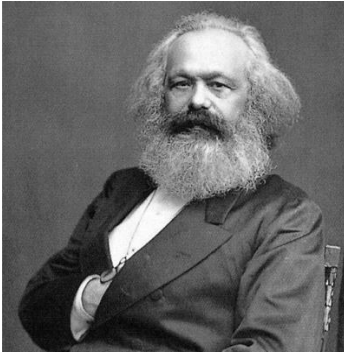


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



A Journal of Discussion and Debate



Vol. 1, No. 4
December, 2019

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To see the reasoning for publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’ in the first issue on the web-site below. Please note that this issue also contains factual material from various news sources. Also note that, though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we have included a couple of progressive articles from Trotskyist groups.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU is scheduled for mid-February so material should be sent in by late January.

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Even though the strike of GM workers ended in late October, it was one of the largest and longest in the U.S. in years. This is why we include an article with good coverage of the strike, as well as a summary by UAW leaders of the gains won. One should note that these leaders always put the results in the best possible light, so they should be taken with a grain of skepticism.

<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2019/09/19/fighting-for-future-generations-auto-workers-strike-against-gm/>

September 19, 2019, Greg Butterfield

‘Fighting for future generations’: Auto workers strike against GM



Sept. 18 — Almost 50,000 members of the United Auto Workers union walked out against General Motors on Sept. 16, shutting down 55 factories and parts plants across the U.S. It's the largest strike in the country since a two-day walkout against GM by the UAW in 2007.

GM was bailed out by the federal government with \$11 billion in taxpayers' (that is, workers') money in 2009. Since then, the company's profits have rocketed — GM made \$8.1 billion in 2018 — but union workers, who were forced to make concessions in previous contracts, have not seen any benefit as a result.

Instead, the company's unionized workforce has fallen from 73,000 at the time of the 2007 strike to less than 50,000 today. Meanwhile, the auto giant relies increasingly on "second tier" temporary workers, who earn less and have fewer benefits than full time union mem-

bers. Some of these "temp" workers have been employed up to six years in the same position.

Last year, GM CEO Mary Barra announced that the company was cutting an additional 15,000 jobs and closing five factories as it moves more work abroad. In contract negotiations, the company is also trying to force union members to take on more health care costs.

The strike, now in its third day, comes amidst a growing tide of worker fightback. Led by teachers and hotel workers, the number of strikes of more than 1,000 workers rose in 2018 to the highest level since the 1980s. Messages of solidarity and unity have poured in from unions representing GM and other auto workers around the world, from Brazil to Germany to Mexico.

Despite the decline in UAW membership, auto remains a strategic area of the U.S. capitalist economy, and

this huge strike by tens of thousands of organized workers has the potential to take back some of the billions in corporate profits and inspire other workers — both organized and unorganized — to take action.

Contract talks are continuing in Detroit, where both the union and GM are headquartered. At issue are wages, profit sharing, pensions and “worker flexibility” — the company’s demand that workers allow themselves to be subject to dramatic shift changes and schedules, and even abruptly moved to different cities.

But the standout issues are ending the influx of temps by turning those positions into jobs with full wages, benefits and job security, and ending the company’s assault on union members’ health coverage.

The same issues affect workers at Ford and Fiat Chrysler. GM’s contract usually sets the standard for the other automakers.

“I work right across from a temporary employee who’s been there for two and a half years,” said striker Chaz Akers on the picket line outside the GM engine plant in Flint, Mich. “I install the passenger side headlight. He installs the driver side headlight. I make more money than he does. I have better health insurance than he does.

“It ain’t fair. It ain’t right,” said Akers. “If you’re going to pay people to do a job, pay them all the same.”

“GM works the crap out of temp workers and then throws them away,” said striker Harrison Bowyer. “I’m fighting for jobs for future generations.”

In Toledo, Ohio, striker Paul Kane described how the workers gave up pay raises and made other concessions too when GM went bankrupt a decade ago. “Now it’s their turn to pay us back. That was the promise they gave.”

While the company is losing between \$50 million and \$100 million a day during the strike, its bosses have deeper pockets than the union. The company is reported

to have a 77-day reserve of vehicles and parts. Strikers will receive just \$250 a week in strike benefits beginning after two weeks on the picket line.

Even worse, GM announced Sept. 17 that it had cut off health insurance for the strikers effective immediately, forcing the union to pick up the tab for continued coverage. It had been previously agreed that the company would continue health coverage through the end of September in the event of a strike.

“It’s unfortunate that General Motors is using current health care benefits as a way to leverage unfair concessions,” UAW spokesperson Jason Kaplan said.

Decades of high-tech capitalist restructuring and the anti-labor offensive that began with Ronald Reagan’s busting of the air controllers’ strike in the 1980s have made auto workers’ jobs and livelihoods increasingly vulnerable. The increasing use of lower-paid temp workers with no job security is an issue that affects workers across the board.

It would enormously strengthen the auto workers’ struggle if the union reached out in solidarity to these workers and their communities, including the migrant and refugee workers who are under fierce attack by the Trump regime. In return, these workers and communities could help provide the solidarity and resources to help auto workers weather a prolonged strike.

“Ultimately, we’re just trying to get back what we’ve lost during the last couple of concessionary contracts,” said Celso Duque, a young worker at the Detroit-Hamtramck plant. “We’re trying to secure our future for the younger generations, trying to make sure our retirees still have benefits and that I’m able to retire once I get to that age.”

The writer is a member of the National Association of Legal Service Workers, Local 2320 of the UAW.

https://uaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/56100-UAW_hourly-1.pdf

Contract Summary: Hourly Workers October 2019 Highlights

- Beginning Jan. 6, 2020, the contract gives full-time temporary workers a shortened path to permanent status, and beginning Jan. 1, 2021 provides a path for part-time temporary employees to convert to regular status. Contract also provides for improved paid and unpaid time off for temporary workers.
- Health Care: There will be no change to the health care plan and no additional costs to members.
- Ratification Bonus: The contract establishes an \$11,000 ratification bonus for seniority employees, and a \$4,500 ratification bonus for temporary employees.
- Profit Sharing: The \$12,000 cap on profit sharing payouts has been eliminated. All profits the company earns in North America will generate payments to members, based on the current \$1,000 per \$1 billion formula, with no limits.
- Members currently accruing service in the defined benefit pension plan will receive a one-time company contribution of \$1,000 to the Personal Savings Plan.
- Progression: Within four years or less, (By 9/4/2023) all permanent manufacturing employees working as of the effective date will be at \$32.32.

- Wage increases: The contract provides for 3% GWIs in the second and fourth years and 4% lump sums in the first and third years for eligible permanent manufacturing employees. Eligible GMCH and CCA employees also receive 3% GWIs.
- Skilled Trades: \$1,000 tooling allowance in 2019 and 2021.
- Legal Services Plan benefits maintained and extended to spouses of UAW active and retired members as well as Delphi retirees.

- Vacation Enhanced.
 - \$60,000 bonus for up to 2,000 eligible production and 60 eligible skilled employees who retire between Dec. 31, 2019 and Feb. 28, 2020, as determined under the normal and early retirement provisions of the national agreement.
- <https://uaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Updated-Highlights-PDF-for-Salaried-Workers-1.pdf>

Contract Summary Salaried Workers Highlights

- Education/Development Bonus - \$11,000.
- 66 Holidays over 4 Years.
- Company commitment to allocate team GM Funds across all bargaining units within each function.

- Continued Outsourcing restrictions and full utilization language.
- Plan for Improvement which replaces PIP's will have a defined start and end date.

https://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/11/08/nation-says-it-cant-afford-medicare-all-has-spent-56-trillion-war-911?fbclid=IwAR01a-KxyUsyCMildokR9qn6MnGtP704VO-bpga7RZc2yEqVPIN_9e-6kEk

Published on Wednesday, November 08, 2017, by Common Dreams

Nation That Says It Can't Afford Medicare for All Has Spent \$5.6 Trillion on War Since 9/11

Because, as new study notes, wars force the question: "What we might have done differently with the money spent?"

by Andrea Germanos, staff writer

"From the civilians harmed and displaced by violence, to the soldiers killed and wounded, to the children who play years later on roads and fields sown with improvised explosive devices and cluster bombs, no set of numbers can convey the human toll of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, or how they have spilled into the neighboring states of Syria and Pakistan, and come home to the U.S. and its allies in the form of wounded veterans and contractors," the new report states. (Photo: Lynn Friedman/flickr/cc)

A new analysis offers a damning assessment of the United States' so-called global war on terror, and it includes a "staggering" estimated price tag for wars waged since 9/11—over \$5.6 trillion.

The Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Center says the figure—which covers the conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan from 2001 through 2018—is the equivalent of more than \$23,386 per taxpayer.



The "new report," said Paul Kawika Martin, Peace Action's senior director for policy and political affairs, "once again shows that the true #costofwar represents a colossal burden to taxpayers on top of the tremendous human loss."

Posted on February 5, 2019 by New Orleans Workers Group

By *Malcolm Suber*

Black Workers Must Take the Lead in the Black Liberation Movement



Revolutionary war is fought at the Battle of Ravine-à-Couleuvres, Haiti, 1802.

