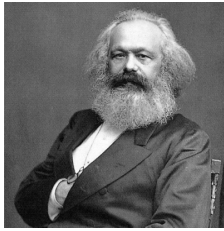


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



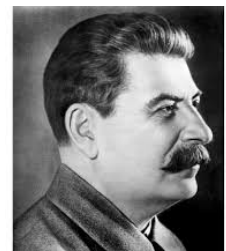
A Journal of Discussion and Debate



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To see the reasoning behind publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’” in the first issue on the website below. Though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we include progressive articles from groups with varying views. Also, note that unsigned articles, as well as comments before articles, are mine (George Gruenthal).

Note that we reprint many articles without 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 should appear in October 2023. Material should be sent in by the end of September.

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A Victory against Privatization



For years, New York City municipal workers have enjoyed good medical benefits upon retirement. Their Medicare payments (which are normally deducted from Social Security), as well as dental and vision coverage, are paid for by the City* as is part of the 20% hospitalization that is not paid by Medicare. But both the de Blasio and the Adams administration have tried to switch these benefits to an H.M.O. Medicare “Advantage” (to the profits of the insurance companies).

What are H.M.O.s (Health Maintenance Organizations)?

H.M.O.s were introduced in the early 1970s under President Nixon. He welcomed them as a means of providing profit for the insurance companies. His Chief Domestic Advisor, John Ehrlichman, told Nixon: “This is a private enterprise one. Edgar Kaiser is running his Permanente deal for profit. And the reason he can do it... All the incentives are toward less medical care, because the less care they give them, the more money they make.”†

Currently all Medicaid (insurance for the poor) recipients (as well as members of many private insurance plans) are covered through H.M.O.s. Since funds for Medicaid (and Medicare, aside from the money deducted from the recipient’s social security) are provided by the government, this means that the government, beyond paying the cost of the recipient’s medical care, is paying for the profits of the insurance companies.

What do the H.M.O.s do for this money? They do not consist of hospitals, doctors or other medical professionals. They simply approve, or disapprove, payments for medical procedures. And as their profits decrease the more they pay out, it is in their interest to disapprove, or approve only a lower amount, for these procedures. (This is why many doctors will not accept Medicaid and Medicare patients.)

The Medicare Advantage companies have been flooding the airwaves with ads saying that they may cover dental, vision and other forms of care not covered by traditional Medicare. But even when this is true, the government would save money by simply including these services in traditional Medicare since

* <https://www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/retiree/health-retiree-medb-irmaa.page>

† From Michael Moore’s movie *Sicko*, with dialogue from actual White House videotapes.

it would not have to pay for the profits of the insurance companies. But it prefers to pay for these profits, as this is an example of what Marx and Engels said in the *Communist Manifesto*: “The executive of the modern State is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie.”

Union Bureaucrats Back H.M.O.s

The Municipal Labor Committee, which is a grouping of the municipal workers’ unions, has gone along with the scheme to transfer their retirees to a Medicare Advantage plan that is part of Aetna. (Aetna, part of the CVS health family, took in \$91.4 billion in revenue in 2022.) Although the Professional Staff Congress (the union of City University employees and staff) and other smaller unions opposed this, they were outvoted by the bureaucrats of DC 37 (“representing” employees at most City agencies) and the United Federation of Teachers,

However, retirees and their supporters held numerous rallies against the plan, embarrassing the city administration and the union bureaucrats who supported it. Finally, on August 11, a Manhattan Supreme Court judge rules that City retirees could keep their traditional Medicare. As the insurance companies and the government is trying to push all Medicare recipients into Medicare Advantage programs, this is a victory for all workers against privatization.

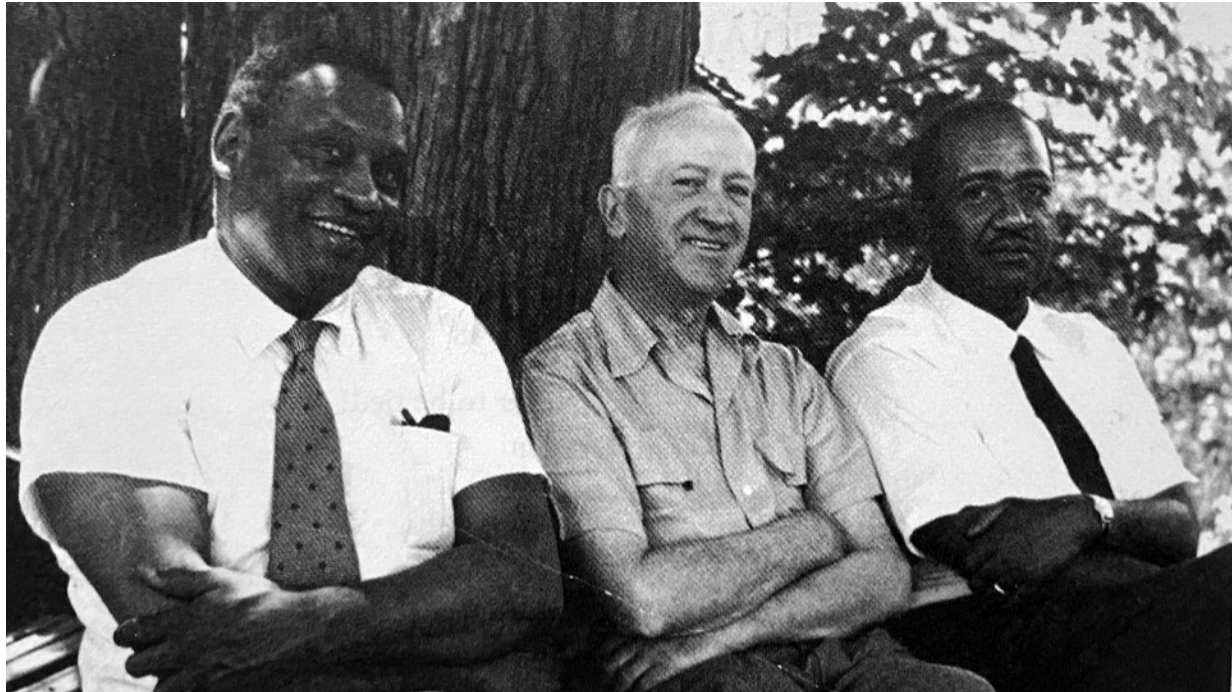
For further background on this, see article in Labor Notes of March 2023, at: <https://labornotes.org/2023/03/new-york-city-retirees-fight-their-own-unions-stop-catastrophic-health-care-cuts>

