessible to a select group of women, those who are mainly white, educated, and relatively well-off. It is significant that Planned Parenthood, with major funding from the Ford Foundation, provides private-pay abortions in specialized clinics. The whole premise of "choice" is a lie. For many women who want a baby, abortion is not a "choice" – it is a necessity because they cannot afford a child and have been cut off from childcare, education, healthcare, and economic security.

These corporations and philanthropists have been successful in separating abortion care from women's health, and, indeed, from public health as a whole. Under their influence, the issue has been isolated from allied movements for single payer health care and Medicare for All.

Continued on page 6

At the center of the fight to restrict reproductive freedom is the attack on the vote.

to the evangelical right wing. They are being used to build a popular fascist base, both within and outside the electoral arena, focused on advancing corporate priorities and dividing working people. Ex-president Trump has been the most prominent proponent of this fascist advance, fomenting "white grievance" and suppressing resistance.

The history of the fight for legal abortion and contraception – one front in the fight for women's reproductive freedom – shows how the modern movement has been crucially isolated from other struggles for economic and social justice. It has been distorted and used to carry out the goals and ambitions of the ruling class to reduce the birth rate of "wel-

Government Fails to Protect Public's Health

From the Editors

Entering calendar year 3 of the pandemic, America's death toll has reached over one million lives. As state and local demagogues assure people it's ok to ignore the advice of health scientists, the federal government still has no national policy on masking or safe practices in schools. Two things are absolutely clear: first, that COVID-19 is much more deadly than the public was initially told. Second, that the government has failed to protect public health adequately, especially for the growing class becoming disposable because they are not needed in the hi-tech economy.

Our series Ray of Light Inside the Pandemic has described how the ruling class allowed millions of us to go unprotected from the virus itself. They are also failing to protect us from criminals who profit from this pandemic. Google has confirmed that each day it blocks about 18 million coronavirus-related "phishing" emails promoting fake COVID-19 tests, counterfeit n95 masks, fake or low-quality vaccines, and phony medications. Vox reports that the phony drugs being promoted online include "chloroquine, as well as more far-out fake treatments involving cow urine, colloidal silver, and even oregano."

And yet, on January 19, the Federal Trade Commission's website declared that the agency had sent "cease and desist de-

mands to more than 400 companies and individuals." That is like doing nothing about such rampant lawlessness. And our government contributes to this situation, because University College London's program on the Outbreak of Infectious Disease has reported that the tiny trickle of vaccine donations from richer countries to poorer ones leaves many people desperate enough to try products which often prove useless and even dangerous.

The lack of accessible, affordable tests for COVID-19 has opened yet another illegitimate market. On January 13, WIFR TV reported that Oregon's Better Business Bureau had received complaints that people paid the pop-up Center for COVID Control Testing for expedited test results but never got them. Meanwhile, the Illinois Attorney General's office received over 150 complaints on "pop-up" testing sites statewide. It's only because people fought back that the word of this got out. But once again, our national government is not alerting the people nor local health workers to the problem.

What has gotten the government's attention is how this global epidemic affects financial markets. The Investopedia company reports that "the pandemic has speeded up trends" of speculative investing instead of investing in traditional industries, and that this "speculative froth" will cause some market disruptions and investor losses. But they also reminded investors that Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell made a distinction between market "vola-

tility" and "stability," saying that whatever loss individual investors suffer from volatility is only the government's concern when it constitutes a threat to market stability. Leading capitalists will always put speculation's benefits to their class ahead of the harm it causes any struggling member.

Imagine if the government used its publicity tools and public service messaging to mobilize the American people to help identify and expose both the online scam artists and the corrupt speculators. It could do what Italian scientists Emiliano Brancaccio and Ugo Pagan have called on the world's governments to do since the pandemic began:

"It is necessary to denounce the behavior of private agents driven by a profit motive who are causing slowdowns in research against the virus ... these speculations hinder research and must be stopped immediately. Public authorities must remedy these 'market failures' by ensuring maximum collective sharing of the scientific knowledge necessary to tackle the ongoing pandemic" (*The Scientist*, March 23, 2020).