Haitians declared victory on January 1, 1804

2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the introduction of captured Africans as exploited laborers on present day US soil. For the Black masses it has meant 400 years of vicious white supremacist rule. 400 years of oppression and discrimination. 400 years of exploitation as unpaid and under-paid labor. 400 years of last hired and first fired. 400 years of rape, lynching and police murder. 400 years of denial of the right to self-determination.

Those captured Africans of 1619 on the slave-ship *Jesus* were sold into indentured service in the Jamestown colony in Virginia. The white ruling class farm owners soon saw an advantage in making the 7-year indenture for the Africans a permanent feature of their capture. The captured Africans were of a different culture and skin color of the European settlers and could be easily isolated. That transition of the captured Africans from indentured servant to chattel slavery almost permanently stained the relationship between Black and white workers.

The large landowners had to create a justification for holding other human beings into permanent chattel slavery. Their ideological champions invented the anti-human concept of white supremacy. The basic proposition was that the Africans and other non-Europeans were a sub-species of the human tree and that Europeans had a God-given right to civilize and make the “inferior” African into a useful being. White supremacy thus became the great divide that allowed for the importation of mil-

lions of captured Africans into the new world and the genocide of the indigenous nations who lived in the Americas.



Freedom fighter Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) is depicted in an artwork “Harriet” by Elizabeth Catlett, 1975.

Oppression breeds resistance

Those captured Africans, of course, were not robots. They understood both freedom and captivity. Those most conscious fought to the death on the African continent, during the middle passage, and upon arrival in the Americas to regain their freedom and reassert their humanity.

The Africans escaped their masters and created maroon colonies. On the plantations and in the mountains and swamps surrounding the plantations they also organized slave revolts, the most successful of which was the revolution in Haiti in 1791.



Black Union Soldiers at Port Hudson, Louisiana, 1863.

The civil war

Throughout the decades of enslavement brave fighters came forward to combat the slave masters and fight to end chattel slavery. Gabriel Prosser, Charles Deslondes, Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner organized major slave revolts. Hundreds of others built settlements in the swamps and dared the slave catchers to come for them.

When the Civil War broke out, nearly 200,000 Black men took up arms in the Union Army to fight to end chattel slavery. These soldiers were primarily field hands who had been biting at the bit to strike a blow for freedom.

During Reconstruction, Black former slaves, many of them field hands, became representatives of their people on all levels of government from US Senators to local government, championing radical reconstruction, equal rights and the upliftment of the freed people as they transitioned from chattel to wage workers.

The attempts of the freed people to implement their democratic changes were overthrown in 1876 when the Hayes-Tilden compromise allowed the plantation owners to return to political power. The Black laboring people were driven back into virtual slavery through newly created peonage laws and the development of the sharecropping system. Democracy was replaced with the Jim Crow system of racial apartheid that existed in the southern states until the modern civil rights movement.

The possibility that democracy could be established in the Confederate states was defeated when the rapidly developing capitalist regime in the north decided to

abandon the battle to establish and defend democratic rights of the freed people. The Black nation in the Black Belt South, instead of developing along bourgeois lines with the right to develop its national economy, became an oppressed nation subject to state oppression meted out by the former plantation owners who now held state power all over the south.

The struggle against Jim Crow segregation and the reign of terror unleashed to roll back all the gains of Reconstruction consumed the efforts of the Black struggle for freedom. The Black bourgeois and petty-bourgeois leaders struggled over the best approach to win equal rights for the Black masses. Two contending trends developed. One view of accommodation to the apartheid conditions was advanced by Booker T. Washington, who argued that Black people should develop a strong economy and the white ruling class would eventually extend equal rights to the Black masses. The other view, represented by W.E.B. DuBois, was that Blacks should never abandon the fight for equal rights and should press the federal government to guarantee equal treatment for Blacks. Both views advanced the notion that the Black bourgeois class should lead the Black liberation struggle.

The Black proletariat strengthens

World War I caused the biggest internal shift and fissure in the Black liberation movement. Thousands of black soldiers were exposed to the war propaganda about fighting for freedom and democracy. This caused them to look at the conditions of the Black masses as a whole and to embrace radical trends developing in the world,



Black women workers at El Segundo Aircraft Plant in Long Beach, CA during World War II

especially the earth-shattering victory of the Russian Revolution. Additionally, many Blacks began the great migration to the north and west to take advantage of work in the factories. The Black working class began to see itself as exploited proletarians and part of the world struggle against capitalism. The first Black communist cadre were developed around the African Blood Brotherhood under the leadership of Cyril Briggs. The ABB called for the right to self-determination for the oppressed Black nation and the leadership of the Black working class.

World War II reinforced trends begun during WWI. During WWII there was a need for labor in the factories producing war materials. Black workers were needed in the factories. Millions abandoned the plantations of the South and landed in cities across the country. More Black soldiers fought overseas and came back ready to fight for full and equal citizenship rights. That period saw the growth of the Communist Party USA and the enrollment of thousands of Black workers. There began an effort to organize Black share croppers in the South. The CPUSA also gained wide support by their building support for the Scottsboro Boys, who had been falsely accused of rape. There was an open fight between the CPUSA, which championed the leadership of the Black workers, versus the NAACP forces, who championed the leadership of the Black bourgeois class.

The white supremacist capitalist ruling class promoted the leadership of the Black bourgeois and church leaders. The rulers would rather see a comprador class willing to accept capitalist society rather than a mass base for socialist revolution among Black workers.

By the early 1950s, the Black masses had rallied to the cause of ending racist discrimination and fighting for equal rights. The murder of Emmett Till; the victory against segregation in the Brown decision; and the Montgomery Bus Boycott served as catalysts for the Black liberation movement. This coupled with the awakening of the anti-colonial struggles of people of color worldwide. By 1960 Black student leaders came to the fore with militant actions to force an end to discrimination. Much of the leadership in this phase were church leaders and college students. The Black working class had yet to develop its own voice.

By 1963 a more impatient mood had developed among the Black masses. Dr. King and the other civil rights leaders developed the March on Washington demanding equal rights and an end to discrimination. In the inner city ghettos, the voice and program of the Black nationalist and Black Muslim leader Malcolm X began to challenge the integrationist, non-violent civil rights leadership. Black rebellions broke out in city after city from 1963 -1970. The Black Panther Party exploded onto the scene, calling for revolution, and held the loyalty



Election Night, Lowndes County, AL, 1966

of the militant Black youth. The BPP became the target of US government suppression which led to the destruction of the BPP as a revolutionary force by 1970.

Black workers lead

This period also saw the awakening of the Black workers as a distinct voice for Black workers with an anti-capitalist program. In Detroit and rapidly in factories all over the USA, Black workers launched Black caucuses and revolutionary union movement which challenged the capitalist factory owners and the racist union leadership. Hundreds of wildcat strikes were staged. The most conscious elements began studying Marxism and embraced the anti-revisionist communist movement. This movement held that the CPUSA had abandoned the revolutionary road and it was time to build a new communist party under revolutionary leadership. The slogan became "Black workers take the lead". This spoke to the conclusion that only the Black working class had the interest of completely ending national oppression by the overthrow of capitalism.

This Black working class challenge to Black capitalist leadership came in a period where the US state declared war on the revolutionary movement by jailing some of its best fighters and by introducing crack cocaine in the inner city. The ruling class promoted the leadership of Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton and Black Democratic Party elected officials.

400 years of struggle has shown that the complete liberation of the Black masses will only come about with the destruction of the racist capitalist state. The only class capable of promoting and working for this program is the Black working class. This will happen only if the class-conscious Black worker and communist organizations make organizing and developing the class struggle of Black workers the center of our revolutionary work.



The Chrysler wildcat strike begins in Detroit, MI, 1968 led by the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) an organization of Black revolutionary workers.

Brief comment:

Malcolm Suber's article provides an excellent position of the role of the Black workers in the Black Liberation Movement (BLM). However, it is not clear from the article how the author sees the relation between the BLM and the multinational workers' movement, or for that matter with other national liberation movements in the U.S.

George Gruenthal

<http://www.bleausa.org/us-taxpayers-spent-almost-1-billion-incarcerating-innocent-black-people/?fbclid=IwAR1mvQzQ4UGl2z3wOcb82Xl-Oi2I5SOBx27mVMVrW4eT5Ha3xUi8PoIMEu4>

November 28, 2019, by Blacks in Law Enforcement of America

US taxpayers spent almost \$1 billion incarcerating innocent black people

Over the last few weeks, the Rodney Reed case has ignited a firestorm of interest, as celebrities, activists, and politicians worked to delay his Nov. 20 execution on the basis that he might be innocent. After facing mounting pressure, a Texas appeals court granted Reed a stay of execution, allowing him to fight allegations that he committed murder more than two decades ago. If he succeeds, Reed would be another of the thousands of black men the United States has paid hundreds of millions to incarcerate. According to the National Registry of Exonerations (NRE), since 1989, 2,515 men and women have been exonerated after proving their innocence.

In total, among all known exonerees, Americans have shelled out a staggering \$4.12 billion to incarcerate innocent men and women since 1989, according to a Yahoo Finance analysis. That's largely money spent on trials, and the cost of housing inmates in prison. According to the Bureau of Prisons, in the fiscal year 2017, the average cost to house a prisoner was over \$36,000 a year in federal facilities.

But black men make up the majority of those wrongfully convicted – approximately 49%. And since 1989,

taxpayers have wasted \$944 million to incarcerate black men and women that were later found to be innocent. That number climbs to \$1.2 billion when including Hispanic men and women.



