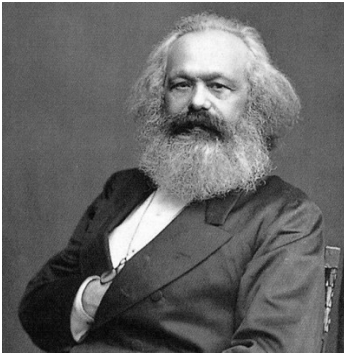


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



A Journal of Discussion and Debate



Vol. 2, No. 1
June 30, 2020

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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. Though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we include progressive articles from groups with varying views.

Please note that many of the articles we reprint are done without our asking for permission. Clearly the authors are in no way responsible for other views in this publication.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU will probably not appear until early September so material should be sent in by mid-August.

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This article was originally written for comrades in Latin America who requested comments on what is going on in the U.S. That is why it contains details that are generally known in the U.S. but might not be known by those in Latin America. It has been translated into English and somewhat updated.

*Neither state repression nor Covid-19
can stop the people's struggle!*

Mass Rebellion in the US against Killer Cops

Once again we have seen the death by the police of an innocent African-American.

George Floyd, a resident of Minneapolis was arrested for a non-violent crime and likely no crime at all. He was in handcuffs and face down on the street when a cop put his knee on his neck, with three more police officers watching. Although Floyd repeatedly said "I can't breathe," the cop continued to suffocate him until he died.

The police chief immediately fired the four policemen, hoping that this would appease the people, but of course it was not enough. So the prosecutor put a charge of third-degree murder on the cop who directly killed Floyd. Later, he had to raise the charge to second-degree murder, and put charges of aiding and abetting a murder against the other three policemen.

Four centuries since the slavery of Africans in North America began (1619), 155 years after the end of the Civil War that ended slavery in the United States (1965) and 55 years after the Civil Rights Act (1965), the murder of African-Americans by the police and white racists already continues. Overall, the police kill more than a thousand people a year, almost three a day. And in the vast majority of cases, they do so with total impunity. It is clear that the oppression of African-Americans is an integral part of the capitalist system in the United States.

This latest murder has led to large demonstrations and popular uprisings throughout the United States. There were tens of thousands of people, at rallies and demonstrations, on the streets. In Minneapolis, a police precinct was completely burned. There were large demonstrations in front of the White House. Although most of the participants were African-American, there were also other oppressed nationalities (Latinos, Native Americans, and others) and whites, particularly young people. There have been several killed, and many wounded and arrested, but that could not stop the protests.

African Americans already have the worst living conditions in the country. Generally, they have the lowest paid jobs (particularly in the service sector), the highest levels of unemployment (particularly in this period of



the economic crisis and the pandemic), the worst health conditions, the poorest schools, etc. They also suffer from mass incarceration. There is a sector of the middle class, but that does not change the general situation. Also, they have some of the highest levels of unionization, particularly in the public sector, and so they play a particularly important role in the struggles of the working class as a whole.

Both major bourgeois parties, the Republicans and Democrats, are trying to suppress the movement. Trump directed police officers to use pepper bullets against protesters, and the "progressive" mayor of New York declared an 8 pm curfew to stop protests.

Recently, groups connected to the Democratic Party have tried to influence the movement in a more reformist direction. Even New York Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said, "On behalf of the entire NYC police department, the nation's largest police department, we stand with the Floyd family." But this is total hypocrisy, because in 2014 a police officer killed Eric Garner on Staten Island, New York, in almost exactly the same way, with at least six other police officers watching, of course none of whom were put on trial.

Until now, the movement has had a spontaneous character. Although the masses understand that there are many killer cops, for the most part they do not understand that they are part of repressive organs of the capitalist class. The revolutionary groups, and in particular the Marxist-Leninists, are still weak. (This is both a criticism and a self-criticism, since it took us over a week to put out the leaflet: Jail Killer Cops For Life!" included in

this issue of TMLU.) We need to train cadres of agitators, propagandists and organizers prepared to participate in the demonstrations and give them a more class conscious character.

But even the demonstrations have not stopped new murders by police and other racists. The most notorious is the killing of Rayshard Brooks, shot in the back by a cop in Atlanta. (The cop has since been charged with murder.) There is also the shooting of Modesto Reyes by

sheriff's deputies in Jefferson Parish outside New Orleans on Memorial Day. And finally there are the unexplained deaths of Oluwatoyin Salau, a 19-year-old Black Lives Matter protestor and 75-year old Victoria Sims in Tallahassee, Florida, considered homicides. A suspect has been arrested.

But, for now, the most important thing is that the movement has not been stopped, either by the police or by the restrictions imposed by Covid-19.



Demonstration in Harlem, Saturday, May 30



March in Times Square, May 30

<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2020/06/24/black-and-white-oklahomans-march-to-defend-second-amendment-and-against-police-brutality-and-local-cop-killings/>

Black and white Oklahomans march to defend Second Amendment and against police brutality and local cop killings

June 24, 2020 Mark Friedman, Random Lengths reporter



While the world watches Tulsa, with President Trump's first election campaign rally, a smaller but significant "armed" demonstration of 175 took place here in Oklahoma City. In a multinational march and rally to the governor's mansion, of mostly Black military veterans, they protested police brutality and called for District Attorney David Prater to reopen the investigation into the 2015 police killing of young Black man, CJ Pettit.

The group and their organizer, Omar Chatman, are also demanding the state legislature enact laws that would hold officers accountable when they are found to be at fault in any incident of police activity. They want officers to be required to carry their own liability insurance, and they are demanding that the International World Court investigate the United States for human rights violations of its Black population.

Protest leader Michael Washington told this reporter, "We want justice for George Floyd." In regards to the president's visit to Tulsa, "We are doing this in opposition to him. We don't like him because

he is a racist, a white supremacist, and he doesn't care about human life, especially Black folks. Today, we shall deliver a letter of our demands to the governor."

In formation, with armed demonstrators forming a box around unarmed ones, they marched a mile through the streets of Oklahoma City's Black community to the cheers and honks of those passing by. They chanted, "We are human beings! Can't take police brutality no more!"

About one-third of the protesters were white. Many, like the Black protesters, are military veterans. One of them, Tim, a former welder, a veteran and first-time protester, told this reporter, "We have come armed to protect the demonstration. To ensure peace and prevent provocations. Because when cops get involved, it is bad news for us."

Protest organizer, Omar Chatman, told the rally outside the governor's mansion: "What did they do to brother Martin? They executed him. What did they do to Malcolm? They executed him. But you can't tell me a point in history where he was violent.

Malcolm said, 'We are nonviolent with those that are nonviolent with us, and we are violent with those that are violent with us.' Today, we are nonviolent, but if they push me, they will see the Malcolm in me. There are Malcolms and Martins out here, and we are all demanding justice and equality in the year

2020.... They, the police, have elevated themselves to judge, jury and executioner. The baddest gangs in the land are the boys in blue." The crowd thundered back, "No justice! No peace! No racist police! Black lives matter!"

American Museum of Natural History Finally Decides to Take Down Racist Statue

This statue below has stood for decades in front of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. It shows the "great white hope," Teddy Roosevelt, on his horse flanked by a Native American and an African on foot. (Roosevelt was also active in the Spanish-American War which led to making Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam into U.S. colonies and Cuba into a U.S. protectorate.) This racist statue has been seen by millions of schoolchildren as well as adults. Finally, "the American Museum of Natural History has asked to remove the Theodore Roosevelt statue because it explicitly depicts Black and Indigenous people as subjugated and racially inferior," de Blasio's office said in a statement to CNN. "The city supports the museum's request. It is the right decision and the right time to remove this problematic statue." Of course, neither the museum or the Mayor's office could not have done this earlier.



Below are two statements by trade unions opposing police brutality. Although they have certain weaknesses, it is important that the workers' movement is taking progressive positions on this issue.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 6, 2020

CONTACT:

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Julie Blust jblust@seiu32bj.org 215-713-6777

NYC Labor Leaders Call on Governor, Mayor, and Police Commissioner to Put a Stop to Police Brutality

The systemic assault on the Black body has gone on for far too long—400 years and counting. We are outraged and heartbroken over the police murder of George Floyd, just as we were at the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland and so many more. Further, we are disheartened by the profound lack of leadership demonstrated by our elected leaders, especially their inability to propose and implement substantive reforms that promote real change. This lack of action combined with a lack of empathy, patience, and respect for protesters gathering to say Black Lives Matter is more than a series of missteps - it is a continued danger to New Yorkers for whom law enforcement's responsibility to "protect and serve" is taken as a suggestion instead of a mandate.

As labor unions, we stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of people across the country who have risen up to protest against state violence towards people of color, systemic racism, and police brutality. We cannot and will not stand down as we witness daily the violent response of the NYPD without reprimand nor consequence.

The failure of the NYPD to act with appropriate restraint is inexcusable. We demand better for our communities, our voices, our democracy.

While we do not, and never will, condone violence against police nor property, we also will not allow the actions of a misguided few to distract from the message of the massive, peaceful protests demanding that Black Lives Matter.

We already have a President who divides instead of leads, who tear-gassed peaceful protestors, threatens military action, and remains a threat to our constitutional democracy. We call upon the Governor, Mayor, and Police Commissioner to shift gears immediately to demonstrate that we are different, that we embrace the Black Lives Matter movement, and that we can move towards justice because we are New Yorkers, and we are better than this.

We will not abandon the righteous goal of ending police brutality. We will not desist from peaceful but powerful demands for racial justice. As labor leaders, and as representatives of millions of New York's working people – Black, Brown and white – we continue to stand in solidarity with the protest movements against racist violence. The labor movement is one born out of protest. The same militarized police forces that are brutalizing people marching for racial justice today, have in the past been used against workers fighting for their rights. We join the struggle for a more just and equitable society. We condemn police violence. We demand strong and accountable leadership from our elected officials. And we are confident that together, we will overcome.

Barbara Bowen, President, Professional Staff Congress - CUNY

Kyle Bragg, President, 32BJ SEIU

Beverley Brakeman, Director, UAW Region 9-A

Henry Garrido, Executive Director, DC 37, AFSCME

George Gresham, President, 1199SEIU

Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, President, NYSNA

Dennis Trainor, Vice President, CWA District 1



Ship Clerks' Association, Local 34

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION

4 BERRY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94107 • PHONE (415) 362-8852 • FAX (415) 957-9918

June 8, 2020

To: William Adams

RE: Labor Call to Down Tools to Honor Victims of Police Murder

We call upon workers, organized and unorganized, throughout the United States to join the men and women of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) locals 34, 10, 75, and 91 who will stop work and lay down their tools on Tuesday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m Pacific for an 8 minute 46-second collective vigil of silence to honor the memory of George Floyd and all those murdered at the hands of police.