Our government's failure to protect millions of America's most dispossessed people from COVID-19 and the economic disruption caused by speculation proves that the ruling class will sacrifice millions of lives to benefit their wealth and power. Ultimately, those millions can only protect themselves by taking power out of the hands of such a criminal class, so they can create a new publicly owned economy that does provide for their needs. **RC**

Juneteenth – The Southern Question Today

We are in a revolutionary situation today. Exacerbated by the pandemic, the economy is in crisis. Millions remain out of work, even as inflation skyrockets and war looms across the globe. Society polarizes as instability and turmoil ensue. The impoverished workers demand solutions as they fight to obtain the basics of life – food, water, housing, education, and health care.

The entire system is in the process of destruction, brought on by a crisis of epochal dimensions, as new electronic tools of production are developed that permanently eliminate human labor. The system cannot be reformed. The ruling class's response is to protect its private property and wealth at all costs. The new class of workers created by electronics can only move to put itself in a position to reorganize society in its interests.

SOUTHERN STRATEGY

It is in this situation that the question of political power becomes paramount. From the country's inception, the South has been at the core of the formula for political power by the ruling class. The ultimate aim is to control the Southern worker and, by doing so, provide the base for politically controlling the entire country.

The Southern strategy is a strategy of the ruling class as a whole: it is the political formula for how the ruling class maintains its supremacy in a bourgeois democracy, and it encompasses both political parties. The party that can sweep a solid South prevails in the electoral arena. This was particularly evident in the 2020 elections.

On June 19, 1865, two months after the end of the Civil War, the slaves in Texas finally received the news of their emancipation. They were free, and it has been a day of celebration ever since. But that freedom rang hollow without a means of livelihood, labor rights, the right to vote, access to education, and all of the civil rights necessary to participate fully in a democratic society. This immediately became a problem for the American ruling class: what was to become of the Southern worker? How were they to be controlled? When emancipation was declared, that meant that the divide between slave labor and free labor was removed. How was a united working class, particularly in the South, to be contained?

Reconstruction was a temporary effort to provide basic human rights to the Black masses: the right to vote, labor rights, education, and the distribution of land were even briefly considered.

But ever since the Hayes-Tilden betrayal in the election of 1876, the political concept of state's rights has dominated Southern politics. Henceforth, the agreement was made that the South would rule in its own way. The Reconstruction governments were abolished, the Black workers were driven from the polls, all workers were forced to labor with no rights, and the Democratic party, in the heyday of Jim Crow, became the sole political party in a solid South.

White supremacy was employed with a

vengeance. The most horrid conditions were imposed upon the Black masses. Still, at the same time, white supremacy was an appeal to the white masses to join with their white superiors, thus ensuring the supremacy of the ruling class. White supremacy is utilized to divide the Southern worker along color lines, but it is also a form of all-class unity. All-class unity always accrues to the benefit of the ruling class and is an integral dimension of the Southern strategy and program. The critical question is the supremacy of which whites?

In the 2020 elections, the Republican Party, which for the most part ruled statehouses across the South, employed its

of the new class entered electoral politics to fight for a class agenda that included a living wage, healthcare, education, voting rights, and the fight to stop ecological devastation.

The report points out that “the racial demographics of low-income workers in Georgia were fairly evenly split between Black and white low-income workers, with 1.9 million low-income white voters casting ballots last year and 1.6 million low-income Black Georgians going to the polls,” suggesting that “it is possible to build coalitions of low-income voters across race around a political agenda that centers the issues they have in common.”

Revolutionaries today ignore the Southern question at their peril.

Southern strategy. They were confident that they would sweep the South and thus ensure the presidency. But what they did not count on was that the Democratic party had its own Southern strategy. That strategy was not that they had to sweep the South, but by only winning away one or two states, they could prevent the ascendancy of the opposing party. Their formula was to unite a coalition of African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian and other minority groups, women, gay rights groups, and white liberals. The most significant number were, of course, the Southern Black masses.