<https://worldnewstrust.com/who-s-trying-to-silence-cindy-sheehan-mickey-z>

Mickey Z. -- World News Trust, Oct. 2, 2015

Photo credit: Mickey Z.

Who's Trying to Silence Cindy Sheehan?



Activism often makes for strange bedfellows. The arduous work of coalition-building involves strategic compromises and trade-offs. Most importantly, solidarity necessitates an agreement to disagree... with minimal malice.

Being an ally, accomplice, or fellow traveler requires a fundamental understanding that disagreement is not the same as oppression or violence. If a particular activist contingent will tolerate nothing less than marching in lockstep, well, that's not solidarity or ally-ship. It's thought policing.

Which brings me to a situation involving my friend and comrade, Cindy Sheehan – someone who has connected with an astonishing array of dissident individuals and groups.

"I have worked with groups from the spectrum of revolutionary communists to 'free-market' capitalist libertarians," explains Cindy. "There are some groups I have worked with that I only affiliate with on very narrow parameters because they have proven to be there more to support Democrats than oppose U.S. imperial-

ism. We anti-imperialists are fewer in number, so it's weird that the 'far-right' and 'far-left' are meeting better on what I consider to be bedrock issues than with other groups I have worked with."

I last interviewed Cindy in 2010 and was planning to do so again soon. When I recently learned she was being targeted by a new disinformation campaign, I knew the time was right.

Our conversation went a little something like this...

Mickey Z.: *Lots of people only know you as "anti-war" and me as "vegan" but we each do activist work far beyond any one category. Recently, I noticed we've both begun to focus on male supremacy and "male pattern violence" as the core – the foundation, if you will – of all oppressions. Would you agree with that appraisal?*

Cindy Sheehan: I think this male pattern violence is the root of both of our foci. It is true that there are some women who are in high positions of "power" in this patriarchal paradigm, but it seems that most of the time, they are worse warmongers than the males because they feel like they have to prove that they can murder without

conscience, also. Male supremacy is also the least recognized or talked about because almost every single institution is dominated by this male energy and the females who support it.

MZ: *I find it amazing and so damn frustrating to realize that so much of my writing, public speaking, street activism, photography, etc. has not focused on this root. You might even say that by missing the foundation, I helped support it. Even so, it's liberating and motivating to finally recognize the deepest connections and re-focus my energies.*

CS: Not too long after I left Camp Casey in August of 2005, I was speaking somewhere about matriarchy and patriarchy and I was confronted by the (then) president of Veterans for Peace (VFP) who told me that I shouldn't be speaking about this issue because it will "marginalize" me and piss off half of the movement. What is amazing that so-called aware and awake activists are still stuck in this mindset in the 21st century. We should not still be wandering in the wilderness at his point or having to defend ourselves against sexist attacks for speaking up for the safety of women and girls.

MZ: *Which brings us to the topic at hand. Can you explain what recently happened with VFP and how it's impacted you?*

CS: It started when this letter by the Women's Alliance was brought to my attention. In it, the authors declare: "Veterans for Peace is aligning itself with a belief system that says that we, as women, are the bigots. VFP is rising up against 'transmisogyny' (a term not defined in your statement), but ignores male on female hate speech and violence completely bypassing the matter of misogyny."

It was based on a new statement by Veterans for Peace on transgender politics in which VFP "affirms the rights, humanity and identity of trans and gender diverse people and will not accept trans-phobic or transmisogyny behavior or remarks."

I made a comment supporting the writers of the Women's Alliance letter, and immediately began to be attacked for my mild support. So, I had the authors of the letter on Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox and got the most hits for any show I have done recently. To be fair, most of the response has been positive and grateful for the show.

MZ: *Have other women reached out to you?*

Yes, for example, I was asked to sign a letter of midwives to the licensing org which has changed all of its materials at the bullying of the trans community to exclude the words: breastfeeding, mother, and woman.

Breastfeeding has to now be called "chestfeeding" because the other term that's been around for centuries offends women transitioning to male who have had mastectomies yet get pregnant. Women, woman, or

pregnant must now be called: Pregnant partner and birthing individual.

Incredibly misogynistic to deny women the very thing that our biology makes us uniquely suited for.

MZ: *I'll assume your stance has inspired more than a few personal attacks in response.*

CS: Once I supported Lisa Blank, Cheryl Biren, and Anita Stewart in their quest to get answers from Veterans for Peace as to their transgender-related rules and to define some terms it used, I was immediately attacked.

I have been told many times that I am "on the wrong side" of this issue, that I am "transphobic," that I am a "TERF," that my support for my three friends means that I have made the entire "antiwar movement" irrelevant and anything I did for Private Manning is also irrelevant because I deny Private Manning her "womanhood."

I have also been told that Caitlyn Jenner is more of a woman than I am. The trans-bullies (as I call them) obviously only support the "ideal" of a woman in this culture and can't even wrap their minds around being gender abolitionists nor around male supremacy and why that prevailing paradigm is so dangerous.

MZ: *In other aspects of social justice activism, comrades can agree to disagree but in this case, you are being smeared and ex-communicated for owning a differing opinion. But, to state what should be obvious, let's be clear: It's quite possible, of course, to support transgender issues while not agreeing with every aspect of trans politics/queer theory.*

CS: I fully support each and every individual's right to be whomever they want to be. To be with whomever they want to be with. As long as there is no exploitation or anyone else is being harmed.

MZ: *You've said, "The one thing gender politics refuses to acknowledge or analyze is class." Can you elaborate on this?*

CS: How many poor women can afford the surgeries and hormones? Just like back alley abortions, it is a class issue. Then again, women have always been second class citizens, and here in 2015, that is still true. Women still are paid less than men in the workplace and women are still not equal under the law. For example, the Equality Act of 2015 is being rushed through Congress, a bill which would give transgender women equality under the law before biological women get it.

For a long time, female members of VFP have been pushing for a statement about women and women veterans, and the answer is that it is not necessary, but within three weeks of bullying, VFP had a zero-tolerance for "transmisogyny" up on its website.

VFP (seems I am picking on them) recently instituted a program: "Peace at home, peace abroad" which is

great and addresses police brutality and other issues, but leaves out the most prevalent one (especially among veterans) and that is domestic violence.

It seems to be still socially acceptable to tell demeaning jokes about women, because, unfortunately, some women still laugh and tell others to "lighten up." It's sad, that in the 21st century, women still have to struggle to break free of our second class status.

MZ: *How do you believe we can join together to fight for social justice, educate about the upcoming elections, work to save the environment, struggle against militarism, and expose patriarchy while under threat of silencing and thought policing?*

CS: I don't know if I have shared this with you, but everyone I have come into contact with lately (those doing real, revolutionary grass-roots work) are all having the experience of being bullied by transgender activists. From struggles in small southern towns to Black Lives Matter movements around the country, transgender bullies are moving in with their "our way or the highway" approach.

To bully people who would stand with them in their right to safety and to be whomever they want to be and to tear apart movements for their own narrow identity politics ends in counter-revolutionary.

I would just say "ignore them" and move forward, but the minority is hell-bent on infringing upon the rights of the majority (biological women) using very abusive tactics. Like you said, with others most of the time we are able to put aside differences to work together on confronting fascism and I say we have to continue that strategy.

In fact, I heard from a young gay man that after he listened to the show I did on male supremacy, he has become a "gender abolitionist" when he was not before.

For a comparable position on the question of "gender fluidity" from the Communist Party of Great Britain Marxist-Leninist, see: <https://thecommunists.org/2019/03/23/news/the-reactionary-nightmare-of-gender-fluidity/>

We are having a good effect on people. One at a time, if necessary.

I would just encourage people to listen to the show: *Confronting Racism on the Left* at Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox.

MZ: *Bringing it back to where we started: where will your holistic brand of activism take you next? What's on the horizon for you in terms of focus, actions, talks, etc. and how can readers follow your work and/or get in touch?*

CS: I am still producing Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox on a weekly basis and published a book this year called: *The Obama Files: Chronicles of an Award-Winning War Criminal*.

Since March, though, I have been concentrating on helping my sister recover from and be cured of breast cancer (will the trans-bullies soon demand to start calling it "chest cancer"?). She has the rarest and most aggressive form of breast cancer which has metastasized. As aggressive as her cancer is, we are being more aggressive and recently learned the large tumor she had on her breast is completely gone!

With the next episode of bourgeois elections approaching, I see we will also have to be aggressive in exposing the empire and Capitalism every chance we get.

Thanks for the conversation, Mickey! As far as I know (as of late September), VFP and the Women's Alliance have not come to a meeting of minds over the transgender statement. I will keep you posted!

Mickey Z. is the author of 13 books, most recently *Occupy these Photos: NYC Activism Through a Radical Lens*.

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2019/07/05/george-washington-mural/> (excerpt)

San Francisco School to Cover Controversial George Washington Murals

The San Francisco Board of Education is going to cover up a controversial mural in George Washington High School that shows Washington as a slave owner and soldiers stepping over the body of a dead Native American.

The mural was painted by Victor Arnautoff, a Russian-born communist, under F.D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration. (One should note that in 1934, the Rockefeller family similarly destroyed a progressive mural, *Man, Controller of the Universe*, by the famous



Mexican painter, Diego Rivera, which had been commissioned for Rockefeller Center. In the U.S., truth, even in art, must be destroyed.)