Labor has been and continues to be the most powerful tool to bring about social change in the United States of America, as well as the entire world. From the Haymarket Affair in 1886 to the Million Worker March in 2004, labor has continued to be the organizing foundation for the community to unite for social change. We must continue the mission for the Disenfranchised, the victims of Systemic Racism and Police Terror by once again collectively raising our voices. All Lives Will Matter When Black Lives Matter because an Injury to One Is An Injury To All!!!

Operations at ports on the East and Gulf Coasts also will be shut down (at 12 noon) as longshore labor from the 65,000-member International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO (ILA) honor the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Walter Scott, among others.

Simultaneously, in New York City, the Metro North and building service workers, members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 808 will stop work to join labor's collective vigil.

The actions coincide with George Floyd's funeral in Houston at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

"It is important that labor become what it is supposed to be — that is, the vanguard organization of the working class. Labor must step to the forefront of the struggle for justice in America," said Chris Silvera, Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 808.

Join us at this historic moment. Let labor's voice be heard throughout the land!

Sincerely,

Keith Shanklin
President, ILWU Local 34

Reform the Police?

The police are part of the apparatus of the capitalist state. They are meant to oppress, and even kill, Blacks Latinos/as and others. They are also used to put down workers in general, especially during strikes and uprisings, or even enforcing limits on mass picketing. They are also used against demonstrators against wars of aggression, etc.

But we are not like some Trotskyists who take a position of “everything or nothing.” In the current mass uprisings sparked by the murder of George Floyd, we raised the slogan: “Jail Killer Cops for Life!” If this were carried out in even a few cases, it would make cops think twice before shooting or suffocating someone. Demands for maximum punishment for police who beat or otherwise harm civilians should similarly be raised. There are other reform measures that can be advocated. The demand for “Cops out of the schools,” as well as to end chokeholds are good. So is the demand to send in mental health workers, not police, when dealing with someone with mental health issues. (Remember the police killing of Gidone Busch In Borough Park, Brooklyn, in 1999.)

Many are putting forth the slogan: “Defund the Police!” Cops can just as easily kill people with less money for their departments, but less is better than more; the demand to end the militarization of the police is good, as the police are being provided with heave weapons used by the armed forces. When it comes time for the ruling class to use such weaponry against popular uprisings, let them send in the Na-

tional Guard or the Army, where we have a better chance of winning members of these forces to our side than with members of the police. (This actually happened during the nationwide railway strike in 1877, when members of the militia joined the strikers.)

We recognize that demands for “Community Control of the Police” have been put forward by progressive organizations such as the recently reformed National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression and other parties that we consider comrades. However, we do not think that demands for tinkering with state power are helpful. What could this mean under capitalism? It could only mean that some sort of boards would be elected locally that at best would have the power to hire and fire cops, and maybe bring indictments of cops who engaged in acts of brutality. But what would prevent many of these local board members from acting like other locally elected officials, who in their great majority serve the capitalist class. At best there could be a few indictments, but they could also lead to more sophisticated cover-ups of police brutality.

In New York City, starting in 1969 we had a system of local school boards, which came out of the demand for “Community Control of the Schools.” A few progressives were elected, but overall they had minimal affects on education. When they were disbanded in 2002, there was almost no public outcry.

At this point the main thing we can do is expose the police as agents of state repression.



Are they here to “Serve and Protect”?

Please note that this is in no way meant to criticize those who take part in Black Lives Matter protests. BLM has always been more of a slogan than an organization. However, it does show that the capitalist monopolies are trying to control the protests as much as they can.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/aug/16/black-lives-matter-cashes-100-million-liberal-foun/>

Black Lives Matter cashes in with \$100 million from liberal foundations



Black Lives Matter demonstrators gather during a protest on Broad Street in Philadelphia on July 26, 2016, during the second day of the Democratic National Convention. (Associated Press)
By Valerie Richardson – The Washington Times – Tuesday, August 16, 2016

For all its talk of being a street uprising, Black Lives Matter is increasingly awash in cash, raking in pledges of more than \$100 million from liberal foundations and others eager to contribute to what has become the grant-making cause du jour.

The Ford Foundation and Borealis Philanthropy recently announced the formation of the Black-Led Movement Fund [BLMF], a six-year pooled donor campaign aimed at raising \$100 million for the Movement for Black Lives coalition.

That funding comes in addition to more than \$33 million in grants to the Black Lives Matter movement from top Democratic Party donor George Soros through his Open Society Foundations, as well as grant-making from the Center for American Progress.

“The BLMF provides grants, movement building resources, and technical assistance to organiza-

tions working advance the leadership and vision of young, Black, queer, feminists and immigrant leaders who are shaping and leading a national conversation about criminalization, policing and race in America,” said the Borealis announcement.

In doing so, however, the foundations have aligned themselves with the staunch left-wing platform of the Movement for Black Lives, which unveiled a policy agenda shortly after the fund was announced accusing Israel of being an “apartheid state” guilty of “genocide.”

Released Aug. 1, the platform also calls for defunding police departments, race-based reparations, breaking voting rights for illegal immigrants, fossil-fuel divestment, an end to private education and charter schools, a “universal basic income,” and free college for blacks.

Jail Killer Cops for Life!



While reactionary President Trump sent unmarked forces and orders police to use pepper spray against demonstrators, New York's "progressive" Mayor de Blasio declared a curfew in New York City and defended cops who ran a police van into demonstrators.

In a statement of unmatched hypocrisy, Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said: "On behalf of the entire NYC police department... we stand with the Floyd family." But the NYPD is responsible for some of the most outrageous cases of police murder. And a judge just accepted a request from the NYPD to allow them to arrest and detain anyone indefinitely, ignoring the State's law that an arrestee must be arraigned within 24 hours.

Now is the time to call again for the indictment Daniel Pantaleo, the cop who killed Eric Garner, and all the other cops who stood around as this murder took place. (There is no question of "double jeopardy" here, since Pantaleo was not even indicted, much less put on trial.) All cops who have killed innocent people should be brought to justice.

Bring back all jobs now!

While New York and other parts of the country are slowing re-opening, the bosses and their government (it's not our government) want to restart the economy with as few workers as possible. Over 40 million people have filed for unemployment insurance – we need all our jobs back. If fewer workers are needed, we should demand "30 for 40," 30 hours work for 40 hours pay!

We need to be clear on the role of the police in capitalist society, which is to serve the bosses, their private property and their government. We propose the slogan:

*The cops aren't here to serve and protect;
they are here to kill and oppress!*

Contact us: IWM2020@yahoo.com. Call: 201-426-7830.

On FB at: Independent Workers Movement.

Why Grand Juries Almost Never Indict Cops?

Why is it that almost no killer cops (or other cops who brutalize Afro-Americans and others) are indicted for their crimes. We know that the District Attorneys (prosecutors) are also part of the capitalist state apparatus, and do not want to indict cops, whether for murder or other crimes. But many people do not know how DAs can prevent indictments in well-known cases such as police killings. The answer is that **they never seek such indictments**.

Years ago, this writer served on a grand jury. In New York State (and in many other states), all indictments on felony charges have to go through a grand jury. In most cases, these indictments (which need an affirmative vote of 16 out of 23 members of the jury) are a formality. For example, a prosecutor will say: "I am seeking an indictment for robbery" against a man accused of purse-snatching. He will bring in the victim as a witness, who will testify that a man snatched her purse and ran off with it. She will then testify that she later saw the man in a police line-up. In such cases the grand jury will vote for the indictment, usually unanimously.

But this is generally not the procedure used in cases of killer cops, or other felonies where the DA does not want an indictment. I did not sit on any case of police murderers, but I did sit on a case of a manager at a fancy supermarket who had killed a man who was trying to return cans at the "wrong time."

To briefly describe the facts in the case, the man brought a bag of cans to the cashier at the supermarket, but he was told that he could only cash in the cans at certain hours on certain days. The man pulled out a knife in frustration, and the cashier yelled for help. The manager chased the man out of the store. Although the man (who was still carrying the bag of cans) was no longer threatening anyone, the manager caught up with the him, pushed him to the ground, put his knee on his neck (shades of Eric Garner and George Floyd) until he died.

The prosecutor, instead of seeking an indictment, whether for murder or for lesser homicide charges, said: "I am calling for an investigation into the death" of the man with the cans. This was a clear indication to the members of the grand jury, who almost always follow the lead of the prosecutor, that he did not want any indictment in this case, and no indictment was brought.

This is clearly what happens in the great majority of police killings. But the bourgeois press never explains this.

One small reform that could be called for in cases of killings and other acts of brutality by police is that the DAs must make public what charges, if any, are being sought, or whether they are only calling for "an investigation" in the case. This would make it a little harder for DAs to hide the fact that they are protecting the police.



Even the FDA says: "**Face masks (non-surgical masks)** may not provide protection from fluids or may not filter particles, needed to protect against pathogens, such as viruses."

Further thoughts on the consequences of the coronavirus

First, it should be clear that the ruling class has no intention of letting things “go back to normal” after the virus has run its course, which they are already saying (or planning) may not be for another year.

They want to carry on production and services with as few workers as possible. This is what is behind pushing for everything possible to be done “on line.” If food and every variety of goods can be ordered on line (and this was a tendency even before the virus), then one needs way fewer service workers and only more underpaid delivery workers (who can easily be found among the 40 million who have recently filed for unemployment benefits).

Look at the on-line **school system**. There may be rules requiring no more than 30 students in a class, but what is to prevent having 60 students in an on-line class. Besides, it is much more difficult for on-line teachers to organize, much less to strike. And note the increased number of ads for on-line courses, both in universities and in charter schools.

Look at the **“health care” industry**, such as it is. Now, in the public hospitals in New York City, you are given a telephone appointment, and later only if you need a physical exam are you given an in-person appointment. There is a stupid ad (by Microsoft Teams) that states that **5,000 people a day** can be examined in one hospital on-line, and how one can discuss a patient’s x-ray on line. But they have not yet figured out a way to take an x-ray on line, or even take someone’s blood pressure or check their breathing with a stethoscope on line.