The Southern strategy of the Democratic party coalition today is also a form of all-class unity, and here as well, all-class unity accrues to the benefit of the ruling class. The Democratic and Republican parties are the twin parties of the ruling class, each employing their versions of a Southern strategy to tie the Southern worker to the ruling class and thus maintain their supremacy.

When the Democratic primaries came to the South, Biden was running fourth. The progressives were poised to capture the nomination. But when in South Carolina Jim Clyburn, senior congressman, and leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, stepped forward to endorse Biden, the entire Black political elite from across the South closed ranks behind Biden. The Democrats won Georgia in a hotly contested race with a record turnout in the election.

NEW CLASS OF WORKERS

In the 2020 elections, a kind of wild card was played that no one expected. That was the participation and impact of the new class of workers, including the most impoverished section of the Southern working class. In a study conducted by the Poor People's Campaign, it was noted that of the 168 million Americans who voted, 59 million, or 35 percent, were classified as poor or low-income, earning less than \$50,000 per year. In Georgia, it was 37.84 percent. These workers

The South has long been the most impoverished section of the country. But what is described here are the conditions of poverty of a new class of workers — a condition growing and spreading across the country. The process is to drag the entire working class down to the level of the impoverished Southern worker.

States' rights and the formula for rule that is the Southern strategy is the path to power for the ruling class, but it is also the content of the Southern program itself. It is the state's right to suppress the vote, to restrict the access of those impoverished workers who made the difference in the last election. New laws also give the state the right to take over county and city elections boards and overturn any election they don't like.

The new class of Southern workers is the target of the current drive to suppress their vote. They made the difference in the election. If they can be eliminated from the next election (just eliminate “11,780 votes” in Georgia), the outcome can be rigged in the ruling class's favor.

Gerrymandering is the state's right to redraw voting districts to benefit the ruling incumbent political party.

State's rights are right-to-work. Right-to-work laws are the right of the state to prohibit the ability of the workers to bargain collectively with their employers for wages, benefits, or workplace conditions. Every Southern state has passed right-to-work laws, spreading across the country.

State's rights are the right of the states to refuse to accept the expansion of Medicaid. It is the right of the states to nullify vaccine mandates, to disband mask requirements. It is the right of the states to refuse any measure or regulation that they deem to be detrimental to corporate profits and control.

State's rights mean low taxation on the rich and the corporations. State's rights mean little to no regulations on how corporations conduct their business. The cumulative effects of more than a hundred years of

raping Southern land are superstorms, hurricanes, tornados, massive flooding, and severe drought, laying waste to the land and its people.

State's rights are the Southern strategy and the Southern program. State's rights are spreading across the country; many states are taking up many of the same components that prevail in the Southern states. The Supreme Court is now viewed as a state's rights court.

PATH TO POWER

Revolutionaries today ignore the Southern question at their peril. Even though the South today is no longer the undeveloped agrarian reserve it once was – solar panels dot the countryside where cotton once grew, and robots build electric vehicles in the rural South – the South today is an integral part of a globalized economy. Even so, the formula for political power remains the same: the path to political power in this country runs through the South. That is so for the ruling class, and it is so for the new class of Southern worker.

A new, revolutionary class is arising across the country, including the workers of the new class in the South. This new class must also have its own Southern strategy. If the strategy of the ruling class is to divide the working class, then the strategy of the new class in the South and across the country can only be class unity around a common program. If the strategy of the ruling class is to tie the workers to themselves in one version or another of all-class unity, then the strategy of the new class can only be class independence. It must put forward its independent program and fight forward to reorganize society in its interests. The path to power for the new class of workers runs through the South. **RC**

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Turning point for the climate movement

“Many are starting to ask themselves, ‘What will it take for the people in power to wake up?’ But let’s be clear: They are already awake. They know exactly what they are doing. ... The leaders are not doing nothing. They are actively creating loopholes and shaping frameworks to benefit themselves and to continue profiting from this destructive system.”