<https://redphoenixnews.com/2023/07/08/in-defense-of-foster-from-the-slander-of-settlers/>

From The Red Phoenix, newspaper of the American Party of Labor

In defense of Foster from the slander of “Settlers”

By [Editor](#) on [July 8, 2023](#)



Left to right: Paul Robeson, William Z. Foster, and New York Councilman Benjamin J. Davis. (CPUSA Archives)

By Leon V., Red Phoenix correspondent, Florida.

Published in the 1980's, J. Sakai's *Settlers* has enjoyed a cult following among portions of American revisionists. Sakai pulls no punches in attacking everything he considers an aspect of "settler-colonialism," some of which are worthy of criticism and others which are nothing but boldly inaccurate. Sakai's conception and narrative of William Z. Foster falls into the latter. Sakai launches brash claims against the legacy of one of the foremost influential labor organizers of the 20th century by assessing that Foster was chauvinist and sought to inspire a race war between laborers.

"In his 1920 history of the strike, Foster (the supposed 'communist') repeated the lie that Afrikan workers had 'lined up with the bosses.' In fact, Foster even said that in resolving the differences between Euro-Amerikan and Afrikan labor 'The negro has the more difficult part' since the Afrikan worker was becoming 'a professional strike-breaker.' And militant white workers knew what they were supposed to do to a 'professional strike-breaker.'" (J. Sakai, "Settlers")

If we were to take Sakai's account of the strike we would be led to assume that Foster is indeed a chauvinist, if not bordering an outright white supremacist. However, if we read Foster's actual account of the strike, it is apparent that this is an entirely ahistorical retelling of what happened.

“So serious was the race situation in the steel strike that the National Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel Workers requested President Gompers to arrange a conference between prominent negro leaders and trade-union officials, to the end that the proper remedies may be indicated. The need for action looking towards better relations between whites and blacks in the industrial field should be instantly patent; for there can be no doubt but that the employing class, taking advantage of the bitter animosities of the two groups, are deliberately attempting to turn the negroes into a race of strike-breakers, with whom to hold the white workers in check; on much the same principle as the Czars used the Cossacks to keep in subjection the balance of the Russian people. Should they succeed to any degree it would make our industrial disputes take on more and more the character of race wars, a consummation that would be highly injurious to the white workers and eventually ruinous to the blacks.” (William Z. Foster, “The Great Steel Strike and Its Lessons”)

From reading both passages it is abundantly clear what the truth of the situation is: that Foster is not some race war instigator or chauvinist, but was actually **warning** of worsening race relations in the United States. Foster did not say that African-American workers were “strikebreakers” out of some racial component, but that the “employing class” (the steel mill owners) were actively inciting and stoking racial conflict.

However, this is not the only lie Sakai fabricates.

“Foster’s lynch mob oratory was only restrained by the formality expected of a Euro-American ‘communist’ leader. His white-supremacist message was identical to but more politely clothed than the crude rants of the Ku Klux Klan. He warned that the capitalists were grooming Afrikans as ‘as race of strike-breakers, with whom to hold the white workers in check; on much the same principle as the Czars used the Cossacks to keep in subjugation the balance of the Russian people.’ It’s easy to see how Foster became such a popular leader among the settler workers.



1932 CPUSA campaign poster calling for African-American self-determination in the South.

No longer was it just a question of some Afrikans not following the orders of the white labor. Now Foster was openly saying that the entire Afrikan ‘race’ was the enemy. Could the imperialists have asked for more, than to have the leading ‘communist’ trade-union leader help them whip up the oppressor nation masses to repress the Afrikan nation?” (Sakai)

Again Sakai maliciously, or ignorantly, misquotes and misunderstands Foster and the context in which he was writing. Foster compares the situation of Black workers to that of the Russian Cossacks to show how the ruling class will stoke racial conflicts to distract from class conflict. The Cossacks were used as a paramilitary group to draw the ire of the oppressed groups away from the Tsar and towards this certain group. Foster is warning that this situation was rapidly approaching in America, where Black and white workers would be purposefully made to take up arms against each other instead of uniting against their common enemy.

