

President For the Rich:

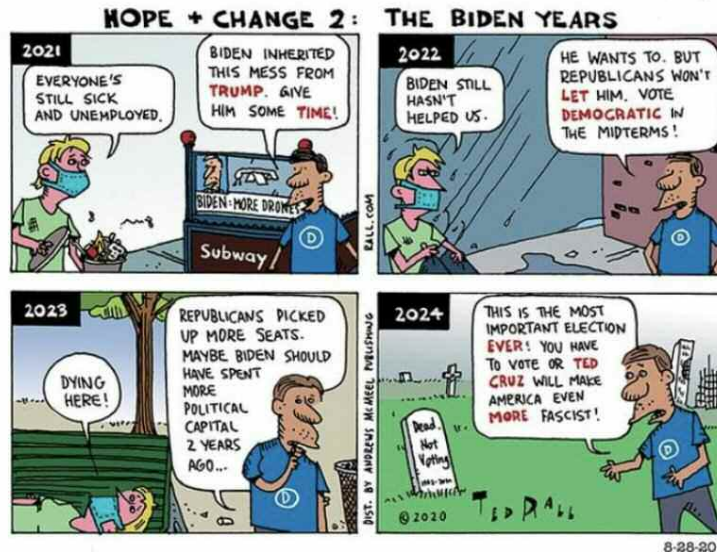
Biden Is Part of the Problem, Not the Solution

Particularly after the events of January 6 in Washington, most people are glad that we no longer have to deal with Trump as President. Biden will probably resort less to open demagoguery, racism and attacks on the electoral system. But his policies are not likely to be basically different.

“No one’s standard of living will change.”

Biden made this statement early in his campaign, at a fundraiser for rich Democratic Party donors in New York City. This is especially relevant today, when millions are unemployed and many are facing eviction or foreclosure. Hunger is growing

By George Gruenthal



as food pantries are being emptied, and supermarkets are worried about hungry customers shoplifting food. He was Vice-President when Obama signed a law cutting food stamps by \$8.7 billion. The miserable \$600 benefit check that the Democrats and Republicans have agreed to is totally insufficient to deal with the crisis.

Biden’s statement should also be seen in the context of the huge credit-card debts that people in the U.S. are facing. Biden’s home state of Delaware is the headquarters for many of the largest

credit card companies in the U.S. He was a lead proponent of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA) in 2005, which made it more difficult for people to declare “liquidation bankruptcy,” which would allow them to

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The Systemic Capitalist Crisis and the Advent of Neo-fascism

Contributed by Donald Cuccioletta PhD – historian retired professor

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has shown without a doubt how the capitalist class has not responded and cannot respond to the devastating consequences produced by the corona virus across our planet. More preoccupied with the loss of profits and the decline in production, it was very obvious which direction the capitalists wanted to take. It seems Jeff Bezos was extremely happy with the economic decisions taken, when he declared that throughout the pandemic he was able to pocket the highest percentage of profit he has ever accumulated. The capitalists are happy that the capitalist class has done its job.

This plan of attack, which the capitalist class now calls “The Great Reset”, has left the American economy and society for the present and the future facing a polarized population divided between the rich and poor which has not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930’s. But this can also be said for all of the advanced capitalist societies. We can now imagine what this means for the so-called developing nations of the world. This crisis is not only a crisis of civilization, but also a profound crisis of governance and democracy. In other words we are fac-

ing the dire state of the future, in the hands of the capitalist class.

According to Antonio Gramsci (Prison Letters) “The old is dying but the new has not been born”. The present capitalist crisis and the one that is facing us show very clearly that capitalism can no longer respond to the fundamental needs of the people, especially the working class, and this position of weakness very quickly has carried over into its incapacity to govern under its neoliberal democracy. However as Gramsci stated, “the new has not been born”, which means that the capitalist economic crisis has now become a crisis of governance.

In order to understand the challenges before the radical left, left progressives and even social liberals, it is important that we return to the contemporary history that evolved with the calamity that was World War 1. Four years of a murderous war in the trenches was intended to restructure capitalism under the dying remains of the aristocratic empires and to begin our present period of imperialism. The response of the working class was the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the Seattle General

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pay off only that portion of the debt that they could afford, and force them into “Chapter 13” bankruptcy, which would only provide an extended payment plan to pay off their entire debt.

