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WHAT DISTINGUISHES OUR PARTY – The line running from Marx to Lenin to the foundation of the Third International and the birth of the Communist Party of Italy in Leghorn (Livorno) 1921, and from there to the struggle of the Italian Communist Left against the degeneration in Moscow and to the rejection of popular fronts and coalition of resistance groups – The tough work of restoring the revolutionary doctrine and the party organ, in contact with the working class, outside the realm of personal politics and electoralist manoeuvres

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FROM VENEZUELA TO IRAN: AMERICAN BLITZ FOR GLOBAL ENERGY “DOMINANCE” ANTICIPATES THE FUTURE WORLD WAR

Today the world witnesses another oil drenched proletarian slaughter unfolding in the Middle East. As images of dead American soldiers unloaded from U.S. cargo planes in coffins draped in the stars and stripes trickled into newsfeeds in the opening week of the conflict in order to stir patriotic sentimentality, we were reminded of scenes of the “forever wars” of the early 2000’s where over one million Iraqi and Afghan proletarians died amid the U.S. struggle to conquer for Wall St. Iraqi oil, CIA management of Afghan opium fields, and enlarged stocks for Halliburton, Lockheed Martin and Blackwater. Yet the war only confirms a basic reality that only our Party has underscored for well over half a century. That the intensifying overproduction crisis, inherent to the capitalist mode of production, is the defining feature driving today’s conflicts within world imperialism.

The inter-imperialist war being waged today in Iran, similar to the recent interventions in Venezuela, are a product of this crisis. A war which disrupts oil production in the region will enable U.S. oil monopolies to continue to grow their advantage within global energy export markets against its gulf and OPEC+ oil cartel competition while increasing—and thereby financing—demand for its military energy industry.

Achieving arms “dominance” is an important strategy in U.S. imperialism’s effort to economically contain Chinese imperialism; however, it will come at the cost of increasingly ballooning the U.S. national debt, hastening the next catastrophic economic crisis.

Such debt is sustainable only with financial domination, and this with military domination.

Meanwhile the Iranian bourgeois will use the war to consolidate its hold over the increasingly rebellious industrial proletariat, sacrificing them to keep the profits of oil sold to China flowing into their pockets.

The war in Iran is a further stage in a process destined to lead to a third world war, if the proletariat does not prevent it. The strategies of the various imperialisms are not always clear, not even to the capitalists themselves. The Chinese and Russian imperialisms are in trouble: they lack the strength to oppose the militarily stronger US imperialism, so for now they appear to be doing nothing beyond making perfunctory declarations. Naturally, they will continue to arm Iran and assist it with the intelligence provided by their satellites: Iran is too important to China and Russia, economically, militarily, and strategically. Leaving that country in the hands of a rival imperialism would be a severe blow to both. The difficulty lies in doing this without overreaching. They certainly haven’t forgotten what happened during the US and NATO war against Serbia in 1999: China was providing Serbia with information on NATO troop movements, and then, “by mistake,” the Chinese embassy in Belgrade was hit by three US missiles.

Even the militarily strongest imperialism, the US, has its problems: if it were to wage two or three wars simultaneously, it would face considerable difficulties. The

Pentagon appears to be less than enthusiastic about the war with Iran, since if it were to drag on for a long time, its reduced stockpile of missiles and various military hardware would be insufficient to sustain a potential new war.

The various European states are tempted to pursue their own imperialist policies, but lacking the strength, they vacillate between serving their perennial master, the United States, and timidly distancing themselves from it. They know they risk, like Harlequin, serving two masters, and being beaten by both the old and the new, be it China or whoever. They therefore mask their impotence by invoking “democracy” and “international law.”

American capitalists would like to replicate what happened in Venezuela, supporting a power, new or old, that obeys their orders and, among other things, sells or doesn’t sell oil according to their interests. Evidently this is not as easy to achieve in Iran as it was in Venezuela.

Meanwhile, they could arm some ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Kurds, Baloch, Arabs, and perhaps even the Azeris. An attempt appears to be underway with the Kurds, whose nationalist parties in Syria were abandoned by the US, which had supported them, a few weeks prior to the war. This, however, does not necessarily mean that this approach will not actually be attempted. Kurdish bourgeois leaders have always sold themselves to the bourgeoisies of other countries to fight their host state or rival Kurdish groups, effectively acting—in-

creasingly—as mercenary militias.

Thus Iran would be divided into zones of influence, as has already happened in Iraq and Syria, forced to abdicate its claims to regional imperialism.

The State of Israel, on behalf of the Americans, would thus strengthen its dominance over the entire Near and Middle East, finding itself competing only with Turkish imperialism which, even before the current war, appeared to be the new main adversary of Israeli imperialism, replacing Iranian imperialism.

Propaganda about “Greater Israel” and similar religious and Jewish supremacism, serve the aims of American imperialism, of which Israel is merely the most important vassal and faithful executor. It is the heir of Eichmann, not of the millions of Jews exterminated by Nazism. By controlling the Middle East, American capitalists would be able to move from a position of strength against their main enemy, China, against which the war against Iran is first and foremost directed.

But all these more or less plausible strategies of imperialism, which is the supreme stage of capitalism and not a moral category, have a weak point: the emergence of that “stone guest”—the proletariat.

Even in the purely theoretical—and impossible—hypothesis of a single imperialist country absolutely dominating the world, it would not be immune to the worsening economic crisis of capitalist overproduction and, therefore, the need to increase the level of exploitation of the international working

class, thereby fueling the class struggle. Far from being stronger because it was free of opposing imperialisms, it would instead be weaker because it could not slow and divert the class struggle with war, with the external enemy, with nationalism, with the massacres and destruction of war.

This explains the deepest meaning and purpose of the imperialist war: a war against the proletariat and the revolution, even before being a war for the division of the profits obtained from the exploitation of the proletariat.

And from this we can see the only way to prevent or stop imperialist war. As long as the proletariat remains virtually immobile and petrified, capitalism is able to wage all the wars and massacres it wants, as we all see. When the “stone guest” moves and presents itself to the power of the bourgeoisie, as has happened throughout history and will happen again, the latter is doomed.

Obviously, for the bourgeoisie to be doomed, the proletariat must not appear as a disorganized mass of individuals, but rather organized within its class union, and led by its Communist Party. This is the only logical response the proletarian can have to world war.

We therefore reiterate our usual slogans:

Bread and Peace - War or Revolution - The Proletarians Have No Homeland - The Enemy Is in Their Own Home.

Of Drone Strikes and Oil Futures

Oil futures surged after the war with Iran began in late February 2026. Brent crude jumped 10-13% in price, to about \$80-82 per barrel in the first days of the conflict and later climbed toward \$90-\$100, briefly approaching \$120 during peak fears that fighting could disrupt shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. Ultimately, delivering a potential \$63 billion windfall to U.S. oil producers in the opening days. The conflict also boosted military spending, channeling billions toward U.S. defense contractors including Lockheed Martin, RTX Corporation, and Northrop Grumman, as new orders for missile defense systems, aircraft, and munitions pile up.

While maximally the U.S. may have hoped to quickly establish a puppet state in Iran with the decapitation of the Ayatollah, it has demonstrated its hesitancy to fully commit to the conflict and reluctance to engage in massive destruction of the Iranian state’s oil industry which would completely destabilize the country economically, leading to chaos, or even maybe the wakening of the aforementioned stone guest... Yet the United States whether or not it accomplishes its maximal aim will continue to reap massive rewards from an extension of the conflict. Commenting on the war Trump recently stated “The United States is the largest Oil Producer in the World... when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money.”

While higher oil prices in fact benefit the U.S., it must cautiously work to control how high they rise. Thus, U.S. strikes on Iranian energy sites have been carefully calibrated rather than aimed at completely destroying Iran’s entire oil industry. While some facilities linked to military logistics or shipping have reportedly been targeted, core export infrastructure, such as terminals and loading facilities that handle most Iranian

crude, have so far largely remained operational, and tankers have continued leaving Iranian ports. The main reason appears to be concern over global energy markets. Destroying Iran’s infrastructure could trigger a major supply shock and drive prices sharply higher. As the measured nature of sanctions on Russian oil show, U.S. imperialism is keenly aware of the risk that out of control energy prices would have on the economy as a whole. While thousands of proletarians are massaging the architects of the war, the capitalist class on both sides sit back, openly collaborating together as they coldly calculate how much more blood of their respective proletarians’ blood must be split to keep profit rates up.

As we stated in our TICP 434 after the emergence of the short war between Israel and Iran last year: “*The conflict between Israel and Iran last June triggered an initial surge in oil prices. However, they quickly returned to previous levels once the ceasefire was announced and the absence of serious supply disruptions was confirmed. The propaganda war, the manipulation of information, and all the staged displays, while suffocating, failed to substantially alter market perceptions of supply and demand... Increased production capacity in the West and increased supply from OPEC+ could offset the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, but this will only be tested when the infernal forces of imperialism push for a protracted military confrontation... The inter-imperialist contradictions within the oil business reflect the tendency toward overproduction, which exacerbates competition, and represent an important component in the general clash of imperialisms for the redistribution of the world. They add to the material conditions leading to world war, which only the proletariat, resuming the class struggle, can stop,*

transforming it into a revolutionary war that will put an end to capitalism and the rule of the bourgeoisie across the planet.”

Today we watch one year later as this very situation plays out, and the cynical forces of global imperialism constantly test and probe the situation with each drone strike and bombing run to evaluate the response of stock markets and oil futures to deliver for the dominant capital the most preferred price point.

Lenin argued in *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, that monopolies controlling raw materials gain decisive power over the wider economy because industries that dominate key resources can dictate conditions to downstream producers. Oil remains the most important commodity in the global economy, supplying roughly one-third of the world’s primary energy consumption and underpinning transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, and global trade. Because production costs in major fields can be as low as \$3-\$10 per barrel while market prices often range between \$60-\$100, control over oil production and distribution can generate enormous monopoly rents, allowing dominant energy firms and states to exert powerful influence over global prices, supply chains, and economic activity.

As we noted in our 2013 study *Oil, Monopolies and Imperialism* “Henry Kissinger warned in 2005, competition for access to energy can become “a matter of life and death” for nations.” This life and death battle by the dominant imperialist powers for control of “black gold” has played out in successive phases since the birth of the industry. Before World War II, the global oil industry was shaped by the rise of powerful monopolies competing for control of markets, colonial territories, and new oil fields across regions such as Venezuela, Mexico, Persia, and Indonesia. After the war, the focus of global oil politics shifted to the Middle East, where vast reserves and cheap production drew the intervention of Western powers and international oil companies, which used their economic and military influence to dominate production (*cont pg 2*)

Gulf Monarchies: Worn Out Cannon Fodder for U.S. Imperialism

The immediate losers from the shock to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz are Saudi Arabia and the wider Gulf oil producers. Their export system is the one physically disrupted, militarily exposed, and commercially strangled by the war. The Strait normally carries about 20 million barrels of oil per day, roughly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption and about a quarter of seaborne oil trade. When the conflict escalated, flows through the chokepoint collapsed dramatically, with tanker traffic falling by more than 80 percent during the peak of the disruption. Saudi Arabia is the largest exporter relying on this corridor, accounting for roughly 37% of crude shipments passing through Hormuz, followed by Iraq, the UAE, Iran, and Kuwait. With attacks on shipping and energy infrastructure spreading across the Gulf, the region’s export system has effectively become a battlefield. Saudi Aramco has warned that a prolonged closure would have “catastrophic consequences” for global oil markets (of which they must mean their own) and Gulf governments have begun openly questioning the long-standing arrangement under which Washington was supposed to guarantee the security of their energy exports. Even proposals for naval convoy systems would restore only a fraction (10%) of normal tanker traffic, leaving a hard physical ceiling on how much crude the region can move. Saudi Arabia has attempted to redirect some exports through its East-West pipeline to the Red Sea port of Yanbu, bypassing Hormuz entirely, but the system can carry only about 5 million barrels per day, far below the kingdom’s normal export capacity of roughly 7-8 million barrels per day. As a result, even with maximum use of this pipeline network, a large portion of Gulf oil production remains effectively trapped behind the bottleneck created by the war.

While Gulf production is constrained, rival producers are either continuing to sell or are positioning themselves to capture the gap. Russia has seen a surge in energy revenues as higher prices and shifting trade flows boost its exports to Asian buyers. Iran,

despite being at the center of the war, has continued exporting crude. Its key export hub at Kharg Island, responsible for around 90% of Iranian oil exports and capable of loading up to 2 million barrels per day, remains critical to shipments that still reach international markets, primarily China. The United States as we have shown is also positioned to benefit from the disruption. Government forecasts, which prior to the war predicted declining production, now expect production to climb further to roughly 13.8 million barrels per day by 2027 as higher prices encourage additional drilling.

U.S. capital markets are already responding to this shift. Financial institutions are investing in new tanker capacity scheduled for delivery later in the decade, and Washington has assembled a multi-billion-dollar insurance program to keep oil shipments moving through risky waters. One example is the reported order by JP Morgan-linked interests for three new Suezmax crude tankers at South Korea’s Samsung Heavy Industries, vessels expected to be delivered by February 2029. Industry reporting noted that the deal reflects expectations that “long-term geopolitical tensions and tighter shipping supply” will sustain demand for large crude carriers capable of moving oil outside the most vulnerable Gulf routes. At the same time the U.S. government has backed a \$20 billion maritime insurance and reinsurance program to stabilize tanker traffic through dangerous waters such as the Strait of Hormuz. Taken together, these moves show that major financial actors are not treating the disruption as a short-lived crisis but are allocating capital on the assumption that global oil flows will remain unstable long enough for non-Gulf suppliers to expand their market share.

Analysts estimate that the conflict has already removed around 10 million barrels per day of production across Gulf countries, one of the largest disruptions in modern oil markets. Because restarting large oil fields can be complex and risky, some wells may never return to their previous productivity even after the conflict ends. (*cont pg 2*)

The Buildup to War in Iran: The Global Sanctions Regime

While in the early days of the war in the U.S. the liberals played their confusionist part, to convince the public that the war on Iran comes out of thin air and is launched merely to distract the ballot dropping philistines from Trump’s personal political troubles related to the Epstein files, the ruling bourgeois faction makes no serious effort to justify its war on any real grounds other than that of advancing its own naked profit interest. The reality is that the Iran war is merely the latest development in a years-long conflict of escalating sanctions by the U.S. against foreign oil producing countries and increased use of the U.S. armed forces to regulate and control transportation of competitors’ oil across the world. The connection between the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine and the U.S. quarrel with Russian imperialism, along with the recent attack on Venezuela and Iran are all threaded together under the U.S. quest to cut into these oil producing countries who for years have fueled the growth of Chinese industrial power and now offer to do the same for India. While U.S. imperialism’s industrial power wanes, it intends to leverage itself as the dominant oil producer and military power, to maintain its status as the dominant financial power.

The United States was the only country, along with Germany, to recover and surpass the peak of industrial production before the 2008 crisis. This was thanks to increased oil production. The US manufacturing output index never recovered to its pre-crisis level. Germany, however, which had recovered, saw its industrial and manufacturing power hit by the war in Ukraine.

At the start of Trump’s second term he pushed for cheaper global oil to support consumer purchasing power and offset inflation. Even as U.S. production reached a record 13.6 million barrels per day in 2025, according to the U.S. Energy Information

Administration, and as exports fell about 3% to roughly 4.0 million barrels per day, partly because more crude remained in the United States to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. At the same time, oil executives argued that prices above roughly \$70-\$80 per barrel were necessary to justify expanding shale drilling, reflecting the cyclical structure of the oil industry in which high prices stimulate new drilling that eventually increases supply and pushes prices downward, while low prices trigger bankruptcies and consolidation before the cycle begins again. During 2025, rising exports from Iran and Venezuela increased global supply and competed with U.S. crude in key markets, aided by the expansion of a sanctions-evading “shadow fleet” of tankers and shifting trade patterns linked to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which reshaped global oil flows and encouraged discounted crude sales to Asian buyers, particularly China. At the same time, enforcement of sanctions at sea became more difficult as U.S. naval resources were stretched across multiple theaters, while weaker global demand growth due to tariffs, refinery maintenance cycles, and logistical bottlenecks at Gulf Coast export terminals further limited the expansion of U.S. oil exports despite record domestic production. We can see here the economic incentive of U.S. imperialism’s sudden blitz against its oil competitors in Venezuela and Iran.

The sanctions reimposed by the Trump administration on Iran in 2018, after withdrawing from the nuclear treaty negotiated by Obama, were explicitly directed at the oil sector and introduced at a moment when U.S. officials argued that rising American production gave Washington new freedom to wield economic pressure. Oil had been targeted in earlier sanctions, particularly the U.S. and EU measures imposed in 2012 that cut Iranian exports roughly in half. However, the 2018 campaign (*cont pg 2*)

Iran: Against the War Between Nations! For the Struggle Between Classes!

The uprising in Iran has been brutally crushed by the theocratic regime that the Iranian bourgeoisie has relied on for 47 years to protect its interests against the working class.

Demonstrations involving tens of thousands of young people, women, workers, students, and bazaar traders chanting for Khamenei’s death in dozens of cities and most of the country’s provinces—with fierce clashes in which the repressive forces were overwhelmed, and many of their henchmen killed in some cases—were not enough. However weakened, the regime maintains a social base sufficient to withstand the shocks of increasingly harsh revolts.

This social base is founded on the

network of interests of the military and paramilitary forces fattened by oil revenues and other capitalist activities, supported by Chinese and Russian imperialism.

An increasingly-centralized state and military power, intertwined with economic power, is characteristic of capitalism in its senile, putrescent phase, which corresponds to the true nature of capitalist political regimes, fascism, covered by ideological cloaks worn according to opportunity: from the robes of the ayatollahs, to false Bolivarian socialism, to democracy, to false Chinese socialism.

In Iran too, until the working class mobilizes, organized in class unions, with a generalized strike movement that overcomes

divisions between companies, categories, and localities and blocks the national capitalist economy to the bitter end, the revolts will continue to break like waves against the regime’s dam, nullifying the enormous sacrifice of the lives of young people, women, and proletarians.

The imperialist powers that support the Ayatollah regime and those that appear to oppose it are united by their interest in keeping the Iranian working class oppressed and preventing it from taking the lead in the struggle.

This is why the US and Israel support the monarchist opposition and make grand proclamations of support for the rioters: they know that in this way they (*cont pg 2*)

relatively strong ideological cohesion by presenting the conflict as a collective struggle against fascism. By contrast, the Vietnam War increasingly appeared as a colonial intervention fought for geopolitical advantage rather than a defense of society as a whole. As casualties mounted and living standards stagnated, class contradictions led to open opposition domestically and in the armed forces themselves. Thousands of incidents of desertion, refusal of orders, and “flagging” of officers revealed deep demoralization and class contradictions within the ranks. The experience convinced the American ruling class to abandon the mass draft army and replace it with the professional volunteer military that exists today.

Today the U.S. bourgeois are so arrogant and so decadent in their ways they make no effort at all to even justify their conflicts to the whole of society, but it is exactly this arrogance and false certainty of the final defeat of the proletariat, that will one day contribute to their downfall when the working masses awaken from their long slumber.

Capitalism Will Die & the Proletarian Will Be It's Grave Digger

In the present context, the war in Iran must be understood as an expression of the deepening contradictions of global capitalism, rooted in overproduction, intensified competition, and the declining rate of profit. As the preceding analysis has shown, the struggle over oil, control of production, shipping chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, and access to Asian markets, has become central to inter-imperialist rivalry. The conflict reflects not simply geopolitical maneuvering but the attempt of competing capitalist powers to resolve economic stagnation through the violent redistribution of markets and resources. At the same time, the war unfolds against a backdrop of mounting sovereign debt among all the states of the world, with military expenditures generating profits for monopolies while forcing capitalist states to reduce funding for counter-revolutionary social programs and increase its attacks on the working class, thus intensifying social contradictions which will inevitably lead to the mass resurgence of the global class struggle.

Historically, capitalism has sought to overcome crises through war, but this has always required enormous financial expansion. During World War II, the United States was able to sustain unprecedented levels of spending through massive debt accumulation, war bond campaigns, and state-directed economic mobilization, while the postwar order was stabilized through the creation of the Bretton Woods system, which reorganized global finance around the dollar and U.S. credit. This framework underpinned decades of expansion, allowing the international banking system to absorb and circulate growing levels of debt. Yet this very system now shows signs of exhaustion: the mechanisms that once enabled recovery have become sources of strain, as debt accumulates without corresponding productive growth and the financial architecture of global capitalism is increasingly stretched to its limits.

Today, the conditions that once made large-scale wartime expansion financially and materially viable have fundamentally eroded. During World War II, the United States was able to sustain an enormous war effort through a coordinated system of war bond sales, mass taxation, deficit spending, and direct monetary support from the Federal Reserve, all under conditions of full economic mobilization. War bonds alone financed roughly 40–50% of total costs, while measures like the Revenue Act of 1942 transformed income tax into a mass tax and pushed top marginal rates above 90%. Federal spending surged from about 10% of GDP in 1940 to over 40% by 1945, and total debt rose from roughly 40% to 120% of GDP. Crucially, this was made possible by specific historical conditions: unused industrial capacity from the Great Depression, a high domestic savings rate that could be redirected into state debt, strict rationing and price controls to suppress inflation, and a manufacturing base capable of rapidly converting civilian production into military output. The Bretton Woods system that followed institutionalized this model internationally, embedding U.S. financial dominance and enabling the global expansion of credit in the postwar period.