And not to deny the heroism of health care workers who are dealing with coronavirus patients, again at least in the public hospitals the vast majority of doctors and other health care workers are “working from home.”

Clearly one of the plans in education and health care is to cut down (or even eliminate where possible) any public services. For what is most important under monopoly capitalism is to maximize profit, not to provide for people’s needs. (Stalin discusses this in *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.*, Chapter 7.)

However, there is a contradiction that capitalism cannot solve by producing more with fewer workers. The only source of profit is the labor power of the workers. (For those who need a refresher on this, or who have never examined this question, see Marx’s

Wages, Price and Profit, especially Chapters VI to VIII.) But as capitalism develops, more and more investment goes into machinery and other means of production (which today includes the internet). This is called constant capital, as its value does not increase, only transformed as it goes into the product. Thus there is the tendency for the rate of profit to fall, as the rate of profit is the ratio of the surplus value (produced by human labor) to total capital investment. (Marx goes into this in detail in *Capital*, Vol. III, Part III.)

Finally, there is a **possible** connection between all this and the coronavirus. The increased use of the internet (for on-line classes, etc.) demands use of greater and greater bandwidth. This is the reason for the spread of 5G networks and towers throughout much of the world. But 5G has serious health consequences (see the article on “The Danger of the 5G Network...” in *Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity*, Vol. 1, No. 5 – <https://redstarpublishers.org/TMLUv1n5.pdf>, p. 8). In Italy at the height of the incidence of coronavirus there, Trieste had a low rate of coronavirus infections (3,303 confirmed cases with 303 deaths¹) and also no 5G network, while Milan had a high rate of coronavirus (92, 675 confirmed cases with 16, 536 deaths², over 50 times the number of deaths as in Trieste) as well as an extensive 5G network³. This is no “conspiracy theory,” but makes perfect sense since one of the effects of 5G is to weaken a person’s immune system. Of course, this is empirical evidence, not scientific proof; there must be further studies done on this, but do not expect the government or the official health-care industry to do this.

¹ <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=coronavirus+cases+in+triests>

² https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=5nXvXrP6KKKe7ggfYk734BA&q=coronavirus+cases+milan&oq=coronavirus+cases+milan&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWlQAzoFCAAQsQM6BQgAEIMBOgIAFCgBFjDQ2CfTGgAcAB4AIAIBRYgB-AiSAQIyM5gBAKABAaoBB2d3cy13aXo&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEwizhZyGlpPqAhWnneAKHdhJD08Q4dUDCAg&uact=5

³ For map of 5G coverage see <https://www.nperf.com/en/map/5g>. You must expand the map to find Trieste; it is in the northeast corner of Italy bordering on Slovenia.

When I first heard of this, I didn't believe it until I researched it. The only question is: did Cuomo do this because the nursing homes needed more business, or did he want Social security to save money that could go to more "useful" areas such as wars of aggression?

Cindy Sheehan has also pointed this out in her article "The Scandal of Eldercide." See https://cindysheehanssoapbox.blogspot.com/2020/06/the-scandal-of-eldercide-by-cindy.html?fbclid=IwAR0eKA32fLWBTwLiU6JGr_tEPTP9UOmPIMcWYCLpDwVHp2-24iXFokT4zDA&m=1

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/ap-count-4300-virus-patients-ny-nursing-homes-70825470>

AP count: Over 4,500 virus patients sent to NY nursing homes

More than 4,500 recovering coronavirus patients were sent to New York's already vulnerable nursing homes under a controversial state directive that was ultimately scrapped amid criticisms it was possibly accelerating the outbreaks

By Bernard Condon, Jennifer Peltz and Jim Mustian Associated Press, May 22, 2020, 5:51 PM



FILE- In this April 17, 2020, file photo, a patient is wheeled into Cobble Hill Health Center by emergency medical workers in the Brooklyn borough of New York. On Thursday, April 23, 2020, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that nursing

homes in New York must immediately report how they have complied with regulations for resident care during the coronavirus, and non-compliant facilities could face hefty fines or lose their licenses. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

NEW YORK – More than 4,500 recovering coronavirus patients were sent to New York’s already vulnerable nursing homes under a controversial state directive that was ultimately scrapped amid criticisms it was accelerating the nation’s deadliest outbreaks, according to a count by The Associated Press.

AP compiled its own tally to find out how many COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals to nursing homes under the March 25 directive after New York’s Health Department declined to release its internal survey conducted two weeks ago. It says it is still verifying data that was incomplete.

Whatever the full number, nursing home administrators, residents’ advocates and relatives say it has added up to a big and indefensible problem for facilities that even Gov. Andrew Cuomo — the main proponent of the policy — called “the optimum feeding ground for this virus.”

“It was the single dumbest decision anyone could make if they wanted to kill people,” Daniel Arbeeney said of the directive, which prompted him to pull his 88-year-old father out of a Brooklyn nursing home where more than 50 people have died. His father later died of COVID-19 at home.

“This isn’t rocket science,” Arbeeney said. “We knew the most vulnerable — the elderly and compromised — are in nursing homes and rehab centers.”

Told of the AP’s tally, the Health Department said late Thursday it “can’t comment on data we haven’t had a chance to review, particularly while we’re still validating our own comprehensive survey of nursing homes admission and re-admission data in the middle of responding to this global pandemic.”

Cuomo, a Democrat, on May 10 reversed the directive, which had been intended to help free up hospital beds for the sickest patients as cases surged. But he continued to defend it this week, saying he didn’t believe it contributed to the more than 5,800 nursing and adult care facility deaths in New York — more than in any other state — and that homes should have spoken up if it was a problem.

“Any nursing home could just say, ‘I can’t handle a COVID person in my facility,’” he said, although the March 25 order didn’t specify how homes could refuse, saying that “no resident shall be denied re-admission or admission to the (nursing home) solely based” on confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Over a month later, on April 29, the Health Department clarified that homes should not take any

new residents if they were unable to meet their needs, including a checklist of standards for coronavirus care and prevention.

In the meantime, some nursing homes felt obligated and overwhelmed.

Gurwin Jewish, a 460-bed home on Long Island, seemed well-prepared for the coronavirus in early March, with movable walls to seal off hallways for the infected. But after the state order, a trickle of recovering COVID-19 patients from local hospitals turned into a flood of 58 people.

More walls were put up, but other residents nonetheless began falling sick and dying. In the end, 47 Gurwin residents died of confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

The state order “put staff and residents at great risk,” CEO Stuart Almer said. “We can’t draw a straight line from bringing in someone positive to someone catching the disease, but we’re talking about elderly, fragile and vulnerable residents.”

The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, known as AMDA, had warned from the beginning that Cuomo’s order admitting infected patients posed a “clear and present danger” to nursing home residents. Now, Jeffrey N. Nichols, who serves on the executive committee of the group, said “the effect of that order was to contribute to 5,000 deaths.”

Nationally, over 35,500 people have died from coronavirus outbreaks at nursing homes and long-term care facilities, about a third of the overall death toll, according to the AP’s running tally.

Cuomo has deflected criticism over the nursing home directive by saying it stemmed from Trump administration guidance. Still, few states went as far as New York and neighboring New Jersey, which has the second-most care home deaths, in discharging hospitalized coronavirus patients to nursing homes. California followed suit but loosened its requirement following intense criticism.

Some states went in the opposite direction. Louisiana barred hospitals for 30 days from sending coronavirus patients to nursing homes with some exceptions. And while Louisiana reported about 1,000 coronavirus-related nursing home deaths, far fewer than New York, that was 40% of Louisiana’s statewide death toll, a higher proportion than in New York.

New York’s Health Department told the AP May 8 it was not tracking how many recovering COVID-19 patients were taken into nursing homes under the

order. But it was at that very moment surveying administrators of the state's over 1,150 nursing homes and long-term care facilities on just that question.

Those survey results have yet to be released. But regardless, the Health Department said, the survey had no bearing on Cuomo's announcement May 10 that "we're just not going to send a person who is positive to a nursing home after a hospital visit."

Cuomo said such patients would be accommodated elsewhere, such as sites originally set up as temporary hospitals.

To some, the governor's reversal came too late.

"It infected a great number of people in nursing homes who had no business getting infected, including short-term residents who were there for rehabilitation after surgeries," said John Dalli, a New York attorney who specializes in nursing home cases.

To be sure, incoming residents weren't the only possible source of infection. Some homes believe a bigger contribution came from staffers and residents unaware they had the virus. And some say they would have taken on COVID-19 patients regardless of the state's order.

"There were nursing homes that realized that there was a void," said Sarah Colomello, a spokeswoman for Thompson House in Rhinebeck. The 100-bed facility set up an isolated unit where affiliated hospitals nearby have sent at least 21 patients. It has reported no deaths.

Cuomo administration officials say the original directive came when the governor feared the hospital system would be overwhelmed and was focused on creating as much hospital space as possible.

That was welcomed by one of the many hospital systems and nursing homes surveyed for AP's count. Northwell Health said three of its medical centers were so overtaxed at one point they had to put some ICU patients in hallways. To relieve pressure, the company eventually sent more than 1,700 COVID-19 patients to nursing homes.

"Suffice it say, our hospitals were under stress," spokesman Terence Lynam said.

Associated Press investigative researcher Randy Herschaft contributed to this report.

Absentee Ballots Are Not Secret Ballots

In New York, and probably most other states, absentee ballots are not secret ballots. One fills out one's ballot, puts it in a special envelope, on which one puts one's name, address and other necessary information so that the people at the Board of Elections can check whether the person is actually a registered voter, and then the envelope is opened. This allows the person at the board to see for whom the voter is voting, so that it is not a secret ballot.

There is a very easy way to avoid this problem, which many private institutions use. One similarly fills out one's ballot, puts it in a **blank** envelope, puts this in another envelope, and then puts one's name and other necessary information on this outer envelope. This way when the ballot arrives, the information on the outer envelope is checked, and when the envelope is opened, there is only a blank envelope that can be thrown into a box, which can be opened at a later time without the person opening the envelope containing the ballot knowing whose ballot it is. All this costs is an extra envelope for each voter.

Since absentee ballots are being used extensively in this period, voters should know this information. But the politicians who are pushing absentee ballots are not mentioning this.

What Makes a Country Socialist?

Bill from Maryland,

May-June 2020

In socialism, the government directs the economy to satisfy the material and cultural requirements of the people. The state orients the economy to put people before profits. For a country to continue building socialism, however, the military and the government must remain free from control by *imperialism* and the *exploiting classes*, as Lenin understood these terms.