Biden’s Cabinet Picks

Biden has chosen more Blacks, Latinos and women for his cabinet. But this only means more “diversity” within the rich ruling class. His vice-presidential choice, Kamala Harris, was known to fight to uphold wrongful convictions (which primarily affect Blacks and Latinos) when she was California’s attorney general. His choice for Secretary of State, Tony Blinken, was Biden’s main advisor in the vote for the attack on Iraq in 2002. Janet Yellen, expected to be the first woman Treasury secretary, was the head of the Federal Reserve under Obama, helping him develop the bailout to billionaires during the 2008 recession.

continued from page 1 Neo-fascism

Strike of 1919 and the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, which opened the way to the Berlin Soviet, Budapest revolt and Red Vienna, and numerous strikes across Europe and North America. The working class sensed the weakness in governance of the capitalist class.

Then came the Spanish Flu, a major pandemic that killed 50 million worldwide and demonstrated that the capitalist class could no longer govern under these circumstances. With the crisis of governance enveloping the capitalist system, the capitalist class searched for solutions to save their system and their profits. Fascism, with its modest beginnings during World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic, was lurking in the wings with its violent ideology of Law and Order eager to come to the rescue and impose its ideology.

The capitalist class, joined by the extreme right wing conservatives and eagerly supported by the monarchists, understood this opportunity to single out the socialists and communists as the direct enemy to their interests. They were able to create this collusion, which the budding fascists saw as their opportunity to press forward and solidify their ideology. A grand coalition of the right dominated by the fascists is what the capitalist class saw as the solution to reconstruct capitalism, expand imperialism, all under the ideology of violence, order and obedience fostered by the fascists.

Capitalists never were great admirers of fascism; they actually were repulsed by them, but under the conditions where the collapse of governance, the crisis of capitalism and liberal bourgeois democracy were at stake, they made the necessary Faustian pact with the devil.

In our contemporary world some of the same conditions are pushing the capitalist class in order to reset their capitalist system, expand their imperialism and remain hegemonic in the world. They are again looking for this Faustian pact with the devil.

Biden on War

Biden will likely increase the danger of war. Despite his opposition to the “surge” of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, he voted for the initial resolution that led to the invasion of that country. He also voted for the authorization to bomb Yugoslavia in 1991. He is likely to threaten, if not attack, other countries that the U.S. government does not like, such as Venezuela or North Korea.

More significantly, the U.S. under Biden will step up propaganda for contention with the U.S. chief rivals on a world scale, Russia and China. Shortly after the recognition of Biden’s electoral victory, he stated that the U.S. is “ready to lead” again on the world stage. We should all understand what that means.

Obviously the conditions of the past are not completely similar to the conditions perpetuated by the pandemic of COVID-19, but the interests of the capitalist class remain the same. The so-called Great Reset will only set in motion vast programs of austerity, high unemployment, and lead the way to depression similar to the 1930’s. Normalcy will be the propaganda catchword that will headline all corporate news outlets, praising a return to the good old days. In other words, keep the people happy with upbeat slogans, a modern version of bread and circuses.

Of course behind the discourse of bread and circuses, waiting in the wings will be the fascists, ready with their authoritarian tactics to preserve the status quo. Authoritarianism has been on the rise since the Reagan/Thatcher period. Trump just as all the presidents before him was a product of the authoritarianism of the different extreme right wing parties around the world from Modi in India, to Putin in Russia, to Orban in Hungary and Salvini in Italy, to name just a few.

Therefore the question must be asked, “What is to be done?” If “the new has not been born” according to Gramsci what role must a united Left take to start the birth of the new? The left in general and the radical socialist left in particular must embark on a vast international program to unite all the progressive forces to fight to maintain democracy and in particular citizens’ democracy. This program must be based on popular education directed towards the masses and based on a pragmatic approach of unity, independent of language, race, gender, and sexual orientation. Ready-made slogans will no longer work in the culture of the 21st century with new generations involved in class struggle.