“For the tense situation existing the unions are themselves in no small part to blame. Many of them sharply draw the color line, thus feeding the flames of race hatred. This discriminatory

practice is in direct conflict with the fundamental which demands that all the workers be organized, without regard to sex, race, creed, politics or nationality. It injures Labor's cause greatly. Company agents harp upon it continually, to prevent negroes from joining even the organizations willing to take them in. This was the case in the steel campaign. Moreover these same company agents cited this discriminatory practice most effectively to induce thousands of outside colored workers to come into the industry as strike-breakers. Such a condition cannot be allowed to persist. But to relieve it the unions will have to meet the issue honestly and broad-mindedly. They must open their ranks to negroes, make an earnest effort to organize them, and then give them a square deal when they do join. Nothing short of this will accomplish the desired result." (Foster)

Sakai cleverly leaves this out when quoting Foster on saying that Black workers were being introduced as a "race of strike-breakers" or claiming that Foster sought to flame a race war between white and Black workers. Foster directly examines and understands that the situation of racial relations is tense and that Black workers have valid and real grievances with the union leadership at that time, and that this is the fault of the unions. However, instead of attempting to agitate white workers, Foster says that they should join arms with their fellow Black workers against their oppressors.

"In case Afrikans didn't get Foster's threat (which was also being delivered in the streets, as we know), Foster made it even more plain. He said that if Afrikans failed to obey the decisions of settler labor: 'It would make our industrial disputes take on more and more the character of race wars, a consummation that would be highly injurious to the white workers and eventually ruinous to the blacks.' The threat of a genocidal 'race war' against Afrikans unless they followed the orders of settler labor makes it very clear just what kind of 'unity' Foster and his associates had in mind. We should say that once Foster started dealing with the problem of how to build the Euro Amerikan 'Left,' he discovered that it was much more effective to pose as an anti-racist and use 'soft-sell' in promoting a semi-colonial mentality in oppressed nationalities. Foster the 'communist' declared himself an expert on Civil Rights, poverty in Puerto Rico, Afrikan history, and so on." (Sakai)

This is where we get to the crux of the matter. Is Sakai purposefully misinterpreting Foster's words, or is he too ignorant to understand? Either scenario does not paint Sakai in a good light and shows him to be ignorant of history at best, or downright malicious at worst. In no sentence or word of anything Sakai cites does Foster threaten a "race war" against Black workers. Let us examine Foster's words again: "Should they succeed to any degree it would make our industrial disputes take on more and more the character of race wars, a consummation that would be highly injurious to the white workers and eventually ruinous to the blacks." From here it is quite obvious what Foster is referencing. Foster is not saying that he will lead a race war against Black workers "if they do not get in line," as Sakai claims, but that "they" (the employers) are actively trying to stoke racial agitation amongst the working class because they know it would derail the whole movement. In this passage Foster even acknowledges a difference in conditions of white and Black workers, in that what would be only "highly injurious" to white workers would be "eventually ruinous" to Black workers. Sakai has directly fallen for the trap the steel mill employers set 60 years prior to him writing *Settlers*.

After examining both works it is clear that Foster's work speaks for itself in exonerating him from Sakai's malicious and fabricated ahistorical retelling of the Great Steel Strike. This is not to mention that none of the thousands of Black communists that worked with Foster ever seemed to

notice his “chauvinism” or “racist” ideas. It is all a revisionist fabrication. As communists we must look to unite racial struggle into a unified, cohesive class struggle. Let us not incite further racial agitation under the guise of a “new and advanced” theory. Let us embrace the path of genuine Marxist-Leninism.

Note from the History of the International Longshore and Workers Union (ILWU)

This writer attended a talk by Clarence Thomas* at St. Mary’s church in Harlem on August 5. Thomas is a retired member of ILWU Local 10 and past Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Board member of that local. He was doing a book-signing for the book “My Life Story in the ILWU Local 10” by Cleophas Williams. Williams, who died in 2016, was the first Afro-American president of Local 10, which is the largest and most militant local in the ILWU. Thomas wrote the introduction to the book.

During his introductory talk, Thomas mentioned one little-known (at least I did not know it) fact about the history of the longshore union. In 1934, the union was preparing for a strike (which led to the San Francisco general strike of that year). Most of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) unions refused to allow blacks to join their locals, which led to many black workers to be used as scabs. The head of the longshore union at that time was Harry Bridges, a left-wing militant who had immigrated from Australia. In order to prevent blacks from being used as scabs, Bridges met with many of the leaders of black churches in the Bay Area. He promised that if the union won the strike, one of the demands of which was a union-controlled hiring hall, he would ensure that as many blacks as possible would be hired in union positions.

The strike was won, and although it took most of a decade for Bridges’ promise to be fulfilled, since the mid-1940s Local 10 has always been a predominantly Afro-American local.

* He is also known as “the real Clarence Thomas,” to distinguish him from the imposter of the same name who is sitting on the Supreme Court.



May / June 2023

The Police And All Forms of Policing Practices are Violence on the Working Class!

Working people are dealing with violence everyday! Violence at work, school, in our neighborhoods and even at home. We are told that the solution to violence and the path to safety is more police and policing practices (surveillance, fines, punishment instead of accountability).

In reality, police/policing practices only ADD to the violence in our lives. Police and policing practices got started in this country when white men organized themselves into patrols to recapture Black folks that resisted chattel enslavement. Policing serves to keep working people down in the name of the rich white man and his profits. **Police and policing practices have not changed since slavery, they still lead to criminalization, abuse, unnecessary suffering and premature death TODAY for all working people, never safety!**

Working people must educate ourselves politically on the real reason the police exist and get to the root causes of how to rid ourselves of the police and all forms of policing.