This definition of socialism diagrams an answer to the question of what, from the point of view of the world communist movement since Lenin, makes a country socialist. For much of the 20th century, most revolutionaries internationally viewed Stalin's way of applying this definition as correct. Stalin's writings spoke to an age when the Soviet Union not only inspired emulation, but actually existed. In *Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR* (1952), Stalin addressed Soviet political economy and confronted challenges facing socialism's further development. In the USSR's socialism, state enterprises and collectives constituted the basic forms of production.

New realities since Stalin's death and Khrushchev's "Secret Speech" and especially since the events of 1989-91 do not require a new definition of socialism but they do warrant new ways of interpreting the historic definition. Marxism is not a holy scripture revealed for all eternity. It is a living tradition ever reinvented in history. Marxist theory continues to develop in response to the needs of successive stages of the world revolutionary process. The challenge for each generation of Communists is to apply the old definition organically in their own time and place.

The following three phenomena in the history of socialist construction support the practical merits of the definition of socialism advocated here: (1) military intervention to defend socialism in fraternal countries; (2) private economic activity under government control in socialism, and; (3) socialism with national characteristics to meet the challenges of achieving revolutionary goals in particular internal and regional contexts.

The following realities illustrate the enduring relevance of the definition outlined above and confirm, instead of disprove, the Marxist theory of socialism. Socialism prevailed in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, even though it took external intervention to help reestablish order in each instance. In the aftermath, the militaries of both countries remained independent of imperialism. DPRK, China, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam today continue to build socialism, notwithstanding a reliance on private sectors specific to each country's needs. Their governments control the economies, including the private sectors, and use planning to serve the public good. Ba'athist Syria and Bolivarian Venezuela stand in the vanguard of revolutionary struggles in our time. In both countries, governments mobilize and arm the working class with guns to defend the gains achieved against imperialist predation. This is socialism as it really is when people forge the new society, not by uncritical imitation of examples of prior success, but by hammering out what works through informed trial and error.

In *The State and Revolution* (1917), Lenin assessed the dictatorship of the proletariat, "the touchstone on which the *real* understanding and recognition of Marxism should be tested," as the deepest distinguishing feature demarcating Marxism from all other class positions. During the long epoch inaugurated by the Russian Revolution, the proletarian dictatorship acquires and will always assume many different forms, such as, for example, the socialism with Arab characteristics of Ba'athist Syria and the unique road to socialism taken by the DPRK. The defense of core revolutionary conquests in the arenas of the military, government, and the economy marks the hard border separating such states, notwithstanding their diverse modes of expression, from imperialism and other class enemies. It reveals the class nature of the states in question to be the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Reply: What Makes a Country Socialist?

Dear Bill,

You begin your article by saying that under socialism, “the government directs the economy to satisfy the material and cultural requirements of the people.” This is basically a correct summary of what Stalin calls the basic economic law of socialism.

But immediately after that, you put forth the CP slogan “people before profits.” I at first thought that you could change it to a more or less correct slogan of “people, not profits.” However, I later realized that this would make it difficult for you to justify your position that China is still socialist, since much of its economy is based on private profit.

You also correctly point out that Lenin considered the dictatorship of the proletariat to be the “touchstone” of the recognition of Marxism. But in 1956 Khrushchev said that this dictatorship was no longer necessary because in the Soviet Union there was now a “state of the whole people.” The Soviet revisionist leadership began returning to capitalism, including by making profit the major criterion to judge the success of a state enterprise.

I will not go into detail on your view of the existing “socialist” states. Both Cuba and the DPRK are trying hard to defend their countries from US imperialism, and of course we have to defend this. But to defend China as socialist at this time when, together with openly capitalist Russia, it is the main capitalist rival to US imperialism, is not only to misunderstand socialism but to misunderstand one of the main contradictions in the world today, the contradiction among imperialist countries.⁴ As we both

reside within the “belly of the beast,” clearly we have to concentrate our fight against “our own” imperialism, US imperialism, but that does not mean that we should not correctly characterize its rivals.

Finally, you seem to consider both Bolivarian Venezuela and Ba’athist Syria as socialist. You say “this is socialism as it actually exists.” I think Bashar al-Assad would be surprised to know that someone considers Syria as socialist (at least in the scientific, Marxist, sense). As to Venezuela, as we again must defend it (and Syria) against US imperialism, the government has done very little to even nationalize big private companies (oil was nationalized decades earlier), and as to arming the population that is not quite true. From our comrades in Venezuela, who give tactical support to the government, there have been several million people trained in arms, but the arms are still under the control of the army. Their slogan is: **Socialism Can Only Be Built with the Worker-Peasant Alliance in Power and the People in Arms**

I do not want my comments to exceed the length of your statement, so I will end here. As you pointed out, we are on opposite poles on this, but I think we are in agreement that this should not preclude cooperation in the future on issues where we do agree.

In solidarity,

George

⁴ For material on Chinese imperialism, see “Is China an Imperialist Country?” available for download at: www.RedStarPublishers.org/IsChinaAnImperialistCountry.pdf

Red Herrings are Not Red or Working-Class Issues

By Peter Korman

When trying to formulate a proper argument, one must imagine themselves as an archer standing on an archery range. The sun shines on the archer and a cool spring wind blows across their face as they load their arrow and align their shot. Their goal in attempting to form a proper cogent argument is to hit the bulls-eye with both their facts and analysis. Their shot must be precise and the arrow must land in the bull's-eye.

Now imagine as the string is pulled back, and the archer is ready to fire his arrow that a loud sound disturbs him from his task. He hears a loud scream of sorts from above him and looks up to see an obnoxious bird who is carrying a boombox. This bird, for all intents and purposes, has the goal of distracting the archer from presenting a cogent argument and wants to cause the archer or presenter to miss his shot.

In logic and dialectics, this is called the logical fallacy. A logical fallacy is where one makes only a single error in reasoning which causes the entire argument or statement of truth to fall apart like a Jenga tower, only one piece must be missing or misplaced for the entire argument fall apart. In our hypothetical scenario, we will call the bird that is accosting the archer at the range in the springtime, as "The Red Herring." In this animated example imagine the red herring turning on the boombox and doing a dance above the archer's head constantly distracting him from the issue at hand. He is a representation of all logical fallacies. They can be boiled down to the red herring fallacy.

The red herring fallacy can be described By the Texas State University Department of Philosophy as "a fallacy that consists in diverting attention from the real issue by focusing instead on an issue having only a surface relevance to the first." Here are some examples from Texas State University.

Son: "Wow, Dad, it's really hard to make a living on my salary." Father: "Consider yourself lucky, son. Why, when I was your age, I only made \$40 a week."

Senator Clark: "Why are you not willing to support the antiabortion amendment? Don't you have any feelings at all for the unborn children whose lives are being indiscriminately blotted out?" Senator Rich: "I just don't understand why you people who get so worked up about lives being blotted out by abortion don't have the same feelings about the thousands of lives that are blotted out every year by the indiscriminate use of handguns. Is not the issue of the sanctity of human life involved in both

issues? Why have you not supported us in our efforts at gun-control legislation?"

When we discuss arguments related to Marxism or Marxism-Leninism, we must come to see that this crazy agitating and annoying bird of the red herring constantly seeks to divert arguments away from economics and class struggle which are the two identical parts of the main theses of Marxism. If it does not have anything to do with economics and class struggle or the contradictions between workers and bosses then it has nothing to do with Marxism which is a scientific model of reality with predictive capability which can tell us things about where the future is going, we can then test these predictions thus making it a scientific theory.

However; when ideas such as "identity politics.", and even critiques of Marxism such as "they are class reductionist; they are reducing everything to class struggle" come up we must immediately see that this is the work of the red herring and that the individuals making these arguments either are doing them on purpose to drive a wedge between those working for social change, or they have completely misread Marx and do not understand his theses and works and are trying to inject pop psychology into Marxism. Arguments like these must immediately be seen as fallacious and we must learn to understand when someone is trying to throw us off from economics and class struggle and instead move us towards critiquing social theory and pop psychology. Individuals that do this will more than likely cause individualistic fights amongst social movements as they put their psychological struggles at the forefront of class struggle. Again this is not Marxism and has nothing to do with its predictive capabilities and building models of what may happen in the future. When we see this annoying red herring with his loud and annoying boombox we must continue to shoot straight and not worry about those that would have us miss our very few shots that we have. Their personal problems do not take precedence over movements that people have worked hard to build.

If it is not economics and class struggle, it is not Marxism.

References: "Red Herring" Department of Philosophy: Texas State University, Texas State University, 15 May 2019, www.txstate.edu/philosophy/resources/fallacy-definitions/Red-Herring.html.

<https://theredphoenixapl.org/2020/05/31/the-mythology-of-american-democracy-came-crashing-down-last-night-fight-for-a-working-class-alternative/>

The Mythology of American Democracy Came Crashing Down Last Night— Fight for a Working Class Alternative!

By J. Palamedas, May 31, 2020



Protesters in Chicago, IL, May 30th.

Last night saw the great mythology of the United States—of free expression, compromise, and democracy—come crashing down in fire, smoke, pepper spray, curfews, and police abuse. It became clear beyond any doubt that the only thing holding the American government in place is violence, of the police and military. In nine states and territories the national guard were called, and curfews were announced in 25 cities in 16 states. Across the country, from Huntsville, Alabama, to Fayetteville, Arkansas, to New York City, to Los Angeles, to Chicago, and beyond, protesters facing desperate economic conditions and ineffectual government raised their voices in unprecedented ways, and defended themselves from police aggression, looted stores, and generally lashed out.

Many pundits, like CNN's Don Lemon, couldn't believe their eyes. They couldn't understand where the American national project had failed. Just five years ago, Barack Obama was president, civility, though taxed by republican extremism, was the political sentiment of the day. From their position in cushy urban apartments or suburban mansions, the upper-class political talking-heads of America thought that everything was on the right track. The working class of this country has known for several decades that this has not been the case.

Life in Post Cold-War America

That some lives are more important than others has been a universal American truth, from the genocide of Native Americans, to the exploitation of black slave labor to build the country, to profiteering off immigrant labor while stoking nativism. It is woven integrally into the fabric of the country. The vast palaces of the rich, the vaunted "middle class lifestyle," and all those things many Americans think separates them from the rest of the world, was built by hyper-exploitation at home and murderous imperialism and colonialism abroad. The murder and exploitation of immigrants and people of color is a matter of American historical record.