Therefore in order to create a vast united front of all defenders of democracy, our analysis must be inclusive and only then will we have an international united front to combat the fascism that is at our front door. This struggle must succeed or else the struggle for socialism will have taken a step backwards. The principal contradiction that faces us today is the specter of fascism

We Are in Great Depression Two

By George Gruenthal

Since mid-March, when the restrictions allegedly to deal with Covid 19 were imposed, the U.S. economy has been in free fall and unemployment has skyrocketed. By late May, 40 million people had applied for unemployment insurance. However, as the New York Times admitted on May 5, 2020, the real numbers are higher, as those who have given up actively looking for work, gone back to school, work at least one hour a week, etc., do not qualify. Moreover, there are at least 8 million undocumented workers who are not eligible for unemployment insurance. Schools were closed, and education went “virtual.” Millions have applied for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, that is, food stamps), and have been exhausting food pantries. It is clear that we are in a depression not seen since the 1930s, which can be considered Great Depression Two.

But the economic problems did not start in mid-March. In the weeks preceding, the stock market was in steep decline. However, while workers continue to suffer, not only from the virus, but from the shutdown of the economy, stock prices have continued to rise, so that now they are well above where they were before the February decline. While the poor get poorer, the rich get richer!

Under capitalism, the economy regularly goes through cycles of crisis, depression, revival, prosperity and again crisis, called by the mainstream media “boom-bust” cycles. Briefly, individual companies produce as much as they can to gain a greater share of the market and the profits. However, the workers’ wages are limited, so they cannot purchase all the goods produced. As a result, factories are shut down. This is a crisis of overproduction. These circumstances have only been exacerbated due to government measures against the pandemic. Eventually production restarts (including weapons production to prepare for new wars).

The “New Normal” Jobs are Not Coming Back

Those who expect the jobs lost to come back will have a rude awakening. The capitalists want the new economy to be based on a “virtual” world. The idea is to increase production with as few workers as possible. Many stores, including restaurants, have closed or severely cut back on the number of their employees, as people are increasingly shopping on line or ordering take-out food on the internet. Even workers who make deliveries will be cut back as Amazon is planning to carry this out with drones.

The virtual world is moving into the health care industry, where patients are encouraged to have telephone or virtual visits with their health care professionals, many of whom are still “working from home.” This is to the detriment of patients’ health, as most illnesses cannot be diagnosed, much less cured, by phone or over the internet.

This is also true with “on-line” education. Many colleges and charter schools are promoting this. In New York City (and other cities), all schools are going virtual at least part-time, under Mayor de Blasio’s “blended education” model. This is espe-

cially detrimental for younger students, who need interaction with other children their own age. It is also much less useful for working class students, especially for Blacks and other oppressed people, who generally have poorer computer equipment and are more likely to have parents who are “essential” workers and so are not able to supervise their children’s education.

All this especially affects public services

Once on-line education becomes an “acceptable” alternative, there is no reason for the schools to limit virtual class sizes, so even 90 students in a class could become “normal.” Besides the effects on the students, this would devastate teachers’ unions.

The postal service is already being decimated by the private package deliverers, such as UPS, FedEx and Amazon. This had been exacerbated by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, pushed through Congress in 2006, which required the Post Office to prefund health care for its employees for 75 years in advance.

Public transit has already been decimated by the restrictions based on Covid-19. In New York City, the MTA claims it has a \$12 billion deficit. Also, now with a Democrat as President [update], why is the MTA not banking on federal funding? They have been threatening drastic service cuts and layoffs of 900 workers among 2200 municipal workers.

While in the short run, large companies will earn additional billions from a virtual world, in the long run this will have the opposite effect. We can only explain this briefly here. The capitalists invest more money into equipment (including the infrastructure that allows for a “virtual” reality), called constant capital. But it is labor that creates all value, and thus all profits. Thus the rate of profit, the share of profit compared to total capital invested, tends to decline.

Make the Rich Pay!

We should call for Congress to pass an increase of \$300 billion in food stamps that would allow laid-off workers and their families to eat and would increase agricultural production. The restoration of the stock-transfer tax, a small tax on each stock exchange transaction, could raise billions of dollars. It is still on the books but has not been imposed for almost 40 years. Also taxes should be increased on the largest landowners, both residential and commercial. They have been making billions in profits from the gentrification of cities such as New York, and they can’t threaten to take their buildings and leave.

Under capitalism, the increased use of technology just leads to greater unemployment for workers, and harsher conditions and lower wages for those who are still working. But under socialism, the benefits of technology would be shared by all working people. People could work only 20 hours a week or less, and have more time for leisure activities, whether studying, culture or family.

“A World without Workers Is Impossible.

A World without Capitalists Is Necessary.”