"Impeach the System!"

By Marty Goodman

As the twin parties of the corporate elite battle it out on whether Trump's phone call to the Ukrainian president constituted an impeachable "high crime or misdemeanor" the real crimes, committed daily against the people and nations of the world and inherent in the capitalist system, are nowhere to be seen.

Millions upon millions everywhere want to see the racist, misogynist, war-making Trump impeached but are excluded from this media orchestrated circus conceived by the Democrats as a vote-winning pre-election device rather than a serious investigation into the system's functioning.

We ask, why aren't Trump's undeclared wars a violation of Congress's war making powers? The ongoing CIA backed regime change and deadly economic sanctions against Venezuela and its elected government have cost the lives of 40,000 Venezuelans! Is this not a high crime?

We ask, why isn't Trump's bloody CIA-backed coup against the people of Bolivia and its elected government a high crime?

Or why aren't the endless undeclared wars on Syria and Afghanistan, with unflagging bi-partisan support, a high crime? Likewise, why weren't impeachment proceedings begun against George W. Bush for his lies about Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" and the deadly war for oil that was continued by Barack Obama. One and a half million Iraqis died in this imperial venture!

Why aren't the billions spent in aid per year by succeeding Democratic and Republican administrations propping up the apartheid, garrison state of Israel, a violation of congressional human rights guidelines on U.S. foreign aid?

Why isn't the caging of immigrant workers and their children, a violation of international immigration laws signed by the U.S., an impeachable offence? Why wasn't Trump's racist ban on Muslim immigrants a high crime?

Answer: Because these aren't high crimes to the loyal representatives of capital sitting in the two major parties because these are crimes of war and racism that are inherent in the capitalist system itself.

Capitalism's bi-partisan wars

The selective memories of the self-righteous Democrats have seemingly forgotten Obama's crimes. Immigration rights advocates called Obama "The Deporter in Chief" for deporting more immigrants than G.W. Bush. No less criminal was the role of Obama's Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, who in 2009 backed a bloody CIA

coup against the elected government of Manuel Zelaya in Honduras. Clinton's role in Haiti was likewise criminal, as revealed by WikiLeaks, where she bullied the Haitian parliament into advancing the presidential bid of the gangster linked Michel Martelly. And, let's not forget the most catastrophic of all, the bi-partisan, capitalist war on climate which each day brings us another step closer to climate Armageddon!

Of course we support impeaching and jailing Trump for his crimes, but which Democrat or Republican has spent a day in jail for capitalism's endless wars – drone wars, sanction wars, death squad wars, privatized army wars, Special Operation wars and overt wars like those that destroyed the infrastructures and murdered tens and hundreds of thousands in Libya and Syria? The U.S. undeclared genocidal war on Vietnam killed 4 million Vietnamese!

These are the high crimes of capitalism and imperialism for which both parties are guilty as charged!

The Ukraine for real

Perhaps the most startling aspect of the Ukraine scandal is the silence of the Democrats and Republicans over Ukraine policy. We've heard career diplomats – read career imperialists – from the Bush, Obama and Trump years drone on about defending Ukraine with military aid in a hot war with Russia and the Russian-speaking regions in eastern Ukraine.

Not one corporate TV pundit dares question U.S. arming of the reactionary Ukrainian Army with \$400 million in military aid. The real Ukraine military expenditures of the U.S. are in the billions of dollars. Apparently, the only offense Trump made worth addressing, say the Democrats, was asking President Zelensky to do a political hit on Trump's election rival Joe Biden and his son, Hunter – as if using aid to promote corporate interests wasn't simply imperialism's way of doing business around the world!

Biden's privileged son, who it is said knows nothing about energy, sits on the board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma – at \$50,000 a month! – a company intent on exploiting Ukraine's shale gas reserves, the fourth largest in Europe... and to hell with the threat to life on earth by these fossil fuels! Geo-politically, Ukrainian shale gas is seen as a competitor to the extensive Russian gas exports to Europe.

The Ukraine-Russia war is being led by a corrupt government headed by Ukrainian President and former comedian, Volodymyr Zelensky, touted in the media as a

so-called corruption reformer. Zelensky, who was elected in May, appointed Andrey Bohdan to head his Presidential Administration, who is conveniently also a lawyer for billionaire media oligarch, Ihor Kolomoyskyi. Kolomoyskyi is a friend of the president and his former boss.

Obama installs pro-U.S. regime

For context, a pro-U.S. Ukrainian regime was installed in Feb. 2014 by the Obama administration, led by anti-Semitic, far-rightists and outright fascists from the Ukrainian Svoboda ("Freedom") Party, with ideological roots in the pro-Nazi movement in WWII and the extreme right "Right Sector" Party. The corrupt pre-coup government of Viktor Yanukovych traded largely with Russian capitalists and engendered large protests.

Make no mistake, the coup-makers were club wielding, armed fascists and NAZI sympathizers who received five of the ministers in the first cabinet. Obama's U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe, Victoria Nuland, bragged that the U.S. funded this so-called "democratic opposition" with \$5 billion over 10 years.

In 2014, the U.S.-installed government of Arseniy Yatsenyuk cut deals with the U.S. dominated International Monetary Fund and imposed anti-working class austerity policies on the impoverished majority of Ukrainians. The U.S. surrogate regime also sought membership in the imperialist European Union and in the greatly expanded U.S.-led NATO military alliance, which has aggressively tightened its grip around Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union. The postwar NATO alliance was devised by the U.S. to "contain communism," which no longer exists in Russia, but

NATO nevertheless continues as an arm of U.S. imperial designs.

Said Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report's Executive Editor, "The impeachment hearings are advertised as Ukraine-gate but they're just an extension of Russia-gate. They scream everlasting conflict with Russia and Syria and Iran and Venezuela and everyone who doesn't bow down to American exceptionalism." (Nov 26).

Some on the left have forgotten the lessons of the Nixon "Watergate" scandal and are mobilizing to impeach Trump. Most are trying to pave the way for the dead-end solution of a Democratic President. But, Richard Nixon, thoroughly discredited as a butcher in Vietnam, a liar and a thief, resigned rather than be impeached. The result? Vice president Gerald Ford took over and U.S. capitalism continued – albeit quite shaken – but quickly returned to business as usual, i.e., war, racism, exploitation, etc.

Today, V.P. Michael Pence is next in line if Trump goes, although Republicans will likely put up a stiff fight. Pence has described himself as a "principled conservative," a supporter of the Tea Party and "a Christian, a conservative, and a Republican, in that order." Would a post-Trump Pence presidency advance the struggle of working people against war, exploitation and racism? Not at all.

Socialist Action's Presidential candidate in 2020, Jeff Mackler, responded this way to the impeachment melodrama, "Perhaps we would be better off impeaching the whole lot of them, that is, removing all the Democrats and Republicans. But that would require organizing the American people for a socialist revolution. Not a bad idea!"

Lenin on Socialism in One Country

"I know that there are, of course, wiseacres with a high opinion of themselves and even calling themselves socialists, who assert that power should not have been taken until the revolution broke out in all countries. They do not realize that in saying this they are deserting the revolution and going over to the side of the bourgeoisie. To wait until the working classes carry out a revolution on an international scale means that everyone will remain suspended in mid-air. This is senseless. Everyone knows the difficulties of a revolution. It may begin with brilliant success in one country and then go through agonizing periods, since final victory is only possible on a world scale, and only by the joint efforts of the workers of all countries. Our task consists in being restrained and prudent, we must maneuver and retreat until we receive reinforcements. A change-over to these tactics is inevitable, no matter how much they are mocked by so-called revolutionaries with no idea of what revolution means."

From: "Report on Foreign Policy Delivered at a Joint Meeting of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee and the Moscow Soviet, May 14, 1918," in Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 27, pp. 372-373.

https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/11/05/evidence-pours-poverty-getting-much-worse-america?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR0RU4mlrzDJgB6F-KTdiFZKG57An2qUzLPVdVPP4q19TbivhnbJOjI-ao8

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The Evidence Pours In: Poverty Getting Much Worse in America

Poverty—and the stress of being poor—is killing people every single day
by Paul Buchheit



The extreme levels of American poverty and inequality are ripping apart once-interdependent communities with mental health and homelessness problems, and with a surge in drug and alcohol and suicide "deaths of despair." (Photo: kúptasity/flickr/cc)

A White House report recently proclaimed that the "War on Poverty is largely over and a success." United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley said it was "ridiculous for the United Nations to examine poverty in America."

Well-positioned Americans must talk like this, of course, because admitting the debilitating state of poverty in America might provoke feelings of guilt for 35 years of oppressive economic policies. Wealthier people need to take an honest look at the facts. They need to face reality as it sadly exists in America today.

1 in 7 Americans is Part of the World's Poorest 10%

According to the Credit Suisse 2018 Global Wealth Databook, 34 million American adults are among the **WORLD'S POOREST 10%**. How is that possible? In a word, debt. In more excruciating words: stifling, misery-

inducing, deadly amounts of debt for the poorest Americans. And it goes beyond dollars to the "deaths of despair" caused by the stresses of inferior health care coverage, stagnating incomes, and out-of-control inequality.