Yet, in the wake of Reaganomics, the New-Deal era mythos of an American nation made strong by its differences and compassion, placed over the simple truth of American brutality, began to erode even for "middle-class" whites. For several decades, the American government has rather openly murdered its own people, shipped jobs overseas, and committed widely documented atrocities condemned not only by the left but several bourgeois international

bodies. The different value of life has become pervasive in nearly every aspect of our lives as workers in 2020, and is present at every interaction we have with state institutions. Police shake hands with women's marchers, predominantly white, and rip children away from immigrant mothers. "Our" troops are to be supported, until they come back from imperialist war dealing with trauma. Some workers are full-time and have benefits, others, doing the exact same work, are part-time and face bankruptcy from minor health issues. White-collar jobs balloon, while blue-collar jobs disappear. We have all seen so many unarmed black people killed we can't remember all their names and stories. Even reactionaries like Rush Limbaugh who are the first to defend police officers had a hard time defending Derek Chauvin. All this, in the backdrop of a pandemic in which national leaders have gaged re-opening strategies on how many lives they can trade for stock gains.

"No, the growing, popular understanding that the lives of those of color and working class people are worth less than stock options has been a bipartisan creation."

Importantly, this has been a bipartisan effort. We cannot blame this open disdain for the lives of workers and people of color on Trump or even Reagan. Bill Clinton's deregulation of derivatives was responsible for the 2008 collapse that saw millions lose their home, while Wall Street was bailed out (by Obama). Obama deported over 2 million immigrants, killed thousands of innocent civilians in the middle east with drones, and did little to curb the neo-liberal ruination of rural America and police brutality against African-Americans. It was Obama who resigned the patriot act, and enabled the executive branch to detain "terrorists" indefinitely without charge, a policy Donald Trump is now trying to weaponize against "antifa." It was Obama who punished working class people with extra taxes if they didn't buy a healthcare plan with a \$10,000 deductible. It was Democratic mayors in Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York, Chicago, and more, that unleashed the brutality of their police departments on the people the last few days, issued curfews, and refused to hold the cops accountable. It was Democratic Mayor Lori Lightfoot in Chicago that called protesters "criminals" and arrested over 1000 after trapping them downtown. It was Amy Klobuchar that failed to prosecute the murderer of George Floyd.

No, the growing, popular understanding that the lives of those of color and working class people are worth less than stock options has been a bipartisan creation. This is why the Don Lemons of the world can't believe their eyes—democratic party leaders and moderates around the country have spent the last few decades creating this anger that is now only beginning to manifest itself, faced with an old enemy: the law and order right.

The “Law and Order” Threat



Law and order campaign pin from 68 election

As workers, we have to be students of previous struggles for civil rights and reform in the United States. In 1968, when riots rocked the country, Richard Nixon responded by crafting a presidential campaign for “law and order,” to “return to normal,” ironically similar to Biden’s current platform. But it is Trump who is positioning himself as this candidate in the last few days, fantasizing about shooting looters, designating antifa has a terrorist organization, and attacking “trouble-makers” in Washington, DC. It worked spectacularly for Nixon, who won the election easily, despite flagrant racist George Wallace cutting into republican territory and getting 13% of the vote.

“There is a strong fascist-leaning undercurrent in this country, that will defend white supremacy at any cost to basic democratic rights.”

Two years later, in 1970, over 60% of Americans per a Gallup poll at the time supported the killing of innocent students at Kent State, one who was

simply walking to class. Fred Hampton was murdered that year in cold blood, and the Black Panthers were destroyed by FBI infiltration and COINTELPRO-intensified infighting. There is a strong fascist-leaning undercurrent in this country, that will defend white supremacy at any cost to basic bourgeois rights. They will with one breath fly a Gadsden flag, and with another defend police pepper-balling people sitting on their own porch. Last time, this law and order current was successful, and disintegrated the popular movement.

When the power of the people rises, as it did in the late-1960s, these forces in America, empowered by their president, will strike against the people’s movements with lethal force. We have seen already that American fascist movements have moved to “defend businesses” and stop looting, positioning themselves not as open Nazis, but as simple Americans who crave a return to the normalcy of “law and order.” We must prepare to fight them by any means.

Once Again, for Working Democracy

But history is not a circle, though it should inform our struggles and lines of dialogue. In 1964, Malcolm X argued in his famous speech “The Ballot or the Bullet” that civil rights activists should use the ballot if authentically useful, and fight for a useful ballot if it wasn’t. In an election of two sexual abusers, with 40 million unemployed, facing environmental disaster and disease, the people of the United States, from Fayetteville to New York City, have started this process. In so doing, the workers of this country have shown their immense power, bringing entire cities to a halt, as martyred IWW activist Joe Hill knew they could.

“What all of us have been fighting for across the country, at grave risk, is a society in which all human life is valued equally—one in which all people’s voices are heard equally, where murderers go to prison, where people are bailed out before banks. For this, we have been beaten, tear-gassed, and shot with all sorts of ammunition.”

We are in the early stages of that process, and movements and ideological trends rise and fall in hours on the streets in cities across the country, and the power of the people is often raw and disorganized, as Frank Chapman, chair of the NAARPR, said of the lessons of the Chicago action on May 30th. The popular movement, as it continues, will have to contend with anarchic and reckless individualist violence. It must not alienate itself from the

working class and communities of color, or seem as foreign invaders in neighborhoods and movements, a situation the 60s anti-war movement often found itself in. It must clearly identify itself as working class, for working class interests, and clearly identify its enemies. The movement must target its militancy against police installations and exploitative establishments, and bring a political message against white supremacy and for workers rights to their workplaces and any place of contact with fellow workers—union halls, sports clubs, music scenes, the classroom, etc.

What all of us have been fighting for across the country, at grave risk, is a society in which all human life is valued equally—one in which all people's voices are heard equally, where murderers go to prison, where people are bailed out before banks.

For this, we have been beaten, tear-gassed, and shot with all sorts of ammunition. But we know, despite what democratic mayors and police superintendents say, that we are fighting for a true, working democracy in which police are controlled by community assemblies, white supremacy is actively rooted out and suppressed, and our democratic choices aren't between two senile criminals. The price we have paid already has been steep, with journalists wounded, blinded, and thousands of activists beaten, maced, tear-gassed, arrested, shot at, and even killed—and the price will continue to grow. But we pay it with the weight of past liberation struggles in this country on our shoulders, and a hopeful heart for a fundamental remaking of American society towards a working democracy.

June 6, 2020

In front of the Federal Court (San Juan, Puerto Rico)

Declaration Against Racism, Fascism and Capitalism



For the murder of George Floyd and in solidarity with the protests

We, the Communist Workers and Students for Social Change, a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist communist organization, denounce and express our repudiation and outrage at the murder of the Afro-American George Floyd at the hands of the US criminal police. George Floyd was suffocated on May 25 in Minneapolis by officer Dereck Chauvin, who after handcuffing him and putting him face down with the help of two others, pressed him against the pavement with his knee on his neck for more than 8 minutes. Floyd, handcuffed and completely immobilized, repeatedly stated "I can't breathe". Officer Chauvin was initially charged with third-degree murder as if it had been involuntary. These days, we assume that due to the pressure of the protests, they changed the charges to second-degree murder, also including the three accomplices, despite the fact that the video clearly shows us the violation of Floyd's rights as murder in the first degree.

In the past 5 years, the Minneapolis police have pressed their knee on the neck of those arrested 237 times. Three out of five people were black or Latino (66%) (this is two out of three people – *translator's note*). On July 17, 2014, a similar case occurred in New York, where a white police officer named Dan-

iel Pantaleo suffocated Eric Gardner, a 43-year-old black man who was asthmatic. Eric Gardner also repeated "I can't breathe". This police officer has never been charged with murder and the crime remains unpunished. In 2018 alone, the police killed approximately 1,000 people. These are not accidents, they are systematic and intentional killings directed against black and Latino minorities in that country.

We Demonstrate Against Racism

These cases continue to be repeated against blacks and Latinos in the United States. Minority groups remain the most marginalized and exploited by the capitalist system. The only reason for these outrages is that racism is institutionalized through the capitalist system itself. Both the judicial systems, the repressive apparatuses of the state, and the police are used to keep us blacks and Latinos at the lowest echelon of society and of the exploitation of workers.

Malcolm X once said, **"There is no capitalism without racism."** The capitalist system creates economic, social, and racial inequality because it needs to perpetuate divisions within the working class. It needs to place human beings in a racial hierarchy in order to

depreciate and lower the value of the workers' labor. In this way, it ensures that the working class can never act cohesively. In this way, it prevents the working class from uniting to destroy capitalism.

We Demonstrate Against Fascism

In the midst of the pandemic we are experiencing, capitalism has brought out its true face: **fascism**. This phase of capitalism is characterized by its totalitarianism, its defense of capital and private property, the excessive exaltation of chauvinist and xenophobic nationalism. In addition to its militarist character, it highlights the racial supremacy of some groups over others. Today, many governments have re-emerged with fascist policies, eliminating civil rights, the right to protest, free expression, and imposing the militarization of the police.

President Trump has stated that he wants to designate the anti-fascist movement organization ANTIFA as a terrorist organization. He accuses the "ultra left" of being behind the protests, which is an open persecution against the whole left movement. We see here the hypocrisy and double standard of the US Government and its president, when he defended the fascists who protested at the Department of State in Michigan a few weeks ago, with heavy weapons and carrying the swastika. The President of the USA applauded that sector and argued that they had the right to defend the Second Amendment to the Constitution, the right to bear arms. However, peaceful protests by unarmed citizens repudiating racism, victims of police brutality and racist killings, are seen as terrorist acts.

We Demonstrate Against Capitalism

Long live communism! Long live internationalism!

Workers of the world, unite! The working class has no borders!