By contrast, contemporary states enter new conflicts from a far weaker position. The United States today already carries debt at or above 100% of GDP in peacetime, meaning a comparable wartime surge would push debt to unprecedented levels. The economy is highly debt leveraged across households, corporations, and government, leaving far less room for expansion through war bond borrowing. Unlike the WWII period, when total U.S. debt across households, corporations, and government was roughly around 100–120% of GDP, today it exceeds approximately 250–300% of GDP, meaning the entire economy is already highly leveraged and has far less capacity to sustain additional large-scale borrowing without risking financial instability.

As large portions of sovereign debt come due in the next few years, governments are being forced to refinance obligations that were originally issued under ultra-low interest rates at much higher current rates, dramatically increasing their cost of borrowing. According to recent global debt data, roughly 40–50% of sovereign debt in advanced and developing economies will mature by 2027, meaning trillions of dollars must be rolled over in a far more expensive financial environment. At the same time, many major economies are already running persistent deficits, so rising interest payments, now consuming tens or even hundreds of billions annually, are being financed through additional borrowing rather than revenue. This creates a compounding effect: governments are increasingly issuing new debt not to invest or stimulate growth, but simply to pay interest on existing obligations. As debt levels rise and refinancing costs increase, lenders begin to demand higher yields to compensate for perceived risk, further increasing borrowing costs. In turn, higher interest rates worsen fiscal balances, forcing even more borrowing. This feedback loop, often described as a “debt death spiral,” can reach a tipping point where credit markets begin to doubt a state’s ability to repay, making refinancing prohibitively expensive or unavailable altogether. At that stage, even advanced capitalist economies can face conditions historically associated with major systemic breakdowns rather than modern stability—conditions seen in earlier crises such as the post-World War I debt crises, the hyperinflation of Weimar Germany hyperinflation, or the widespread defaults and currency collapses of the Great Depression. In those periods, governments facing unsustainable debt burdens and rising borrowing costs were forced into sharp austerity, experienced rapid currency devaluation, or outright defaulted on their obligations. What was once considered characteristic of “less developed” or earlier capitalist phases, state bankruptcy, collapse of credit, and severe social dislocation re-emerges as a real possibility even for advanced economies when debt dynamics spiral beyond control.

At a deeper level, the turn toward war reflects the inability of capital to resolve its crisis through productive investment. Overcapacity in key sectors, including energy, and weak effective demand constrain profitable expansion, leading capital to seek alternative outlets in speculation, financialization, and ultimately militarism. The war in Iran, by disrupting production and raising prices, temporarily alleviates competitive pressures within the oil market, but it does so at the cost of further destabilizing the global economy. Rather than overcoming the contradictions of overproduction, war can work to intensify them in certain contexts, diverting resources into destruction while expanding the debt burden that weighs on future accumulation.

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Finally, the social dimension of this crisis is already visible. The rising unrest among the Iranian proletariat prior to the outbreak of war serves as a canary in the coal mine of future proletarian defeatism. As economic pressures mount and states shift the costs of crisis onto the working class through austerity, inflation, and open repression, conditions are created for renewed waves of class struggle in the future. As Friedrich Engels presciently warned ahead of world war I, “A world war... will lead to the bankruptcy of states and to such a general exhaustion that the conditions for the ultimate victory of the working class will be created.” The current trajectory of imperialist conflict—driven by overproduction yet financed through unsustainable debt—thus points not toward stabilization, but toward an escalating convergence of economic crisis and class confrontation on a global scale. The current wave of intensifying inter-imperialist war and rivalry will only be met with intensifying economic and social contradictions. Despite all of the bourgeois ever greater destructive powers, despite their ever growing totalitarian state apparatus they cannot escape the reality that ultimately capital sows the seeds of its destruction by forcing them at once to rearm the proletarian masses in open inter-imperialist warfare and simultaneously giving birth to greater class struggle as the world economies descend into chaos.

Of Drone Strikes... *(continued from pg. 1)*

and capture the wealth of the oil-producing countries. Oil prices were relatively stable from 1900 until the early 1970s, but after the 1973 OPEC oil crisis they became far more volatile. Since then, the United States has established a broad military presence across the Middle East, while repeatedly intervening to ensure the financial subordination of the regional oil producing states and their sale of oil, “at the right price”.

Yet over the past decade the global oil market has been fundamentally transformed with the rise of U.S. shale production. With output increasing from about 5 million barrels per day in 2008 to more than 13 million by the early 2020s, the United States has become the world's largest oil producer and exporter. This shift demonstrated the alignment between the capitalist state’s long-term military strategy and the financial interests of it’s industrial monopolies, as both Democratic and Republican administrations promoted domestic energy development under the banner of “energy independence,” supporting research, tax incentives, and regulatory frameworks partly funded through the U.S. Department of Energy that advanced technologies such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. The rapid growth of U.S. production added millions of barrels of new supply to global markets and played a major role in creating the 2014–2016 oil glut, pushing prices down from over \$100 per barrel to around \$30, severely impacting oil-dependent economies such as Venezuela, Nigeria, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, where government budgets relied heavily on petroleum revenues and the sharp collapse in oil prices triggered fiscal crises, currency instability, and economic contraction.

The collapse of oil prices during the global glut had particularly devastating consequences for Venezuela, whose economy depended overwhelmingly on petroleum exports, which accounted for about 96% of export revenues. As prices fell and global supply surged, the country lost critical foreign currency and government income, triggering hyperinflation, shortages of basic goods, and mass emigration. The crisis spiraled into one of the deepest economic collapses in modern history, with Venezuela’s GDP shrinking by more than 75% between roughly 2014 and 2020–2021 as falling oil revenues and declining production devastated the economy so deeply it still has not recovered.

After the lifting of the U.S. crude export ban in 2015, U.S. exports began to rapidly flood onto markets while the rival oil exporting imperialisms suffered. In his 2018 address to the United Nations General Assembly, Donald Trump delivered his speech, which had just witnessed the destruction of the Venezuelan economy, and announced the next phase of U.S. imperialism’s global protection racket, stating:

“We have unleashed America’s energy potential. The United States is now the largest energy producer anywhere on the face of the Earth. Soon we will be exporting energy all over the world... We are becoming energy dominant. America stands ready to export our abundant, affordable energy. We ask our friends and allies to reject energy policies that harm their interests and threaten their sovereignty.”

The 2017 U.S. Department of Energy report *Energy Dominance: The Next Steps* argued that expanding domestic drilling, pipelines, and export infrastructure would allow the United States to “use our energy resources as a strategic asset,” a strategy reinforced by policies opening new offshore areas to drilling, accelerating pipeline approvals, and rapidly expanding LNG exports.

Alongside this expansion, Washington increasingly used sanctions against major oil-producing states. Subsequently the U.S. issued renewed sanctions which reduced Iran’s exports from about 2.5 million barrels per day in 2018 to under 500,000 barrels per day by 2020, while sanctions on Venezuela contributed to exports falling from roughly 2 million barrels per day in 2017 to about 600,000–700,000 barrels per day by 2020. By restricting these producers’ ability to access global markets while expanding its own export capacity, the United States was able to increase its share of global oil trade, with U.S. companies growing their market share to roughly 13% of global crude exports.

Yet despite its recent expansion, there are structural limits to U.S. dominance in global energy markets. Forecasts from the U.S. Energy Information Administration have predicted U.S. oil production to peak in the late 2020s, reaching roughly 14 million barrels per day around 2027 before gradually declining to about 11.3 million barrels per day by 2050 as the shale boom fades. However, shale reservoirs differ significantly from conventional fields. Their low-permeability rock means wells decline rapidly, often losing more than half their output within the first year, requiring constant drilling to maintain production. As the most productive “sweet spots” are exhausted and lower-quality rock remains, sustaining output becomes increasingly costly and dependent on high oil prices and continuous investment. If prices fall or drilling slows, production can decline quickly, leading many analysts to believe the rapid growth of U.S. shale may eventually plateau and decline, allowing conventional producers, particularly in the Middle East, to retake their lost share of global oil markets over the next few decades.

Today many U.S. shale operations re-

quire oil prices roughly between \$50-70 per barrel to remain profitable according to the Federal Reserve Dallas Energy Survey. Likewise, a price above \$70 per barrel is needed for companies to start expanding drilling programs, while at \$80-90+ there are strong incentives for rapid production growth, and at \$90-\$120 there is estimated to be maximum growth potential.

Prior to the war in Iran prices sat at around \$65 per barrel and as of March 7th they have grown to nearly \$120. Before the conflict, many industry analysts expected U.S. shale growth to slow or even decline due to global oversupply, and declining drilling investment with forecasts of oil prices declining to \$55 per barrel by 2027.

Thus, the War in Iran conveniently presents the U.S. oil industry with the climbing price it has needed to avoid stagnation and decline. Demonstrating that the war itself is driven by capitals need to maintain its profit rates amid the growing overproduction crisis, particularly within the oil market.

Gulf Monarchies... *(continued from pg. 1)*

In effect, geopolitical disruptions can transform a short-term export blockage into long-term reductions in global oil capacity, tightening supply and raising the baseline price of energy worldwide.

The stakes are enormous because Asia dominates demand for Gulf oil. Nearly 90% of crude shipped through the Strait of Hormuz is destined for Asian markets, with China alone receiving about 38% of the total and India roughly 15%. India’s dependence on Middle Eastern oil makes it particularly vulnerable to disruptions from the Iran war. The country consumes about 5 million barrels of oil per day and imports roughly 80–85% of its crude, with around 55–60% of those imports coming from Persian Gulf producers.

As Gulf supply becomes more uncertain amid the Iran conflict, U.S. officials and energy companies are seeking to capture a larger share of India’s import market, potentially redirecting a portion of the country’s roughly 3 million barrels per day of Middle Eastern crude imports toward American exports of which it has already captured about \$4.5 billion in purchases in the first half of 2025, amid the escalating enforcement of sanctions against Russian “shadow fleet tankers” contributing to a 24% year-on-year rise in India’s imports from the United States.

For decades the political foundation of the energy system rested on the petrodollar arrangement, in which Gulf oil, especially Saudi exports, was sold largely in U.S. dollars and recycled through American financial markets. But the rise of shale production has changed that balance. The United States has become both a major oil exporter and the world’s largest exporter of liquefied natural gas, putting it into direct competition with the Gulf producers that once formed the backbone of the American-led energy order. Of course in capitalist competition, alliances built around yesterday’s market conditions can quickly give way to rivalry once the structure of production changes.

Saudi Arabia has responded to this shifting landscape by diversifying its political and economic relationships. China has become the largest buyer of Gulf crude and a growing diplomatic player in the region, mediating the 2023 Saudi-Iran rapprochement.

Just as the October 7, 2023, massacre, carried out by Hamas and the Islamic Jihadist group under Iranian mandate, aimed to sever the Abraham Accords between Israel and the UAE, and their possible extension, so today’s US and Israeli war on Iran aims, among other things, to sever relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, sponsored by Chinese imperialism. Perhaps the UAE’s adherence to the Abraham Accords is the reason why, at least in the first week of the war, Iran launched more missiles and drones against this country than against Israel.

While the conflict is benefiting the US oil industry, it is also harming the Gulf countries, albeit to a different extent for each country. Saudi Arabia alone has reportedly reduced production by around 2–2.5 million barrels per day, down from 10–10.9 million barrels per day prior to the war, while the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iraq have also cut output, bringing total regional reductions to more than five million barrels per day. As Gulf exports shrink, producers outside the region, particularly the United States, Russia, and even Iran itself, are positioned to fill the gap.

From a broader economic perspective, the war in Iran reflects the pressures of a global energy market marked by intense competition and periodic oversupply. With world production exceeding 100 million barrels per day and major producers fighting for access to the fastest-growing Asian markets, geopolitical conflict increasingly intersects with commercial rivalry. The struggle over shipping routes, sanctions, and energy diplomacy is therefore not merely a regional dispute but part of a larger contest over who controls the future flows of oil in the world economy fundamentally shaped by monopolistic dynamics which shapes the imperialist conflicts waging the world over as capitalism desperately workers to maintain its profit rates.

The Buildup To War... *(continued from pg. 1)*

marked a renewed effort to choke off Iran’s main source of state revenue. Announcing the sanctions, Donald Trump pledged the “highest level of economic sanctions,” aiming to reduce Iran’s oil exports to “zero.” U.S. officials argued that rising American oil and gas production had changed the strategic landscape, allowing Washington to sanction rival producers without triggering supply crises. Within this framework, the “maximum pressure” campaign sought not only to force concessions over Iran’s nuclear program but also to cut down to size a major exporter from global markets and reinforce the role of U.S. and allied producers in the international energy market.

Iran’s oil exports collapsed after the reimposition of U.S. sanctions in 2018, reaching their lowest levels around 2020–2021 at roughly 200,000–300,000 barrels per day, dropping from 2 million per day or 5% of global oil market share to less than 1%. Over the following years exports slowly recovered, first to around 600,000–800,000 bpd by 2021, and then surged after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, eventually climbing to roughly 1.5–2.0 million bpd in 2024–2025, with some months exceeding 2 million bpd. A key factor enabling this recovery was the rapid expansion of the “shadow fleet”. These same logistical networks that Russia began using to bypass Western oil sanctions after 2022 also created a much larger pool of vessels, intermediaries, and trading structures that Iran could use to move crude outside the traditional maritime and financial system. Because these shipments frequently occur through complex chains involving offshore traders, re-flagged vessels, and blending of crude grades, tracking and proving sanctions violations became significantly more difficult.

Western governments gradually escalated enforcement from financial penalties to direct maritime intervention. The United States and European states sanctioned hundreds of vessels linked to Russia’s energy trade, detained suspect ships in European ports, and carried out interdictions targeting tankers transporting sanctioned crude. For example, European authorities seized several shadow-fleet tankers carrying Russian oil in Baltic and North Sea ports, while the United States pursued and seized vessels

linked to Venezuelan and Iranian oil exports in the Caribbean and Atlantic.

Sanctions enforcement increasingly triggered military responses or coercive maritime actions from targeted states. Financial pressure, insurance bans, banking restrictions, and the G7 price cap gradually evolved into a campaign involving naval patrols, and confrontations with rival states’ military forces.

Leading up to the opening of the U.S. and Israeli offensive in Iran in March of 2026, the Persian Gulf saw months of escalating maritime confrontations. On February 5, 2026, Iran seized two foreign oil tankers near Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf, accusing them of smuggling about 1 million liters of fuel, and detained fifteen crew members, an incident that occurred amid rising tensions and just before renewed U.S.-Iran nuclear talks. Earlier, on February 3, 2026, several pairs of Iranian Revolutionary Guard gunboats approached a U.S.-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, prompting the vessel to be escorted away by a U.S. warship.

Iran: Against the War Between Nations... *(continued from pg. 1)*

weaken the uprising, because they reinforce the regime’s narrative that it is the result of a foreign conspiracy, not of worsening living conditions and the denial of all civil, trade union, and political freedoms! The more Trump makes proclamations in support of the rioters, the better the executioner can hang and the police can shoot in the streets.

US imperialism certainly has no interest in the overthrow of the regime if led by the working class, which would risk igniting class struggle throughout the Middle East. In fact, no regime in the area has expressed the slightest solidarity with the rioters: they tremble with fear that social revolt will break out against them!

For the US, on the other hand, it is desirable to achieve a “change” that preserves intact the repressive apparatus – of which the Shi’ite clergy is an essential part – charged with keeping the Iranian proletariat terrorized and oppressed, with a revolt movement bled dry and dominated by the most reactionary parties, and which only diverts oil, gas, and revenues away from China.

This is similar to what was done to the regime of false Bolivarian socialism in Venezuela, which surrendered its leader without resistance and made new agreements on oil, while the police and armed paramilitary gangs continue to patrol the streets of Caracas.

The working class, in Iran as in the rest of the world, has no allies in any regime regardless of their bourgeois “democratic” or “authoritarian” leanings because, above these masks, they are all capitalist regimes. Its only ally is the proletariat of all countries, in the international unity of the working class, and the only political outlet is not democracy – which, as the politics of all the European capitalist states and the US demonstrate, is only a perfidious mystification of their nature – but socialism,

The Uprising of the Iranian Proletariat Lacks the Leadership of the International Party of the Communist Revolution

The following two articles were written in late January 2025 prior to the U.S. and Israeli attack on Iran.

For more than a month, Iran has been the scene of a new wave of protests that have been developing for several years in alternating phases, adding to those of the two-year period between 2019 and 2020, the civil rights-focused uprisings of 2022, and the most recent clashes between 2024 and 2025.

The Iranian economy has been in crisis for well over a decade, with average GDP growth over the last 10 years of only 1%, worsened this year in June by the 12-day war against the U.S. and Israel and, at the end of September, by the reintroduction of sanctions by the UN and the EU in response to Iran’s alleged non-compliance with nuclear agreements, with measures to freeze bank assets and restrict oil sales.

To date, Iran remains the third largest country in the world in terms of oil reserves with 13.3% of the global amount and the second largest in terms of gas reserves at 16.2%. The country’s economy, although severely affected by previous international sanctions, had managed to sustain itself by circumventing them, with the help of China, which receives 90% of its oil and gas exports through the Strait of Hormuz. The resumption of sanctions, defeats on the external front, with the downsizing of Hezbollah in Lebanon, the fall of Assad in Syria, and the truce agreement in Gaza signed by the regional imperialist powers – Qatar and Turkey – which together with Iran support Hamas, have dealt a severe blow to the bourgeois regime in Ayatollah robes, discouraging foreign investment and forcing the devaluation of the rial, which had already closed 2024 at an all-time low of 821 thousand to the dollar, rising to 915 thousand in June and 1.4 million in the last month, with a devastating 20% collapse in December alone.

The exceptional weakening of the currency has led to increased inflation. The collapse of Ayandeh Bank, which the Iranian state acquired to prevent its bankruptcy, has exacerbated this process. Since Iran depends on imports for a significant portion of its food, raw materials, and other goods, the collapse of the currency has had a decisive impact on purchases from abroad, with increases in wholesale and retail prices. According to the country’s Statistics Center, inflation rose by 42% in December compared to the previous year, while food inflation reached 70% and that of medicine and health product inflation reached 50%. The average wage – increasingly eroded by inflation – stands at around \$200 per month, while trade union organizations, in a context where unions independent of the capitalist regime are illegal, estimate that a minimum of \$550 is needed to support a family. The unemployment rate reached 7.2% in December.

The now-uncontrollable discontent has exploded with shop closures in the bazaars and student demonstrations in universities in 31 regions and over 200 cities, some of which, such as Abadan, Ahvaz, and Malekshahi County, seem to have fallen into the hands of the demonstrators, with police forces forced to flee. However, there has

Iran: The Blood of the Rebels Will be Avenged by the Working Class Leading the Struggle!

The uprising in Iran has been brutally crushed by the theocratic regime that the Iranian bourgeoisie has relied on for 47 years to protect its interests against the working class.

Demonstrations involving tens of thousands of young people, women, workers, students, and bazaar traders chanting for Khomeini’s death in dozens of cities and most of the country’s provinces – with fierce clashes in which the repressive forces were overwhelmed, and many of their henchmen killed in some cases – were not enough. However weakened, the regime maintains a social base sufficient to withstand the

These incidents occurred alongside a series of Iranian military demonstrations aimed at the region’s key energy corridor. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched live-fire naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz on February 1–2, followed by a larger exercise beginning February 16, during which missiles and drones were tested and parts of the waterway were temporarily closed for security reasons. The Strait, through which roughly 20% of global oil trade passes, was partially shut for several hours on February 17 while Iranian forces conducted drills and missile launches intended to demonstrate their ability to control the chokepoint.

Together with the Iranian ship seizures, naval exercises, and temporary closures of the Strait of Hormuz, this cycle of maritime confrontations, sanctions enforcement, and military maneuvers in one of the world’s most important oil corridors steadily raised the risk of direct conflict, predictably escalating into the current war.

the communist program of overcoming capitalism.

As in the rest of the world, the Iranian working class needs to reconnect with the party of the international communist revolution, sweeping away the ideological confusion of a century of counter-revolution, with its falsifications of communism; it must start with the Stalinist one, which in Iran, in the name of a false anti-imperialism, led the Tudeh in 1979 to the suicidal tactic of a united front with Khomeini!

Today, the followers of that policy are the same people who throw mud at the Iranian uprising and absolve the executioner! Anti-imperialism without anti-capitalism – which points to only the alliance of states allied with the US as imperialist and not that of the opposing global and regional capitalist powers, led by China – is just misleading propaganda to push workers towards World War III.