Canada's alliances prove the country is an imperialist power

Contributed by Yves Engler

For thousands of years folk wisdom has insisted that 'you shall be known by the company you keep'. This is also true of countries.

A recent United Nations vote condemning the "glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" generated significant commentary on social media. The US and Ukraine voted against the widely supported resolution while Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most European countries abstained. One commentator tweeted that the countries who failed to condemn Nazism were "more or less the same coalition of stooges that recognized Juan Guaido" as president of Venezuela while another pointed out that it was similar to the coalition of "countries condemning China's policies in Hong Kong." Another connected it to NATO.

These commentators hit on something fundamentally important. It is instructive to consider Canada's UN votes and position on international issues through the lens of its many alliances.

Canada is a leading member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Canada participated with the US and Britain in the secret talks on creating a North Atlantic alliance and since NATO was established in 1949 has been one of its most active contributors.

Canada is a member of the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing arrangement. A series of post-Second World War accords, beginning with the 1946 UKUSA intelligence agreement, created the "AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US EYES ONLY" arrangement. The Five Eyes partnership oozes of white supremacy. Settler colonialism and empire unite an alliance that excludes wealthier non-white nations (Japan and South Korea) or those with more English speakers (India and Nigeria). It's not a coincidence that the only four countries that originally voted against the United

Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN-DRIP) in 2007 are part of the Five Eyes.

Canada is a member of the Commonwealth. It was a member of the alliance when it only included Britain, Australia, New Zealand and apartheid South Africa.

Canada is a member of the Group of Seven (G7) wealthy nations. It also has a permanent (constituency-based) seat on the International Monetary Fund's executive board (Canada represents 10 Caribbean countries and Ireland on the IMF board).

Canada is part of the Lima Group seeking to overthrow the Venezuelan government. Instigated by Canada and Peru in mid 2017, the Lima Group has successfully corralled regional support for the US-led campaign to oust President Nicolas Maduro.

Canada is a member of the Core Group that heavily shapes Haitian affairs. Comprising the ambassadors of the US, France, Brazil and Spain, as well as representatives of the EU and OAS, Core Group representatives meet regularly among themselves and with Haitian officials and periodically release collective statements on Haitian affairs. While formally established two months after the 2004 US, France and Canada coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Radio Canada's Enquête pointed out that the Core Group was actually spawned at the "Ottawa initiative on Haiti". Held at the Meech Lake Government Resort on January 31 and February 1, 2003, no Haitian officials were invited to the private gathering where US, French, OAS and Canadian officials discussed overthrowing Haiti's elected government, putting the country under UN trusteeship and recreating the Haitian military.

Few countries are represented in as many powerful and openly interventionist coalitions. Canada's different alliances suggests this country sits near the centre of global imperialism.

New Sparks in the Workers' Movement

Taken from the website at <https://fcsilvera.com/>

Although we are not directly engaged in the struggles below, we are promoting them as indications of a new progressive trend in the workers' movement.

F. Christophe Silvera announces his Candidacy for General President of the Teamsters Union

The Platform: *Serving The Community*

F. Christophe "Chris" Silvera is the longest serving elected principal officer in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). He has been a principal officer for over 30 years serving in the capacity as the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, New York. He has been a Teamster for 37 years. Local 808 represents a diverse group of labor union workers including railroad, building maintenance, factory, cemetery and public sector workers. Chris has a history of aggressive and progressive trade unionism and has continued to achieve increased value for his members.

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In 1998, Chris became the first Chairman of the Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) to be elected by the

rank and file. He was re-elected to a 2nd term in 2003. Under his leadership, TNBC grew from two local chapters to fourteen chapters nationwide. Besides providing scholarships to students entering colleges and giving financial support to various educational institutions, the caucus had been heavily involved in the workers struggle.

As Secretary Treasurer of Local 808 and Chairman of the TNBC, Chris was one of the co-conveners for the Million Worker March Movement in 2004 and the Millions More Movement in 2005. He led Local 808 in facilitating the mobilization of the largest non-violent march and rally in the history of New York City on May 1, 2006, "May Day", as cited by the NYC Police Department. Local 808 served as the headquarters for the 60+ community and labor-based organizations that participated in the march. This was a rally and march for both immigrant rights and the 120th year anniversary of the Haymarket Affair in Chicago.

on the international level. However within this anti-fascist struggle, we must not forget the struggle against climate change, nor the struggle for citizens' democracy, and the struggle for socialism.