Cops and Capitalism go Hand in Hand

In the US, we live under a capitalist economic system. We are told that the capitalist system makes us the most “free” country in the world – that everyone is equal and everyone has the opportunity to prosper. What we experience as the working class versus what we are told (American propaganda) by corporate media, politicians, history books and other sources of “authority” are two wildly different things.

In reality, capitalism only offers freedom and prosperity for the rich and the puppet politicians that do their dirty work. The capitalists are the leaders of big business. We are forced to live under their system that exploits our human needs. So where do police/policing practices fit into this system? They are the armed muscle that keeps the unjust system of capitalism in place on behalf of the capitalist class.

The police do not feed the people, shelter the people or mediate conflict for the people. The police

exist to arrest the hungry, evict the poor, break up worker strikes and terrorize the people when we rise up against our exploitation and oppression. Police/policing practices do not reduce violence, they maintain and INCREASE violence on working class people on behalf of the capitalist class.

Replace Capitalism with Revolutionary Socialism

Working people will always lose in a system that is designed to benefit the rich at our expense. If we want to start reducing violence in our communities we must fight back against the police as an institution AND policing practices that enforce exploitation and oppression.

Violence against the working class will only end when the working class takes power. To do this, we have to abolish the racist, capitalist state and their institution of policing. We must replace the capitalist system with revolutionary socialism. Socialism is an economic system that puts the needs of the people over the desires of the exploiters and oppressors - the capitalists. Socialism is a system for the working class, by the working class.

Abolish the Police and Reallocate Funds into Community Driven Programs

What steps can we take TODAY to reduce violence and increase safety for the working class while we fight for socialism? One of the biggest ways policing increases violence in our communities is through resource theft. **Policing steals billions of dollars a year from working class communities.** As a result, millions of people across this country are organizing to abolish their police departments and DEMAND that funding be reallocated into conditions and solutions that genuinely create safety for our communities. **Access to healthy housing, clean water, nourishing food, programs for youth, liberating education, support for the elderly, living wage jobs and investment in public transportation are fundable solutions that reduce violence and increase safety in our communities.**

In New Orleans nearly 70% (\$500M) of the city budget goes to cops, jails and surveillance instead of community driven programs that meet the needs of the people. Children and Families only get 5% (\$5M) of the budget while job development and transportation get less than 1% (a few thousand dollars) in a city of less than 400,000 people.

Every dollar we can redirect away from police and policing practices and PROACTIVELY INVEST funds in community driven programs that meet the needs of the people, we move closer to creating genuine safety and violence reduction. Police and policing practices are enemies of the working class. To reduce violence in our communities we must fight to abolish all forms of policing and organize power to take the resources we need to CREATE AND PROTECT the conditions that make safety possible.



IG: @NolaPeoplesAssembly | FB: New Orleans Peoples Assembly Phase 2

Why Have There Been Several Drownings in New York City Beaches, but Not on Long Island



Empty lifeguard chair, Sunday, July 30, about 3 PM, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn

Even though signs say that people should not swim where lifeguards are not on duty, in many areas, there are no lifeguards on duty from 10 AM to 6 PM, when the beaches are supposed to be open. For the last several summers, New York City has filled less than half of the 1,400 lifeguard positions on city beaches.

It is true that last year, New York City Mayor Eric Adams raised lifeguards' pay from \$16.10 to \$19.26 per hour, and this year to \$21.26. But this is still low for a job that lasts less than 3½ months per year, from Memorial Day to early September.

Meanwhile, last year New York State Governor Kathy Hochul raised wages for lifeguards in downstate New York State Parks, such as Jones Beach, from \$18.15 to \$22. In these parks there are lifeguards maybe every 50 yards, while in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens there may only be one every 200 yards. The beaches in New York City serve mostly working-class, predominantly Black and Latino communities, while those on Long Island serve mostly petty-bourgeois ("middle class") communities. That is why the drownings have taken place on city beaches, and not on Long Island. The mayor and governor do not care.

Notes on Anthony Gronowicz's book *Careless Genius* and the murder of John Lennon

This is not a book review. It is only to bring out some very interesting facts brought out in the book.

For those too young to remember, Lennon was one of four members of the Beatles, an English working-class rock band that started in the 1960s. They were immensely popular, not only in Britain and the U.S. but around the world. Lennon was widely known as a peace activist, especially for such songs as "Give Peace a Chance" and "Imagine."

Lennon was assassinated on December 8, 1980, as he was entering the lobby of The Dakota, the building on 72nd Street and Central Park West in Manhattan where he had an apartment. The assassin was allegedly a lone gunman, Mark David Chapman.

Gronowicz relates a number of facts that seriously undermine the "lone gunman" theory. One of these is that the doorman, Jose Perdomo, had spent six hours chatting with Chapman, who was waiting until Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, returned from a recording studio. This was against the rules for the doormen, who were not supposed to talk to visitors waiting for any of the building's famous residents to appear.

Even more suspicious is the fact that Perdomo was an anti-Castro Cuban refugee, and part of the police under Batista, the pro-U.S. dictator who was overthrown by Castro's forces in 1959. Such anti-Castro Cubans have often been used by U.S. intelligence agents in operations in which the U.S. government did not want to appear openly involved.