The struggle of the working class in Iran is of crucial importance for workers around the world because its victory would deal a severe blow to the imperialist war machine that feeds on the conflict between Israel and Iran in the Middle East. The Israeli regime represses internal opposition with the specter of an external enemy and the Ayatollah regime, while crushing ethnic minorities within its borders, exploits the oppression of the Palestinians only to extend the claws of its imperialist policy to the Mediterranean.

For the struggle of the working class in Iran and its extension to the entire Middle East!

For the international unity of workers in all countries, including Iran, Israel, and Palestine!

Against all forms of nationalism, against imperialist war: the first enemy of workers is their own bourgeois regime!

been a rise in workers’ strikes for months, intensifying in December, mainly in the oil and mining sectors. In early December, thousands of employees at the South Pars gas complex in Asaluyeh, on the Persian Gulf coast, protested at several refineries with strikes and demonstrations. During the same period, workers at the North Drilling Company have halted operations on several onshore and offshore platforms. These actions have followed previous strikes in the mines, including the Zarsharan Gold Mine in the south-southeast of Tabriz, as well as steelworkers in Hamadan (300 km west-southwest of Tehran) and in industries in the province of Fars. Pensioners and public sector workers have protested alongside industrial workers, demanding the payment of pensions and access to healthcare.

In this climate, the United States has threatened to intervene in favour of the demonstrators, but it is not easy to understand whether they will opt for regime change as happened, with the roles reversed, in 1979 against the pro-Western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi; or for a change within the framework of the theocratic regime, preserving it, as appears to have happened with regard to the so-called Bolivarian regime in Venezuela, as both are considered the best at playing the role of gendarme against the proletariat.

In the West, a certain “nationalist left” has from the outset downplayed the street clashes as the result of a conspiracy, a covert manoeuvre by the CIA and Mossad. In reality, today as yesterday, even without the incitement of any secret service, countless demonstrators, many of whom have been arrested and killed, are protesting for better living conditions and spontaneously hate a regime that starves them, represses them, and eliminates all forms of civil and trade union rights. Promoting the interests of a bourgeoisie that hides behind Islamic priests and uses its own working class as cannon fodder as “popular resistance” or “anti-imperialist” reveals the nature and position of parties that are entirely internal to the needs, conflicts, and wars of bourgeois States, Stalinist and ex-Stalinist parties and currents that not only have nothing to do with communism but are not even an expression of the working class, imprisoning and subjugating its immediate and historical interests in the lie of “national reality.” Regional powers are linked to this or that imperialist superpower. They are also in competition among themselves, but in any case hostile to their respective working classes, starved, exploited, and massacred.

In Iran too, the working class, without the presence of a revolutionary communist party, will once again be forced to fight at the tail end of the interests of merchants and the petty bourgeoisie, deluding itself in a change of government, as has happened many times before in the country’s history. The workers’ struggle for better living conditions against their own governments is always objectively revolutionary. Today, it must fight to achieve its autonomy of programme and movement as a social class, nationally and internationally, above all divisions and closures within categories and companies.

shocks of increasingly harsh revolts.

This social base is founded on the **network of interests of the military and paramilitary forces fattened by oil revenues** and other capitalist activities, supported by Chinese and Russian imperialism.

An increasingly-centralized **state and military power, intertwined with economic power**, is characteristic of capitalism in its senile, pretense phase, which corresponds to the true nature of capitalist political regimes, **fascism**, covered by ideological cloaks worn according to opportunity: from the robes of the ayatollahs, to false Bolivarian socialism, to democracy, to false Chi-

nese socialism.

In Iran too, **until the working class mobilizes**, organized in class unions, with a generalized strike movement that overcomes divisions between companies, categories, and localities and **blocks the national capitalist economy to the bitter end**, the revolts will continue to break like waves against the regime's dam, nullifying the enormous sacrifice of the lives of young people, women, and proletarians.

The imperialist powers that support the Ayatollah regime and those that appear to oppose it are united by their interest in keeping the Iranian working class oppressed and preventing it from taking the lead in the struggle.

This is why the US and Israel support the monarchist opposition and make grand proclamations of support for the rioters: they know that in this way they weaken the uprising, because they reinforce the regime's narrative that it is the result of a foreign conspiracy, not of worsening living conditions and the denial of all civil, trade union, and political freedoms! The more Trump makes proclamations in support of the rioters, the better the executioner can hang and the police can shoot in the streets.

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Rojava: Definitive Collapse of yet Another National Myth

A lightning operation: in 12 days, HTS forces under the command of Al-Sharara, Syria's new president, forced the SDF to renounce their autonomy and sign a draconian agreement. Founded in 2011 and dominated numerically and politically by the YPG (People's Protection Units), the SDF was the main Kurdish militia and armed wing of the autonomous administration of the fertile Rojava region. After fighting began in early January, a ceasefire was reached on the 18th, radically redefining the balance of power in northeastern Syria.

For the Kurds, it is more of a surrender than a compromise, providing for the de facto dissolution of the SDF, their integration as individuals into the Syrian army, and the return to the state of most of the territories they had controlled since 2011, occupied by the Syrian army: Aleppo, Raqqa, and Deir Ezzor, on the border with the Rojava region.

The fall of Rojava marks the end of Kurdish autonomy in an oil-rich region over which various ethnic factions are trying to impose their control. Like any territorial dispute within the anti-historical regime of capital, the war remains a clash between factions for control of energy sources and their sale. Furthermore, the region, being the most fertile in all of Syria, is fundamental for the production of cereals and cotton.

Its economy – contrary to the beliefs of left-wing simpletons and those faithful to the religion of resistance, who idolize popular democracies and socialisms scattered here and there around the world – is characterized by capitalist relations. The industries, managed by the state according to commercial and wage criteria, have developed mainly thanks to oil and gas revenues, which the SDF itself traded with the old Assad regime that fell only a year ago. This is estimated to be several hundred million dollars a year, a deal that, in early 2025, Kurdish capitalists began to entertain with the new government in Damascus.

What a socialist revolution in Rojava! The foolish Western national-communists need only see a few state-owned industries and cooperatives within capitalism to immediately see red!

The struggle for control of these lands is not for the "defense of socialism and revolution", but only a dispute between capitalists for control of markets and resources in a historical phase in which national liberation struggles no longer have any reason to exist. Even for the Kurds, as demonstrated in previous articles (see issue 434, "Self-liquidation of the PKK sanctions anti-historical national liberation struggles"), con-

Venezuela: In the Clash Between Imperialist Powers, the Working Class has no Side to Favor

Summary of the report presented at the general meeting on January 24–25

Among the scenarios we had hypothesized regarding the evolution of tensions between the United States and Venezuela, it appears that with the military incursion and the abduction of President Maduro on January 3, the intermediate scenario has materialized: attacks against specific targets such as drug trafficking, but without escalating to open military intervention involving the deployment of troops on the ground, as was done in Iraq. U.S. imperialism needs to move quickly to define its geographical sphere of influence against other imperialist powers—notably China—and to seize Venezuela's rich mineral reserves.

The full significance of Venezuelan oil for the United States will be felt in the medium and long term rather than the short term, as massive investments are required to restore the infrastructure to operation. In the immediate term, the United States will appropriate a larger share of Venezuelan production. By the end of 2025, 27% of Venezuelan oil was sold to the United States, with the remainder going to China and others. The major oil companies summoned by Trump to invest in Venezuela know that for the remainder of this decade, they would be dedicating resources to restoring production infrastructure without reaping any profits. According to the new trade "agreements" between the United States and Venezuela, oil production could reach 1,200,000 barrels in 2026 and continue to rise between 2027 and 2028.

But, however hungry the global oil sharks may be, they need security, guarantees, and legal certainty that they will not lose their investments. In reality, the peace of mind they need is of a political and military nature. The Trump government understands this, so much so that it maintains a military presence in the Caribbean, but there will be no shortage of those who will wait to see how the confrontation with China unfolds and how it might influence investments in Venezuela.

It should be noted that in the oil sector, a symbiosis has developed between the United States and Venezuela over the past decades; refineries in the southern United States, primarily in Texas, were designed to process the heavy, sulfur-rich crude from Venezuela and Mexico. Since the shale oil currently produced by the United States is very light, Gulf Coast facilities must blend it with heavy crude.

In the new situation, the United States intends to shift from controlling Venezuelan oil through sanctions to "operational and financial dominance" over Venezuelan oil with the support of the ruling Chavismo, placing Venezuela in a status equivalent to a protectorate. And even if Chavismo were to be replaced by a new political actor, it has developed strong ties with the Venezuelan bourgeoisie and controls all institutions: the "transition" could take years. And the U.S. government knows that at the moment there is no party capable of replacing Chavismo without the support of troops on the ground, as it sought to do in Iraq.

Within a matter of days, if not hours, both the U.S. and Venezuelan governments have made rapid progress on a series of measures aimed at facilitating the entry of Western oil companies as part of an investment plan proposed by Washington. This plan includes U.S. government-backed company asset security guarantees, control over oil sales proceeds—which will be deposited in accounts controlled by the U.S. Treasury at international banks—and the mandatory use of U.S. technology, future capital expenditures earmarked for the purchase of platforms, pipelines, and equipment manufactured exclusively in the United States. The first proceeds from sales have already been deposited in Qatar, worth approximately \$300 million, and will be transferred from there to the Central Bank of Venezuela, which in turn will distribute them among five private banks that will make the funds available to businesses in priority economic sectors.

It is estimated that by 2026, Venezuela could receive approximately \$12 billion in revenue from sales (which would increase not so much due to higher production as to the application of market prices rather than black-market prices, which have been suppressed by U.S. sanctions), as well as from

the release of funds withheld by the IMF and other credits. Consequently, significant growth in the Venezuelan economy is projected for 2026.

These concessions from Washington and Caracas were so well-coordinated and swift that it is evident the plan had been devised long in advance by both parties and agreed upon many months before the military action on January 3. The sanctions were an obstacle not only to the Venezuelan government, the Central Bank, and companies such as PDVSA and others, but also to the multinationals themselves: Chevron could exceed 200,000 barrels per day by the end of 2026.

The U.S. government has resumed issuing entry visas to Venezuelans and is coordinating the reopening of the embassy in Caracas. It has also released Venezuela's funds held by the IMF and reinstated the country in the SWIFT system, from which it had been excluded due to sanctions.

The trust fund soon to be established by the United States has been named the "Tripartite Custodianship Agreement," under an agreement between the governments of the United States, Venezuela, and Qatar; its Management Committee consists of a delegate from the U.S. Treasury, representatives from 14 oil companies, and the Venezuelan government, which therefore cannot dispose of its assets. Through this trust fund, the United States will put a cryptocurrency called the "digital dollar," or "digital bolivar," into circulation, which is supposed to maintain a constant 1:1 parity with the dollar, guaranteed by the Federal Reserve. Meanwhile, Venezuela's bourgeois government—which still declares itself Chavista—has, in perfect sync with the United States, presented a reform of the Hydrocarbons Law to the National Assembly to loosen state control and attract foreign investment.

The so-called "Chevron model" will be legally permitted, granting foreign companies much broader operational control and greater autonomy in managing oil fields and marketing crude oil, thereby superseding the current provisions governing joint ventures controlled by PDVSA and ensuring legal certainty for these companies.

Part of the oil revenues would be allocated to social protection, healthcare, public services, and the reconstruction of infrastructure, the electrical grid, and the industrial sector. The pricing law will also be revised, subject to agreement with companies (as was already the case in practice), primarily regarding goods and services for popular consumption.

A reduction in the tax burden and royalties from the current 30% is planned, along with a reduction in the state's stake from 51% of the shareholding in joint ventures. Administrative procedures have also been simplified, and a revision of the civil, commercial, and criminal codes is underway. Reform of the mining law is underway "to attract significant international investment" in the extraction of gold, coal, iron, and bauxite.

But, even if less is said about it, a reform of labor law is in the air, aimed at eliminating the retroactive application of social benefits, removing obstacles to outsourcing and precarious employment, and addressing long-standing demands from business owners. Regarding wages and pensions in the immediate term, while the legal framework is being rethought, the government is announcing special bonuses.

The U.S. government's intention is to restore historical production levels (between 3 and 3.5 million barrels per day) to bring the price of oil down to around \$50. However, firms like Wood Mackenzie and Columbia University warn that 2 million barrels per day won't be reached until 2030, and it will take a full decade to reach 3.5 million. Trump has stated that "Big Oil," the major oil companies, should invest at least \$100 billion. Experts agree: \$10 billion per year will be needed over the next 10 years.

While U.S. imperialism carries out this aggressive operation, we have not observed any decisive reactions from Chinese or Russian imperialism. Russia has stated that its companies will continue to operate normally in Venezuela. The government has declared that it will maintain diplomatic and commercial relations with China and other countries.

The Metamorphosis of Bourgeois Democracy

Meanwhile, the "Chavista" government has ensured the functioning of institutions and peace in the workplace. The protests against the abduction of Maduro and his wife are being promoted by the government. The release of approximately 200 prisoners out of the more than 800 detained since the post-election period of 2024 has begun slowly; union leaders remain in prison. It is

The War in Ukraine Continues to Sacrifice Proletarian Lives in the Clash Between Imperial Blocs

Report Given at the January 2026 General Meeting.

This February, the war in Ukraine will exceed four years, the longest and most intense clash between regular armies since the end of World War II. It therefore constitutes a fundamental test, both for the states involved, and for the proletariat that is its victim. Despite this, relations between world imperialisms are going through such a stormy period that this war has been relegated to the background by the international media.

The impromptu promises of the U.S. president, newly re-elected a year ago, to bring the fighting to a swift end by proposing a division of the Ukrainian spoils between the United States and Russia, have been met with opposition from many European states, excluded from the banquet despite their involvement in the war, while Russia has shown no interest in accepting a compromise agreement.

Just recently, behind the scenes at the World Economic Forum in Davos, a revived Zelensky met again with Trump and other U.S. trustees who were negotiating with the Kremlin.

Zelensky, despite having just received another \$90 billion from the European Union – which is busy finding a way to keep Greenland's ice – did not hesitate to harshly criticize it for its indecision toward Russia, and announced a first three-way meeting in the United Arab Emirates between the US, Russia, and Ukraine, which was then held on January 23 and 24.

Thus, the Ukrainian bourgeoisie, in dire straits, seems to be moving away from the embrace of the EU, finally forced to surrender itself into the hands of the U.S. We shall see.

During these long years of war, the Ukrainian and Russian proletariat have paid a very high price in human lives, some regions of Ukraine have been reduced to rubble, but the material damage is also considerable in Russia.

This destruction will affect the proletariat of both countries for generations to come. Against the backdrop of this tragic context, a political class of inconsequential

important for the United States that Venezuela maintain social peace, that nothing disrupts the operations of the oil companies.

Under the national state of emergency declared by the government, there have been some arrests—isolated and unclear in nature—on charges of "inciting hatred and treason against the homeland" and for "supporting the U.S. attack against Venezuela." However, the government has exercised restraint in its repression, though without reducing the deployment of police forces on the streets.

Various scenarios are being hypothesized by the bourgeoisie and the parties within the bourgeois democratic spectrum, ranging from the maintenance of Chavism's "21st-century socialism"—with some figures replaced—to a "democratic transition" via a national emergency government led by opposition politicians.

U.S. imperialism will impose the solution that allows it to achieve its objectives at the lowest possible cost and, above all, without having to deploy troops on the ground. In the context of the global inter-imperialist conflict, Venezuela is merely a pawn, the theater of broader operations.

Obviously, we are talking about the possible trajectories of the situation within the framework of bourgeois democracy and capitalism—whether in its fascist or formally electoral forms—which have nothing to do with revolutionary scenarios. Nor are they progressive or reactionary in terms of the bourgeois organization of nations and states.

For the workers' movement, whatever course the political transition in Venezuela takes, it will amount to a change in the administrators of the interests of the bourgeoisie and imperialism—new faces of the proletariat's class enemies. Under capitalism, any type of government is the management committee of the bourgeois class, with the function of defending the broader interests of national capital. Even when some ruler believes himself to be the General, in reality he is nothing more than a sergeant. While the right and the reformist left dream of a "democratic transition," the workers' movement must break with this tangle of confusion and return to the path from which it has strayed for a century: the program of revolution.

Lost Patriotism

In Venezuela, too, the lie of defending the nation, the homeland, and sovereignty has been spectacularly debunked. It was, however, a bourgeois myth, monstrously embraced by the unions and the falsely left-wing parties. Chavismo, already a fervent champion of Bolivarian ideology and patriotism, despite the outrage of the kidnapping of Maduro and his wife on January 3, immediately bowed down before Trump's boorish daily demands. Yet all the leaders of Chavismo had sworn, before the U.S. attack, "in the face of any imperialist aggression, the Venezuelan government will not hand over even a single barrel of oil to the United States"—which was already a falsehood, given that they had never acted against Chevron, the sanctions, or the economic blockade.

Now they cynically claim that there is no problem with expanding oil deals with the United States—which are normal in relations between two countries—as if the legitimate incumbent president were not in prison in New York and as if those killed at Fuerte Tiuna had not been gunned down by the Marines.

The Venezuelan people, raised on the ideology of defending the homeland since elementary school and on Chavismo as a Bolivarian bulwark, would have expected an attitude opposite to the current government's diplomatic complacency toward the United States. But the current government, still Chavista, has stated that it maintains trade relations and delivers oil to the United States because it "practices Bolivarian diplomacy of peace." Conversely, the reopening of the U.S. embassy in Caracas is planned.

The patriotic narrative is collapsing, not only that of Chavismo but also that of the opposition, which is itself patriotic and subservient to the interests of the national bourgeoisie. The opposition builds its argument on two fronts: on the one hand, unity with Chavismo, "because above party lines we are all Venezuelans," and it raises no objections to concessions to the United States regarding oil; on the other hand, it approves the U.S. invasion for the "fight against drug trafficking."

Thus, even the so-called "democratic opposition" has lowered the banners of defending the homeland, whether it remains in the shadow of Chavism or brazenly kowtows to Trump. The Chavistas mock the opposition because Trump has scorned opposition leader Maria Corina Machado; the democratic opposition mocks the Chav-

actors continues to organize useless summits, "high-level" meetings, called "peace negotiations", a media spectacle behind which the opposing imperialist fronts continue to fuel the war. At this moment, no government has a real interest in ending the war, despite its obvious futility.

Russia Wins (for now)

Russia, with an army that has been on the offensive across the entire front for more than a year, has no interest in peace unless it obtains most of what it demanded when it invaded in February 2022. Basically: NATO must stay out of Ukraine; the four eastern oblasts must be recognized as part of Russia, as already enshrined in the Constitution; the Ukrainian army must be reduced to no more than 70-80,000 troops, and for the sole purpose of maintaining internal social order.

Russia's successes, due to its growing superiority in troops, equipment, and firepower, allowed Putin to state on December 27 that "if the authorities in Kyiv do not want to resolve the issue peacefully, we will resolve all the problems that await us with a special military operation and military means". This does not seem like bluster to us. The Russian army has already conquered 19-20% of Ukraine's territory, including Crimea, and continues to hammer energy infrastructure, industrial areas, military bases, and especially the port of Odessa with ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones on a regular basis. Ukrainian air defenses are proving increasingly ineffective against these attacks. The Ukrainian army is falling apart while the Russian army is growing stronger. It is winning the war and is therefore in a position to dictate the terms of a possible peace agreement, or to impose it de facto once it has achieved its objectives.

The Massacre of Proletarians in Uniform

The most reliable estimates put Russian casualties between 250,000 and 350,000, while those of the Kiev army may have exceeded 800,000. This assessment

istas for bowing to Trump's orders. Meanwhile, Trump meets with and lectures both Delsy Rodriguez and Maria Corina Machado. Both factions of bourgeois politicians are scrambling to prove to U.S. imperialism that they are the most reliable option to defend its interests in Venezuela. This is the caricatured reality of Venezuelan patriotism.

Workers, bewildered by the propaganda of both bourgeois fronts for decades, suddenly find themselves facing a theater of the absurd, a scenario that refutes all the justifications used to try to divert them from the struggle for their true class interests.

But patriotic propaganda is already echoing south of the Rio Grande. The national bourgeoisies are threatened by U.S. imperialism, and to defend their businesses—which grow only through the brutal exploitation of wage earners—they call on them to make sacrifices. The governments of Latin America are indeed on alert, but willing to negotiate with imperialism for their slice of the pie, within that economic space they call their homeland.

Whatever the outcome of this imperialist division, nothing but exploitation awaits the working class, while the natural resources of the various countries will go to swell the bank accounts of national and foreign capitalists. With greater or lesser penetration of private and foreign capital into the various sectors of the economy, the working class must clearly identify its class enemy. It does not matter to them whether the ownership structure of companies is predominantly state-owned or private, and it is an illusion to think that their situation will improve with the arrival of multinationals and Western capital: these vultures compete with one another based exclusively on the misery of wage workers. Neither gains nor demands will be granted without a determined struggle.

The Stateless Class

The working class and all strata oppressed by capital are the "cannon fodder" that will be sent to the front under national flags. The attitude of communists is against imperialist war: the working class has no homeland to defend. On the contrary, it will engage in revolutionary defeatism; proletarian soldiers, led by their communist party, will turn their weapons against the bourgeoisie and its governments in every country.