A united front of masses is not only the necessary instrument against fascism, but it must also, through struggle, transform itself into the instrument for socialism. Without a united front of the masses, built on participatory democracy, we will not achieve a victory that will lead us and future generations towards socialism.

Capitalism and imperialism will survive if we do nothing. With the rise of fascism, the conditions are at hand to begin the struggle and that can be transformed into a class struggle for

new socialism, one that will be based on the ecology of our planet. Eco-socialism will be the victorious outcome of an international united front against fascism.

In honor of the 150 anniversary of "La commune de Paris"

LA LOTTA CONTINUA



On the Fascist Riot at the Capitol on January 6

By George Gruenthal

As we all know, pro-Trump rioters tried to storm the Capitol in Washington DC in a futile last-ditch effort to prevent the certification of Joe Biden as President of the U.S. One could see the kid-glove treatment of the rioters by the police, compared to how they treat demonstrators against police brutality

The mainstream media called it a coup attempt. The ruling class should know, as they have carried out many coups around the world, particularly since the end of World War II. Just as a reminder of some of these: the overthrow of President Mosaddegh in Iran in 1953, of Sukarno in Indonesia in 1965, of Nkrumah in Ghana in 1966, of Allende in Chile in 1973, of Aristide in Haiti twice, in 1991 and 2004, of Yanukovich in Ukraine in 2014. These coups were carried out under both Dem-

ocratic and Republican presidents. What we have here, as Malcolm X stated after the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963, is a case of the chickens coming home to roost. And Biden hypocritically called the Capitol the "citadel of democracy."

Let us make no mistake about it – this is not the end of attempts at fascism. Hitler attempted a coup in 1923 that was defeated. But he took over in 1933 as leader of the Nazi party. Whether under Trump or another leader, there will be more attempts by fascism to take power, probably under the guise of right-wing populism and white supremacy. Fascism is a symptom of capitalism in crisis. A United Front Against Fascism is needed now more than ever!

Call of the Haitian People for International Solidarity Against the Jovenel Moïse Regime

by the Jacques Roumain Circle, Montreal, January 09, 2021
pueblo@sympatico.ca

The Haitians were the first people in the Americas to rise up against both colonialism and slavery:

The ruling class of France and other European countries considered the enslaved Africans as objects that could be dehumanized, brutalized, tortured and killed for the profit of their masters. The labor of the slaves, mostly in the sugar fields, made France the richest country in Europe at that time. In 1788 exports from Haiti reached 214 billion francs at that time and 25 million people in France depended on exports from the colony.

At the call of revolutionary leaders, the freedmen and slaves, the domestic slaves and those in the fields, the Blacks and Mulattoes united to put an end to the system of slavery that France maintained in Saint-Domingue (the island that now comprises Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

Haiti is the only republic that won its independence without the help of any other country. The revolution, waged at first by almost unarmed slaves, fought Napoleon, heavily armed with rifles and cannons. Under the Commander-in-chief Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the revolutionary army defeated the largest and most powerful army of the time on November 18, 1803, at the Battle of Vertières. On January 1, 1804, he proclaimed Haiti's independence.

The Haitian revolution helped liberate many Latin American countries from colonization. It gave Simon Bolivar and Francisco Miranda, the fighters for the liberation of Greater Colombia, sojourn in Haiti. They received arms, ammunition and soldiers and in return only had to commit to free all the slaves in the territories they liberated.

The U.S. blockade Invasion and occupation of Haiti

In 1776, the U.S. declared its independence from England, but it maintained slavery until the Civil War (1861-1865). The U.S. refused to recognize Haiti's independence until 1862 during the Civil War, and started a total blockade to prevent the country from trading with other nations.

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 stated: "America for the Americans." Its objective was the domination of the Americas by the United States. Using the Monroe Doctrine, the US invaded and occupied Haiti in 1915. The people of Haiti maintained a fierce and heroic resistance under the leadership of Charlemagne Peralte and the Kakos. It was only in 1934 that the majority of the US troops left Haiti, but kept an occupation army in place.

The Duvalier dictatorship of "Papa Doc", "Baby Doc" and the "Tontons Macoutes" began in 1957

In 1946, a few months after WWII, the capitalist-imperialist powers started the Cold War to fight against the peoples who wanted to put an end to colonialism and imperialism.