Other strange facts in the case were that Yoko Ono was walking 40 feet ahead of Lennon, giving Chapman a clear shot at Lennon. Also, Chapman was to Lennon's right when Lennon entered the lobby, while Perdomo was to his left, and all Lennon's wounds were on his left side.

Furthermore, the police never tested the bullets that killed Lennon to see if they matched the gun that Chapman had bought previously. Also, since Chapman pleaded guilty, there were no questions in the trial in which inconvenient facts might have come up.

These are only a few of the salient facts that Gronowicz raises in his book. These facts are not new, but have been raised in previous studies of the case.* Apparently Gronowicz published the book now because of a secondary connection between Lennon and Gronowicz (one of Gronowicz's former landlords, Samuel Havadtoy, had been Lennon's interior decorator; he moved in with Yoko Ono right after Lennon's assassination). Needless to say, these other studies have been as little publicized in the bourgeois media as Gronowicz's book will be. However, a new article recently appeared in the British newspaper *Daily Mail*, on April 22, 2023[†], that also questions whether "a SECOND gunman could have fired fatal shots."

At first, it seemed strange to me that the U.S. government would target Lennon, although Gronowicz well documents efforts that it tried unsuccessfully to prevent Lennon from getting a visa to the U.S. or to extend it when he was here. After all, the Beatles were also known for such songs as "Revolution," which contains lyrics such as: "But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao / You ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow." The Rolling Stones were overall more revolutionary than the Beatles, but to my knowledge the U.S. government never tried to assassinate Mick Jagger, the lead singer for the Stones. But this may simply reflect the fact that, despite the significant following that the Stones had, the Beatles had a much greater impact on U.S. (and world) youth overall.

* One of these that Gronowicz cites frequently is Fenton Bressler, *Who Killed John Lennon?* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989).

[†] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11995191/The-man-jailed-John-Lennons-murder-INNOCENT-claims-bombsehl-documentary.html?ito=facebook_share_article-home

One could draw a similar comparison between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. While Malcolm was much more of a revolutionary than King, when King was assassinated in 1968, hundreds of cities went up in flames, while when Malcolm was assassinated in 1965, there was much less protest. It shows that the government is willing to get rid of those who oppose its policies, even if they are not revolutionaries.

Careless Genius: John Lennon and his Maternal Genius is published by Palindrome Books and is available (in print and on Kindle) for \$20.

This statement was sent to the comrades of Communist Workers and Students for Social Change in Puerto Rico for a demonstration on July 25 of this year. Translated from the Spanish.

Statement of "Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity"

On the continued occupation of Puerto Rico

In 1898, U.S. military forces bombed and occupied Puerto Rico, whose people were fighting the old empire of Spain. This was one of the first inter-imperialist wars. Since then, for 125 years, the U.S. has occupied Puerto Rico as a colony. Its economy is completely controlled by U.S. monopolies, formerly by sugar estates and now by pharmaceutical and electronics factories. In the malls, there are chain stores such as Home Depot, Costco, Sams, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Walmart, among others. Due to lack of jobs and low wages, large numbers of workers have had to migrate to the U.S. in search of a better standard of living; there they face racism, unemployment and discrimination. Today there are more people of Puerto Rican descent in the U.S. than in Puerto Rico; they form a super-exploited section of the U.S. labor force.

The U.S. imperialists have committed countless crimes against the Puerto Rican people. For decades, the U.S. government sterilized 37.5% of women of reproductive age in order to slow population growth. Also, Puerto Rico was used for military bases (17% of the island) in order to invade countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world such as Vietnam. The United States has imprisoned many independence leaders, such as Pedro Albizu Campos, the five nationalists and Juan Antonio Corretjer, and assassinated others, such as Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and communists such as Ángel Rodríguez Cristóbal.

As any colony, Puerto Rico has the right to fight for its independence, just as every oppressed nation has the right to fight for its self-determination. It is the duty of all revolutionaries, internationalists and Marxist-Leninists within the imperialist countries, particularly in the still most powerful country, the USA, to support these struggles.

Independence and Socialism for Puerto Rico!

***Socialism... Seriously*, 2023 edition, by Danny Katch**

It would be easy for me to trash this book. After all, the author is a former member of the now defunct International Socialist Organization, one of the worst of the Trotskyist organizations in the U.S., and the book was published by Haymarket Books, ISO's surviving publishing arm. But I won't do that. I will certainly have a lot of criticisms of the book, but I will leave these for later.

First, Katch has a light-hearted tone that goes well with a serious critique of capitalism. And second, he is clearly so sincere in his views that even when he is wrong we have to respect him.

His first chapter (after the introduction) shows his (overly) optimistic view. It takes place in 2040, where the U.S. has already achieved not just socialism, but communism. Very few people stick to just one job all their lives (or even for several years). He says (pp. 8-9): "You aren't even thirty and already you've been a kindergarten teacher, an urban wildfire fighter, an elderly story recorder, and most recently, a worker at the plant that retrofits old appliances and smartphones."* Also, he sees people working only three days a week (which is perfectly possible in a country like the U.S. today), and everything is decided by local assemblies. Of course, how we get there (and in just 17 years or less) is another question.