— Greta Thunberg speaking outside the COP26 conference in Glasgow in 2021

The global climate movement is at a turning point. So is the movement against police murders and the prison-industrial complex, so also is the movement for clean water for all, so is the movement for public education, and so is the movement for a public health-care system. They’re all at the same turning point.

After years of intensive action and sacrifice – holding government and corporations accountable, massive demonstrations, strikes, civil disobedience, and information campaigns to educate or awaken legislators and CEOs – it’s now clear that those, by themselves, are no longer having the needed effect.

The climate movement, along with every movement, is confronting the reality that the politicians, CEOs, and organizations touted as leaders, are not just going too slowly; they are consciously moving in the opposite direction – acting against all of the needs of people and planet. Like Michael Jackson moonwalking, they offer the appearance of moving forward while going backward.

Activists are becoming aware that the fight to save ourselves is not a debate, but a struggle for the power to enact what is needed.

It is now upon society to organize to dispossess the corporations, make their assets public, and declare private ownership of natural and social resources illegal. It’s time to discuss how to end the global corporate-market-commodity economy, and create one based on the true value of things and processes – for people and planet.

There is no other way. The abolition movement against slavery is instructive for us today; slavery was ended, not by convincing slaveholders of the error of their ways, but by a new government that dispossessed slaveowners and declared ownership of hu-

man beings illegal. That government began as a movement.

Every crisis – from police killings to toxic water, to growing homelessness and displacement, to climate catastrophe – is driven and funded by corporate power and market imperatives. Every attempt to solve these dire problems is blocked by corporate power – either directly, or more often by the government and state acting on behalf of corporations.

They are not only disregarding people. The leaders of both parties are actively turning America into a corporate dictatorship, suppressing not only voting and protest, but democratically elected institutions, as local governments are coerced by higher officials to do the bidding of giant investment groups. Fascism is not only an ideology of hatred, it is also a business deal: an aggressive campaign to put every aspect of life under corporate control, executed by a government seamlessly joined to business.

In addition to the powerful street heat and electoral campaigns already in motion, in addition to the valiant fighters working within the Democratic Party to hold it accountable to the people, it is essential for movements to begin discussing how they will unite and organize to become a new kind of government. None of the movements can succeed separate from the others.

A movement prepares itself to govern

Many youths express deep despair,
but revolution is neither impossible
nor optional, nor is it far in the future.

by stating its goals as a platform. It organizes on that platform to use the electoral system, combined with street heat, door-to-door community listening and organizing, and community councils to achieve political power. That is to say, it forms a political party whose goals and strategy are its platform.

To make this possible, it must first enter the stream of conversation among serious people. A process this complex, against an intransigent opponent, requires strategic consideration and study.

Taking over the property of a class and declaring it to be neither private, nor property, is the process of political revolution.

To many, this is simply impossible or at least far in the future. It will be argued that the project is utopian, that there is no workable alternative to capitalism, that such a project is too huge, that human nature makes it impossible.

None of these is true. If we believe them to be true, it’s because billions of dollars and centuries of psychological warfare have been expended to make sure we believe there’s no way out. Both capitalism and private property had beginnings, both have an end. The all-encompassing nature of today’s crisis shows we are at that end. Capitalism is violent. Deprivation is violence. We need change.

Many youths express deep despair, but revolution is neither impossible nor optional, nor is it far in the future.

ON WHAT BASIS DO WE SAY WE ARE IN A REVOLUTION?

Revolution is far more than the act of taking political power. A revolutionary process begins when the technology for producing the necessities of life changes so much that it conflicts with the social structure of distributing those necessities and it destroys the social fabric.

That is precisely what we are experiencing today. The introduction of the microchip into industry in the early 1970s began a technological revolution that undercut the foundations not only of capitalism, but of private property itself.

Capitalism’s structural foundation lies in buying human labor power as a commodity, paying workers enough to purchase at least some of the goods they make and come back to work to generate more profit for the company.

A level of technology that can replace humans throughout the production cycle renders such an economy obsolete, and constantly drives down real wages (i.e., the value and price of labor). This is why we have people with full-time jobs who are homeless in the midst of empty housing.