In 1957, to maintain their domination over Haiti, the US supported the fascist dictatorship of the Duvaliers, father and son.



The Haitian people fought for 29 years against this fascist regime and its bloodthirsty "Tonton Macoutes". These were instruments of repression of the dictatorial regime maintained by the United States under the pretext that these mercenaries were helping the empire to fight communism, as part of the Cold War.

In 1986, the Haitian masses formed a united front and finally forced "Baby Doc" to flee the country and seek refuge in France.

The first democratic president Jean-Bertrand Aristide:

In 1990, a priest, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, at the head of the Lavalas Movement, mobilized the Haitian masses and became the first democratically elected president of Haiti. He raised the minimum wage from \$3 to \$5 a day. But only 7 months after, Aristide was overthrown in a bloody military coup organized by the United States, Canada and France.

Since then, the imperialist powers have supported a series of criminal and terrorist regimes, which maintained chaos and fascism, with constant assassinations and massacres, leaving the people in deep misery. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was the fundraising manager for Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. He received \$14 billion to rebuild Haiti, but all the money was stolen; he, together with Hillary *continued on page 7*

Clinton when she was Secretary of State under Obama, imposed Michel Martelly, a misogynist and a cocaine addict, as president in 2011 although he had come in fourth in the first round of the elections.

The Haitian people are continuing their heroic struggle against the occupation by foreign UN troops and now against the UN administration of the country. Only the liberation of the country and socialism will bring true economic, political, social independence, true workers' and people's democracy under the leadership of the working class, with the defeat of capitalism-imperialism. The Haitian people have the full support of all progressive and communist forces in the world.

The enemies of the Haitian working class and people are: The Haitian ruling classes (the semi-feudal landlords and the comprador capitalists); the Haitian state (the army, police and administration controlled by the ruling classes and imperialism); the armed militias, made up of lumpen-proletarians in poor neighborhoods; the so-called "democratic" imperialist powers (the US, France, Canada, etc.); and the United Nations which occupies the country.

The Haitian government is maintaining a system of terror, fascism and chaos

In Haiti today, the government is in total disarray and is nothing but a gang of goons that, though the exploitation of the workers, the repression of the people and the plunder of the resources, gives astronomical profits to the landlords, capitalists and foreign companies from the labor of the poor peasants and the workers of maquiladoras (assembly plants).

The fascist regime of the party in power (PHTK) in Haiti, under Presidents Michel Martelly and Jovenel Moïse, is continuing its work of impoverishment, dehumanization, humilia-

tion. One example is the scandal of the Petro-Caribe Program. The Chavez government of Venezuela created this program to help the Haitian and other people of the Caribbean to develop their countries. But in ten years, under Martelly and Moïse, the government squandered more than \$4.8 billion of this program. Today, nothing is left: the money is gone and no infrastructure was built.

Brutal repression and massacres are leading to a general uprising:

Between 2017 and 2020, ten massacres left nearly 1,000 dead and hundreds missing; young girls were raped and murdered by armed lumpen goons paid by the ruling PHTK regime. The people have been constantly demonstrating against the regime. One of their demands has been for increased salaries. Almost half the population, 5.5 million Haitians, live under the poverty line. They are arrested and brutalized by the political police of power (trained by US and Canadians police agents) and then thrown into prison without trial. Kidnapping is a systematic practice.

Since January 2020, all power has been concentrated in the hands of the indicted president, since he never held elections to replace senators and deputies whose terms of office were coming to an end.

The comprador bourgeoisie and the reactionary intellectual elite, whose interests are still linked to imperialism, are seeking to keep Jovenel Moïse in power beyond his mandate, which expires on February 7, 2021. The Haitian people are determined to put an end to this feudal-capitalist regime.

Long live the struggle of the Haitian people! The victory of the Haitians is the path that leads to social justice and social peace throughout America.

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"Democracy" in America and the Two-Party Duopoly

Contributed by Tom Siracuse, Secretary
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Many Americans think that U.S. politics have been unusually polarized but this has often been the case in the past to trick people to believe that there is a big difference between the Democratic and Republican Parties. Many liberals and even progressives still believe the Democratic Party is the "lesser of two evils". Most Americans believe that the political parties and the president run the country rather than the Wall Street oligarchy. Furthermore, they have no idea how much Wall Street controls the mass media.