Hatch exposes many lies from capitalist history books. He explains what probably happened to the so-called "lost colony" of Roanoke in the 16th century in what is now North Carolina: that they were most likely taken in by the neighboring indigenous settlement of Croatan and intermarried with the native people. He also points out that the Supreme Court's actual job "is to grab whatever collection of words it can find as long as they serve to protect the interests of the rich and powerful" (p. 28, fn.). This was written before the Supreme Court overturned a woman's right to an abortion, affirmative action, forgiveness of some student debts, and certain LGBT+ rights. He also notes that in 2010 the Supreme Court distorted the 14th Amendment to the Constitution to declare that "corporations are people."[†]

Katch is also highly critical of both the Republicans and Democrats. He calls the Democratic Party "one of the more racist and violent organizations in modern world history" (p. 79) and states that "Both major US parties are devoted to the priorities of the tiny class that runs this country, with the important but still small exception of the new socialist wing inside the Democrats" (p. 80). We will come back to this "still small exception" further on. Katch even refers to the statement by Marx and Engels in *The Communist Manifesto* that "the role of the capitalist states was to be 'a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie'" (p. 84).

Katch takes a class point of view. In his chapter on Workers' Power, he gives a basically Marxist position on the capitalist class (bourgeoisie), middle class (petty bourgeoisie) and working class (proletariat), p. 88. He also points to aspects of national oppression, especially of Afro-Americans and indigenous peoples, though he does not specifically call for their right to self-determination up to secession.

Katch is clearly sincere when he states that "we have a proud history of fighting oppression. In the 1930s, for example, thousands of members of the Communist Party USA did pathbreaking and courageous work against segregation in the South" (p. 105). But we have to point out that most Trotskyists

* It might surprise Katch to know that Stalin had a similar view. In *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.*, in the section entitled Comrade Yaroshenko's Chief Error, he said: "the members of society may be in a position to receive an education sufficient to enable them to be active agents of social development, and in a position freely to choose their occupations and not be tied all their lives, owing to the existing division of labour, to some one occupation."

[†] I learned more here than in *Lies My Teachers Told Me*, reviewed in TMLU Vol. 3, No. 2.

who try to claim that history as their own at that time were busy attacking the Communist Party as “Stalinist.”[‡]

The author also takes a basically correct inclusive view of the working class (although the term “working people” might be better) and their struggles. He talks of “jobs like teaching and nursing, as well as among university workers, media and most recently tech” (p. 109), as well as the strike of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) workers and “union organizing at Amazon warehouses and Starbucks stores” (p. 112).

Katch is also a supporter of the “Land Back” movement, which he sees both as a restoration of some indigenous rights as well as a movement to live with the Land. He quotes from a speech by Canadian indigenous Dene leader Phillip Blake: “We have lived with the land, not tried to conquer or control it.... I believe your nation might wish to see us, not as a relic of the past, but as a way of life, a system of values by which you may survive in the future. This we are willing to share” (pp. 120-121).

Finally, let us take up his chapters dealing with Reform and Revolutions and with Communism. He points out that the demonstrations for Floyd George in 2020, which brought millions of people into the street, were not a revolution. He notes the distinction between the fight for reforms and reformism, which he calls “a political strategy that rejects revolutionary change in favor of gradually turning capitalism into socialism through a process of piecemeal changes – generally through laws passed by socialists elected into office,” and that “no ruling class in history has ever let itself be replaced without a fight” (p. 144). He even states support for Lenin and the Russian Revolution, of course until Stalin became leader after Lenin’s death. He claims that: “Revolutions, like relationships, usually end badly” (p. 140). He refers to the bourgeois version of the Russian Revolution, that the claim that the Bolsheviks and Lenin manipulated the anger of the people, “leading to decades of misery under Lenin’s sidekick Joseph Stalin This story gets two things right: the angry people in the beginning and the misery under Stalin after the revolution was defeated” (p. 149). He clearly has no understanding of the decades of victories of Soviet power in the industrialization of the country, the collectivization of agriculture that allowed the Soviet peoples to avoid the centuries-old history of famines, the joys of the workers and peasants in building up their country by their own hands, leading them to be able to defeat the Nazi-fascist onslaught in World War II despite the deaths of some 20 million people. The Soviet Union was able to rebuild the country within three years after the end of the war, at the same time as it gave aid to the peoples of Latin America, Africa and particularly Asia in their fight against colonialism and imperialism.

Katch’s diatribe against Stalin simply repeats the slanders of the bourgeoisie, with the help of the Trotskyists and Khrushchevite revisionists. He says: “Stalin maneuvered his way into a dictatorship that launched a historic reign of terror of slave labor camps, population transfers, and mass executions.” This is what author and historian Grove Furr calls the “anti-Stalin paradigm,” even if Katch believes it himself. He has no real knowledge or understanding of what was going on in the Soviet Union while Stalin was in charge.[§]

I will take only one minor example. Katch talks of how in the 1920s, “Russia saw artistic explosions on cinema and graphic design” (p. 155). But these continued in Stalin’s day, with for example the movie

[‡] For example, M.J. Olguin’s *Trotskyism: Counter-Revolution Unmasked*, Chapter XII: “The Trotskyites in the U.S.A.,” quotes *The Militant* of July 25, 1931, saying: ““The Communist Party of the United States has, in general, only stagnation or regression to record.”

[§] I am not going to try to refute these slanders here. For a start, readers might look at Furr’s books, particularly “Khrushchev Lied” and “Stalin vs. Yezhov.”