Along with bourgeois politicians and the fake left, the trade union federations and central bodies have maintained a complicit silence and have not promoted any workers' mobilization, which places them on the side of the enemies of the working class. Only a few exceptions have proposed struggle, albeit with nationalist, legalistic, democratic, and bourgeois aims.

Moreover, in Venezuela, none of the imperialist powers (the United States, China, Russia, Iran, etc.) is actually interested in preventing drug trafficking, international law, respect for democracy, or human rights. All are driven by economic interests, by control over the production and commercialization of oil, gas, gold, etc., each seeking to obtain the largest slice of the pie.

And this struggle includes the Venezuelan bourgeoisie, whether it is represented by Chavismo, the "democratic opposition," or the infamous "left" that speaks of "democratic socialism," a "workers' and people's plan," and even the "defense of the constitution." It is an illusion to think that the imperialist powers will sit down at a table to agree on how to divide up the world.

World War III is inevitable. The U.S. attack on Venezuela on January 3 and the threats against Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, and Greenland are only the latest moves by one imperialist power to seize the initiative from its Chinese, Russian, and other rivals, drawing demarcation lines over what it considers its own domains. The division of the world, of markets, of raw materials, of strategically valuable areas, of currencies, and of capital, will occur only as a result of conflict and the testing of strength, with all the destruction and death that this entails.

In Venezuela as well, whatever the situation may be, the working class must take the autonomous path of organizing itself and fighting for its demands, starting with a significant increase in wages and pensions. The convergence of the workers' movement into an indefinite general strike with no essential services will become the best expression of the unity of action among wage workers. This resurgence of the class struggle will clash with the entire spectrum of bourgeois parties and with the leaders of the regime's treacherous trade unionism.

The transformation of the economic struggle into a political struggle—into the proletariat's struggle for the seizure of power—will depend on the degree of influence the revolutionary party manages to achieve.

contradicts Western propaganda, which always speaks of "very high Russian losses."

For many months, the Russian army, which has far superior firepower to the Ukrainians in terms of artillery, drones, and air power, has been able to strike hard at enemy lines.

The situation also favors Russia in terms of recruitment. According to various sources, the Ukrainian army endured approximately 300,000 desertions in 2025, at least 850,000 men of draft age are hiding from recruiters, and approximately 650,000 remain abroad to avoid wearing the uniform. The Russian army, on the other hand, fights by enlisting between 360,000 and 400,000 contract volunteers per year, rather than sending conscripts to the front, and suffers from fewer desertions as a result. It has already planned to enlist 409,000 in 2026.

It seems clear to us that if Russian soldiers were sent to their deaths in "mass assaults", as the Ukrainian general staff claims, there would not be so many volunteers, despite the good pay.

The Economic Crisis

Western propaganda continues to claim that Russia is in the throes of a serious economic crisis and high inflation, caused mainly by Western sanctions, which should soon lead to political and military collapse.

This too is an illusion. Before the economic crisis causes internal divisions and social unrest that would force an end to the war – something we hope for but which, unfortunately, will not happen in the short term – the Russian army will force Ukraine to surrender unconditionally, the Ukrainian bourgeoisie will lose all its wealth, and its allies will have to come to terms with this.

The Criminal Steadfastness of the Ukrainian Government

However, the Ukrainian government still refuses to cede territory and continues to seek military and financial aid from the West, despite the lack of reserves, rampant

desertions, and incomplete replacements of brigades.

But the Kiev government's stance is not one of national pride, as European warmongering propaganda would have us believe, but of subservience to the party of war at any cost. Zelensky has no other choice, having sold out his own proletariat to his American and European masters. This meant first resisting the invasion, then continuing the war, against all military logic and against any consideration of simple mercy towards his own people.

An article in *Le Monde diplomatique* argues that "it would be morally unthinkable for Zelensky's forces, which have sent thousands of soldiers to their deaths to preserve Donbass, to voluntarily surrender the positions they still hold (...). The army would probably refuse to obey." A capitulation on the other hand, which is what this would be, would certainly be welcomed with enthusiasm by the soldiers at the front, and also with great relief by the civilian population. But the demobilization of the army could trigger a political crisis, the outbreak of unrest, or perhaps even a civil war.

On the other hand, if the Russian government were to give up the occupation of the whole of Donbass, it could not pass off the end of the war as a victory, and this would probably lead to an internal crisis.

Just as the Russian bourgeoisie sacrificed the proletariat, who has nothing to gain from this war, to defend its interests, threatened by the bourgeoisie of the West, the Ukrainian bourgeoisie sacrificed the proletariat for the sake of Ukrainian capitalists, in service to Washington and Berlin. The chickens may come home to roost.

As we clearly wrote in March 2022, a few days after the outbreak of the war: "The working class of Ukraine would have nothing to lose from an immediate surrender of its bourgeoisie in the face of the Russian invasion. Symmetrically, the workers of Russia have nothing to gain from a victory of their state in Ukraine. But the bourgeoisie of Ukraine wanted war, just as much as their Western 'protectors' and the Russian bourgeoisie."

The Internal Situation

Already in 2014, well before the outbreak of the war, we noted how the economic crisis had caused "a massive emigration in Ukraine: the population, which had reached 52,179,210 inhabitants in 1993,

steadily declined in the following years, reaching 45,593,300 in 2012. This demonstrates the severity of the crisis and the suffering the population had to endure. For the proletariat and the middle classes, it was like being at war."

But in the following years, the situation worsened: currently, there are over 8 million Ukrainians abroad, with about 6 million in the EU. 1.8 million were internally displaced by the war in Donbass from 2014 to 2022, and another 5.7 million by the Russian invasion in 2022.

The current population is less than 37 million, compared to 146 million in Russia, a ratio of four to one.

From a financial point of view, Ukraine is also bankrupt. According to International Monetary Fund estimates, it will need at least \$160 billion by this spring.

The indefinite continuation of the fighting, bombing, and destruction when the military game is already over, on the one hand demonstrates the strength of the war party, supported by the capitalist oligarchies, the producers, and the arms dealers. On the other, it confirms the weakness of the international proletariat movement, and of the Ukrainian one in particular. In the absence of strong unions and a class-based party, it is incapable of mounting a reaction capable of blocking the imperialist war from below.

The Non-Existent European Union

In this situation of extreme global tensions, the European Union has once again demonstrated that it does not exist as a unified body. The states have acted autonomously and in conflict with each other, showing that the causes of the conflicts of the last century are far from gone.

The EU's top leaders are crying out about the Russian threat, with the Cossack cavalry ready to drink from the Trevi Fountain, as Christian Democratic propaganda claimed in Italy in 1948, and are launching a huge rearmament plan. But in reality, it is individual states that are rearming, with Germany at the forefront.

Every bourgeoisie in Europe, large and small, is defending its own interests and sphere of influence, strengthening nationalist policies, patriotic spirit, and above all the military budget, in preparation for the future clash that they desire. The Polish president summed up this disastrous policy well with the motto "Money today or blood tomorrow," which in reality means "Money

The International Communist Party

today and blood tomorrow."

Even the Ukrainian president in Davos did not spare criticism of the ailing European Union, despite the fact that it had just allocated another \$90 billion in aid! This is completely insufficient, but with this additional "loan" EU leaders have confirmed that they are still betting on war "to the last Ukrainian." In fact, these funds would be "guaranteed" by Russia's payment of reparations, a prospect that is currently highly unlikely.

On the other hand, the European Union has accepted all the dictates imposed in recent months by the United States, from military spending at 6% of GDP to \$600 billion for investment in US industry and \$750 billion to purchase expensive American gas, after rejecting cheap Russian gas.

The European states represent the weakest capitalist bloc, and they are paying the consequences.

But the proletariat of Europe must shun the political sirens that extol the unity of the Union, its "values" of democracy and freedom. Enabling the bourgeoisies of the continent to defend themselves from pressure from the East as well as from the West would only mean the birth of a third imperialist bloc opposed to those of the United States and China. The international proletariat would have nothing to gain from this. A clash between capitalist blocs is brewing that has nothing to do with the interests of the proletariat. It is with the propaganda of the defense of the homeland, of freedom, of democracy, of peace, that the transversal and international war party will attempt to drag the proletarians to the front.

NATO Collapses

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has also become embroiled in the conflict. As we wrote in our 2022 article: "Officially, since 2014, NATO has had a constant presence in the organization and training of the devastated Ukrainian army. It is clear that work was being done to expand the conflict from a local one involving the separatist republics to an open and general conflict. The presence of Western military structures represented an important Atlantic outpost on Ukrainian territory, even if temporarily outside the Alliance. More recently, under the presidency of the docile former actor Zelensky (2020-21), Ukraine even became an operational area for NATO exercises, with provocative operations to

put pressure on neighboring Russia."

During these four years of war, the member states of the organization have taken very different positions, suffice it to think of the policies pursued by Hungary or Turkey or the opposing ones of Great Britain or Poland.

Despite the Secretary General's proclamations against the "existential" threat posed by Russia and China, the results are few and far between, and the internal differences between the allies on the level of involvement, timing, and final objectives reveal the absence of a common vision and unmask the propaganda efforts to make the Atlantic Alliance appear a monolithic and cohesive force.

NATO's political role in this war is ambiguous: it is an active party to the conflict, in fact, but continues to present itself as a non-belligerent entity so as not to openly challenge Moscow. The hypocrisy of formal non-intervention and substantial military support is a clear sign that there is no clear and coherent shared political line. The United States, which has been the linchpin of the Atlantic Alliance since its inception, makes no secret of its desire to "emancipate" itself from it. The guidelines of the new National Defense Strategy, released by the Pentagon, state: "The absolute priority of the armed forces is to defend the United States. The Department will therefore prioritize this objective, including defending American interests throughout the Western Hemisphere." It continues: "While U.S. forces focus on defending the homeland and the Indo-Pacific, our allies and partners will take primary responsibility for their own defense, with essential but more limited support from U.S. forces."

On the Grand Chessboard of Dying Capitalism

The war in Ukraine, which pits NATO against Russia, is in fact more a war between the United States and Europe, especially Germany. Washington makes no secret of its satisfaction at having broken the commercial, industrial, and financial ties that united some European countries, Germany foremost among them, with Russia. It has cut off gas and oil supplies and forced European states to drastically increase their military budgets, to the benefit of US arms giants. The Pentagon declares that Russia is not the adversary, openly contradicting the narrative of the NATO Secretary Gen-

eral and drastically reducing military and economic aid to Ukraine. At this point, NATO no longer has a reason to exist, although it will probably continue to stand, surviving itself.

NATO military bases are thus increasingly revealing themselves for what they have always been: strongholds of US imperialism's military occupation of Western Europe, imposed after victory in World War II. Its purpose has also been to keep a combative proletariat subjugated, in collaboration with the Warsaw Pact states, which were responsible for crushing the working class in Eastern Europe.

Meanwhile, the huge presence of Chinese mega-capitalism is quietly imposing itself on the world.

How long will Berlin wait before demanding accountability for the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines, ordered by the US and carried out by a Ukrainian commando unit? Will they put the pro-Nazi Altemative for Germany in government for this?

The contradictions of imperialism are becoming increasingly evident as the crisis deepens and war approaches.

New Scenarios

These new scenarios are causing concern among the bourgeois international diplomatic corps.

The capitalist regime, in its phase of decadent imperialism, is heading straight for war. A catastrophic third world war can only be prevented by the rise of international proletariat reaction.

To achieve this, vast trade union organizations are needed, under the influence of a strong international communist party. These will work to ensure that the proletariat of every country, even if "attacked", does not join the war or defend the "sacred borders". Because the enemy is their own national bourgeoisie, whether it cloaks itself in fascist banners or democratic robes. It will fraternize with the proletariat "invading" soldiers, who are also being sent to slaughter, and will prepare for the only war favorable to the proletariat, that of liberating itself, through communist revolution, from this infamous political regime!

This is the immense but exciting task that lies ahead for our comrades in the coming months and years.

The Reality Of The "Sanctuary" City - No Sanctuary For Workers Under Capitalism

Minnesota ICE Raids

On January 23rd, about 50,000 people went to the streets in Minneapolis in response to the continuous terror carried out by the capitalist state's ICE agents, brought to a head by the brutal killing of Renee Good, whose instinctual defence of her class would be praised and who in action revealed the forces of capital in their naked dictatorship of society. She was among one of the many victims already claimed by the state apparatus with about 30 killed prior to her. Our duty is to explain the forces that set the field for such episodes of violence which are always present, tolerated everyday by the proletariat and rarely reported in the capitalist press, but which come out the seams of society like the smoke from industrial plants that breathe life to our society.

The deployment of ICE across the country has targeted "sanctuary" cities to raise terror and discipline the migrant section of the working class. We have reported that similar actions have taken place in Chicago, Los Angeles, Charlotte, and now Minneapolis. It has become evident to everyone that the justification of deporting criminals holds very little weight given that more than 70% of deportees have no prior convictions. The aforementioned cities also on top of being "sanctuary havens" which limit, but never stop, to varying degrees the complicity of the local governments with federal immigration enforcement also boast significant migrant workers both documented and not. If we look at the table below for 2016 immigration population levels within the cities that have been targets of the raids. We note that they have varied across the board in hosting unauthorized immigration populations as a fraction of the total population in relation to the national average in 2016 of 3.3%. Los Angeles at 6.9% more than double the national average thanks to its proximity to the border along with Chicago at 4.1% right behind is Charlotte and lastly Minneapolis at 2%. However, this does not take into account the recent migration wave during the past 5 years which saw 11 million immigrants arrive into the United States. For the time being, noting the concentration of the populations will suffice and further context will be elucidated once we investigate the economic developments.

Metropolitan Area	Total Unauthorized Immigrant Population (2016)	Unauthorized Immigrant Population as % of Total (2016)	Rank in the United States (2016)
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim	925,000	6.9	2
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin	400,000	4.1	7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington	70,000	2.0	25
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia	100,000	3.8	20
Nationwide	10,700,000	3.3	-

Data obtained from 2019. PEW Research Center Data on Unauthorized Immigrant Populations. Unauthorized immigrants are those who have limited or no protections under law which on top of undocumented migrants includes recipients of DACA, green cards, and those under Asylum. Margins of errors are not included for clarity but due to the nature of getting an accurate account of unauthorized populations due to the fear of being discovered, it may be possible that counts are an under-representation of the total immigrant worker population.

Looking at overall immigrant trends, including authorized immigrants, shows how the total immigrant population has increased substantially in the past decades and how the composition of the immigrant population has varied across the past two centuries. This latest surge has set a historical record pushing the immigrant population, as a percent of the total United States population, from 14.8% in 1890 to 15.8% at the beginning in 2025.

Year	Total Immigrant Population, millions	Percent of United States Population
June 2025	91.8	14.9%
January 2025	63.3	15.8%
2022	46.1	13.8%
2019	41.9	13.7%
2010	38.9	12.5%
1990	19.8	7.5%
1970	8.8	4.7%
1950	5.3	14.8%
1890	2.2	9.7%

Data obtained from July 2024. PEW Research Center Data. Gaps filled with Official Census Data

Furthermore we can note that the vast majority of the undocumented migrant section of the working class in the United States is of working age (77%) from 16-64 in contrast to the native working class (60.4%). From which industry, commerce, and financial capital can draw life from in industries where low wage labour is especially taxing to bodies such as in construction and agriculture.

The cause of the recent wave is undoubtedly the coupling of the COVID pandemic crisis with the economic slowdown at the tail end of 2018/19. An exodus that has its roots in the underdevelopment of Latin American economies as a consequence of the colonialism of the past and today global imperialism. These historical developments have relegated Latin American economies as subordinates to the capital of the dominating imperialist powers, mainly Yankee. For reference, in 2025, the top for-

ign investors were the United States at \$11.8 billion, then Spain at \$8.4 billion followed by China at \$4.7 billion. Meanwhile the Mexican bourgeoisie itself desperately needs workers to establish its own internal markets and domestic production, as the expansion of maquiladoras continues to develop a proletariat population with increasing consumption demands. Meanwhile Mexico itself has started to export capital: growing its own foreign direct investments as it aspires to become its own regional imperialism. The dominant imperialism uses its military and financial instruments to perpetuate Latin America to auxiliary positions within global productive forces by developing their economies for exportation of manufactured goods, resources extraction and agricultural products, while maintaining financial domination, however, as we have seen in China over the last decades such actions have the consequence of eventually giving rise to an increasingly powerful capitalist class in the subordinate country empowered with a growing industrial base which can eventually transform into a rival. Along with the exportation of goods manufactured by and for foreign corporations, comes the exportation of profits that leave many sectors of the economy, especially domestic industrialization at a low level and it finds itself in a difficult position to develop especially in competition from the international market (see Monographs on Latin America, 1950-1995). The result is an economy that is still unable to engage the majority of workers into the capital production process, relegating them to informal work where wages remain below official minimum wages and to unemployment and underemployment. In Mexico's case, the drug economy has become a viable "employer" which notes the severity of the situation. As a consequence, when crises occur as did during the late 1960s, mid 1980s, and early 1990s, these economies created an influx of migrants coming out of Latin America.

Yet, today we see that in Mexico's case, its economy is transforming increasingly into an emerging rival industrial contender despite its continued subordination to U.S. imperialism. It has significantly expanded its infrastructure through large-scale highway investment and development programs. The federal government's 2026-2030 Infrastructure Investment Plan, projects a total investment of MX\$5.6 trillion. For 2026 alone, the plan anticipates an additional MX\$722 billion, on top of the MX\$900 billion already budgeted for improvements in energy, railways, highways, ports, health, water, and education. The country's national road network now spans about 989,000 km, including over 11,000 km of toll highways, while the government announced MXN 53 billion (≈\$2.7 billion) in road infrastructure spending for 2025 and plans to build around 3,000 km of new priority roads. At the same time, Mexico has been increasing domestic production capacity: local production in the transportation infrastructure sector, for example, grew from \$5.7 billion in 2020 to over \$12 billion in 2023, reflecting stronger internal industrial activity. Government policy has also explicitly aimed to strengthen the domestic market and raise investment above 25% of GDP by 2026, supporting a shift toward producing more goods for internal consumption and reinforcing domestic supply chains.

Looking from 1965 and onwards the majority of immigrants coming into the United States are from Latin America, around 50%, with 23% originating from Mexico reaching its peak during 2007 before trending downward. Workers facing low wages and deteriorating conditions flee the boundaries of their nation state to another in search of liveable wages—that is, to survive. The native bourgeoisie, especially the Mexican, have historically been laissez-faire on enforcing control along the United States-Mexican Border as it helps them relieve the mass of unemployed workers avoiding a greater social crisis of their own, hoping to also take advantage of a trained workforce once they came back all while receiving significant contribution to their GDP from remittances sent back home from migrant workers. Recent developments show that Mexico has ramped up control of its own southern border along Guatemala to prevent the influx of South American proletarians at the behest of the Americans, which benefits the Mexican bourgeoisie. Control of the northern border is also expected to increase.

In the United States, the latest trends from 2000 until 2023 show almost a doubling of unauthorized immigrants, the majority of whom are employed "illegally". An explosive rate that has not been experienced since the 1990 to 2000 period. It wasn't until 2007 that we saw a decrease in the unauthorized population as a result of the economic crisis, with estimated populations

decreasing from 12.2 million to 11 million in 2017, continuing until 2019 where it stood at 10.2 million. Picking back up around the start of the COVID epidemic in 2021 to 10.5 million. Despite these fluctuations, in the last 30 years, the unauthorized population has exploded by 400% from 3.5 million to 14 million. The need to manage the incoming immigration population on a permanent basis has been slowly developing in the United States, the organs to deport and discipline the increasing mass of immigrant workers (i.e. manage) has become imperative, the occasional deportation campaigns or integration of workers by amnesty have been historically exhausted in the current status of global capitalism that awaits the next crisis.

To elucidate this historic outlook we can quote the Federation for American Immigration Reform's (FAIR) representative, Roger Conner, who in 1982 spoke to the bourgeoisie perspective on immigration from Latin America in relation to the United States in rather Malthusian terms at a time when it had not yet reached these current historic levels and when the economic situation was not as bleak:

"To charge [racism against us], I respond that the issue in the modern immigration debate isn't the race or ethnicity of the people, it is the numbers of people who are coming.... I don't believe we can [absorb the present flow] and meet the needs of minority and disadvantaged Americans for a better standard of living, and I don't think we can protect the natural resource base of this country for the future generations at that level of people in the United States."

Ignoring the hypocrisy about protecting the future for the next generations, the bourgeoisie can only look at cutting the mass of workers from the productive process as it cannot engage them in capital expansion and so it relegates them to starvation.