Numerous sources report on the rising debt for the poor half of America, especially for the lowest income group, and largely because of health care and education costs. Since 2008 consumer debt has risen almost 50 percent. The percentage of families with more debt than savings is higher now than at any time since 1962.

It could be argued that Scandinavian countries face the same degrees of debt as Americans. But far less of the debt is for health and education costs. And the Scandinavian safety net is renowned for its generous provisions for all citizens.

Half of Us are In or Near Poverty

\$1 in expenses twenty years ago is now \$1.25. \$1 in earnings twenty years ago is now still \$1.

More and more Americans are facing financial difficulty. Estimates of adults living from paycheck to paycheck range from half to 60 percent to 78 percent.

Any sign of a recession would be devastating for most of us.

It's estimated that a typical U.S. household needs about \$60,000 annually to meet all expenses. That's only manageable if two adults are working full-time for \$15 per hour. Beyond that, little cushion exists. No American adult in the bottom 40% has more than \$31,124 in total wealth, including house and car and savings (Table 3-4).

Booming Economy, Low Unemployment, and Other Deceptions

While 1 in 7 Americans is part of the world's poorest 10%, nearly 3 in 7 Americans are part of the world's richest 10%. The economy is booming for THEM. Yet the Wall Street Journal has the arrogance to claim that "Americans traditionally left behind...are reaping the benefits.."

How about the "jobs for everyone" fantasy? The official unemployment rate, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) itself, is based on employees "who did any work for pay or profit during the survey reference week." The BLS workforce includes contingent and alternative employment arrangements that make up about 10% of the workforce. It includes part-time workers (even one hour a week!), who make up about 16% of the workforce. And, inexplicably, it fails to count as unemployed those who have given up looking for work -- 4% more Americans than in the year 2000.

Many of today's 'gig' jobs don't pay a living wage, and most have no retirement or health benefits, no job security, no government regulations backing them, and usually a longer work day, with many people putting in 10- to 12-hour days for \$13 per hour or less. According to a New York Times report, "41.7 million laborers — nearly a third of the American work force — earn less than \$12 an hour, and almost none of their employers offer health insurance."

Safety Net Failures

While it's true that the U.S. spends a greater percentage of its GDP on social safety net programs than developing countries, Americans generally have to face much higher costs for housing, heating, transportation, child care, and other basic expenses.

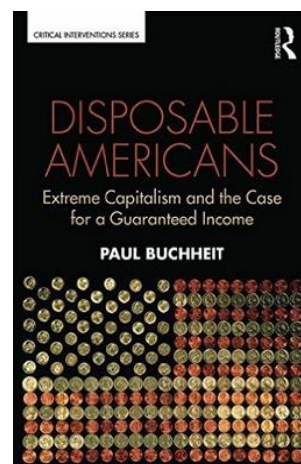
Beyond this, there are significant shortcomings in American social protections, as pointed out by the UN. These include the "shockingly high number of children living in poverty" and the "reliance on criminalization to conceal the underlying poverty problem." Furthermore, with the call for work requirements comes the realization that the job market for the poorest Americans is "extraordinarily limited."

Poverty: Not Just a Number

Poverty is living without health care, and choosing the life-threatening alternative of opioid painkillers. Poverty is the stress of overwhelming debt; the steady decline of jobs that pay enough to support a family; the inability to afford a move to a desired neighborhood; the deadening impact of inequality on physical and mental well-being. The United Nations describes America as a nation near the bottom of the developed world in safety net support and economic mobility, with its citizens living "shorter and sicker lives compared to those living in all other rich democracies," with the highest infant mortality rate in the developed world, the world's highest incarceration rate, and the highest obesity levels. Low-income Americans are often surrounded by food deserts, with insufficient access to clean water and sanitation, and with the pollution levels of third-world countries. The poorest among us are even susceptible -- unbelievably -- to rare tropical diseases and once-eradicated scourges like hookworm.

The extreme levels of American poverty and inequality are ripping apart once-interdependent communities with mental health and homelessness problems, and with a surge in drug and alcohol and suicide "deaths of despair."

Part of the definition of poverty is "the state of being inferior in quality." As one of the most unequal nations in the entire world, America is also, in many ways, one of the most poverty-stricken.



Paul Buchheit is an advocate for social and economic justice, and the author of numerous papers on economic inequality and cognitive science. He was recently named one of 300 Living Peace and Justice Leaders and Models. He is the author of "*Disposable Americans: Extreme Capitalism and the Case for a Guaranteed Income*" (2017). Contact email: paul (at) youdeservefacts.org.

Excerpts from the book, *This Land Is Their Land: A Revolutionary Working People's History of the U.S.*
In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike, the formation of the Communist International and the CPUSA

By George Gruenthal

The Bolshevik Revolution, Its Influence on the U.S., and the formation of the CPUSA

The Bolshevik Revolution had a tremendous effect on the workers' movement all over the world, including the U.S. In February of 1919, a strike of 32,000 shipyard workers broke out in Seattle, Washington. It was supported by other workers in the city, and soon became a city-wide general strike. A central strike committee decided which services were allowed to function (such as those delivering milk to children and those providing emergency services in hospitals) and which were not (almost everything else). The strike committee ran the city for six days. It was modeled, both consciously and unconsciously, on the Russian workers' councils. Although the strike was defeated when some of the more conservative unions pulled out, it provided workers with a great lesson, not just of their power to withhold their labor, but of their power to run society.

For over a decade after World War I, the mass production industries were basically unorganized. There were at best a few craft unions, but these ignored the mass of industrial workers. The American Federation of Labor had about 4 million members in 1920, falling to 3 million in 1925. William Z. Foster had been a member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) before World War I, and he had been involved in the fight to unionize the packinghouse workers during the war. He began to organize the hundreds of thousands of steel workers. In September of 1919, 350,000 of them went on strike. On October 31, when the coal workers' contract expired, 500,000 miners joined the steel workers on strike. President Wilson and Attorney General Palmer declared this strike unlawful, and John L. Lewis, the head of the mine workers union, called off the strike, saying: "We are Americans. We cannot fight our government." The steel workers remained on strike for almost four



months, but in the end they were defeated due to the treachery of the leaders of the craft unions.

In 1923, Foster became a member of the Communist Party, USA. He was its Chair from 1924 and General Secretary from 1945 until his retirement in 1957.

The working class and oppressed peoples in the U.S. and other countries had nothing to gain from taking sides in the First World War. Most of the leaders of the IWW opposed the war, but that organization was already in decline due to the limits of its syndicalist views. The opportunist leaders of the Socialist Party (SP) tried to rally their members to support the monopoly-capitalist government in this war. The SP also had many centrist leaders who, while opposing the war in words, refused to condemn the openly pro-war leaders who called on the workers to slaughter each other in the interests of their rulers. They also gave only lip service to support of the Russian Revolution. In the end both the right and center joined forces against the left.

Many of the SP leaders were abject racists as well as opportunists. Victor Berger, the first socialist Representative in Congress, stated: "There can be no doubt that the Negroes and mulattoes constitute a lower race." (From *Social Democratic Herald*, May 1902; quoted in Foster, Chapter 7.) In 1920 the Socialist Party issued *A Political Guide for the Workers*, which said, among other things: "Its purpose is to secure a majority in Congress and in every state legislature, to win the principal executive and judicial offices, to become the dominant and controlling party, and when in power to transfer to the ownership of the people of industries..." (pp. 34-35). This is the usual social-democratic and revisionist position of "peaceful transition to socialism."

The great working class leader Eugene Debs, who had taken a leading part in the railroad strike of 1894, spoke out openly against the war. He stated: "I am opposed to every war but one; I am for that war with heart and soul, and that is the world-wide war of social revolution." (*Appeal to Reason*, September 11, 1915.) For this, the government, while waging a war

in the name of “democracy,” threw Debs in jail. In 1920 he ran for President from jail and got one million votes, about 3.5% of the total.

Under the influence of the Russian Socialist Revolution and the formation of the Communist International (the world organization of revolutionary, communist parties), a split developed at the Emergency National Convention of the SP in August and September 1919. The revolutionary forces had a clear majority, though they were divided among themselves over tactical questions. One group, made up mainly of U.S.-born workers, wanted to fight it out at the convention. The other, made up mostly of immigrant workers, felt that this was senseless and formed the Communist Party of America (CPA). The group that wanted to stay and fight within the SP was kicked out after bureaucratic maneuvering by the SP leadership, which called the police to have the left thrown out of the convention. They then formed the Communist Labor Party (CLP). Both parties were made up largely of industrial workers. For example, Bill Dunne, the leader of the Butte, Montana, branch of the SP, made up overwhelmingly of miners, brought the whole branch into the CLP.

Thus, in 1919, two CPs were formed. The Communist International (CI) refused to admit them as separate groups, saying that there were no differences of principle between them, and insisted that they first unite. This they did in 1921 and the united party was admitted to the CI. Debs, putting organization before ideology, never joined the CP and remained within the SP until his death in 1926. The SP’s membership fell

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from almost 100,000 before the CPs split to 12,000 in 1921.

The U.S. government did not sit idly by as the Communist Party was being formed. It claimed that these revolutionaries were dangerous “terrorists,” and declared both parties to be illegal. It arrested some 10,000 people, including leaders and rank-and-file members of both CPs and other revolutionaries, such as the anarchist Emma Goldman. After several court battles, the government deported some 500 people. That and the fear of further government repression reduced the combined communist ranks from some 60,000 to about 12,000.