“Earth” about collectivization by the Ukrainian film director Dovzhenko. Or read Anton Makarenko’s trilogy, *The Road to Life*, about the colonies for orphans after the Civil War, where they not only re-educated children into productive citizens of the USSR, but the children even put on plays for the neighboring villagers. **

Katch is basically a utopian communist. He says that “Marxism was generally seen as having two options: the reformism of social democracy on one side, and one-party ‘people’s’ dictatorships on the other” (p. 171). He wants to develop a “third option,” which is a mishmash of Zapatista anarchism, Occupy Wall Street and the Black Lives Matter spontaneity, with a dose of Sanders thrown in. Although he does not speak about democratic centralism, he would clearly oppose it as another manifestation of “bureaucratic Stalinism.” He speaks of “a revival of radical socialist electoral campaigns via Bernie Sanders in the US, Jeremy Corbyn in Britain and new parties like Podemos in Spain and SYRIZA in Greece” (p. 172). But Sanders^{††} (and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez) has already thrown in their lot with the Democratic Party’s war-maker Joe Biden, and Podemos and SYRIZA once they were in government clearly showed that they are just another “left” version of social-democracy. This is what Katch’s version of utopian communism amounts to.

While Katz claims to support a revolution, he essentially views this as a simple act in which the old ruling class is thrown out of power, and then there will be no more need for a state, that the bourgeoisie will make no attempts to return to power. We should remind not only Katch but all readers of what Marx himself said about his contribution to socialism.

Marx said: “And now as to myself, no credit is due to me for discovering the existence of classes in modern society or the struggle between them. Long before me bourgeois historians had described the historical development of this class struggle and bourgeois economists, the economic economy of the classes. What I did that was new was (1) to show that the *existence of classes* is simply bound up with *certain historical phases of the development of production*; (2) that the class struggle necessarily leads to the *dictatorship of the proletariat*; (3) that this dictatorship itself only constitutes the transition to the *abolition of all classes* and to a *classless society*.” (*Letter to Joseph Weydemeyer*, March 5, 1852).

Katch, despite his honesty and sincere belief in socialism, cannot provide a road to socialist revolution. He may wake some people up to a positive view of socialism, but he cannot help them in finding the way to it.

** One of the colonies was run by the Cheka, the political police. Could one imagine a children’s colony in the U.S. run by the FBI, or named after J. Edgar Hoover!

†† When I was a member of the Party of Communists USA, we did call for giving a certain qualified support to Sanders, but without giving any illusions as to what he represented.

Two separate items from Facebook




LET'S THINK ABOUT IT...

If **Lupron** was originally given to male **prisoners** in order to chemically **castrate** them, but its use was stopped because the side **effects** were deemed to be **cruel & unusual** punishment;

then **Lupron** was used to treat **endometriosis**, but now there is a class action **lawsuit** against its maker, **Abbvie** Pharmaceuticals, because of Lupron's myriad adverse effects on **adult** women, including **migraines**, joint pain, bone **demineralization**, brain fog, and becoming **wheelchair**-bound;

why would Abbvie **push** Lupron's use as a **puberty blocker** for gender dysphoric **kids**?

 **ADVOCATES PROTECTING CHILDREN**

The capitalist-imperialist world economy is getting worse

There is no economy in the world that can escape the laws of capitalist development, whether it claims to have a "progressive", "socialist" or imperialist government, whether it is Mexico, Iran, USA, China, Russia, etc. The UN forcibly and as an alert about the capitalist danger of a new and serious crisis, with the announcement that the global financial system is a failure.

Failure after failure of the capitalist-imperialist economy, reflected in crisis after crisis of the system as a whole, have representations of imperialism such as the UN to make statements such as the one on this irrepressible scenario of "danger" to life of the obsolete, decomposed and degrading capitalist mode of production.

Despite the superficiality of the data that the UN definition on the failure of the financial system is based on, it is relevant to take it into account because if things are very bad for the capitalists and their fortunes, for them to care about the working masses of the planet is very distant and is pure mockery.

It warns that global debt has reached \$92 trillion, from countries that borrowed to "face" the so-called Covid-19 Pandemic; those who pay all the costs of this are the poorest countries dependent on imperialism.

The UN report maintains that this debt is already unsustainable and that it led to failure because it has worsened the economic conditions of the countries. The main debtors are the imperialist powers that make up 70% of this, but it does not mention the US, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and only refers to China, India, Brazil. The data seems biased, since the other powers, mainly the U.S. leads this problem. Recently provided itself a new debt ceiling of \$31 trillion. Based on this global indebtedness, without considering other critical variables, it states that: "It is a result of the intrinsic inequality of an obsolete financial system, which reflects the colonial dynamics of the time in which it was created."

These statements or warnings cannot be made without the permission of the great powers; they are a small part of reality but they can also be announcements of a new imperialist strategy to be legitimized in advance, to adopt new measures that further sacrifice the lives of the working masses of the world, for example to adopt more restrictive, austere measures, cuts that sacrifice public resources to further feed the canine hunger of the big capitalists.

But faced with this "failure of world financial policy," the UN did not question and condemn the war in Ukraine or other serious problems that are the main responsibility of the imperialist countries, such as the accelerated and unstoppable destruction of the planet, the illegitimacy and failure of bourgeois democracies that survive with frauds, impositions or soft or violent coups; and recently the increase in deaths during and after the so-called Pandemic of Covid-19. We can expect nothing from the UN to make the imperialists stop the plunder that they unleash against the peoples and their territories.