In this system of social injustice, inequality and classes, we workers are always dismissed. The capitalist system blames us for its structural and systemic failure. It blames us for being poor, but it is this system that generates poverty. As Marx points out, the capitalist needs an army of the unemployed to be able to replace labor power. Currently, there are over 40 million unemployed in the US, and in P.R. over 390,000 have lost their jobs since the pandemic. However, coronavirus is not the problem. The coronavirus has exposed the structural problems of the capitalist system. It has made it clear that what matters to the capitalist is profit and he is willing to sacrifice you to keep it. The economy is not more important than your life. **Our lives are worth more than your profits.**

Workers, it is time to challenge the established status quo; It is time to unite to free ourselves from this capitalist system and the colonialism that we have suffered for so many centuries now. These are times of struggle and resistance. Let us not fall into the trap of the manipulators who own the media, who are responsible for criminalizing and victimizing the oppressed. The fight that is taking place right now in the US it is necessary. The only violence is the one that continues to be committed against us, the workers, the dispossessed. This is legalized, institutionalized state violence. It is time to leave the fiction of parliamentary elections that keep us immobile and hinder revolutionary changes, real changes. Workers of Puerto Rico and the world, it is time to rise up against the root of our ills: capitalism and all its facets.

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**Trabajadorxs y
Estudiantes Comunistas
por el Cambio Social**



Social Outbreak at the Heart of the Capitalist Imperialist System

In the United States of America there has been an social outbreak that has been unprecedented for many years, both in the scale of the protests and their expressions of combativeness. The murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police has caused thousands of men and women to take to the streets of more than one hundred and twenty cities in all the states of the country, united with the cry "No Justice, No Peace".

The rapid spread of the protests started in Minneapolis and the social and political connotations that they now have throughout the country, show how repressed the discontent and rejection of multiple problems were in the population, some of which have become even more visible and others more acute as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. The peoples of the United States reject racism, the deterioration of their working and living conditions, the rapid growth of unemployment (40 million unemployed in recent months), the high death rate from the pandemic, which fundamentally affects the poorest, blacks, Latinos, migrants, the xenophobia and white supremacy promoted by President Donald Trump and the ruling circles of power, that is, it is a struggle that questions the prevailing capitalist system.

The events that are taking place in the US today, which we saw months before in several countries in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa, are easily explained by looking at how capitalism acts on the workers and peoples to guarantee the reproduction of capital and increased profits of their owners. However, the mobilizations in the United States are of particular transcendence and importance, since they are taking place in the main capitalist-imperialist economy in the world, showing that the

most developed powers are not prepared to combat the masses. Where there is exploitation and oppression, there is resistance and struggle of the workers and peoples.

Throughout the world, the discontent and repudiation by the workers and peoples is growing because their living conditions are more affected as the capitalist economy shrinks. The effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, on the world economy and in each country, mainly affect the workers, the unemployed and underemployed, the homeless, the landless peasants, migrants, the more impoverished sectors of society, which suggests that new revolts, new struggles will spread throughout the world for justice, for social and political rights, against oppression and exploitation.

The International Conference of Marxist Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO) expresses its solidarity with the workers, youth and women who have risen up in struggle in the United States and condemns the brutal response by the Donald Trump government. We reject the mobilization of military troops and the National Guard, the declaration of a state of emergency and curfews in several states, the violent repression that has claimed the lives of other citizens in the protests, which, however, has not been able to stop the outrage and the presence of thousands of fighters on the streets.

We call on the workers and peoples of the world, the parties and organizations that are members of our Conference, to maintain and organize new demonstrations of solidarity with the peoples of the United States and the condemnation of US imperialism.

International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations ICMLPO

June 2020

In Memory of Anatoly Pyzhkov

Very sad news from Leningrad. Yesterday the Russian communist Anatoly Pyzhkov died. He was a pioneer Revolutionary Communist in the post Soviet period, amongst the few to recognize that the restoration of capitalism took place in the post-Stalin period long before 1991. His work in Proletarskaya Gazeta, and in Zashita, the trade union defense movement, will long be remembered. Condolences to his comrades and family

Yesterday morning, June 12th 2020, it became known that my grandfather, Anatoly Vasilievich Pyzhov, my dear friend, had died.

I've been thinking what to write all day. He played a huge role in my life. It was he who helped me become a communist, instill a sense of duty and understanding that you should be responsible for your words and actions. He was as important to me as no one else who has passed through my life. From my 17 years he led me and helped me in becoming a person, a fighter against injustice, a conscious communist. With his help, I realized the value of labor of the working class, without which there can be no life on the planet. Having also become a member of this class, I approach the work RESPONSIBLY recalling his words: "The work of others depends on your work."

He lived a long life, raised three daughters, two grandchildren. And I, his grandson, swear that his work will continue. Only communism! Only the victory of the proletariat! Only internationalism and victory over any obscurantism: national, racial, or religious!

Thank you, grandfather, dear comrade Anatoly, for everything. Your labor is not in vain!

Georgiy Eremin



*¡Ni la represión del Estado ni el Covid-19
puede detener la lucha popular!*

Rebelión masiva en la EEUU contra policías asesinos

Una vez más hemos visto la muerte de parte de la policía de un inocente afro-estadounidense.

George Floyd, residente de Minneapolis, Minnesota, estaba arrestado por ningún crimen violento y probable de ningún delito de nada. Él estaba en espaldas y boca abajo en la calle cuando un policía puso su rodillo en su cuello, mientras miraban otros tres policías. Aunque Floyd dijo repetidamente “No puedo respirar,” el policía continuó sofocándole hasta la muerte.

El jefe de policía inmediatamente despidió a los cuatro policías, esperando que eso va a apaciguar al pueblo, pero claro que no era suficiente. Entonces, el fiscal puso un cargo del asesino del tercer grado al policía que directamente mató a Floyd. Después, tenía que elevar el cargo a asesino del segundo grado, y otro cargo de complicidad de asesinato en contra de los otros tres policías.

Cuatro siglos desde que empezó la esclavitud de africanos en América del Norte (1619), 155 años después del fin de la Guerra Civil que ponía fin a la esclavitud en los EEUU (1865) y 55 años del Acto de los Derechos Civiles (1965), continúa el asesinato de afro-estadounidenses por parte de la policía y racistas blancos ya. En general, los policías asesinan más de mil personas al año, casi tres por día. Y en la gran mayoría de los casos, las policías lo hacen con impunidad total. Es claro que la opresión de los afro-estadounidenses es parte integral del sistema capitalista en los EEUU.

Esos asesinatos han conducidos a grandes manifestaciones y levantamientos populares en todas partes del EEUU. Participan decenas de miles de personas, en mítines y manifestaciones, en las calles. En Minneapolis, un precinto de la policía estaba totalmente quemado. Había grandes manifestaciones frente de la Casa Blanca en la capital en Washington. Aunque la mayoría de las participantes son afro-estadounidenses, habían también otras nacionalidades oprimidas (latinos, indígenas y otros) y blancos, particularmente jóvenes. Estaban unos muertos, y muchos heridos y arrestados, pero eso no puede detener los protestas.

Los afro-estadounidenses aún tienen las más pésimas condiciones de vida en el país. Generalmente, tienen trabajos con los sueldos más bajos (particularmente en el sector de servicios), los más altos niveles de desempleo (particularmente en periodo de crisis económico y de la pandemia), las pésimas condiciones de la salud, las peo-



res escuelas, etc. También sufren del encarcelamiento masivo. Hay un sector de la clase media, pero eso no cambia la situación general. También, tienen unos de los más altos niveles de sindicalización, particularmente en el sector público, y entonces juegan un papel particularmente importante en las luchas de la clase obrera en total.

Ambos partidos principales de la burguesía, los Republicanos y los Demócratas, están tratando de reprimir el movimiento. Trump mandó a los policías de usar balas de pimienta contra los manifestantes, y el alcalde “progresista” en Nueva York declaró un toque de queda a las 8 pm para prohibir a las manifestaciones.

En los últimos días, grupos conectados al Partido Demócrata han tratado de influenciar el movimiento en una dirección más reformista. Hasta el Comisionado de la Policía en Nueva York, Dermot Shea, dijo que “el Departamento de la Policía está con la familia de George Floyd.” Pero es una hipocresía grande, porque en 2014 un policía mató a Eric Garner en Staten Island, Nueva York, en una manera casi exactamente similar, con por los menos seis otros policías mirando. Claro que ninguno de ellos fueron enjuiciados.

Hasta ahora, el movimiento tiene un carácter espontáneo. Aunque las masas entienden que hay muchas policías asesinos, en su mayoría no entienden que son parte de órganos de represión de la clase capitalista. Los grupos revolucionarios, y en particular los marxistas-leninistas, están todavía débiles. Nosotros necesitamos formar cuadros de agitadores, propagandistas y organizadores preparados para participar en las manifestaciones y darles un carácter más consciente de clase.

Pero, por ahora, lo más importante es que el movimiento no se detiene ni por la policía ni por las restricciones impuestas por el covid-19.

<https://theredphoenixapl.org/2020/05/31/the-mythology-of-american-democracy-came-crashing-down-last-night-fight-for-a-working-class-alternative/>

La mitología de la democracia estadounidense se vino abajo: ¡lucha por una alternativa de clase trabajadora!

J. Palameda, 1/06/2020.

Anoche, la gran mitología de los Estados Unidos —de libre expresión, compromiso y democracia— se derrumbó en incendios, humo, gas pimienta, toques de queda y abuso policial. Quedó claro sin lugar a dudas que lo único que mantiene al gobierno estadounidense en su lugar es la violencia, de la policía y el ejército. En nueve estados y territorios se llamó a la guardia nacional y se anunciaron toques de queda en 25 ciudades en 16 estados. En todo el país, desde Huntsville, Alabama, hasta Fayetteville, Arkansas, la ciudad de Nueva York, Los Ángeles, Chicago y más allá, los manifestantes que enfrentan condiciones económicas desesperadas y un gobierno ineficaz; alzaron sus voces de maneras sin precedentes y se defendieron de la agresión policial; saquearon tiendas y generalmente atacaron.

Muchos expertos, como Don Lemon de CNN, no podían creer lo que veían. No podían entender dónde había fallado el proyecto nacional estadounidense. Hace apenas cinco años, Barack Obama era presidente, la civilidad, aunque gravada por el extremismo republicano, era el sentimiento político de la época. Desde su posición en cómodos apartamentos urbanos o mansiones suburbanas, los parlantes políticos de clase alta de América pensaron que todo estaba en el camino correcto. La clase trabajadora de este país ha sabido durante varias décadas que este no ha sido el caso.