Thus, only as a historical development in this chapter of the capitalist epoch can we understand ICE as functions of the state, that is the capitalist state, in its efforts to address a mass of workers which it cannot do without for use as cheap labour in multiple sectors such as construction, agriculture and service activities, in fact Trump has made assurances to those industries that they will not be hurt, but also the need to mitigate a section of the working class that is politically expendable and "do away with" when no longer at service of capital but a possible explosive element when unemployed without access to the traditional welfare programs which have pacified native workers—now currently being attacked by the current administration. This reserve army of labor thus can present a potential risk to capital if it grows too large. We can look at the unionization campaigns of Mexican and Filipino workers in California during the 60s and the mass mobilization of 2006 against H.R. 4437, a bill that sought to criminalize undocumented immigrants to get a picture of the latent combativity of this section of the working class due to its precarious existence.

Year	Total Number of Unauthorized Immigrants, millions	Percent Change from Previous Year of Comparison, %	Total Number of Unauthorized Immigrant Workforce, millions
2023	14.0	+18.6	9.7
2022	11.8	+12.4	-
2021	10.5	+3.4	7.8
2019	10.2	-2.2	-
2015	11.0	-6.2	8.0
2007	12.2	+41.9	8.2
2000	8.6	+145.7	5.6
1990	3.5	-	-

Data obtained from August 2025. PEW Research Center Data on Unauthorized Immigrant Populations. Data on populations for years 2024 to 2025 is incomplete but it has been inferred based on trends in migration that from 2024 to start of 2025, unauthorized immigrant population surpassed 2023 levels. The deportation campaigns are estimated to have resulted in deportations and outflows of up to 750,000 immigrants by July of 2025.

Immigrant Labor and Economic Industries

Looking at the distribution of the unauthorized immigrant workers by the industries which hire a significant amount of immigrants in proportion to their total workforce, using a similar dataset from the Center of Migration Studies and US industry data, we can look at the change in economic output by industry and their recent changes to grasp the direction of these sectors.

Industry Sector	Percentage Hiring of Total Unauthorized Immigrants (2023)	Real GDP of Industry Sector, 2019 Indexed to 2017 Dollars	Real GDP of Industry Sector, 2024 Indexed to 2017 Dollars	Percent Change (2019 to 2024)	Percent Change (2016 to 2024)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	3%	159.6	172.5	+20.5%	+22.2%
Construction	20%	934.0	882.3	-5.5%	-6.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	12%	528	638.8	+20.8%	+23.2%
Manufacturing	11%	1,877.7	2,224.9	+18.1%	+25.8%
Administrative, Support & Waste Management Services	10%	482.0	747.4	+55.1%	+59.1%

*Note varies estimates for the distribution of the unauthorized immigration workers exist due to the difficulties

in capturing a population that remains largely outside official records. However, datasets all point to construction having a large population of the unauthorized workforce and agriculture as well which is not captured with this estimate some other estimates put it at over 20% which includes H2-A workers. For consistency sake, we will use the figures provided that estimated the 2016 immigrant population.

The data shows modest growth in all sectors, except for a diminishing one in construction and Admin/Waste Services, ranging from 1.8% to 17.27% during the COVID epidemic from 2019 to 2024. On a 20 year basis, the growth of all sectors, except construction with a -6.69%, are still positive ranging from low end in agriculture at 22.2% and at 59.1% for the upper range by the Admin, support, & waste management services. The construction sector has seen a contraction still not reaching peak spending levels prior to the recession of '07/08. We are not yet seeing a general contraction in all industries that disproportionately hire immigrants except in construction with an estimated unauthorized population of 2.8 million workers. It is this sector that is first showing the retreat of the covid economic upsurge, and specifically the retreat of capital in certain sectors.

Economic Developments

Through capital's own impetus to increase productivity, AI advancements also increase the risk of jobs associated with immigrant populations being automated, including those in the service sector, which is at the highest risk of shrinking the necessary work force. According to a study by National Equity Atlas the accommodation and service industry has job tasks with a high probability of being computerized at 73% (-8.5 million jobs at risk), retail trade at 66% (-11.5 million jobs at risk), admin and waste management at 66% (-4.3 million jobs at risk), and construction at 59% (-6 million).

In the agriculture, while the sector has not experienced a contraction, the smaller farmers are increasingly worried of being proletarianized with more bankruptcies occurring every year, (by end of 2025, there were 15,000 fewer farms) due to the high international competition, and lack of entry to foreign markets like India, which have excluded tariff free duties on products grown in their country, in addition to domestic competition of the more high yielding large industrial farms. This layer of the bourgeoisie stands to benefit from the reduced H2-A wages for agriculture just recently announced and a climate of anti immigration where working conditions can further be deteriorated.

Amidst a looming crisis, capital and its state must contend with the expected increase in unemployment. It does this by readying to use the instruments of oppression on the politically vulnerable sections of the working class which finds itself cut off from the native workers by the poisonous miasma of chauvinism and its own historical defeats. The modernized deportation tools like the usage of technologies developed to oversee and monitor populations such as those employed in Gaza by the state of Israel, and the expanding network of the prison detention center complex have yet to be used to their full capacities and are continuously increasing.

Currently, the interior deportations by ICE, are estimated at 333,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, which does not include exterior deportations at ports of entry by Custom and Border Protection Agency which we can estimate at 270,000 for a total of 600,000 still short of the administration's 1 million deportations a year. The nature of the data makes it hard to estimate the actual deportations and removals as DHS has not discerned the total removal by ICE deportations; However, it is becoming evident that interior removal and deportations are higher than the external deportations at points of entry especially along the Mexico-US border. For comparison, last fiscal year during Biden's term in FY 2024, it was estimated that 685,000 deportations took place with ICE conducting 271,000 removals, a doubling from 143,000 in FY 2023. The discrepancy between the two levers of the bourgeois state is from border removals to interior removals, where the current direction is aiming at removing migrant workers further away from the border at a much more rapid pace.

This development is further validated by the expansion of the deportation infrastructure in which ICE has been given a \$45 billion carte blanche check to buy and retrofit warehouses, moving away from subcontracting space in existing facilities to an "Amazon" warehouse model. This "ICE Detention Reengineering Initiative" aims at centralizing and having the capacity to hold anywhere from 70,000 to 100,000 migrant workers at a given time. The supposed blockade of immigration enforcement by Democratic officials is crumbling as quickly as it

was built. Even in New Mexico, local obstruction has been little more than a temporary speed bump. By leveraging federal contracting, ICE has not only outmaneuvered its critics but has ensured that the "resistance" remains largely toothless and increasingly irrelevant.

We can conclude that the immigrant populations are tied to these industries to a significant degree that we can see this management of the labour force taking after the ebbs and flows of their economic activities requiring the ever increasing management of the workforce which has been built up in recent decades and exploded in the last 5 years. If workers cannot find wages to survive at home, they surely cannot find them in the very same United States for long especially when industries start to falter. More dangerous is the idea that sanctuary cities, that is local governments who aim to protect immigrant workers through legislation and limiting cooperation, can offer an effective means of resistance to the unleashed terror by ICE or provide a life worth living for that matter. Especially, if one takes the time to look into the reality of the laws and policies within these "sanctuaries".

History of Sanctuary Cities

The Sanctuary movement kicked off in the 80s when Guatemalan and Salvadorean refugees started to pour into American Cities due to civil war ravaging those countries, as a result of the imperialist rivalry being waged between the USSR and the U.S. who supported contending bourgeois factions across Latin America. Local religious communities in Arizona and California, declared their churches as sanctuaries for refugees amidst reports of deported refugees by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), whose deportation operations are now replaced by ICE, dying once returning to their respective countries of origin. The amnesty given to refugees fleeing from political conflicts were not given to the Guatemalan and Salvadorans as the bourgeoisie declared them "economic migrants". Rather it would be more accurate to say it handed enemies of their puppet states back into their grasp. In 1983-85, activists documented the inhuman treatment of detainees at the INS Port Isabel Detention Center in Texas. At the peak of the moment in 1986-87, 20 cities and 2 states passed resolutions, mostly public statements, to declare themselves as sanctuaries for Central American migrants. San Francisco, being the only city to issue an ordinance limiting municipal employees' cooperation with the INS in 1989. The historical result of this activist movement resulted in shelter for these fleeing workers in some cities and which would only culminate into a lawsuit against the supreme court for imposing amnesty restrictions and giving special provision in immigration hearings for migrants from these countries.

Today's Sanctuary cities and counties or jurisdictions have evolved to mean legal jurisdictions that afford some level of protection to undocumented immigrants in relation to federal immigration enforcement. It does this generally by limiting the amount of cooperation local law enforcement has with federal agencies, noting that it does not actively prevent them from carrying out their missions where they are deployed. States like California can prevent any municipality from having 287(g) agreements which deputize local law enforcement for immigration enforcement. Some cities issue public resolutions which are nothing more than statements and others share information with federal enforcement in a limited way such as providing fingerprints.

The mayor of Chicago's latest executive order in October 2025 "prohibits" ICE from using city owned property such as parking lots, garages, and vacant lots for staging - by posting signs. City employees who observed ICE using the facilities are "encouraged but not required" to report to their supervisor to let the city administration know of the violations. Private owners may request the same signage to post on their private property. Here's the response from the 'Welcoming City' which can only document the terror unleashed on the immigrant worker!

Noting the reality and limitations that at best carve some minor relief in contrast to more conservative jurisdictions, we can dive into the working conditions of the immigrant workers within these "sanctuaries". In Minnesota, the immigrant worker can survive but to call it life worth living is something only a sycophant can proclaim.

The Minnesota Case

The January 23rd mobilization was brought forth in a very half hearted matter by multiple groups drawing from the mul-

titude of classes. In Minneapolis's case, a big factor has been businesses mobilizing by closing their shops in protests of the ICE raids. It will be rather shortsighted to see this as fruitful development in the protection of immigrant workers given that these businesses, despite their support, rely on the low wage population of immigrants to draw profits. It goes to say, that immigrants are employed and depend on these businesses to secure a wage and living but on the other hand they are subject to increasing exploitation by the employing class on a social average basis. One only needs to look at the wage theft rate amongst immigrant workers employed in the metropolitan area of the Twin cities to see the reality of this relationship.

In the construction sector, one in four workers experience wage theft from employers which disproportionately hire unauthorized immigrant workers on top of employers regularly skirting safety regulations. The same sector was responsible for one in five of the annual deaths occurring in the private sector during 2023 according to the official US labor statistics. Despite the labor legislation that stipulates protection from wage thefts, especially in so-called "sanctuary" cities, it is in most cases not enforced to its full degree and little is recovered from these measures. In Minneapolis's case only \$2 million was recovered in 2025 from the estimated \$90 million stolen each year from 2013 to 2022 in unpaid wages or minimum wage violations (i.e. paying below the municipal standards of \$16.37/hr). The recent city budget, under democrat Mayor Jacob Frey who made a great spectacle of "standing up" to ICE, proposed a cut to the program responsible for enforcing wage regulations from \$658,824 to \$309,646 out of the city's \$7.8 million budget allocated to civil rights. Contrast this to the municipal budget for the police department which stands at \$230 million this year!

Looking at the trend within the Minneapolis Metropolitan area economy, the wage theft rate is highest in sectors that disproportionately hire immigrants and minority workers—of particular note is that Minneapolis has rates that surpass the state averages. Industries with the highest violation rates include food services and drinking places (11.3%), social assistance (8.3%), and personal and laundry services (7.2%).

Industry	Minimum Wage Violation Estimate	Public Complaints	Estimate Employment, 2020
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6.7%	8	24,796
Social assistance	8.3%	0	67,916
Personal and Laundry services	7.2%	4	16,695
Food services and drinking places	11.3%	38	91,864
Administrative and support services	5.7%	3	88,462
Nursing and Residential services	4.5%	3	50,144
Total, all industries	3.6%	79	1,817,280
Educational services	4.2%	3	137,141
Retail Trade	4.8%	5	153,695

Data obtained from November 2023, Minimum Wage Non-Compliance in Minneapolis study

However, the reality of this is underscored by the low amount of complaints that are sent to the Labor Standards Enforcement Division (LSED) where often many immigrant workers are unaware or intimidated to report due to fear from losing their jobs, which is often the case. The findings as the authors note show "how deep and widespread violations are in these industries". When looking at which sections of the working class experience the highest rate of wage theft occurrences it is

Women's Liberation Will Be in Communism!

Down with capitalism and its patriarchal order!
Long live class struggle!
Long live March 8, International Working Women's Day!

Working women in all parts of the world continue to be oppressed by the ancient patriarchal order in its current capitalist form. They work for lower wages and in worse conditions than their male class comrades, they have to work at home as well as in the factory or office, they are subjected to physical and emotional violence and even murdered!

Patriarchy emerged with the first class society and has continued to exist, albeit changing and evolving, in all subsequent modes of production. Capitalism without patriarchy has never existed and never will. Women will lead the struggle for their emancipation.

Women workers will occupy their rightful place in the trade union movement as well. Without the participation of women, the revolution of liberation from capitalism is unimaginable.

True liberation for women will begin with the intensification of the class struggle and the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat. Only in communism will women's personalities unfold fully, in a society where gender differences will no longer be a reason for discrimination and exploitation.

On this March 8, 2026, we repeat what Marxism has denounced since its inception and in all party texts: women suffer because they are trapped in the grip of the family and private property. Consistent with the thinking of the communists who preceded us, we point the way to liberation: the destruction of the present social order!

But women will not wait passively for that day; they will participate in the only real struggle that will lead to their emancipation, thus anticipating the conditions for a full life for themselves. Class unions will fight for the demands of working women.

The lifestyle of modern capitalism even deprives them of the possibility of love, pushing them toward loneliness in relationships based on selfishness. Commercial re-

In organic centralism the party is understood as a collective organ of the historical movement of the proletariat. Comrades cooperate on the basis of a shared program and doctrine. Fraternity within the party is not merely emotional, but a practical solidarity founded on common work and responsibility toward the movement as a whole. The party's historical task lies entirely in promoting the cause of communism. Yet through the voluntary decision to dedicate one's life to this work, the militant undergoes a profound transformation. By subordinating personal ambitions and desires to a collective historical program, the individual begins to break away from the narrow, conditioned existence imposed by capitalist society.

Instead of living as an isolated person whose horizons are limited to private survival, career, and consumption, the militant consciously participates in a broader historical movement. By dedicating themselves to the disciplined work of the party, the individual escapes the passive and merely reactive role assigned to them by capital and, for the first time, performs a free act, choosing to participate in the collective force aimed at overcoming the social conditions that reduce human life to a merely contingent existence completely determined by capital.

Even for communists, at the beginning it is always a need, a feeling, an instinct. Individual and collective. There is a bourgeois sensibility and a communist sensibility. Just as there is a party sensibility and a class sensibility. One excludes the other. The narrow horizon of the circle, of the sect, pre-

often the immigrant, black, and female workers that are disproportionately targeted who experience wage violations 3.7 times the rate of the white male native worker counterparts. This is of particular importance given that Minneapolis hosts a large number of African born immigrants outnumbering the rest of the immigrant community.

Worker Demographic	Compared to	Probability of Minimum Wage Violation (% Greater)
Black Female Non-Citizen	White Male Citizen	3.7
Black Female Non-Citizen	White Female Citizen	2.8
Black Male Non-Citizen	White Male Citizen	2.4
Black	White	2
Latin American Female Non-Citizen	White Male Citizen	2
Latin American Male Non-Citizen	White Male Citizen	1.5
Non Citizen	Citizen	1.5
Female	Male	1.4

Data obtained from November 2023, Minimum Wage Non-Compliance in Minneapolis study

Furthermore, the concentration of these violations are located within the microbusinesses category which are defined as having less than 20 employees accounting for 54% of wage complaints received by (LSED). It is important to note, that usually it is the same immigrant community which enterprises in these businesses and hires the same workers denoting that class relation underpinning these complaints. Regardless of the origin of place, businesses under the competition of the market are pushed to undercut their workers wages to remain afloat among the service sectors such as restaurants which work with very little profit margins and where this fact is intensified. The reality of the matter is these operations cannot exist for long without the labour of a highly exploited workforce which in addition to wage theft are subject to longer workdays and minimal safety protections. Thus, with the ICE terror in Minneapolis which has frightened immigrant workers from coming out of their homes and to spend money on these businesses for fear of being deported. It is no surprise the small businesses who have lost their customers and their workforce have jumped to denounce the ICE raids. During the economic blackout, hundreds of businesses closed in the name of kicking out ICE from the city but under different sets of class interests that must and should be highlighted.

For the immigrant workers, who already are subject to everyday exploitation and harassment there was no voice amongst the action to denote demands that belong solely to the proletariat beyond the anti ICE slogans that drew other elements. No mention of low wages, workplace protections, 40 hour work weeks, maternity leave or time off. Demands that are necessary and vital for the immigrant workers not just in Minneapolis but across the nation and regardless of place of origin, sex, religion, or race. Only slogans and calls that lead to nowhere. Often back into the hospices of the democrats and parliamentary channels under various affiliations that are stuck to aberrations of the civil rights movement. The naive belief that protests or civil disobedience alone has forced governments to capitulate into demands is an unfortunate sickness which we still suffer from today but to a lesser degree due to its ineffectiveness to address the social problems plaguing the classes.

relationships, which have exploded on the internet today, subtly influence our minds and tie our happiness to consumption, depriving us of even the small networks of solidarity of the past.

The Epstein case describes the rape culture that is characteristic of all bourgeois circles, the perversions inevitably generated by its way of thinking and living, from companies to universities, at the top and at the bottom. For the lower classes, social advancement is only possible by becoming slaves in every sense and getting as dirty as the bourgeoisie. A small minority hopes for a better life only by finding themselves in a bigger prison.

Certainly, the entry of women into the world of work has been a step forward. But they often find themselves as cheap labor, enduring harassment and violence from managers and burdened with heavy and unskilled tasks. During crises, women are condemned to unemployment at a greater rate than men.

Capitalism is actively triggering a great world war. As in any war, women will also be directly affected: working behind the lines, losing their children. In large-scale population deportations, if they manage to survive the dangerous migration routes, they will have to try to live in unfamiliar lands, exposed to discrimination and violence.

The time has come for the working class to shake off the burden of capitalism that weighs on its shoulders, freeing history from its stench!

There is only one way for women to save themselves from low wages, invisibility in their domestic work, and becoming victims of murder: destroying capitalism. Women, who for thousands of years have been the invisible repositories of solidarity among species, will be the true inspirers of the movement; there is no other way! While the whole world surrenders its lifeblood to the monster of capital, women, who create and sustain life, despite everything, have the power to defeat those who produce destruction and death!

Demolish capitalism to bury patriarchy and give life to the future of humanity!

vents the unfolding of the communist sensibility, and ends up negating it in personalism. Communists must therefore cultivate a sober and impersonal way of relating to one another in which every comrade is viewed as a participant in a collective task whose unity derives from the party's programmatic foundations.

The formula "love no one, love everyone" captures this discipline of political relations. To "love no one" means rejecting personal devotion or attachment to particular individuals. To "love everyone," by contrast, expresses a universal solidarity with the collective body of the party and with the working class whose historical interests it represents. The militant's loyalty is therefore directed not toward individuals but toward the movement and its program. In renouncing personal attachment, the comrade affirms a broader commitment to the collective cause and to the impersonal continuity of the party.

Within this framework, the notion of fraternal consideration governs the conduct of relations among comrades. This principle rejects internal polemics based on personal attacks, insinuations of malicious motives, or attempts to discredit individuals. Disagreements are inevitable in any living organization, but they must be addressed through theoretical elaboration, doctrinal clarification and evaluation of contemporary conditions, rather than through personal confrontation. Fraternal consideration requires that criticism focus on political positions, interpretations, or formulations, never on the personalities of those who advance them. At the same time, it does not mean

The Sanctuary Guardians

For workers who are led to believe the Democratic Party has their best interest at heart the reality is counterposed with the minimal protections afforded to the immigrant section of the working class. The limited tools at their disposal never touch the economic foundations that guarantee their deteriorating living conditions. The multiple channels that comply to federal, state, and local law are driven to affairs in the courts where more often than not die and remain in juridical limbo or when some form of compensation is wrestled out of it, it comes months even years after where workers are left to the hospices of unemployment and the deterioration of living conditions that spring from it.

We can derive from the developments, that even under the best of circumstances the best protection these sanctuary cities can enforce is within the framework of the law which never defies federal law which is nothing more than bourgeois justice. Which under our current state of affairs, means nothing other than the rule of wage labor, private property and mercantile exchange, the cornerstone foundations of profit extraction. That is, it will never undermine the social forces that require the surplus value extraction of workers or rather it will never assault wage slavery, only make it palatable for a short while—such is the nature of reforms. Or when they do find their engine in the midst of class struggle, they are neutered by forces ready to bind the movement into the hands of the class enemy.

Thus the reprieve given to immigrants is precipitated by its ability to be exploited by the whole capitalist class. In the event of an economic crisis, the political forms to expedite the deportations of migrant workers will have fertile grounds in the fabric of increased unemployment, bankruptcies, increased cost of living which will open up the landscape for the reactionary forces of the bourgeoisie to pin the economic contradictions on immigrants and not the logic of this senile social organization that binds humanity with the grips of capital accumulation which births the many social ailments seen today. Such is the case for the "protections" of today which may become a hindrance for the movement of capital which we should not be surprised if tomorrow they are eroded further or even removed entirely.