We are in a revolutionary process. Stages of that process – technological, economic, and the social destruction and people’s response to it, which together make up social revolution – are what we have been experiencing since the mid-1970s. Political revolution – the rise of new forces and parties, the struggle for power to achieve new aims – is at our door.

None of our struggles have been wasted. Every step has clarified our tasks and what we face. Every step brings us closer to the ultimate battle to end private property and proceed with our climate tasks cooperatively, creating a society that is fundamentally inclusive of all species.

The Republican Party of Abolition gained power in six years from their founding in 1854, and they only had the telegraph. Today, we have astounding communications technology. With a climate catastrophe deadline only eight years away, we are on a short, and therefore accelerated schedule. **RC**

None of our struggles
have been wasted.

Join the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

The goal of all revolutionaries’ work today is to give the American people a vision of what is possible. It is a vision of a world where no one has to fight another for the daily bread of existence. It is a vision where cooperation and fulfilling the needs of humanity are the guiding principles. It is a vision that

satisfies the deepest yearnings of the people for peace.

Society can now create the abundance the new technology promises, and so a new world: a cooperative society, with this abundance distributed according to need. In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be

accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization. Join us!

For more information or a free information packet, email LRNA at info@lrna.org, or call 773-486-0028, or write LRNA, P.O. Box 477113, Chicago, IL 60647.

“Sign up and stay informed” at rallycomrades.org/contact-us

We celebrate the life of Al Gladysck

Rally, Comrades!, the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, and the League's Healthcare committee (where he focused most of his recent work) join with family, friends, and comrades in celebration of the amazing, full, and generous life and contribution of the one-of-kind Al G, comrade Al Gladysck, who died on March 17, 2022.

We are more than inspired by the lasting contributions that Al made to the movement for Healthcare for All. Al's persistent, kind, and rough-and-tumble proletarian energy always put front and center the interests of the working class in free, universal, and comprehensive healthcare. His clarity was deeply grounded in both theory and practice.

Al had a solid understanding of the ways capitalism robs the working class of its health. He fought health and safety battles as a shop steward in the Detroit auto plants. He applied his profound knowledge of all three volumes of *Capital* to building class con-

He never wavered in his militancy
– spread with a smile –
about the necessity for
“Everybody In and Nobody Out!”

sciousness in every day-to-day practical interaction he had, from the factory floors of his youth to, later, the streets of Detroit, unjustly populated by homeless workers. He understood the profound insecurity that a corporate system of healthcare leaves in its wake.

Al's work in Retirees for Single Payer wasn't an academic exercise. It came out of the direct experience of retired autowork-

ers constantly threatened by cuts and rising costs to their health coverage. He never wavered in his militancy – spread with a smile – about the necessity for “Everybody In and Nobody Out!” Al contributed to the political development of the League and all who he touched. His work on *Rally* articles like, “Social Insurance Must Serve All the People” and “Healthcare – It's All of Us or None of Us” crushed the ruling class narrative that our

people are forever divided between the “deserving” and “undeserving.” He was relentless in challenging gutless and compromised Democratic Party officials and “business-as-usual” unionists. Pulling together with others in Retirees for Single Payer, Al had a huge impact on organizations like Healthcare-NOW! and others by sticking to a no-compromise path for improved and expanded Medicare for all! He never came to a meeting without a bundle of *People's Tribunes* and subscriptions for *Rally, Comrades!* In fact, Al sold more subscriptions to *Rally, Comrades!* than anyone.

Al embodied the courage to face an industrial era in collapse and make the leap forward to a vision of the future we must create. His weekly online *Single Payer Healthcare Newsletter* served as a bridge from “what was” to what must be for all in the movement for healthcare justice. Al G! Resolute and irreplaceable! **iPresente! Rest in Power! RC**

Seeing Through Ruling Class Interests

Continued from page 2

the ruling class narrative that our people are forever divided between the “deserving” and “undeserving.” He was relentless in challenging gutless and compromised Democratic Party officials and “business-as-usual” unionists. Pulling together with others in Retirees for Single Payer, Al had a huge impact on organizations like Healthcare-NOW! and others by sticking to a no-compromise path for improved and expanded Medicare for all.