La vida en la América de la posguerra fría

Que algunas vidas son más importantes que otras ha sido una verdad estadounidense universal, desde el genocidio de los nativos americanos, hasta la explotación del trabajo esclavo negro para construir el país, hasta aprovecharse del trabajo de los inmigrantes mientras aviva el nativismo. Está entretejido integralmente en el tejido del país. Los vastos palacios de los ricos, el “estilo de vida de clase media”, y todas esas cosas que muchos estadounidenses piensan que los separa del resto del mundo, fueron contruidos por la hiper-explotación en el hogar y el imperialismo asesino y el colonialismo en el extranjero. El asesinato y la explotación de inmigrantes y



personas de color es una cuestión de registro histórico estadounidense.

Sin embargo, a raíz de Reaganomics, los mitos de la era del Nuevo Trato de una nación estadounidense fortalecida por sus diferencias y compasión, colocada sobre la simple verdad de la brutalidad estadounidense, comenzaron a erosionarse incluso para los blancos de “clase media”.

Durante varias décadas, el gobierno estadounidense asesinó abiertamente a su propia gente, envió trabajos al extranjero y cometió atrocidades ampliamente documentadas condenadas no solo por la izquierda sino por varios organismos internacionales burgueses. El valor diferente de la vida se ha generalizado en casi todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas como trabajadores en 2020, y está presente en cada interacción que tenemos con las instituciones estatales. La policía se da la mano con manifestantes de mujeres, predominantemente blancos, y separa a los niños de las madres inmigrantes. “Nuestras” tropas deben ser apoyadas, hasta que regresen de la guerra imperialista lidiando con el trauma. Algunos trabajadores son a tiempo completo y tienen beneficios, otros, que hacen exactamente el mismo trabajo, son a tiempo parcial y se enfrentan a la bancarrota por problemas menores de salud. Los trabajos de cuello

blanco aumentan, mientras que los trabajos de cuello azul desaparecen. Todos hemos visto matar a tantas personas negras desarmadas que no podemos recordar todos sus nombres e historias. Incluso reaccionarios como Rush Limbaugh, que son los primeros en defender a los agentes de policía.

Me costó mucho defender a Derek Chauvin. Todo esto, en el contexto de una pandemia en la que los líderes nacionales han ideado estrategias de re-apertura sobre cuántas vidas pueden intercambiar por ganancias de acciones.

“No, la creciente comprensión popular de que las vidas de las personas de color y de la clase trabajadora valen menos que las opciones sobre acciones ha sido una creación bipartidista”.

Es importante destacar que este ha sido un esfuerzo bipartidista. No podemos culpar a Trump o Reagan de este desdén abierto por la vida de los trabajadores y las personas de color.

La desregulación de derivados de Bill Clinton fue responsable del colapso de 2008 que vio a millones perder su hogar, mientras que Wall Street fue rescatado (por Obama). Obama deportó a más de 2 millones de inmigrantes, mató a miles de civiles inocentes en el Medio Oriente con drones, e hizo poco para frenar la ruina neoliberal de la América rural y la brutalidad policial contra los afroamericanos. Fue Obama quien renunció a la ley patriota y permitió que el poder ejecutivo detuviera a “terroristas” indefinidamente sin cargos, una política que Donald Trump ahora está tratando de usar como arma contra “antifa”. Fue Obama quien castigó a las personas de la clase trabajadora con impuestos adicionales si no compraban un plan de salud con un deducible de \$10,000. Fueron los alcaldes demócratas en Los Ángeles, Atlanta, Nueva York, Chicago y más, los que desataron la brutalidad de sus departamentos de policía contra la gente en los últimos días, emitieron toques de queda y se negaron a responsabilizar a los policías. Fue el alcalde demócrata Lori Lightfoot en Chicago quien llamó a los manifestantes “criminales” y arrestó a más de 1,000 después de atraparlos en el centro. Fue Amy Klobuchar la que no procesó al asesino de George Floyd.

No, la creciente comprensión popular de que las vidas de las personas de color y de la clase trabajadora valen menos que las opciones sobre acciones ha sido una creación bipartidista. Esta es la razón por la cual los Don Limones del mundo no pueden creer lo que ven: los líderes de partidos democráticos y moderados en todo el país han pasado las últimas déca-

das creando esta ira que ahora solo comienza a manifestarse frente a un viejo enemigo: la ley y ordenar correctamente.

La amenaza de “ley y orden” Como trabajadores, debemos ser estudiosos de luchas anteriores por los derechos civiles y la reforma en los Estados Unidos. En 1968, cuando los disturbios sacudieron el país, Richard Nixon respondió elaborando una campaña presidencial para “ley y orden”, para “volver a la normalidad”, irónicamente similar a la plataforma actual de Biden. Pero es Trump quien se está posicionando como este candidato en los últimos días, fantaseando con disparar a los saqueadores, designar a antifa como organización terrorista y atacar a los “alborotadores” en Washington, D.C. Funcionó de manera espectacular para Nixon, quien ganó las elecciones fácilmente, a pesar de que el racista flagrante George Wallace invadió el territorio republicano y obtuvo el 13% de los votos.

“Hay una fuerte corriente subyacente de inclinación fascista en este país, que defenderá la supremacía blanca a cualquier costo para los derechos democráticos básicos”.

Dos años más tarde, en 1970, más del 60% de los estadounidenses por una encuesta de Gallup en ese momento apoyó el asesinato de estudiantes inocentes en Kent State, uno que simplemente caminaba hacia la clase. Fred Hampton fue asesinado ese año a sangre fría, y las Panteras Negras fueron destruidas por la infiltración del FBI y las luchas internas intensificadas por COINTELPRO.

Hay una fuerte corriente subyacente de inclinación fascista en este país, que defenderá la supremacía blanca a cualquier costo de los derechos burgueses básicos. Con un solo aliento, enarbolarán una bandera de Gadsden y con otro defenderán a la policía con pelotas de pimienta sentados en su propio porche. La última vez, esta corriente de ley y orden fue exitosa y desintegró el movimiento popular.

Cuando aumente el poder del pueblo, como lo hizo a fines de la década de 1960, estas fuerzas en Estados Unidos, con el poder de su presidente, atacarán los movimientos populares con fuerza letal. Ya hemos visto que los movimientos fascistas estadounidenses se han movido para “defender los negocios” y dejar de saquear, posicionándose no como nazis abiertos, sino como simples estadounidenses que anhelan un retorno a la normalidad de la “ley y el orden”. Debemos prepararnos para luchar contra ellos por cualquier medio.

Una vez más, por la democracia trabajadora.

Pero la historia no es un círculo, aunque debería informar nuestras luchas y líneas de diálogo. En 1964, Malcolm X argumentó en su famoso discurso “La boleta o la bala” que los activistas de los derechos civiles deberían usar la boleta si es auténticamente útil, y luchar por una boleta útil si no fuera así. En una elección de dos abusadores sexuales, con 40 millones de desempleados que enfrentan desastres y enfermedades ambientales, la gente de los Estados Unidos, desde Fayetteville hasta la ciudad de Nueva York, ha comenzado este proceso. Al hacerlo, los trabajadores de este país han demostrado su inmenso poder, deteniendo ciudades enteras, como el activista martirizado de IWW Joe Hill sabía que podían hacerlo.

“Por lo que todos hemos estado luchando en todo el país, en grave riesgo, es una sociedad en la que toda la vida humana se valora por igual, una en la que todas las voces de las personas se escuchan por igual, donde los asesinos van a prisión, donde las personas son rescatadas antes de los bancos. Por esto, hemos sido golpeados, gaseados y disparados con todo tipo de municiones”.

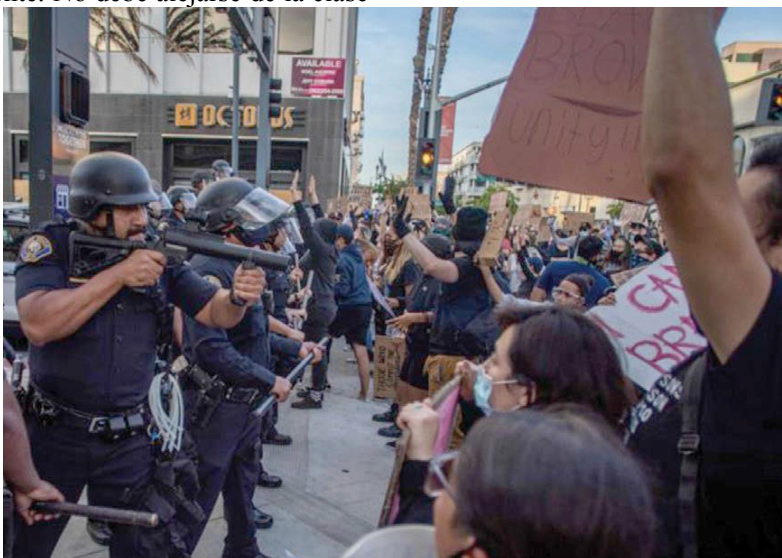
Estamos en las primeras etapas de ese proceso, y los movimientos y las tendencias ideológicas suben y bajan en horas en las calles de las ciudades de todo el país, y el poder del pueblo a menudo es crudo y desorganizado, como Frank Chapman, presidente de la NAARPR, dijo de las lecciones de la acción de Chicago el 30 de mayo.

El movimiento popular, a medida que continúa, tendrá que lidiar con la violencia individualista anárquica e imprudente. No debe alejarse de la clase

trabajadora y las comunidades de color, ni parecer invasores extranjeros en vecindarios y movimientos, una situación en la que a menudo se encontraba el movimiento contra la guerra de los años 60. Debe identificarse claramente como clase trabajadora, para los intereses de la clase trabajadora e identificar claramente a sus enemigos. El movimiento debe apuntar a su militancia contra las instalaciones policiales y los establecimientos de explotación, y llevar un mensaje político contra la supremacía blanca y por los derechos de los trabajadores a sus lugares de trabajo y cualquier lugar de contacto con sus compañeros de trabajo: salas sindicales, clubes deportivos, escenas musicales, el aula, etc.

Por lo que todos hemos estado luchando en todo el país, en grave riesgo, es una sociedad en la que toda la vida humana se valora por igual, una en la que las voces de todas las personas se escuchan por igual, donde los asesinos van a prisión, donde las personas son rescatadas antes de los bancos. Por esto, hemos sido golpeados, gaseados y disparados con todo tipo de municiones.