Do most voters know that the Democratic Party practically destroyed independent ballot parties like the Green Party because the DP did not want the GP to expose the phony platform of the DP? The following are a few examples of the DP's co-opting the "Green New Deal". The DP dropped Medicare For All, continues to support a militarist imperialist policy overseas and has no jobs program like the WPA during the Depression of the 1930's. Comparing the DP and GP platforms makes the DP look pathetic. That is why the DP decided to drastically raise the ballot requirements for ballot parties in DP-controlled states, making it practically impossible for an independent party like the GP to remain on the ballot in state-wide elections. NY is a prime example. In the past, the GP was on the ballot in 45 states and now it will be on the ballot in only 30 states. Many Democrats claim that the GP would take away votes from the DP in a close election. But why were the last two presidential elections so close anyway? Those who did vote for Biden will realize that Biden's choices for his cabinet will result in no real change from the last four years of Trump except that Biden will not openly embrace racism. During the eight years of the Obama Administration, the condition of blacks in this country did not change despite the

rhetoric. The real result of throwing the Green Party off the ballot is the further entrenchment of the corrupt political duopoly.

Most Americans do not realize that the Constitution was not a democratic document and was written by slave plantation owners and wealthy merchants to protect their position. This country was never a democracy but an oligarchy and will always be as long as the system is based upon capitalism. All this a lot for most people to grasp as they have been brainwashed to think otherwise.

However, a growing number of Americans painfully see that the two-party duopoly is not solving the existential issues we all face: the fast deteriorating climate crisis, the continuing economic collapse, the huge and growing unemployment problem, the resurgence of the corona virus, and the dependence on never-ending wars to shore up a capitalist system in deep decay. The decay of capitalism started long before the corona virus but this pandemic has certainly exacerbated the process. Most people cannot help but feel there is something very wrong with the system. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a dangerous cynicism based on a misunderstanding of the socio-economic history of the U.S. making people vulnerable to a fascist demagogue.

However, there are signs that young people are overcoming the racism and xenophobic nationalism that the oligarchy uses to pit people against each other. Another positive dynamic is the multi-racial and ethnic makeup of the population that will soon outnumber the many older whites who hold on to their racism. Socialists must point out to the public, however, that capitalism has to be replaced by a society based on a democratic socialism and only then we can truly understand what "Democracy in America" can really be.



BUILDING AN INDEPENDENT WORKERS' PARTY



The struggle in the United States and around the world erupted onto the streets in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd as well as the deepest economic crisis since the 1930s. We workers, black and brown people, immigrants, women, LGBTQ+ people, indigenous communities, and youth must fight back. The people in the heart of the imperialist center must radically transform this country. The fractures in the US state apparatus have ushered in a new, fruitful moment for organizing our communities. This moment demands new, bold, and wide-sweeping action for all progressive organizers and activists.

In this tumultuous and historic context, the US held an election that disillusioned many progressive forces. On one side, there was a right wing authoritarian who deployed troops against peaceful protesters and separated immigrant families in brutal conditions; on the other a "tough on crime" moderate who repudiated national healthcare, police reform, and environmental action. We can no longer stand for this choice of the "lesser evil". We demand another option—a third, working class party which will both join with working people in their day-to-day struggles as well as providing a progressive alternative during elections. This is an especially critical task for us as organizers in the US, the chief exporter of imperialist violence and oppression around the world.

We want to distinguish ourselves from other progressive groups by using our paper to reach out to workers and popular forces, not to other leftists. We call on all progressive forces who share our vision outlined in the platform below to organize and begin to fundamentally challenge and change the system of government in the US.

- **End police brutality; defund the police, community control of the police.**
- **Abolish I.C.E; end all discriminatory border policies, Make full citizenship available to refugees**
- **Jobs for all at a decent wage and a livable income for those who are unable to work.**
- **Right to organize and strike for all workers. Organize the South.**
- **End the oppression of African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans in the U.S.**
- **Support for all rights for women and families.**
- **Free healthcare for all.**
- **Free education for all.**
- **Alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. Prisons should be for rehabilitation, not revenge. Abolish prisons for profit. Free all political prisoners.**
- **Cancel all rents until the end of the crisis. Rents should be reduced to 25% of income.**
- **Full housing rights to all!**
- **End all forms of imperialist intervention. Stop all wars. Close all military bases abroad and withdraw all troops including mercenaries.**