Cuba,
warned

forced

Sobre la continuada ocupación de Puerto Rico

En 1898, las fuerzas militares de los EE.UU. bombardearon y ocuparon a Puerto Rico, cuyo pueblo estaba en lucha contra el viejo imperio de España. Esa era una de las primeras guerras inter-imperialistas. Desde entonces, por 125 años, los EE.UU. se apoderaron de Puerto Rico como colonia. Su economía está completamente controlada por los monopolios estadounidenses, antes por fincas azucareras y ahora por fábricas farmacéuticas y electrónicas. En los centros comerciales, hay tiendas de cadenas como, Home Depot, Costco, Sams, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Walmart, entre otras corporaciones. Por falta de empleos y salarios bajos, gran parte de los trabajadores han tenido que emigrar a la metrópolis en busca de un mejor estándar de vida, confrontando así racismo, desempleo y discriminación. Hoy hay más personas de descendencia puertorriqueña en los EE.UU. que en Puerto Rico y forman una parte super-explotada de la fuerza de trabajo de los EE.UU.

Los imperialistas estadounidenses han cometido innumerables crímenes contra el pueblo puertorriqueño. Por décadas, el gobierno norteamericano esterilizó un 37.5 por ciento de las mujeres en edad reproductiva como medida para bajar el incremento de la población. También, Puerto Rico fue utilizado para albergar bases militares (17% de la Isla en un momento dado) con el fin de invadir a países de Latinoamérica, El Caribe y otros del mundo como Vietnam. Los Estados Unidos han encarcelado a muchos líderes independentistas, como Pedro Albizu Campos, los cinco nacionalistas, Juan Antonio Corretjer, y han asesinado otros, como Filiberto Ojeda Ríos y comunistas como Ángel Rodríguez Cristóbal.

Como toda colonia, Puerto Rico tiene el derecho de luchar por su independencia, igual que toda nación oprimida tiene el derecho de luchar por su autodeterminación. Es el deber de todos revolucionarios, internacionalistas y marxista-leninistas dentro de los países imperialistas, particularmente en el país ya más poderoso, los EE.UU., de apoyar esas luchas.

¡Independencia y Socialismo para Puerto Rico!

La economía mundial capitalista-imperialista empeora

No hay economía en el mundo que escape a las leyes del desarrollo capitalista, así se diga tener un gobierno “progresista”, “socialista” o imperialista, así se llame México, Cuba, Irán, EE.UU., China, Rusia, etc., más cuando forzosamente y como una alerta, la ONU advierte sobre el peligro capitalista de una nueva y grave crisis, con el anuncio de que el sistema financiero global es un fracaso.

Fracaso, tras fracaso de la economía capitalista-imperialista, reflejado en crisis tras crisis que ha padecido el sistema en su conjunto, han obligado a representaciones del imperialismo como la ONU hacer declaraciones como la dada a conocer sobre este incontenible escenario de “peligro” de vida del caduco, descompuesto y degradante modo de producción capitalista.

A pesar de la superficialidad de los datos que basan la definición de la ONU sobre el fracaso del sistema financiero, es relevante tomarlo en cuenta porque quiere decir que si están muy mal las cosas para los capitalistas y sus fortunas, porque para que se preocupen por las masas trabajadoras del planeta eso es muy lejano y es pura simulación.

Alerta que hay un sobreendeudamiento mundial que ha alcanzado los 92 billones de dólares, desde países que se endeudaron para “enfrentar” la llamada Pandemia de Covid-19 y quienes pagan todos los costos de esto son los países más pobres y dependientes del imperialismo.

Sostiene el informe de la ONU, que ya es insostenible este endeudamiento y que resultó un fracaso porque ha empeorado las condiciones económicas de los países. Los principales deudores son las potencias imperialistas que acaparan el 70% de esta, pero no menciona a EE.UU., a Reino Unido, Japón, Alemania, y solo se refiere a China, India, Brasil, pareciera sesgado el dato, cuando es conocido que las otras potencias principalmente los estadounidenses encabezan dicho problema, y más que recientemente se autoasignaron un nuevo techo de deuda por 31 billones de dólares. Y centrado en este endeudamiento mundial sin considerar otras variables críticas, reconoce y afirma que esto: “Es un resultado de la desigualdad intrínseca de un sistema financiero obsoleto, que refleja las dinámicas coloniales de la época en que se creó”.

Estos anuncios o alertas no pueden hacerse sin la venia de las grandes potencias, por lo que son una pequeña parte de la realidad pero también pueden ser anuncios de una nueva estrategia imperialista a legitimar por anticipado, para adoptar nuevas medidas que sacrifiquen más la vida de las masas trabajadoras del mundo, por ejemplo para adoptar medidas más restrictivas, austeras, de recortes que significan sacrificio de los recursos públicos para alimentar más el hambre canina de los grandes capitalistas.

Pero frente a este “fracaso de la política financiera mundial” la ONU no cuestionó y condenó la guerra en Ucrania y otros problemas graves que son principal responsabilidad de los países imperialistas, como la acelerada e imparable destrucción del planeta, la ilegitimidad y fracaso de las democracias burguesas que sobreviven con los fraudes, las imposiciones o los golpes de Estado blandos o violentos; y recientemente el aumento de muertes durante y después de la llamada Pandemia. del Covid-19. De la ONU nada podemos esperar para que los imperialistas paren su rapiña que desatan contra los pueblos y sus territorios.