Finally, “Juneteenth – The Southern Question Today” gets at a new kind of strategy for the millions who are cast out of the current system. If the strategy of the ruling class is to divide the working class, then the strategy of the Southern worker and the new working class across the country can only be class unity around a common program. If the strategy of the ruling class is to tie the workers to the elite in one version or another of all-class unity, then the strategy of the new working class can only be class independence. It must put forward its own independent program and fight forward to reorganize society in its own interests and in the interests of all the displaced workers of the world. **RC**

Reproductive Justice in the Age of Fascist Advance

Continued from page 3

A HUNDRED YEARS OF RULING CLASS DOMINATION

Margaret Sanger's advocacy of legal birth control and abortion, which launched the modern movement, has been dominated and shaped by the ruling class agenda of race/class-based population control. It embraced the quest for racial purity, approved of forced sterilization, and lobbied for eugenics, advocating pseudo-scientific “selective breeding” – a fascist program later adopted by Nazi Germany. Vicious race-based immigration restrictions were part of population control policy.

This campaign continues today, targeting migrants, the “unfit,” or families that seem to either be too big (in poor communities and poor countries) or too small (among the wealthy). As a staple of imperialist political control worldwide, it is seen as an alternative solution to the social pressure for emancipation and revolution. In May 2009, a group of billionaires, including Microsoft founder Bill Gates, media mogul Ted Turner, George Soros and Warren Buffet – as well as David Rockefeller Jr. – met (again) to plan initiatives for population control across the post-colonial world.

The more-or-less hidden agenda of race/

class-based population control, by isolating the issue of abortion, has marginalized its importance even though it is an essential part of women's health and gender equality.

The movement for reproductive freedom cannot tap into the public support that exists for legalizing abortion because it has been separated from the broader fight for health care as well as social and economic justice. This separation has thrust the movement toward the courts for protection.

THE RISE OF THE MOVEMENT FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

In the 1990's a pioneering collective of women of color, SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective, based in Atlanta – along with other feminist organizations, including Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice and California's Women's Health Services – broke through the ruling class formulation of abortion access as a matter of “choice” and advanced the demand for “reproductive justice.” Reproductive Justice is embedded in the struggle for basic needs and confronts white supremacy as a tool of control and exploitation. It makes this demand not only for women of color but for all working class women.

The struggle of women and the LGBTQIA community is a revolutionary fight for a new kind of society where wealth is shared on the basis of need and the goal of governance is equality, security, peace, and planetary health rather than private profit. This is a big agenda, of course, but the movements now building are heading in that direction. Whether or not it is openly articulated, many fighters in these movements understand that the people are being impoverished, and, for the society as a whole to move forward, private corporate power and private corporate property must be abolished and the vast wealth of society must be shared.

THE PATH AHEAD

As Dr. William Barber of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival said recently on Democracy Now, the movement should never have allowed the separation of voting rights from economic justice: “That was a fundamental mistake, I believe, on many activists' part and on many Democrats' part, to separate these out. We should have started saying we demand infrastructure of our democracy, which is voting, and infrastructure of investment in the lives of poor and low-wealth people.”

New candidates are now entering the electoral arena and supporters are turning to the power of the vote as a crucial tool for accomplishing movement objectives and challenging the corporate wing of the Democratic party. In the event *Roe v. Wade* is further undercut, the struggle will only intensify. Women can be fierce in their resistance to gender oppression. The demand for reproductive justice is on the political agenda of the rising movement for revolutionary renewal. **RC**

Join the Discussion!

Rally, Comrades! articles offer revolutionaries a fresh perspective! They offer analysis and vision, and outline a strategy to achieve that vision. Share them with your friends and other revolutionaries, get together and talk about the ideas. Spread the vision of a new world and the possibility of achieving it. Join us!