The repression of the incipient communist movement was led by Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. His chief assistant, J. Edgar Hoover, headed the “anti-subversive” group within the Attorney General’s office, the General Intelligence Division, which later became the notorious Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



Founding Convention of the
Communist Party of America, 1919

<https://www.greenvillepost.com/2019/11/23/china-bolivia-a-lithium-deal-no-more/>
Reprinted from: <https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2019/11/25/mondays-news-links-nov-25-2019/>
November 23, 2019

China – Bolivia – a Lithium Deal – No More?

By senior contributing editor Peter Koenig, a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization.



Mountains of lithium mineral at the Uyuni salt flat in Bolivia. Bloomberg has it right: One of the world's poorest nations is sitting on the second-largest amount of the mineral needed to power electric cars. White Gold, as some call it, may spell a good future or a complete disaster for the Bolivian people and possibly the region, depending on which foreign suitor prevails in the long run. Chile and Argentina also have enormous reserves. (Credit: Marcelo Perez del Carpio/Bloomberg)

China has by far the largest lithium market. China produces already today the most electric cars, about 1 million in 2018, and will at least triplicate their production by 2025 – and in the following decade or two, demand is expected to increase exponentially.

Bolivia has the world's largest – by far – known lithium reserves. A long-term win-win contract between China and Bolivia was under preparation since early 2019 and being negotiated as a 51% Bolivia – 49% China share-arrangement, with manufacturing of batteries and other lithium-related products foreseen in Bolivia – added value, job creation in Bolivia – with an initial investment of US\$ 2.3 billion – was about to be signed, when the US-instigated Bolivian military coup occurred. It was immediately followed with the usual US-style intimidating, violent and murderous oppression, particularly directed at protests by indigenous people.

They – the indigenous people, 70% to 80% of the Bolivian people – didn't want to lose their President, Evo Morales, who has improved their lives enormously, like nobody else before since Bolivia's independence from Spain some 200 years ago. Evo has drastically re-

duced poverty and provided most Bolivians with jobs and with a decent living. President Evo Morales had to seek asylum in Mexico to protect himself and his family from threats to his life and that of his loved ones, as well as to his political associates and members of Congress, who were in line to succeed him. The CIA, its handlers and their paid assets—the “usual jackals”—work with impunity, without scruples.

A day after Evo Morales left Bolivia, the opposition, led by the self-proclaimed neofascist, racist President, Jeanine Añez, ransacked and looted the Central Bank of its gold and large amounts of cash reserves. The loot was seen to be transported to the airport to be flown out of the country, presumably to the US. Madame Añez said she needed the money to buy weapons, of course, from America to keep oppressing and killing the indigenous protesters.

After the long-prepared and US-orchestrated ‘civic-military’ coup on 10th November, Bolivia is being ruled by a self-appointed, illegal, temporary (they say), neofascist government which is not only supported by the United States – the “putsch-maker” – but also by the

abysmally shameful European Union, as well as by the Organization of American States – OAS (boasting, the US pays 60% of OAS’ budget...).

Bolivians have been plunged into a violent military-police dictatorship knowing no restraint beating up indigenous protesters and shooting them with live ammunition. At least 25 have already been killed and hundreds wounded. Añez has signed a decree exonerating police and military from criminal prosecution for crimes and murders committed on protesters, giving the police and military a direct license to kill. Evo Morales was forced to resign by top military brass which has been secretly trained by the School of the Americas, now called The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Evo has been bitterly betrayed by Washington-corrupted and trained officers.

About 20 of Evo’s closest entourage, including members of congress, who according to the Bolivian Constitution would have been in line to take up temporarily the Presidency until new elections are organized – a fact Evo proposed before being forced to resign, hardly reported by the western media – were also ordered to resign. They were all granted asylum in Mexico. They were told by the new, illegal self-appointed Government, that they were not allowed to run for the Presidency in upcoming elections. This is the type of “Democracy” exported by Washington. It’s more aptly called dictatorship.

The power and fervor of pro-Morales protests in Bolivia is increasing day-by-day. Evo was the first indigenous President of the plurinational Andean country. Indigenous Bolivians, the vast majority, are strong supporters of Evo’s and his MAS party (MAS = Movimiento al Socialismo, or Movement towards Socialism).

US President Trump has made it abundantly clear that he does not tolerate socialist governments in the world, let alone in his backyard, Latin America. Congratulating the US-trained putsch leaders, he warned Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua of what might soon happen to them. He doesn’t lose an opportunity dishing out threats to world leaders who do not follow his orders. Indeed, the CIA via locally trained and bought agents is also causing havoc and bloody uprisings in Iran, Hong Kong, Lebanon. He, Mr. Trump the Great, a President in the process of being impeached himself for corruption and other misdeeds by the US Parliament. Bravo.

Having a socialist Government was certainly a reason for the coup d’état, but not the only one, perhaps not even the key reason. Bolivia, like Venezuela, is rich in natural resources, gas, oil, minerals and metals – and lithium, a light metal, used in car batteries, especially batteries for electric cars. They are ideal assets to be privatized by a neoliberal government for the benefit of a few local oligarchs and of foreign corporations – mostly US, of course.

Stealing natural resources from developing countries is a key objective for the empire’s attempting to establish monetary and territorial world hegemony.

Already before Evo Morales first took office in January 2006, he pledged to the Bolivian people that the vast and rich natural resource treasures of Bolivia belong to Bolivia, to the Bolivian people. Among the first actions of his Presidency was the partial nationalization of the hydrocarbon industry – gas and petrol. Evo inherited from his predecessors, Goni Sanchez and Carlos Mesa an absurd arrangement, whereby the foreign corporations would receive on average 82% of the profits from hydrocarbon exploitation and the remaining 18% would stay in Bolivia. It is precisely for this reason that both Goni and Mesa were thrown out by the people in bloody people’s rebellions in 2003 and 2005, respectively.

When Evo was elected President in 2005 and took office in January 2006, he reversed this proportion: 82% for Bolivia and 18% for the transnationals. The western world screamed and hollered and warned him that all the foreign investors would abandon Bolivia – and Bolivia would be alone and her economy would collapse miserably. None of this happened, of course. Because even under this new arrangement foreign corporations made enough profit for them to stay in Bolivia. They are there as of this day.

In comes lithium, a soft, light and highly flammable mineral – what some call the gold of the 21st Century. The world’s total known lithium reserves are about 15 million tons, with a potential of up to 65 million tons. Bolivia has arguably the world’s largest single known lithium deposits with a projected 9 million tons, about 60% of all known reserves.

Bolivia’s lithium has so far remained largely untapped, whereas major current producers are Chile, Argentina, Australia and China. Bolivia’s reserves are located in the Uyuni salt flats, the world’s largest salt desert (some 10,000 km²) in the remote southern tip of Bolivia, about 4,000 m above sea level. Lithium is contained in salt brine pools below the Uyuni salt flats.

Access is complicated because of altitude and remoteness and lithium mining has also environmental issues. Finally, and maybe most importantly, Evo Morales has promised his people that this valuable resource will not just be exported as raw material, but processed in Bolivia so that added value and major benefits remain in Bolivia. The general manager of state-owned Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (YLB) assures that “Bolivia will be a relevant actor in the global lithium market within four or five years.”

Lithium is mainly used for the production of car batteries, cell phones, electronic devices in sophisticated weapons systems. In the age of growing environmental consciousness and electric cars, the car battery market is

expected to explode in the coming years. China's President, Xi Jinping, recently said that as of 2030, all new cars on China's roads will be electric. Though, this may be optimistic, it speaks for a huge market. It is expected that the use of lithium in car batteries alone could triple – or beyond – in the coming 5 to 10 years.

In the last few weeks, the Bolivian Government was about to sign a contract with ACI Systems Alemania (ACISA), a small German mining company. On November 4, the deal was canceled, due to local protests over profit sharing. The local population wanted an increase of royalty payments from 3% to 11%. The deal would have brought a US \$1.3 billion investment in the Salar del Uyuni (the Uyuni Salt Flats) over time for a vehicle battery factory and a lithium hydroxide plant. Similar deals with Tesla and other US and Canadian battery producers also failed, because of unacceptable profit-sharing arrangements.

China has the world's largest lithium market. By far. And the one with the fastest growth potential. With a million Chinese electric cars sold in 2018 alone, demand is expected to increase almost exponentially. President Xi's predictions may be slightly optimistic, but according to a Chinese think-tank, by 2040 all new vehicles on China's roads will be electric. Already today, almost 100% of all scooters roaming major cities are electric.

In February 2019, the Chinese company Xinjiang TBEA Group Co Ltd. and the Bolivian state company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (YLB) negotiated a deal that would have given Bolivia 51% and the Chinese 49% shares of a lithium extraction investment, an initial US \$2.3 billion investment venture, expandable according to market demand. The project would have included manufacturing of vehicle batteries – and more – thus, adding value in Bolivia and creating thousands of jobs.

The Chinese Ambassador to Bolivia estimates that China would need some 800,000 tons of the light metal by 2025. Electric cars with today's technology require massive amounts of lithium, about 63 kilograms for a single 70 kWh Tesla Model S battery pack. Officially known reserves in the Salar Uyuni of some 9 million tons, correspond to about a quarter of total known world reserves, according to the US Geological Survey. Country-wide lithium deposits in Bolivia, but not yet proven, may reach 21 million tons, mostly in the Uyuni salt flats, according to government projections. World Bank projec-

tions see global demand for lithium skyrocketing in the coming years, reaching more than 1,000% of present demand by 2050.