Pero sabemos, a pesar de lo que dicen los alcaldes democráticos y los superintendentes de la policía, que estamos luchando por una democracia verdadera y funcional en la que la policía esté controlada por las asambleas comunitarias, la supremacía blanca se desarraiga y suprime activamente, y nuestras elecciones democráticas no están entre dos criminales seniles. El precio que hemos pagado ya ha sido elevado, con periodistas heridos, cegados y miles de activistas golpeados, macerados, con gases lacrimógenos, arrestados, disparados e incluso asesinados, y el precio seguirá creciendo.



6 de junio de 2020
Frente a la Corte Federal (San Juan, Puerto Rico)



Declaración Contra el racismo, el fascismo y el capitalismo

Por motivo del asesinato de George Floyd y en solidaridad con las manifestaciones

Los Trabajadorxs y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social, organización comunista revolucionaria marxista-leninista, denunciamos y manifestamos nuestro repudio e indignación por el asesinato del afroamericano George Floyd a manos de la policía criminal estadounidense. El pasado 25 de mayo en Minneapolis, George Floyd fue asesinado asfixiado por el oficial Derek Chauvin, quien tras esposarlo y ponerlo boca abajo con la ayuda de otros dos, lo presionó contra el pavimento con su rodilla apoyada sobre su cuello durante más de 8 minutos. Floyd, esposado y completamente inmovilizado, repitió varias veces la frase *"I can't breathe"* (en español, *"No puedo respirar"*). Al oficial Chauvin se le formularon cargos en un inicio por asesinato en tercer grado como si este caso hubiese sido involuntario. En estos días, asumimos que por la presión de las manifestaciones, cambiaron los cargos a asesinato en segundo grado, incluyendo también a los tres oficiales cómplices, a pesar de que el video claramente nos muestra la violación de los derechos de Floyd y un asesinato en primer grado.

En los últimos 5 años la policía de Minneapolis usó en 237 ocasiones la práctica de presionar con la rodilla el cuello de quienes estaban arrestados. Tres de cada cinco personas eran negros o latinos (66%). El 17 de julio de 2014 se dio un caso similar en Nueva York, donde un policía blanco llamado Daniel Pantaleo asesinó asfixiando a Eric Gardner, un hombre negro de 43 años, y asmático. Eric Gardner también repitió varias veces *"I can't breathe"*. A éste policía nunca se le acusó de asesinato, quedando impune el crimen. Sólo en el 2018 la policía mató a mil personas aproximadamente. Por consiguiente, estos no son accidentes, estos son asesinatos sistemáticos e intencionados dirigidos contra las minorías negras y latinas en ese país.

NOS MANIFESTAMOS CONTRA EL RACISMO

Estos casos se siguen repitiendo contra los negros y latinos en EE.UU. Los grupos minoritarios siguen siendo los grupos más marginados y explotados por el sistema capitalista. La única razón de estos atropellos es que el racismo ya está institucionalizado a través del mismo sistema capitalista. Tanto los sistemas judiciales, los aparatos represivos del estado, como la policía, son utilizados para mantener a nosotros los negros y latinos en el

escalón más bajo de la sociedad y de la explotación obrera.

Malcolm X dijo una vez: **"no hay capitalismo sin racismo"**. El sistema capitalista crea la desigualdad económica, social y racial porque necesita perpetuar las divisiones dentro de la clase obrera. Necesita jerarquizar los seres humanos en razas para poder depredar y abaratar el valor del trabajo de los obreros. De esa forma asegura que la clase obrera nunca pueda estar cohesionada. De esta forma evita que la clase obrera se pueda unir para destruir el capitalismo.

NOS MANIFESTAMOS CONTRA EL FASCISMO

En medio de la pandemia que vivimos el capitalismo ha sacado a relucir su verdadera cara: **el fascismo**. Esta fase del capitalismo se caracteriza por su totalitarismo, en su defensa del capital y la propiedad privada, la excesiva exaltación del nacionalismo chovinista y xenofóbico. Además de su carácter militarista, resalta la supremacía racial de unos grupos sobre otros. En la actualidad, muchos gobiernos han resurgido con políticas fascistas eliminando derechos civiles, derecho a la protesta, libre expresión e imponiendo la militarización de la policía.

El presidente Trump ha declarado que quiere designar la organización movimiento antifascista (ANTIFA por sus siglas en Inglés) como organización terrorista. Acusa que detrás de las protestas está la "ultra izquierda", lo que es una abierta persecución contra todo movimiento de izquierda. Contradictoriamente aquí vemos la hipocresía y la doble moral del Gobierno de EEUU y su presidente, cuando defendió hace pocas semanas a los fascistas que protestaron en el Departamento de Estado en Michigan, con armas largas y portando la suástica como bandera. El presidente de USA aplaudió a ese sector y argumentó que ellos tenían derecho a defender la segunda enmienda de la constitución, el derecho de portar armas. Sin embargo, manifestaciones pacíficas de ciudadanos desarmados, repudiando el racismo, víctimas de la brutalidad policiaca y asesinatos racistas, son vistos como actos terroristas.

NOS MANIFESTAMOS CONTRA EL CAPITALISMO

En este sistema de injusticia social, de desigualdad y clases, los trabajadorxs quedamos siempre desahuciados. El sistema capitalista nos culpa por una falla estructural

y sistémica. Nos culpa por ser pobres, pero es ese sistema el que genera la pobreza. Como señala Marx, el capitalista necesita un ejército de desempleados para poder reemplazar la mano de obra. Actualmente, hay sobre 40 millones de desempleados en EE.UU, y en P.R, sobre 390,000 perdieron el empleo desde la pandemia. Sin embargo, el coronavirus no es el problema. El coronavirus ha dejado al descubierto los problemas estructurales del sistema capitalista. Ha dejado claro que el capitalista lo que le importa es la ganancia y está dispuesto a sacrificarte a ti para mantenerla. La economía no es más importante que tu vida. **Nuestras vidas valen más que sus ganancias.**

Trabajadorxs, es tiempo de retar el status quo establecido; es tiempo de unirnos para liberarnos de este sis-

tema capitalista y el colonialismo que hemos sufrido por tantos siglos ya. Son tiempos de lucha y resistencia. No caigamos en la trampa de los manipuladores dueños de los medios de comunicación, que se encargan de criminalizar y victimizar al oprimido. La lucha que se está llevando a cabo en estos momentos en EE.UU. es necesaria. La única violencia es la que se sigue cometiendo contra nosotros los trabajadorxs, los desposeídxs. Esta es violencia del estado legalizada, institucionalizada. Es tiempo de dejar la ficción de elecciones parlamentarias que nos mantienen inmóviles y obstaculizan los cambios revolucionarios, los cambios verdaderos. Trabajadorxs de Puerto Rico y del mundo, es tiempo de levantarnos contra la raíz de nuestros males: el capitalismo y todas sus facetas.

**¡Qué viva el comunismo! ¡Qué viva el internacionalismo!
¡Trabajadores del mundo, uníos! ¡La clase obrera no tiene fronteras!**

Sigue nuestra conversación:

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POR UN MUNDO LIBRE DE EXPLOTACIÓN

NO AL RACISMO, FASCISMO, MACHISMO, CAPITALISMO

¡LA CLASE OBRERA NO TIENE FRONTERAS!

Trabajadorxs y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social



Estallido social en el corazón del sistema capitalista imperialista

En Estados Unidos de Norteamérica se ha producido un estallido social sin precedentes en muchos años, tanto por la amplitud de las protestas como por sus expresiones de combatividad. El asesinato de George Floyd, a manos de la Policía en Minneapolis, ha provocado que miles de hombres y mujeres se tomen las calles de más de ciento veinte ciudades en todos los estados del país, unificados con el grito «Sin justicia no habrá paz».

El rápido contagio de las protestas iniciadas en Minneapolis y las connotaciones sociales y políticas que ahora tienen en todo el país, expresan cuán reprimidas se encontraban en la población el descontento y el rechazo a múltiples problemas, algunos de los cuales se han visibilizado aún más y otros se han agudizado por efecto de la pandemia del Covid 19. Los pueblos de EEUU rechazan el racismo, el deterioro de las condiciones de trabajo y de vida, el vertiginoso crecimiento del desempleo (40 millones de desocupados en los últimos meses), la alta tasa de mortalidad por acción de la pandemia, que afecta fundamentalmente a los más pobres, a los negros, a latinos, a los migrantes, la xenofobia y el supremacismo blanco promovidos por el presidente Donald Trump y los círculos dominantes de poder, es decir, es una lucha que cuestiona al sistema capitalista imperante.

Los acontecimientos que hoy se producen en EEUU –que meses antes los vimos en varios países de América Latina, Europa, Asia y África– son fácilmente explicables al mirar cómo actúa el capitalismo sobre los trabajadores y los pueblos para garantizar la reproducción del capital y el incremento de las ganancias de sus propietarios. Sin embargo, las movilizaciones en EEUU tienen una trascendencia e importancia particular, pues, se producen en la principal economía capitalista-imperialista del mundo, evidenciándose que las potencias más desarrolladas no están blindadas al combate de las masas. Donde hay explotación y opresión, hay resistencia y lucha de los trabajadores y los pueblos.

En todo el mundo, el descontento y repudio de los trabajadores y los pueblos crece porque sus condiciones de vida se ven más afectadas a medida que la economía capitalista se encoge. Los efectos de la pandemia del Covid 19, sobre la economía mundial y de cada uno de los países, afectan principalmente a los trabajadores, a los desempleados y subempleados, a los sin casa, a los campesinos sin tierra, a los migrantes, a los sectores más empobrecidos de la sociedad, lo que hace prever que nuevas revueltas, nuevas luchas se extenderán en el mundo por justicia, por derechos sociales y políticos, contra la opresión y la explotación.

La Conferencia Internacional de Partidos y Organizaciones Marxista Leninistas (CIPOML) expresa su solidaridad con los trabajadores, los jóvenes, las mujeres que se han levantado en lucha en los Estados Unidos y condena la brutal respuesta dada por el gobierno de Donald Trump; rechazamos la movilización de tropas militares y de la Guardia Nacional, la declaratoria del estado de emergencia y toques de queda en varios estados, la violenta represión que ha cobrado la vida de otros ciudadanos en las protestas que, no obstante, no ha podido frenar la indignación y la presencia de miles de luchadores en las calles.

Llamamos a los trabajadores y los pueblos del mundo, a los partidos y organizaciones integrantes de nuestra Conferencia a mantener y organizar nuevas demostraciones de solidaridad con los pueblos de EEUU y de condena al imperialismo estadounidense.

Conferencia Internacional de Partidos y Organizaciones Marxista Leninista CIPOML

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