We have not derived any new formulations, but set these predictions on the development of American capitalism, whose national capital extends beyond its political borders, one which is not a stranger to deportations and which has set an apparatus of oppression ready to be unleashed and which will expose the all bark and bite of peaceful resistance promoted by the left and democrats who are ready to play their historical roles as the worst enemies of the working class—the deceivers and the disamers. We will inform our reader of the best result of the alternative under the American parliamentary circus, the Mamdanis and the like, have already shown their cards, see TCP 65. For workers this tactic has always been a loss in the long run under this counter revolutionary historical epoch, especially in the absence of a strong labour movement and clarity from its most advanced element: the party. Especially, as opportunists only limit the struggle inside the parliamentary structure in which the bourgeoisie has nothing to fear from a proletarian assault. Worse, it disarms the proletariat by instilling the illusion it can meet its class needs by relegating to these fellows its faith in lieu of

Highly Redacted Epstein Files Further Reveal Abuses That Only Proletarian Revolution Can Uproot

The declassification of 3.5 million documents by the Department of Justice between late 2025 and February 2026 is a highly redacted additional piece of evidence of the bourgeois complicity and collusion with Epstein, a "high-class" pimp and financial fixer for the global bourgeois and their intelligence agencies. Epstein is yet another example of the depravity of the bourgeoisie, facilitating intelligence operations of US imperialism and Israeli sub-imperialism through the systematic exploitation of working-class women and children and fixing of financial and intelligence deals between members of the international bourgeoisie, using blackmail to further ensure their operations. The release of these highly redacted files is a calculated maneuver within the bourgeois electoral circus that will change nothing about the underlying machinery of oppression and exploitation that is capitalism, while safely drip-feeding the curiosity of the masses and providing some opportunity to win electoral points against the opposing bourgeois party, without revealing anything particularly damaging. The political nature of the state is nothing more than a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie, and these files merely show the brutal, depraved methods commonly used by members of this class to do so, and is nothing other than business as usual.

The origin story of Epstein began in the 1970s and 80s when Epstein transitioned from a private school teacher to a partner at Bear Stearns by 1980, before being removed in 1981 for securities violations. He did not act alone but was nurtured by mentors like Steven Hoffenberg, with whom he orchestrated a 450 million dollar Ponzi scheme at Towers Financial Corporation from 1987 to 1993. During this period, his role as a "blackmail capitalist" began to merge with state intelligence needs, specifically through Leslie Wexner, whose aircraft were linked to the Southern Air Transport network used for illegal arms smuggling during the Iran-Contra era. This period solidified Epstein's function as a fixer who used the spoils of fi-

Love No One, Love Everyone

avoiding conflict or suppressing disagreements. When theoretical or doctrinal misunderstandings arise, as they inevitably will, they must be worked through collectively and openly. The aim is not for individuals to prove themselves correct or to "win" debates, but to clarify the doctrine and preserve the coherence of the party's program. Therefore, every disagreement should be seen as a moment of strengthening the formal party and further developing its programmatic unity.

Marxism further assumes that the working class confronts a single objective reality, one that exists independently of the opinions or preferences of individuals. The doctrine of the party expresses the historically accumulated understanding of this reality, continually tested and observed through the study of contemporary conditions. Because of this, the party cannot treat individual opinions as autonomous islands that must be indefinitely "respected" in the name of pluralism. In the Party, individuals are not even allowed to hold onto opinions as their own property. When disagreements arise regarding tactics, programmatic interpretation, or organizational methods, they cannot be left unresolved. They must be confronted and clarified, because Marxists hold that there is ultimately one concrete social reality that can be grasped correctly or incorrectly. To retreat from approaching all questions on this basis would be to backslide away from the epistemological basis of the dialectical materialist world view which forms the basis of the Party's organic centralist method. The collective process of the Party, its study, discussion, and coordi-

expanding their defensive organs. It is tantamount to class betrayal under all developed nation states where capitalism has already penetrated all human societies.

The Play at Hand

Recent political developments underscore this reality. Tim Walz, the Minnesota governor, was in coordination with Trump regarding the intense ICE operations that resulted in the death of another native worker Alex Pretti on January 24. The immediate response from the masses has been outraged with calls for another "strike", or more precisely a class collaboration economic black-out stamped with the same petty bourgeois outlook of the January 23rd one. The political backlash has reached the Republican party who showed a divide on the intensification of this approach with the removal of Greg Bovino, who was sanctioned to proceed with the utmost force with apprehensions intensified on basis of racial discrimination, with the more temperate Border Czar Tom Homan who has taken a more tacit approach by deporting immigrants with a criminal record. Recently, Christie Noem was fired from her position as head of the Department of Homeland Security for the handling of the Alex Pretty affair, calling the two US citizens killed "terrorists", making the profiteering of this migration apparatus apparent. This spectacle has no other aim but to obfuscate the reality of the deportation machine which still is intact and ready to be headed by whichever bourgeois representative takes hold of it next.

A middle ground so to say, that has no intent of stopping the deportation machine only slowing it for the time being and to quell dissent. Further divisions can be explained by the Republican faction representing business interests in the construction, agriculture and hotel industries who are suffering from losing their labor force as a response to the raids.

This reaction should not be seen as the illusion that the mobilization has turned the direction of the deportation machine as reported by some on the left. The fact is both sides feared that the continuation with aggressive tactics would in fact only result in greater economic harm for Capital as a whole which expresses itself in part in the democratic protests of the petite-bourgeois element. Let's consider the future world capital promises, intensifying imperialist conflict means that even potential rivals must be leveled, whole nation's industries destroyed to preserve the dominant capital's accumulation in the face of overproduction. In such a world, masses are uprooted. The immigration system being built today is being built for that tomorrow. The veneer of retreat by the Trump administration in its aggressive tactics is merely a reflection of it overselling its initial aims to rile up its base while capitals terroristic regime of intercontinental labor management is continually developed. The raids have mainly occurred in the streets, restaurants and workplaces showing the ineffectiveness of these measures. On the ground, the local police have been employed to separate the reaction from ICE agents—in effect protecting them under the guise of civil order. Behind the slogans and bravado of resistance by Governor Tim Walz during his administration's press release, he offers to workers the following solution: "Indeed, as hard as we will fight in the courts and in the ballot box, we cannot, and will not, let violence prevail." In short, he offers nothing to stop the hangman from pulling the

nancial fraud to build a base of operations for the US imperialist bloc and Israeli intelligence.

By the 1990s and 2000s, this infrastructure matured into a permanent facility for state-sponsored surveillance and geopolitical brokerage. Epstein's Manhattan residence on 66th Street became a hub where the Israeli Mission to the UN directly installed and managed security protocols, effectively turning a site of sexual slavery into an outpost for Israeli state intelligence. Between 2014 and 2017, the network was used to bridge the gap between Western capital and the some of the Indian bourgeoisie, notably when billionaire Anil Ambani messaged Epstein to facilitate high-level meetings with the Trump administration's inner circle.

The email conversations also reveal the impunity with which lives of economically poor girls and women from largely Eastern European countries were bought and sold like shirts at the store, intermixed with business deals, jokes about torture videos and thinly veiled blackmail threats and other typically bourgeois conversations. Most of this we already knew about but the files further corroborate what we already knew with a few extra details, while hiding the vast majority of what is surely much more incriminating evidence.

The "show trials" and resignations that resulted from the release of the documents in 2026, including the resignation of World Economic Forum head Borge Brende and the public misconduct charges against Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, are theater that further insults the working class and changes nothing about the way business is done in capitalism, where these same methods and abuses doubtlessly continue today with other operators and networks of the bourgeoisie.

The documents further reveal that the structural relationship between high finance and Epstein remained active for years after his 2008 conviction. The redacted files, despite the claims of redactions being to protect the victims, end up protecting the names of the powerful perpetrators while at times

lever, only alms and promises of a better life for the victim.

Had a more severe unrest exploded outside the confines of interclass channels the democratic "resistance" would soon be put in a situation where it would have to assist federal forces which numbered only a few thousands by sending its own police force and national guard. Thus jeopardizing the semblance of division between the parties who differ in factions, benefactors, to certain extent approaches, but never are they divided in maintaining the subjugation of the proletariat, especially if its own demands came to light.

Migrant Labor Struggles

Immigrant workers cannot trust the bourgeoisie, much less the current regime unions who only see their immigrant brethren as competitors or at best offer symbolic solidarity, thus the only historical path for a defensive struggle against the reactionary attacks by the bourgeoisie is through independent class unions belonging solely to the proletariat. Immigrant worker strikes and organization on class struggle lines is necessary and possible. We can harken back to the struggle by Salvadoran workers, mostly women, who led a struggle in the janitor industry in LA during the 90s winning a 22% raise and inspiring the \$15/hr campaign. Or the struggle from Guatemalan workers who fought against Case Farms, which supplied poultry to brands like KFC and Taco Bell, by withholding their labor to improve their working conditions. Their temporary defeat came around 1995 when they were organized by Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) which channeled their latent combativity, as some migrants fled for organizing strikes, to the legal channels of the NLRB. When the LIUNA leadership failed to get a contract signed they stopped the union drive despite having legal impetus that required the company to recognize the union which it simply refused to do. Under another union campaign in 2004 led by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) it again failed due to in large parts by the intimidation tactics employed by Case Farms including the firing of workers leading the union campaign, only through their work stoppage were they able to stop case farms from increasing the working speed but which was soon brought back after the unionization effort failed. The workers were once again led astray by the UFCW and remembering their defeat of 2004 were able to win the unionization drive in 2007. However, no major improvements have been gained in their workplace in which workers are still suffering to this day despite the combativity of workers who are willing to strike. In fact in 2008 during the economic crisis, they struck again but this time under the regime union direction which neutered its development in the ULP strike fashion—that is the most palpable strike to bosses, one which allows scabs in!

To all workers regardless of nation, race or sex! Abandon illusions that any current capitalist political party can meet your demands! History has shown, the slaughterhouse of wage slavery continues even under vegan management. Only through the working class strength, on an international scale, can they develop real measures to stop the attacks on immigrants through the use of it's most powerful weapon, the strike! Be like the invading "horde", the bourgeois paint you as! Advance barbarians!

still exposing the victims, which is not surprising, given that the bourgeois "justice" system is solely interested in protecting the bourgeoisie's property and influence always at the expense of the proletariat.

The bourgeoisie class is never going to purge its own rot on its own accord because that rot is the product of its "endless" drive towards accumulation and is a byproduct of the very nature of the system. Participating in the electoral circus or hoping for "transparency" acts in a masochistic delusion that only serves to tie the workers to their masters. The same institutions that shielded Epstein for decades and are now shielding his collaborators are the same ones asking for your vote or your trust while lying to you like you were a credulous child and ensuring you are further exploited day in and day out. Whether it is the exploitation at the workplace of the class or the trafficking of its children, the capitalist system operates on a logic of total commodification, accumulation and overproduction that can never be reformed from within or without and must be totally uprooted for any and all of these abuses to stop.

The only path toward ending this cycle of depravity is the violent destruction of the capitalist state and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, which will only happen once the class is steeled in battles against the bosses and is organized into powerful class unions and led by the party. We must reject the false choices of the ballot box and organize at the point of production to strike at the heart of the system that produces, encourages, enables and rewards monsters like Epstein and all the others of his ilk within the bourgeoisie. The erosion of trust in bourgeois institutions is not enough, but it can be a starting point for some, an introduction to the growing revolutionary upheaval that will sweep away the capitalist power structure and all of its collaborators and appendages. Workers of the world, do not be fooled by the farcical bourgeois theater of "transparency", organize and do the work of the party and prepare for the long road of struggle against this decrepit system.

are not expected to possess a complete mastery of all points of doctrine. What is required is an acceptance of the programmatic foundations and a willingness to subordinate themselves to them. Entry into the party therefore begins a process of disciplining oneself to the doctrine, a process that unfolds through participation in the collective life and work of the organization. This development does not occur solely through reading and study, although these things remain important. It often emerges through practical experience, through disagreements, questions about methods, or uncertainties that arise while carrying out organizational tasks. In confronting these situations with comrades and referring them back to the established principles of the party, the militant gradually deepens their understanding and alignment with the doctrine.

Taken together, these principles define a distinctive form of comradeship. Relations among militants are fraternal but impersonal, guided by respect, theoretical clarity, and shared responsibility. The rejection of sentimentality prevents the emergence of personal loyalties and factional divisions, while fraternal consideration ensures that disagreements are addressed through collective clarification rather than personal struggle. As operators within a historical movement whose doctrine belongs to the entire working class, comrades perform their functions with discipline and humility, subordinating the always wretched individual ego and immediate pragmatism to the enduring principles of the revolutionary program.

FOR THE CLASS UNION

Minneapolis: For a Real General Strike!

The bourgeoisie continue their dress rehearsal of mass terror and deportations with the commencement of Operation Metro Surge in December of 2025, in which the state of Minnesota is being targeted to prepare for the coming intensification of mass deportations and attacks on living standards in the wake of the inevitable economic crisis. Using the pretext of fraud, the state launched the initiative and has managed to arrest around 3,000 people. The racial element of targeting minority immigrants was made explicit with Trump labelling Somalis as “garbage”, along with the DHS and ICE collaborating to racially profile and target Latino workers who often perform precarious, low wage work. A leaked memo authorizes ICE agents to enter private residences with an administrative warrant, i.e. they do not have to receive approval from judges and can issue warrants autonomously, marking a break from previous legal practice. Once again, we observe how the bourgeoisie violates its own laws and constitutions out of the necessity of continuing the exploitation of the working class. We shall see when the class struggle intensifies who the real garbage is... the capitalists!

In response to these federal operations and more acutely, the murder of René Good, a series of protests have occurred that culminated in what opportunists of all stripes are calling a “general strike” on January 23rd. Thousands and perhaps as many as 50,000 engaged in the protest under the leadership of the “ICE Out Coalition”, a local activist organization that has managed to gain the support of a significant section of the Democratic Party and the petty-bourgeoisie, as nearly one thousand small businesses closed their doors to support the action. This is likely because cheap immigrant labor is essential for them to exploit to achieve slim profit margins. Their demands call for: ICE to leave Minnesota, legal accountability for state officers, no more funding for Trump’s ICE (notice that their problem is stated to only be with Republican-controlled ICE), and for corporations big and small to deny access to ICE agents and become “4th Amendment businesses”. Also present are the classic appeals to abide by and defend the Constitution, democracy, and rights of all kinds, human and inalienable.

We communists know that the working class has no interest in defending bourgeois order, which is both fascist and democratic. “The rights of the poor are empty words”, to quote the lyrics of the Internationale. The bourgeois tendency of this group is also highlighted by its tactical approach to the question of striking by first encouraging workers to find “friendly bosses” and common ground with them (as if such a thing could exist!) and by leading workers onto the terrain of the NLRB where the class struggle is co-opted into legal channels. Their official document reminds workers of their no-strike clause and makes the suggestion to claim mental or physical illness as a means of calling out sick.

As for the unions which endorsed the protest, Teamsters Local 638’s official statement tepidly reminded workers that striking would be illegal. IATSE Local 13 told workers that they have the right to choose, but to make sure the bosses know in advance. SEIU Healthcare MN issued a stern warning that participation in strike action could lead to job termination. The president of CWA Local 7250 stated, “We have not voted on a strike, but our union is calling on people to support this call”. The MNA told their workers that they hold an essential caregiving role as a moral appeal in order for them to follow the no-strike clause, as well as a quite honest assessment of what the endorsement is by stating that the “MNA is joining a broad and growing coalition of labor organizations, faith leaders, business owners, and community members across Minnesota”. According to the New York Times, the president of the MNA went so far as to discourage members from missing work alongside other labor leaders.

The function of the business union leadership seen here is to suppress militancy wherever it organically erupts. By telling workers to not take action and not even bother voting on taking more serious militant action, this layer serves to neuter struggle and keep it legal in order to preserve their labor aristocratic privilege of a salary far beyond what the average worker makes. They fear breaking labor law because it puts their job in jeopardy and salary on the line. Ultimately, the result of this is a drive to find power from other classes, which pushes these unions into engaging in united fronts that keep the status quo.

Let us look more deeply at where the working class was in this action. Spontaneous organization among the proletariat in the form of workplace committees or strike councils did not occur in any significant sense, or perhaps at all, and so the workers who chose not to go to work typically did so on an individual, legal basis. This, of course, is a very weak tactic and one that diminishes the importance of workers acting as one and drawing strength from numbers and common action. The leadership of the regime unions fall squarely in line with the rest of the mush of this activist united front. Unions endorsed the action en masse, but unanimously rejected any strike language, consistently citing contractual legal obligations to the no-strike clause. The function of this endorsement is then to send the workers to the protests, to not strike (they are granting individuals the glorious freedom to choose!), and to rope them into bourgeois politics and tactics that are connected to the growing anti-fascist popular front led by the Democrats.

In the absence of the leadership of the class political party, the actions of the proletariat are left to be subsumed by bourgeois politics and directed towards the defense of capital. We cannot depend upon the bourgeoisie, its state, and its allies to give us scraps; we need to force their hand with militant class struggle. The political and activist coalitions present themselves as the organizers and ignitors, but they are opportunists seeking to anticipate and direct the class back onto the field of class collaboration

A Strike in the UK, and Some Observations from the Picket Line

Diligent employees are engaged in outsourcing activities that include call centers, back-office operations, and claims management for several major clients, including Lloyds, M&G, Aviva, and Phoenix. “Diligent generated an average of £82,000 per employee in 2023, with a profit of £27.1 million. In 2024, this rose to £28.9 million, while revenue reached an all-time high of £606 million. In 2024, a dividend of £14 million was paid to shareholders. This dividend could have funded a 5% pay raise for all staff.” Diligent workers therefore have good reason to stand their ground and secure a decent deal!

In January, the Unite union called a strike at the company’s offices in Liverpool, Glasgow, Reading, Edinburgh, and Stirling, escalating previous actions. The dispute actually dates back to March of last year, when,

and coalitions with the bourgeoisie, thus practically delaying the development of the class and its maturation into defensive self organization.

Despite the present misleadership, we celebrate the awakening of the proletariat as it participates in mass action and seek to guide it in the right direction toward the class union and to communism.

The question remains: Was this action qualitatively different from previous actions like 50501 and No Kings? To this, we answer with a resounding “no.” What happened was neither a general strike nor a notable “step forward” in comparison to previous action.

It is true, however, that talk of a general strike has become more common, but this is to be expected as the objective conditions worsen and the class organically and spontaneously develops the trade-union consciousness to attain short term objectives. This growing popularity of the term “general strike” may also be a result of appropriation and defangment to instead mean disorganized walk-outs and protests, with no serious worker organization committing to a workplace strike. The role being played here by news outlets, activist groups, and opportunism is negative and serves to misdirect workers towards sterile action, proclaiming the general strike as the ultimate weapon all while lying to workers and telling them that mass protest without serious strike action, like what has been happening before, is tactically correct and that we just need “more organizing” or “more numbers” in general.

Missing from the chagrin of these scoundrels is a serious plan for accomplishing a general strike and a concrete analysis of business unionism and the labor law regime. Only the Communist Party, with its historic experience and political clarity, can correctly give the watchwords that put the working class back on the path of class struggle and towards a serious and effective general strike.

When we look back at the historic 1934 Minneapolis General Strike that has been referenced in comparison to the recent action, there is a stark contrast. At that time, workers organizations were still in the process of being subordinated to the state, with the National Industrial Recovery Act being one such method of government mediation in labor disputes. Communists agitated within the Teamsters, then led by business unionist Daniel Tobin, to push for a strike that encompassed multiple different sectors of workers as well as the unemployed. With a significantly militant and impoverished base of workers, they managed to easily outmaneuver whatever attempts at restriction and anti-militancy that came from leadership. When the time came to strike, other unions struck in solidarity as well.

There was no popular front at play here, nor a united front with interclass and non-worker organizations from above, but rather a united front from below in which workers in their own organizations agitated and committed to serious strike action outside of the limited governmental structures that existed at the time which would have them compromise. Coalitions were made on the explicit grounds of worker organizations and for strike action. The Democratic governor at the time, Floyd Olson, mobilized the National Guard, declared martial law, and banned picketing despite the supposed pro-worker orientation of the Farmer-Labor Party and the broader FDR administration. Federal intervention had forced the employer to accept most of the union’s demands, but this was only to prevent broader social revolt. With the bought time, FDR’s administration was allowed to stabilize and further penetrate workers organizations in order to subordinate them to produce for the imperialist war and allow capitalism to survive.

It is this very same Democratic Party that prepares to cloak itself in a worker veneer as it begins the construction of the future anti-fascist popular front à la Roosevelt. Its real purpose lay in the preservation of capital and of disciplining workers for war. It is the same Democratic “heroes” in office that call for ICE to leave or for immigration reform, but allow their party members to authorize expanded funding and for Walz to mobilize the national guard to protect private property and the capitalist order. It is the same Democratic Party whose “deporter-in-chief” removed nearly 3 million people to be exploited abroad so that the economy could recover from the 2008 crash, beating Trump’s record. The Democratic Party, its non-profit and activist appendages, and the regime union apparatus work to anticipate the organic emergence of working class defensive struggles and seek to corral these energies into their interclass organs to save capitalism and prepare for imperialist war.