A huge proportion of this multi-multibillion-dollar market would be Chinese. It is therefore not too far-fetched to believe that the US-induced military coup itself, and particularly its timing – has something to do with Bolivia's lithium – and more precisely with the China-Bolivia partnership deal.

Since the beginning of this year Bolivia has been negotiating with China, Bolivia's linking up to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The lithium extraction and industrial development was part of it. Under Evo's guidance it could have lifted this still most impoverished country of South America out of poverty, to a level of "living well" for most Bolivians. China, with her win-win approach for the BRI expansion around the globe and for such bilateral deals, as would have been lithium development in and with Bolivia – would have contributed greatly to the improvement of living conditions for this landlocked Andean country.

With China being lambasted, thrashed and aggressed at every occasion, clearly, such a multiple billion-dollar long-term arrangement, for a market the west wants to claim for itself, is not being allowed by the true axis of evil, the United States, the vassalic Europeans, Canada and Australia. So, President Evo Morales and his close MAS party allies – and potential successors – had to go. *Unarmed* indigenous people had to be intimidated by bought police and military forces. They are beaten up and shot at with live ammunition "at their discretion" (as per official decree). As of today, the dead toll has reached at least 25, since the police-military violence began when Evo was forced to resign, about a week ago.

It is predictable that the current "interim" government will call a State of Emergency, meaning a *de facto* military-police dictatorship. The natural riches of a poor country that wants to use reserves for the betterment of her people, can be a curse – and especially if that country has a socialist regime. But – as a positive glimmer of hope, the Bolivian people are known to be headstrong and staunch defenders of their rights. So, with the support and solidarity of neighboring countries' people protesting for their lost civil rights, Chile, Ecuador, Argentina and maybe soon also Brazil, not all may be lost.

Comment:

While this article provides good factual information, it is interesting that while the author of course recognizes that exploitation of Bolivia's resources and labor power by the U.S. or Germany is bad, exploitation by China is good. He also does not recognize that Morales was continuing the extractivist policies of previous government.

George Gruenthal

https://tinta-roja.com/2019/12/01/cipoml-los-pueblos-de-bolivia-luchan-contra-el-fascismo/?fbclid=IwAR1bsc35Ds9K2vgX6U0oWGu7iacrN3xLu1Khifya1hgMQcCtoKUvpM2Mc__

International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO):

The peoples of Bolivia are fighting against fascism

Translated from Tinta Roja [Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Bolivia], December 1, 2019



The coup d'état promoted by U.S. imperialism and executed by the Bolivian right-wing, the police and the military, supported by the OAS and the reactionary governments of the continent is being rejected by the workers, peasants, youth, revolutionaries, leftists and democrats of that country, of the region and the world. It is an anti-communist and reactionary offensive, which calls the government of Evo Morales revolutionary and socialist and calls for a holy alliance to affirm the interests of the international monopolies and the Bolivian oligarchy.

The workers and peoples of Bolivia are standing up, mobilized for the defense of their interests and rights that reaction and imperialism are trying to eliminate. After several years of its administration, the government of Evo Morales and his MAS movement have reaped criticism and demands by large sectors of the population, who saw how he carried out a policy contrary to his "leftist" and "anti-imperialist" speeches, while applying a policy of division in the popular movement, created parallel unions and destroyed undisciplined union leaderships.

But they did not listen to these demands, nor did they heed the warnings that this road separated them from much of the people and placed them at the mercy of the right wing. The atmosphere of social discontent had been expressed for a long time, clearly becoming evident when he lost the referendum calling for reform of the

Constitution and allowing him to stand for a new reelection. The results of the October elections sharpened these tensions and helped to create the environment for the coup d'état.

The communists and the left in general will have the opportunity to evaluate this experience, to draw conclusions and guidelines that will contribute to giving a consistent revolutionary orientation to the process in Bolivia.

And, for now, it is necessary to reject this action of the right wing and U.S. imperialism, as we stand in solidarity with the struggles of the working class and working masses, the peoples of our sister country and our sister party, the PCR which is fighting together with them in order to guarantee a revolutionary direction and course.

Today the people are fighting in the streets against fascism. The organizations of the left that fought against several of the economic measures of a neoliberal type promoted by Evo, are leading the discontent and are working to give leadership to the anti-fascist resistance. The government, the army and imperialism are exerting a strong repression that has cost the lives of more than 30 people.

The will to struggle of the Bolivian peoples, expressed during these last days, reflects the tradition, ex-

perience and lessons of the fight against neoliberalism and for social liberation.

Together with the comrades of the PCR of Bolivia, we reject the agreements at the top between the government and sectors of the MAS itself, to call for elections, with new rules and courts, without the participation of Evo Morales. It is an agreed upon way out of the crisis,

For more background on the role of the government of Evo Morales, please see:

www.mltranslations.org/Bolivia/Bolivia2019eng.pdf

<https://ocrchile.blogspot.com/>

November 15, 2019

Report on the National Situation in Chile

Almost a month since the beginning of the social outbreak that shook the foundations of bourgeois democracy, the momentum that brought millions of protesters into the streets across the country is slowly fading.

The movement that began with the audacity of secondary students led the middle strata to join in, making almost historical demands of the social movement: NO + AFP [Early Retirement Pension], decent health care and free education. This was a totally spontaneous movement convened through social networks.

The protests became massive and the Piñera government repressed them brutally. Considering them as an internal enemy, he declared a state of emergency, bringing the military into the street, causing fear in the population that did not take part in the conflict. In turn, the most radical sectors faced the police and military, giving the lumpen the opportunity to loot supermarkets and shops.

These actions resulted in the estrangement of the middle class (petty bourgeoisie) from the marches, leaving the most radicalized elements to take over the streets.

The level of repression, which has left 30 dead and hundreds injured to date, could transform the social outbreak into an insurrectional movement, but due to the lack of a revolutionary leadership it ended in an escalation of chaotic violence that allowed the government to use its repressive policy against the population, with more than 50% of the people in favor of the military in the streets.

In this scenario, the Single Workers Federation, led in large part by the Communist Party, to form the Social Unity Board with the intention of taking the reins of the movement, calling for various marches, but with less

which does not take into account the interests of workers and peoples.

The workers and the peoples, the political organizations and parties of the revolutionary left, the Revolutionary Communist Party, will continue in the struggle and will not renounce the objectives of the revolution and socialism.

Coordination Committee of the ICMLPO

response than the spontaneous ones that brought 1,200,000 people to the Plaza Italia in Santiago.

Along with mobilizing public sector workers, Social Unity has called for the Constituent Assembly, a demand that barely appeared at the beginning of the demonstrations, to bring about an institutional solution to the conflict. It was a demand that took form among the population, becoming the main banner of struggle.

On November 12 Social Unity calls for a general strike to demand the Constituent Assembly, a call that was realized in large marches throughout the country, but had no response from the government.

Meanwhile the opposition as a whole, without the Communist Party, met with Piñera to find a way out of the crisis, reaching unanimous agreement to call a Constituent Assembly. However, this would be under controlled conditions, without the direct participation of the people; calling for a referendum in six more months where the only options on the ballot are: to approve the assembly and choose between a constitutional convention (parliament) or a mixed constituent assembly consisting of a percentage of parliamentarians and others elected within the current electoral system.

None of these options represents the feelings of the people; once again the politician-business owners take the popular demands and change them in their favor.

For this process to resume the path for real changes will only be possible with the unity of the left under a serious democratic program that includes a Constituent Assembly from the ranks with delegates elected in popular assemblies free from interference of the government and the parties that support it.

National Directorate, Recabarren Communist Organization
November 15, 2019

The popular struggle and the international proponents of corruption in Haiti!

Regroupment of Haitians of Montreal against the occupation of Haiti (REHMONCO) -
June 26, 2019



The bloody repression of Jovenel Moïse's neo-Duvalier regime is unable to contain the popular struggle; Uncle Sam comes to the attack.

If there is a great lesson to be learned from the struggle of the Haitian popular classes during June of 2019, it is undoubtedly the fact that it allows us to highlight, to expose the system of corruption, which is raging inside the neocolonial State in Haiti.

Indeed, for several decades the Haitian people have been subjected to systemic violence on a daily basis. This violence has been exacerbated by the neoliberal cure of privatizing public enterprises, eliminating customs barriers, reducing funding for basic social services and making the country attractive to U.S. sweatshops.

The latter's support for Jovenel Moïse's neo-Duvalier regime at the expense of the popular classes only shows the true face of the U.S. and Canadian governments.

The imposition of these neoliberal measures was carried out under threat of machine guns of the U.S. Marines (1994-2000) and MINUSTAH (2004-2018). With these measures, imperialism is proceeding to the complete dismantling of the Haitian economy, provoking an acute urban crisis and accentuating environmental instability.

Haiti has become the only country in the hemisphere where basic services such as education, public transportation, health care, drinking water, etc. are controlled by the private sector. This excessive privatization is developing in a context where more than 60% of the working population is chronically unemployed.