Workers need to recognize the mirage for what it is, abandon the false oasis, and resume the path of class struggle and building the class union. To seriously achieve a general strike, it will take a great deal of effort and coordination that has to contend with enemies on all sides that seek to misdirect the struggle, as well as an objective worsening of the conditions of the class. Practically, workers must agitate within their unions for class unionist principles such as removing the no-strike clause, radical economic demands, aligning contracts to expire on May 1st, 2028, and be willing to struggle against business union leadership that would rather compromise. The NLRB straightjacket can, must, and will be broken so as to unleash workers from their slumber and truly fight back. Unorganized and organized workers alike must come together and unite to strike from below, utilizing what they can in existing unions and forming new organs of struggle to put forth their own class demands. It is only by fighting for the class union and ultimately for communist revolution that ICE will be dismantled and for there to be an end to the bourgeois reign of terror.

**For the united trade union front from below and a real general strike!
Against the coming popular front!
Against united fronts from above!
For independence from bourgeois parties and activist coalitions!**

after two months, Diligent withdrew from negotiations. It had offered a 3% raise for those earning up to £40,000, 2% up to £70,000, and nothing above those amounts. In June, workers, called to a “consultative vote,” overwhelmingly rejected the offer.

A 24-hour strike was then called for November 28, followed by a couple of two-day strikes (one of which spanned two week-end days) that concluded on December 9. But the company refused to make a better offer, one that would at least mitigate the effects of inflation.

Two one-week strikes were then called, one from January 12 to 18 of this year and the second from January 26 to 30. Employees at the Peterborough headquarters were also asked to vote on the strike.

In Reading, Diligent workers had been outsourced to work for M&G, (cont pg 7)

January 30 Flyer: Towards a REAL General Strike!

We must fight for an actual general strike! An indefinite strike that halts production, paralyzes profit, and demonstrates the power that a united workers’ movement has. This action is the workers’ strongest weapon for defending against attacks on living standards and resisting violent mass deportation. The general strike will bring in busboys and bus drivers, domestic workers and natives, the organized and unorganized.

While we applaud the fighting spirit of workers across the United States and are encouraged by their willingness to engage in collective action, it won’t do to settle for any distortion of what a general strike is. A general strike is not a one day “economic shutdown” that is pushed by capitalist politicians or employers through calls for individuals to not shop, not go to school or work, or bosses shutting down their own shops for the day and locking out workers.

A general strike is when workers, arm in arm, take a stand against the capitalists and the state through a collective withholding of their labor-power under the leadership of explicit workers’ defensive organizations. It cannot come from decentralized networks of individuals that do not collectively commit to strike.

The interclass groups that lead these efforts seek to direct genuine anger into voting for the Democratic Party, strengthening capitalism and delaying the workers from organizing a militant, organized defense.

Both Democrats and Republicans use ICE and deportations to regulate the labor

On International Workers Day, Opportunists Plot to Deceive the Proletariat

As proletarians around the world suffer at the hands of the global capitalist order, which unmercifully exploits them and is currently offering them up as sacrifice in inter-imperialist war, opportunists everywhere are working tirelessly to channel the barbaric fury of the servile class into the safe channels of peaceful protest and electoral participation. In America, one such brood of democracy-lovers is the May Day Strong coalition. Preaching an “affordability agenda” and “tax justice”, they have committed to organizing a day of “no work, no school, no shopping” for International Workers Day, May 1st, 2026.

While initially characterizing the action as a general strike, this language has mostly been removed from their advertisements for the event, and no wonder, since labor unions make up such a small minority of the groups taking part in the coalition. Of the 205 organizations listed as participants on their website, less than 20 are labor unions. Those unions which are included, such as the American Federation of Teachers and the Communication Workers of America, will probably not call an actual strike and risk breaking their collective bargaining agreements, but will instead encourage their members to participate in the protest as individuals, as was done in Minneapolis, which we have covered in more depth else-

Anti-War Strike Distorted by the Anti-Worker Nationalism of the World Federation of Trade Unions

On Friday, February 6, an international strike of dockworkers from five countries—Italy, Spain, Morocco, Greece, and Turkey—took place against war, arms trafficking, and rearmament, involving some twenty ports. At least, that was the case according to official statements and intentions.

The initiative was promoted by the Italian union, Unione Sindacale di Base (USB) and stemmed from an international meeting held in Genoa on September 26–27, which in turn was preceded by a meeting in Athens in February 2025.

Among the main trade union forces promoting the initiative—in addition to and beyond the USB—is the ENEDEP union, which organizes dockworkers at the terminals managed by the Chinese company COSCO in the port of Piraeus, Athens. ENEDEP has been able to carry out hard-hitting strikes—which we have reported on in our press—with a level of participation and strength among dockworkers that the USB has not yet been able to match. These were strikes against the exploitation imposed by COSCO, a company owned by the Chinese state, a fact that is relevant to the topic of this brief note.

The meeting in Genoa at the end of September took place in the midst of mobilizations against the war and genocide in Gaza, which culminated in the general strikes of September 22 and October 3. Present were—among others—representatives of ENEDEP, the Basque union LAB, and the Port Workers’ Federation of the French CGT. The latter was represented by a leader of the Marseille dockworkers, a member of the militant minority within the CGT known as Unité CGT, whose leader, Olivier Mateu, served as secretary of the CGT’s territorial branch in the Bouches-du-Rhône department—whose capital is Marseille—the UD CGT 13, until the congress last October.

In this case as well, relations between the USB and representatives of Unité CGT have roots dating back at least to the strikes in France against pension reform in the first four months of 2023, when some USB dockworkers from Genoa participated in one of the demonstrations in Marseille.

During that intense workers’ struggle, the 53rd CGT Congress took place in late March, the outcomes of which were in some cases also relevant to what we are writing here.

However, the CGT did not participate in the February 6 strike, neither in Marseille nor in other ports, despite Unité CGT having promoted the action: the February issue of “Unité”—the current’s newsletter—features an article on the strike and carries a front-page photo of one of the USB dockworkers from Genoa, confirming the ties between the Italian grassroots union and this current of internal opposition within the CGT, the regime’s union.

The appeal published on December 23—“Dockworkers Do Not Work for War”—in preparation for the strike contains some commendable statements, such as, among its objectives, “opposing the EU’s rearmament plan” and “block all arms shipments from our ports to the genocide in Palestine and to any other war zone,” and the action itself—an international strike uniting workers across artificial national divisions—is significant.

However, the focus placed on the Palestinian issue—regarded as almost exclusively central—undermines the proclaimed proletarian internationalism of this trade union action. Not because it is not right and necessary to oppose the war unleashed on Gaza and still dragging on, but because it is viewed as an exclusively local and national conflict, rather than one between two fronts of imperialist states, between which the Palestinians are crushed. Thus, inevitably, one does not take the path “against the war in Palestine,” but the one leading to “yes to imperialist war,” to “liberate Palestine.”

The conflict in Gaza is part of the general inter-imperialist clash, not an isolated case but a link in the chain of conflicts lead-

market, cyclicly opening and closing borders in order to secure the exploitation of precarious workers for low wages while undercutting domestic workers wages. Immigrant and domestic workers must unite in common defense of wages and living standards across borders!

When the established labor unions tell workers that they cannot violate the no-strike clause in their contracts, as they did during the protests in Minneapolis, they undermine the very action required for a real general strike. Mere protests without indefinite strike action, which can leverage the labor-power of large swathes of the working class, channels the rightful rage and pain of workers towards temporary symbolic action behind demands that are neither truly fought for, nor something capitalism will ever yield without extreme struggle; at best, it results in a temporary reform that can be easily revoked as class tensions subside. By telling workers to follow Democratic Party-linked groups, they funnel the energies of the class into class collaboration and abandon what really gives workers power: the strike.

Simply calling for “more organizing” and “more numbers” isn’t enough. We must restore the meaning and power of the general strike with a radical change in tactics.

We need to abandon the united front from above with interclass political and activist groups that misdirect the struggle and work towards a united front from below, i.e. one that combines all worker’s defensive organizations towards collective strike action.

where. The purpose of this is to dilute the general strike into ineffective and individual acts of protest to ultimately aim for electoral “solutions”.

Their affordability agenda, which reads almost as a left wing counterpart to the Republican Project 2025, claims to offer a roadmap for policymakers to “put the good life for everyone back within reach” through reforms like a federal minimum wage increase or fully funded public housing. Who can remember a time in America when “the good life” really was something that everyone could enjoy? True, earlier generations of American proletarians did benefit from concessions given by the capitalist class to appease them in the wake of the global counter revolution, but these concessions were only made possible by the massive accumulation of capital which occurred during post world war expansion, and were mostly only extended to white workers. It was these concessions that stabilized capital, and allowed the American bourgeoisie to become one of the great plunderers of the world. With this in mind the call by the coalition to “make America great again” can only be understood as the most vile opportunism.

Reforms such as the ones put forward in the agenda never function as the reformers would suggest. At best they are only a false hope for a better life, and at worst they

ing toward the third imperialist world war.

The asymmetry of forces must not deceive us. Hamas, and the other militias allied with it that governed Gaza and still partly control it, are puppets of the regional imperialist powers—Iran, Turkey, Qatar—which exploit the blood of the Palestinian proletariat for their capitalist interests. The truce agreement between Qatar, Turkey, the United States, and other Arab countries was the most striking confirmation of this.

The USB leadership, on the other hand, has always refrained from denouncing the actions of the militias affiliated with Iranian imperialism—operating in Gaza (Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad), in Lebanon (Hezbollah), in Yemen (Houthis), in Syria, and in Iraq—as acts of war by that imperialism. These mercenary gangs, some of which are very well-equipped and organized, had and have the objective of defending the capitalist interests of the Iranian bourgeois regime, coming into conflict or reaching agreements with other regional imperialisms, including, of course, the Israeli one, and with the U.S. one backing them.

Because in the inter-imperialist conflict, Iran and its so-called proxies, backed by the Chinese imperial giant, represent, for now, the weaker side, and also because China continues to usurp the name of communism, the USB leadership substitutes class struggle with geopolitics, and anti-capitalism with anti-Americanism.

Last December, the USB leader responsible for the union’s international relations traveled to China as a guest at a conference organized by the Chinese Marxist Academy of Social Sciences.

Moreover, the support given by USB leaders to the “Chinese path to the falsification of socialism” clashes directly with the struggle of the Piraeus dockworkers against the ruthless exploitation by a state-owned company. And also with the fact that China is Israel’s second-largest trading partner, where it has made massive infrastructure investments, such as in the port of Haifa, and sells surveillance systems used to spy on and target Palestinians. The same systems, according to “Le Monde” on March 2, are sold to the Iranian regime to monitor and suppress uprisings in that country.

It is no coincidence that one of the top leaders of the Greek trade union PAME—of which the Piraeus dockworkers’ union ENEDEP is a member—in an article published in “Unité” last February in his capacity as deputy secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), defines China, as well as Russia, as an “imperialist center”: “The working class has no reason to align itself with the interests of an imperialist center, whether represented by the United States and the EU or by China and Russia” (“Trade Unionism at a Crossroads: Class Struggle or Imperialist Integration? The Role of the ITUC”—George Perros, “Unité” No. 7, February 2026).

However, it is precisely within the WFTU that the opportunism masquerading behind a false proletarian internationalism is most clearly evident, bending it to the interests of a section of the imperialist centers.

At the aforementioned 53rd CGT Congress, held from March 27 to 31, 2023, the most militant factions, mainly organized within the Unité CGT wing, achieved surprising results. The report on the CGT’s activities presented by the outgoing majority was rejected by 50.32% of the votes. But an amendment presented by Unité CGT, calling for the union to leave the openly collaborationist international trade union confederation—the ITUC—and join the World Federation of Trade Unions, received a much lower number of votes. This was also due to the speech by Sarah Selami, an Iranian trade union activist in exile in France, who read a message from the Tehran tram workers’ union (Sherkat-e Vahed, Sandikaye kargarane sherkate vahed – Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Com-

This means forming class struggle formations or workplace committees, inside or outside existing unions, among the organized and unorganized, committed to increasing the strength of the struggle to achieve the immediate demands of workers without holding back from taking action that would break the suffocating rules of the National Labor Relations Board which are designed to contain the working class from leveraging its full strike power. We must reject compliance with the no-strike clause in contracts and organize towards collective action across sectors, unions, and borders by organizing in solidarity for May 1st, 2028 alongside the unions that have already taken this step, or organize a real general strike much sooner.

Out of this united front must come the combination of workplace committees, unions, and workers into a single class trade union that includes all workers against the wage system. Only the international unity of workers, organized in these class unions and led by the communist party, can destroy the capitalist system that produces ICE, prisons, deportations, and poverty.

For a real general strike directed by workers’ organizations that coordinate collective mass strikes!

Against united fronts with interclass capitalist groups!

For the class union!

act as a stumbling block for the class struggle and only prolong exploitation. The real beneficiaries of the affordability agenda, if it ever could be put into action, are the petty bourgeois business owners and professionals, represented by the majority of the activist groups taking part in the coalition, who are currently trembling at the thought that with the arrival of the next overproduction crisis, they might find themselves sliding into the ever widening ranks of the proletariat.

We can find solace in the fact that for the most part, the proletarians have not yet allowed themselves to be deceived by these false friends of the worker. When May first comes around, millions of wage earners will go about their business as usual, and the organizers of May Day Strong will pat themselves on the back, post some footage of people waving signs around on their social media accounts, and begin planning their next exhibition. It will take a great disruption and a sharp decline in living standards before the sleeping giant of the proletariat is awakened from its long slumber, and when it does, the International Communist Party will be there to lead it in the final struggle against capital, the world communist revolution.

pany) in which, among other things, she stated:

“Our warm greetings to all French workers, who have always been among the pioneers of the struggle against the global capitalist order (...). The brutality of the [French] police toward protesting workers demonstrates that, when the profits of the capitalists and anti-worker laws are at stake, there is no substantial difference between the capitalist states of the world (...). Three of our well-known activists—Reza Shahabi, Davoud Razavi, and Hassan Saedi—had already traveled to France at the invitation of French trade unions (...). All three have been imprisoned again for several months (...). We expect nothing from the capitalist states and powers that pursue only their own interests. We rely solely on the strength of the working class in Iran and on the support of workers’ movements around the world, such as yours, dear comrades in France. Victory to the working class in France, in Iran, and around the world. Long live international workers’ solidarity. Tehran, March 27, 2023.” How relevant today!

Sarah Salemi then went on to describe the struggle of the “Women, Life, Freedom” movement and its ruthless repression:

“This uprising is the continuation and culmination of struggles that have been underway for some time. I will mention the most important and recent ones: the mass movement of winter 2017–18 and then that of fall 2019, whose slogan was ‘bread, work, freedom,’ reflecting the anger of a large number of exploited and unemployed workers neglected under an unbridled ultraliberal order (...).”

“Several trade union organizations, both global and national, have offered their support (...). Almost all of them, except for the World Federation of Trade Unions (...) whose silence regarding the events that have shaken Iran for more than six months is deafening. It is the same silence it observed regarding the movement of autumn 2019 and the bloody repression that followed. But when one considers the close ties this organization has maintained for several years with representatives of the Iranian Islamic regime, the reasons for this complicit silence become clear. In fact, one of the leaders [Ali Reza Mahjoub, ed.] of the Workers’ Houses (Khane-ye Kargar) has been a member of the WFTU Presidential Council since May 2022 (...). The main activity of the Workers’ House, alongside the Islamic councils in enterprises (Shora-ye Eslami), consists of controlling and repressing the labor movement, preventing the formation of independent unions, and signing the agreement on the poverty-level minimum wage every year during tripartite negotiations. A group that is not a union but an ideological-political party, linked to the Islamic regime, sits as a representative of Iranian workers with the WFTU.”

The World Federation of Trade Unions, therefore, does not only bring together class-based—that is, militant—unions around the world. The criterion is quite different: it brings together unions led by political groups that oppose only U.S. imperialism and its allies. In countries where bourgeois regimes are adversaries of U.S. imperialism, it does not accept militant unions but rather collaborationist, regime-aligned, even state-controlled unions, such as those in Iran, and excludes the militant unions persecuted by those regimes!

This happens because these opportunist union leaders subordinate the class struggle to so-called geopolitics.

And this also explains why, during the international dockworkers’ strike on February 6, a relationship was established in Turkey with the Liman-İş union—the dockworkers’ union federation affiliated with the Hak-İş trade union confederation, a Turkish regime union with an Islamist ideology, even further to the right than the largest Turkish regime trade union confederation, Türk-İş—against which the more

militant trade union confederations DISK and KESK have been in opposition for decades—and which considers the strike a tool to be used as little as possible. In fact, on February 6, it carried out a purely symbolic action. This Turkish regime-aligned union joined the initiative solely because it helped pit workers against the bourgeois state of Israel, as desired by the Turkish bourgeois regime!

We communists know and warn workers that political-union opportunism—which is also espoused by the leaders of the USB union—will, when regional imperialist conflicts erupt into the third imperialist world war, call on workers to take sides with one of the two parties, the anti-American one; in other words, they will call them to war.

Already today, in the face of the U.S. and Israeli attack against Iran, they are taking a stand in defense of the Iranian regime, hiding this stance behind the slogan: “in defense of the Iranian people.” But the Iranian

working class, driven into the hell of imperialist war by the global capitalist system as a whole, and above all by its own bourgeois regime, has only one way to defend itself: to lose the war as soon as possible—certainly not to die defending a regime that only a few weeks ago was still massacring them with bullets in the streets.

In every country, the working class has no bourgeois regime to prefer and for which to shed its blood. Its sole struggle is for its immediate interests—economic, trade-union—and for the revolutionary conquest of political power: not war between states but the social struggle that becomes revolution.

Revolutionaries, communists, distinguish themselves in this: they do not call on workers to defend the bourgeois homeland but, on the contrary, hope for the military defeat of their own capitalist regime, because they know that this will weaken it in the face of the rising workers’ struggle for power.

A Strike In the UK...

(continued from pg. 6)

a company primarily focused on pensions, formerly part of the Prudential insurance group. Although they were previously M&G employees, they are now, while working in M&G offices, employed by Diligenta—doing the same work, perhaps even sitting at the same desks, but for lower pay!

In Reading, a picket line at the edge of a large roundabout was cheered on by the blaring horns of cars and trucks. The picket’s location was problematic since M&G’s offices are on the top floor of a large building housing the offices of many other companies: but of course, undecided workers were recognized at the entrance and encouraged to support the strike.

Other Diligenta workers who work from home greatly appreciated participating in the picket line, which reduced their sense of isolation through the solidarity of their strik-

ing colleagues. It is beneficial for strikers to gather at a picket line, in that physical space that divides the proletariat from the bourgeoisie, where the contrast between opposing class interests is evident and palpable.

At the picket line, the only explicit political presence was that of vendors of *The Socialist*, “descendants” of the old “militant tendency” that sought to infiltrate and transform the Labour Party into an “authentic” socialist party.

There was also a supporter of the Corbynite party “Your Party,” which somehow thinks it can resurrect “the parliamentary path to socialism,” and one from the Green Party, which is trying to cultivate a “left-wing” image. The Labour Party obviously continues to stand as the insurmountable barrier to any possible economic action by workers in the UK, just like the Democratic Party, with its particular left-wing satellites, in the United States. And yet, as in the United States, the old and established “lesser evil”

of the Democratic Party and the Labour Party is seen as “the only realistic opposition” to the openly right-wing parties led by Trump and Farage, thereby defending capitalism. Although the Unite union is still affiliated with the Labour Party, its “political base,” it can—and on some occasions has—drastically reduced its financial contribution. Individual members also have the option of choosing whether or not to allocate the portion of their union dues intended to fund the Labour Party’s political activities, such as the election of its candidates, etc. It is clear, however, that Unite continues to refuse to even consider the possibility of severing its “historic” ties with the Labour Party, despite the frequent and ongoing examples of equally “historic” betrayal by the Labour Party against the working class—too numerous now to mention.

GENERAL MEETING

January 24–25, 2026 [RG154]

Faced with the catastrophic failure of the bourgeois world and the revelation of all its lies, the Communist Party, the only refuge for the working class, is preparing tomorrow’s explosive recovery.

As agreed, our small network of militants met on January 24th and 25th for our regular international meeting.

We reserved the Saturday session for organizational and coordination aspects of our activities. Specific and very detailed reports were presented on the following areas:

- life, commitments and interventions

of the individual sections;

- coordinated editing of periodicals in different languages and publication plan;
- operation, maintenance and support of the single international website;
- methods and results of online propaganda;
- managing correspondence with readers and candidates;
- the situation of the trade union movement and the possibilities and methods of our intervention in Italy and the United States;
- cash flow statement.