With the Tèt Kale regime, this systemic violence has come to a head. Not only are the funds of the public treasury being openly robbed, but also several massacres have been committed by armed gangs in the pay of the government. The results of the massacres in the popular neighborhoods of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince are alarming. Hundreds of people have been murdered without their families being able to bury them. In addition, thousands of surviving families have had to take refuge in public places where they are forced to live under the stars.



Jovenel Moïse and Michel Martelly, the two PHTK [Parti Haïtien Tèt Kale] presidents united in corruption

While this unspeakable violence is invisible to the international community and international human rights bodies, the United States is stepping up to denounce the violence of the popular mobilization. Through these main levels of government, the United States intervened in the Haitian crisis, as in the colonial era, to silence the popular revolt.

On the one hand, its Congress denounces the legitimate revolt of the Haitian people and proposes a plan for maintaining the status quo; on the other, the Washington government is planning a special OAS mission to back up the corrupt, hated president, Jovenel Moïse. As usual,

these acrobatics of the U.S. state find an echo in Canada, since the government of Justin Trudeau invites the Haitian opposition to a dialogue with the corrupt and blood-thirsty government of Jovenel Moïse.

While several reports from the Court of Auditors and Senate commissions have proven the systematic looting of public funds, the leaders of the international community, including the United States in the first place, are denying the right of the Haitian people to demand an accounting of the Petro Caribe funds, the organization of a fair trial for the looters based on the investigation reports.

This denial of the right of the Haitian people to demand an accounting and to participate in the building a just society is a testament to the contempt the United States has for the Haitian people. For over 100 years, this contempt has been a constant in the relationship between the U.S. governments and Haiti. In the eyes of the U.S. imperialist state, the Haitian people represent only a slave labor force in the service of their economy.

The heroic mobilization of the Haitian people has exposed this racist behavior of imperialism. The latter's support for Jovenel Moise's neo-Duvalier regime to the Regroupment of Haitians of Montreal against the occupation of Haiti

For authentication:

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Montreal, June 25, 2019

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detriment of the popular classes only shows the true face of the U.S. and Canadian governments. As in the days of the Duvalier dictatorship, they chose to support the corrupt at the expense of the popular will.

Under these circumstances, we encourage the Haitian popular classes and the consistent progressives to continue the mobilization for the resignation of Jovenel Moise and the end of the neocolonial state in Haiti. It is at the cost of this fight that we can build a just and united Haitian society.

Long live the struggle of the Haitian people!

[01/12/2019 Tinta Roja](#)

CIPOML: (Conferencia Internacional de Partidos y Organizaciones Marxistas-Leninistas)



Los pueblos de Bolivia luchan contra el fascismo

El golpe de Estado impulsado por el imperialismo norteamericano y ejecutado por la derecha, la policía y los militares bolivianos, apoyado por la OEA y los gobiernos reaccionarios del continente es rechazado por los trabajadores, campesinos, juventud, revolucionarios, izquierdistas y demócratas de ese país, de la región y el mundo. Se trata de una ofensiva anticomunista y reaccionaria, que tilda de revolucionario y socialista al gobierno de Evo Morales y convoca una santa alianza para afirmar los intereses de los monopolios internacionales y la oligarquía de Bolivia.

Los trabajadores y los pueblos de Bolivia están de pie, movilizados por la defensa de sus intereses y derechos que pretenden ser anulados por la reacción y el imperialismo. Al cabo de varios años de gestión, el gobierno de Evo Morales y su movimiento MAS cosecharon la crítica y el reclamo de parte de amplios sectores de la población, que vieron cómo ejecutaba una política contraria a sus discursos «izquierdistas» y «antiimperialistas», al tiempo que aplicaba una política de división en el movimiento popular, crearon sindicatos paralelos y destruyeron directivas sindicales no disciplinadas.

Pero estos no escucharon estos reclamos, ni hicieron caso a las advertencias de que ese camino los separaba de gran parte del pueblo y los colocaban a merced de la derecha. El ambiente de descontento social se expresó

desde hace tiempo, evidenciándose claramente cuando perdió el referéndum convocado para reformar la Constitución y poder presentarse para una nueva reelección. Los resultados de las elecciones de octubre agudizaron esas tensiones y contribuyeron a crear el ambiente para el golpe de Estado.

Los comunistas y la izquierda en general, tendremos la ocasión de evaluar esta experiencia, sacar las conclusiones y orientaciones que contribuyan a dar una orientación consecuentemente revolucionaria al proceso en Bolivia.

Y, por lo pronto, toca rechazar esta acción de la derecha y del imperialismo norteamericano, al tiempo que nos solidarizamos con las luchas de la clase obrera y trabajadora, los pueblos de ese país hermano, y con el partido hermano, el PCR que lucha junto a estos en el propósito de garantizar una dirección y rumbo revolucionarios.

Hoy el pueblo pelea en las calles contra el fascismo. Las organizaciones de izquierda que lucharon contra varias de las medidas económicas de tinte neoliberal impulsadas por Evo, encabezan el descontento y trabajan por dar dirección a la resistencia antifascista. El gobierno, el ejército y el imperialismo ejercen una fuerte represión que ha costado la vida de más de 30 personas.

La voluntad de lucha de los pueblos bolivianos, expresada durante estos últimos días, recoge la tradición, la experiencia y las enseñanzas de los combates contra el neoliberalismo y por la liberación social.

Junto a los camaradas del PCR de Bolivia, rechazamos los acuerdos de cúpula entre el gobierno y sectores del mismo MAS, para convocar elecciones, con nuevas reglas y tribunales, sin la participación de Evo Morales.

Se trata de una salida concertada a la crisis, que no tiene en cuenta los intereses de los trabajadores y los pueblos.

Los trabajadores y los pueblos, las organizaciones y partidos políticos de izquierda revolucionaria, el Partido Comunista Revolucionario, continuarán en la lucha, no renunciarán a los objetivos de la revolución y el socialismo.

Comité de Coordinación de la CIPOML

Para más información sobre el papel del gobierno de Evo Morales, favor de ver:

www.mltranslations.org/Bolivia/Bolivia2019.pdf

<https://ocrchile.blogspot.com/>

15 de noviembre de 2019

Informe de la Situación Nacional en Chile

Luego de casi un mes de iniciado el estallido social que remeció los cimientos de la democracia burguesa, el impulso que llevo a millones de manifestantes a las calles de todo el país se apaga lentamente.

El movimiento que comenzó con la audacia de los estudiantes secundarios llevo a las capas medias a sumarse exigiendo reivindicaciones casi históricas del movimiento social: NO+AFP, salud digna, educación gratuita. Un movimiento totalmente espontáneo convocado a través de las redes sociales.

Las protestas se hicieron masivas y el gobierno de Piñera reprimió de manera brutal. Apelando a la lógica del enemigo interno, declaró el estado de excepción sacando a los militares a la calle, provocando temor en la población que no participaba del conflicto. A su vez los sectores más radicales hicieron frente a la policía y militares, aprovechando el lumpen la oportunidad de saquear supermercados y comercios.

Estas acciones dieron como resultado el alejamiento de la clase media (pequeña burguesía) de las marchas dejando a los elementos más radicalizados adueñarse de las calles.

El nivel de represión que dejó treinta muertos y cientos de mutilados hasta la fecha, pudo transformar el estallido social en un movimiento insurreccional, pero debido a la falta de una dirección revolucionaria terminó en una escalada de violencia caótica que le dio la razón al gobierno frente a la población en su política represiva, más del 50% de la gente estuvo a favor de los militares en las calles.

En este escenario la Central Única de Trabajadores dirigida en gran parte por el Partido Comunista forma la Mesa de Unidad Social con la intención de tomar las riendas del movimiento, llamando a diversas marchas, pero con menor convocatoria que las espontáneas que

llegaron a convocar a un millón doscientas mil personas en la plaza Italia de Santiago.

Junto con movilizar a los trabajadores del sector público, Unidad Social levanta la Asamblea Constituyente, reivindicación que apenas figuraba al comienzo de las manifestaciones con la intención de darle una salida institucional al conflicto, demanda que tomó cuerpo en la población llegando a convertirse en la principal bandera de lucha.

El día 12 de Noviembre Unidad Social llama a un paro general para exigir la Asamblea Constituyente, la convocatoria que se expresó en grandes marchas por todo el país, pero no tuvo eco en el gobierno.

Mientras tanto la oposición en conjunto sin el Partido Comunista se reúne con Piñera para encontrar una salida a la crisis, llegando al acuerdo unánime de llamar a una Asamblea Constituyente, pero bajo condiciones controladas, sin la participación directa del pueblo llamando a un plebiscito en seis meses más donde las únicas opciones en la papeleta son: aprobar la asamblea y elegir entre una convención constituyente (el parlamento) o constituyente mixta compuesta por un porcentaje de parlamentarios y otros elegidos dentro del sistema electoral actual.

Ninguna de estas opciones representa el sentir del pueblo, una vez más los políticos-empresarios se apropian de las demandas populares y las mutilan a su favor.

La posibilidad de que este proceso retome el camino por cambios verdaderos solo será posible con la unidad de la izquierda bajo un programa democrático profundo que incluya una Asamblea Constituyente desde la base con delegados electos en asambleas populares libres de la intervención del gobierno y de los partidos que lo apoyan.

Dirección Nacional Organización Comunista Recabarren
15 de Noviembre 2019