The following Sunday, we listened to reports on the progress of the studies, a stream of work that, in these difficult and closed times, materializes within the living structure of the party that ideal bridge of science, knowledge, and experience, connecting the past to the future full and powerful unfolding of the movement for communism.

These are the topics covered and of which we give, divided below and in the next issue, a first summary:

- Ukraine: The proletarians of Ukraine

and Russia would benefit from the immediate defeat of their own bourgeoisies

- Venezuela: In the clash between imperialist powers, the working class has no side to favor;
- Philippine Society;
- Historical Function and Internal Relations of the Party. We could postpone the following to the next issue:
- The Agrarian Question, Capitalism;
- Iran: The Pahlavi Monarchy;
- Germany: Old but Still Aggressive Capitalism;
- On the Party’s Trade Union Policy in

Italy;

- Race-Class in the US. (*)

It goes without saying that these research and development contributions, even when produced by the efforts of a single comrade, have no individual character; they are a product of the “collective brain” of the party, and of the Revolution. As such, they are both perfect and perfectible. Perfectible with further study and work, and they are not intended to be the subject of debate or approval by leaders or rank and file.

End of report in the next issue

Germany: Old but Still Aggressive Capitalism

Germany occupies a central position in the European and global economic order. As the continent’s leading industrial power, despite the structural crisis it is undergoing, it exerts a decisive influence on the economic policies of the European Union, making German capitalism one of the pillars of the Western system, and it is significant, though not decisive, on the world market and in supply chains.

At the same time, Germany’s military role has grown significantly in recent years. Post-2022 rearmament -2022, the famous Zeitenwende, “epochal turning point,” and more active participation in NATO missions—in Lithuania, the Mediterranean, and Kosovo, as well as large-scale exercises in the Baltic and Poland—indicate a strengthening of its influence within the Alliance. However, while emerging as a major military actor, Germany remains bound by U.S. command and the historical limits of its strategic autonomy.

This evolution is not a contingent response to Russian intervention in Ukraine; it is part of a broader dynamic linked to the global crisis of capitalism and the resulting resurgence of rivalries, of which the war in Ukraine is only one manifestation. German rearmament is part of a general militarization of international relations among state giants, an explosion of capitalism’s historical contradictions.

The chapter presented at this meeting addresses the dual nature of contemporary Germany: on the one hand, a central economic power yet one undergoing a crisis of its production model; on the other, an expanding military actor.

In recent years, Germany has embarked on a strengthening of the Bundeswehr, described by the government as “the most ambitious military reform since the war.” The budget planned for 2026 is 108 billion euros, a significant increase from 2025, equivalent to 2.8% of GDP, up from 2.4% in 2025, with the goal of reaching 3.5% by 2029. The program includes investments aimed at modernizing land,

air, naval, and cyber capabilities, with a focus on space and integrated defense. Much of the spending will be absorbed by the domestic industry, with companies such as Rheinmetall and Diehl Defence at the forefront. However, operational and personnel limitations remain, preventing the Bundeswehr from meeting NATO standards in all ground and logistics units.

On the politico-military front, the strengthening of the Bundeswehr aims to consolidate Germany’s role within NATO and “European security,” or, more accurately, to ensure the defense of its own imperialist interests. Yet a technological and strategic dependence on the United States persists. German capitalism, like its continental counterparts, is seeking its own strategic autonomy, in a dynamic that will intensify rivalry with stronger imperialist powers. This dynamic is evident in the growing geopolitical disputes in the Arctic and in strategic regions such as Greenland.

Germany is, in fact, an imperialism without an empire. The rearmament of the Bundeswehr therefore serves not so much for defense but is part of a “broader European strategy aimed at ensuring autonomy and influence on the global stage,” vis-à-vis the superpowers: the need for the German (and European) bourgeoisie not to remain permanently crushed by the vise of its major imperialist competitors.

The national defense industry, supported by substantial contracts awarded to the private sector, not only modernizes the army but also creates an industrial and tech-

nological capacity capable of competing in the lucrative arms market.

The growth in military spending and the planning of strategic infrastructure show how the German bourgeoisie is preparing for future conflict scenarios in which military confrontation will become inevitable. However, operational limitations—ground units that are not fully efficient, logistical shortcomings, and insufficient personnel—make this autonomy partial and dependent on the United States and its technological and command systems.

The diplomatic dimension confirms this weakness. China’s cancellation of the German foreign minister’s visit to China on October 24 is significant. Disagreements over semiconductors and rare earths, along with China’s stance toward Russia, reveal a German capitalism that is indeed integrated into global financial and commercial flows but lacks coercive tools equivalent to those of Washington or Beijing. This weakness—military, technological, and diplomatic—drives European imperialisms, each on its own account, to strengthen their internal forces, preparing themselves on the global stage to enter future imperialist conflicts not entirely unamed.

Another example of a lack of autonomous strength is the dispute over Greenland, which has further highlighted European impotence within the so-called Pax Americana. The Arctic territory, formally part of the Kingdom of Denmark but endowed with broad autonomy, holds strategic importance due to the presence of critical mineral resources and control over the new Arctic routes made accessible by melting ice. Faced with U.S. claims, the European Union and Germany have reacted solely by appealing to the now-buried, ever-mythical international law. Any European military presence in the Arctic is envisioned within the NATO perimeter, that is, under U.S. control.

The German bourgeoisie, like that of all old capitalist systems, would like to revive the lost vitality of its economic and industrial apparatus. But the arc of a nation’s historical evolution cannot be traced backward. In fact, in recent years, the trend has solidified even among German industrial firms to relocate production and investments. A growing share of companies is moving production abroad, where they find lower costs, fewer regulations and burdens, and lower costs for various rents than in socially decrepit and parasitic Europe. In 2024, 37% of industrial firms reported considering production cuts or moving production abroad, up from 32% in 2023 and 21% in 2022. The percentage reaches 45% among the most energy-intensive companies. This phenomenon is most pronounced among companies with over 500 employees. Investments are flowing to Asia, North America, and Eastern Europe.

The loss of production capacity in energy-intensive civilian sectors and the relocation of part of manufacturing represent the structural complement to the Zeitenwende: while capital tends to shift production and investments toward more favorable environments, the state concentrates fiscal and political resources in the military, technology, and “dual-use” sectors, ensuring the conditions for the reproduction of the bourgeoisie’s economic and political power. The contradiction between rearmament and deindustrialization cannot be resolved, but only managed and institutionalized, reflecting a transformation of the forms through which the bourgeoisie seeks to force the accumulation of capital and defend its hegemonic position within the European and global system.

On the Party’s Trade Union Policy in Italy: Report to the General Meeting of January 2026

In Italy, where the party can boast a continuous presence within the trade union movement and has conducted a thorough examination of its history, it has modified its slogans in the postwar period. We fully uphold our long-standing general positions, with which we remain in complete continuity, but the context in which the proletariat has found itself fighting has changed.

In “Il Partito Comunista” No. 64 of 1979, our slogan regarding Italy appeared: “Out of and against the current trade unions.”

We had already defined the trade unions founded in the postwar period—CGIL, CISL, and UIL, as “tailored to the Mussolini model,” subservient to the state and representatives of the bourgeois parties, a reflection of the new inter-imperialist balances: we defined them as “regime” unions.

The article noted that up to that point the most militant section of the Italian proletariat had been found within the CGIL, which had been forced by workers’ pressure to lead major strikes. We therefore concluded that, up to that moment, the process of integrating the unions into the state machinery was still reversible, not yet complete, so the possibility could not be ruled out—in the wake of the workers’ struggle—of winning back the CGIL to a class-based policy. “That is why we spoke of a ‘reconquest by force.’ If that had not happened, we said at the time, new class-based organizations would have had to emerge (...) That is why our militants waged the battle within the CGIL.”

From 1975 onward, while widespread workers’ struggles were openly sabotaged by the CGIL, “the most combative and con-

scious section of the proletariat tends to abandon the existing unions and give life to new organizations.”

In 1980, when the first glimmers of future grassroots unionism were visible, we wrote: “While the slogan ‘outside and against the union’ cannot be made a prerequisite for joining any workers’ committee (...) communist militants must work to ensure it becomes the dominant orientation within them (...) by fighting resolutely against those who take the ambiguous and convoluted position of ‘inside and outside the union’ or, conversely, those who claim that these small committees are already in themselves a new union and must aim in the short term to establish themselves as a class-based union. Instead, we are witnessing the first organizational signs of very narrow layers of militant workers, whom it would be more accurate to define as nuclei of the future class-based union, and whom the Party must help to fully and consistently express the anti-opportunist and anti-capitalist energy they potentially possess.”

Our slogan was confirmed in the article “Terms of the Party’s Trade Union Activity,” in *Il Partito Comunista* no. 202, 1992:

“With regard to the unions, the Party expresses positions of a principled nature concerning the necessity of broad economic organizations open to all wage earners. Through its organized faction within them, the Party seeks to gain decisive influence in these organizations and, in the revolutionary phase, control of their leadership (...) “Another issue is the (cont pg 8)

In the late 1950s, Iran was a country on the cusp of capitalism, ruled by the monarchy of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was brought back from exile in Rome and reinstated to power by the U.S.-backed coup that overthrew the Mossadegh government. It had its own national oil company from which foreign firms profited.

The following decade was a period of transition and economic and social transformation that laid the groundwork for the events of the next 20 years. “National” oil was managed by the “Seven Sisters.”

After the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1962, the regime, which until then had governed with “moderation” out of respect for the powerful Shi’ite clergy, launched a plan of social and economic reforms in response to discontent over the social disparities that had characterized the previous years, with the aim of transforming Persian society into a modern, Westernized industrial power: a series of measures by the monarchical regime that would come to be known as the “White Revolution.” With substantial oil revenues—of which the Iranian state retained 50% of the royalties—a massive transformation program was launched in 1963 to be implemented over a 15-year period. Some measures implemented immediately were approved by a plebiscite with 99% of votes in favor, driven by the hope of improving the difficult living conditions of the time.

The program included, among other things: 1) abolition of large estates and distribution of land to farmers; 2) women’s suffrage; 3) compulsory education and literacy programs in rural areas; 4) privatization of state-owned enterprises; 5) worker profit-sharing; 6) nationalization of forests, pastures, and water sources; 7) protection of maternity rights; 8) public education up to age 14; 9) a national healthcare system; 10) price stabilization; 11) the fight against corruption.

But with the transformation and industrialization of Iranian society, marked by deep ethnic and economic disparities, the initial enthusiasm waned. Modernization, at times forced—and pursued primarily under pressure from the Kennedy administration to prevent the “communist” opposition linked to Soviet capitalism from gaining support and influence as the crisis deepened—did not yield the desired results.

Furthermore, for several years the clergy had been exploiting anti-Western sentiment to discredit the regime, fearing excessive secularization of the country.

The reform movement, which was intended to stem the crisis and silence opposing factions, instead of bringing a period of stability to the regime, ended up bolstering anti-monarchist opposition.

Furthermore, the expansion of state intervention in certain sectors had enabled widespread corruption which, coupled with foreign interference, did nothing to alleviate the social disparities and the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few that had characterized the country in previous years. Modernization was superficial and limited to a few, favoring a narrow elite, which led to widespread resentment among various social strata—peasants, the urban proletariat, and the petty bourgeoisie—who began to see the clergy (the monarchy’s historic enemy in recent decades) as an ally and supporter of the national cause, against the Crown, which was viewed as foreign and Western, authoritarian and corrupt.

Masses of peasants and shepherds had been forced to abandon rural areas to move to major urban centers, swelling the ranks of degraded suburbs lacking services, which became reservoirs of unemployment and a sub-proletariat increasingly hostile to the monarchy’s economic program.

In conclusion, although there had been some concessions of civil rights, the economic reforms failed, fueling social divisions and creating a wide gap between urban and rural areas.

In the countryside, the agrarian reform—the central pillar of the initiative—shattered the old feudal and serfdom relationships and distributed the land, accelerated the development of capitalist farms and a new landowning bourgeoisie, which became the dominant class in a country still deeply agrarian, gaining great power, even over the

Historical Function and Internal Relations of the Party

Although we still find ourselves in a profoundly counterrevolutionary phase, we work, in the tradition of the communists who preceded us, toward the preparation of the future general rebirth of the working-class revolutionary movement, enriched by all the achievements of past experience.

It is in the awareness of this necessary common goal that the will and passion of the party’s militants for communism and the urgency to escape the hell of bourgeois society are projected into a unified, productive, and rational activity aimed at advancing the project of human life, the program of communism.

Within its hierarchy of disciplined and organic work, where “no one commands and everyone is commanded,” the various organs of the party move as a group in battle formation, attacked on all sides by a relentless and omnipresent enemy. Within the common trench, the militants, in contact with the social struggle of the working class,

still-minority industrial bourgeoisie.

The latter, still in its formative stages, was already brutally exploiting the working class.

Official statistics indicate that in 1966, out of a population of 25 million, of the 1,200,000 employed in manufacturing, 200,000 worked between 50 and 60 hours a week, 250,000 worked more than 64 hours, 100,000 more than 71, while 200,000 did not have steady jobs and worked fewer than 30 hours. The only authorized union, the “Iranian Workers’ Organization,” was an appendage of the state, and its leaders were members of SAVAK.

This secret police force of the regime, established in 1957, was composed of well-paid senior officials tasked with suppressing all forms of dissent through surveillance, arrest, and torture of political opponents and working-class leaders. As the crisis and tensions intensified, SAVAK assumed ever greater power and a central role, benefiting from progressive and substantial increases in state funding. Many opposition groups began organizing clandestinely, mainly in mosques. This occurred very gradually: it would take another 15 years before the fall of the monarchy.

The failure of the reforms and SAVAK’s repression fueled an increasingly deep and uncontrollable social rift. Among the leading voices of protest emerged Ayatollah Khomeini, who was arrested on June 5, 1963, following a failed plot against the Shah; he was later exiled. The street clashes that continued in the following days in Tehran, Qom, and other cities ended in a brutal crackdown that claimed 15,000 victims, marking the beginning of the Khomeinist opposition.

This evolution of the context in the early 1960s represents a watershed in the history of post-World War II Iran, the genesis of a series of crises and significant changes that would culminate in the “revolution” of the second half of the 1970s, the fall of the monarchy (supported by the French, British, and especially American bourgeoisie), and Khomeini’s seizure of power—an event that would mark the beginning of the Islamic regime still in place today.

The plan for state intervention in certain sectors within a market economy—however emerging—especially during an economic recession, does not resolve the contradictions of capitalism, nor does it mitigate its consequences for the proletariat, which in Iran remained crushed under a peasant and industrial bourgeoisie and a state apparatus that grants only apparent rights.

It is worth recalling here the role of the historic “Communist” party, the Stalinist Tudeh, which, after having supported the nationalization of the AIOC, the Iranian oil company, in the previous decade, maintained close ties with Moscow throughout the 1960s, operating de facto underground following the growing repression by the Pahlavis, with its cadres often in prison or in exile. This party, which had already sided on previous occasions with the Shi’ite ayatollahs—who were also opposed to Western interference in the country—aimed for an “anti-imperialist” policy—that is, one aimed at supporting greater intervention and hegemony by the USSR in Iranian oil affairs—influencing part of the protests and contributing to the emergence of various left-wing groups, especially among university students, who were hostile to the American dictatorship, increasingly perceived as the sole evil to be overthrown. The struggles, therefore, as has almost always been the case—and not only in Iran—remained confined to the transition from one bourgeois regime to another, from one master to another.

The working and peasant classes, lacking their own class-based political autonomy and an authentically revolutionary Marxist party, could do nothing but follow the impulses of the merchants, the petty bourgeoisie, and its reactionary and anti-proletarian leaderships, the national-communist “anti-imperialist” movements, to student movements, and to anti-Western religious movements, just as had happened in the previous decade, and as we shall see will happen in the next, with increasingly widespread support for Islamism, and just as is still happening today.

“breathe the air” of communism, behave as communists, and already live in communism. They defend the party’s harmonious working atmosphere, which fosters the full development of all militants—including on a personal, intellectual, and practical level—according to the principle “from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs,” across all sectors of political activity, so that, in principle, every comrade is qualified for all the party’s tasks.

Today’s formal party tends to align itself with the historical party of the past. History has seen the formal parties of communism rise and fall. Only that party which has fully and correctly absorbed the lessons of the historical party will be able to lead the rising proletarian masses in the supreme act of revolution.

The living formal party, engaged in the daily social struggle, continually adds new elements of experience to the historical party’s legacy.

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Fraternal consideration among comrades

The formal party is not the sum of its members; the party precedes its members; members come and go, but the party remains, an impersonal prefiguration of the future society. The consciousness of communism exists only within the collective of the party—the party in the broadest sense—and is reflected only partially in the minds of individuals.

This impersonality requires internal re-

lations guided by fraternal regard among comrades, entrusting the resolution of all issues to an impersonal scientific method, in the awareness that it is the organic whole of the party that can distinguish the correct path from deviations.

The party, in fact, united by a common goal and guided by a fully formulated program, carved by history into a single solid block, which contains within it the solution to all fundamental tactical and programmatic questions, rejects the method of internal political struggle. Just as, having rejected the filthy bourgeois ideology of democracy, it also excludes within itself the recourse to the primitive electoral method in the search for truth.

In this too, the party foreshadows the rational and fraternal organization of the future communist world—a world without conflict, the true human community—which can arise only through the historical overcoming of all class divisions.

The Three Fundamental Tasks of the Party

As stated in 1926 in the Lyon Theses, revolutionary preparation requires the party to maintain continuity across three areas: the defense of theory, the defense of the party's health, and its commitment to the defensive struggles of the workers.

Respect for the strict tactical limits imposed by the lessons of the historical party and the correct assessment of concrete economic and historical conditions, as well as the real balance of social forces, guide forecasts for the future and the methods of external activity.

The defense of theory and the concept of the maximum program takes concrete form in study, in its continuous presentation to the party and in the periodical press, to distinguish them from those of enemy and falsely similar currents.

Preserving the unity and effectiveness of the party organization and passing it on across generations of militants requires a bulwark against contamination and foreign influences emanating from the prevailing bourgeois world. But it is only through the methods of its organic and fraternal work that the party can consistently and without self-contradiction defend itself against any elements or groups that find themselves at odds with the historical program, the continuity of its tactics, and the impersonal forms of communist militancy.

Finally, direct physical participation in the defensive struggles of the workers is essential in order to encourage their development and increase the party's influence over the organized proletariat, constantly emphasizing the connection between immediate partial struggles and the final revolutionary objective.

However small the party may be and however unfavorable the current conditions for the return of the proletarian offensive may be, the party always claims all forms of activity characteristic of favorable periods. It utilizes the various and diverse tools, and the individuals drawn to the party by their need for communism—endowed with different skills and abilities—and directs them toward its unified and disciplined activity.

The comrade-speaker has read here significant quotations from Wilhelm Liebknecht ("Studieren, Propagandieren, Organisieren"), Eleanor Marx, and Lenin.

The Defense of Doctrine

Theory and action are dialectically inseparable fields. Theory, before being codified in texts and theses, emerged in the mid-19th century as a historical-social product, the dynamic result of the clash between real forces of considerable size and scope. Drawing also on those cases where the final outcome is a defeat of the revolutionary forces, a continuous infusion of historical experience is carried out collectively by the party, through its activity within the class and collective study.

While the formal party affirms the totality of its historical tasks in the pursuit of its central objective of the revolutionary preparation of the proletariat, in both favorable and unfavorable times, given the current situation in which revolutionary energy is at an all-time low, the party's primary practical task remains the examination of the historical course of the struggle in its entirety and the defense of the theory of Marxist communism in light of contemporary facts. It is a mistake to define this task as a literary or intellectual activity, since it is a continuous critical effort necessary to prepare the subjective foundations for a decisive class struggle when the conditions arise.

At present, given our small numbers, our relatively weak ties to the workers' movement, and the low level of the defensive struggle, our most important weapon remains that of criticism.

Born from the womb of history, an expression of a social movement embodied by the proletariat, communist criticism constitutes the most powerful weapon of the oppressed class. Without it, even the most resolute proletariat is doomed to defeat. It is not an academic exercise for scholars, but rather the collective brain of the Party that synthesizes all the data of human progress in order to make the best use of proletarian energies in its work of exterminating and destroying the existing order.

Our Anti-Culturalism

As Marx writes in *Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*: "Criticism is not a passion of the intellect; it is the intellect of passion. It is not an anatomical scalpel; it is a weapon. Its object is its enemy, whom it does not wish to refute, but to annihilate. In fact, in the essence of those conditions, it is already refuted." The defense of the program is not a theoretical luxury for communists, but a practical necessity of the class struggle. It is with the weapons of criticism that we diagnose the death of this infamous order, in the certainty that we can carry out its historical sentence with the sharpest criticism of all weapons.

"In 1912, a congress of young socialists in Bologna gave rise to an important battle between the culturalists and the anti-culturalists (...) The anti-culturalists protested vigorously, arguing that (...) the acquisition of theoretical consciousness—which the left has nonetheless firmly defended as the common heritage of the party and the youth movement—must not be used as a condition to paralyze all those who are driven to struggle simply by the impulse of socialist sentiments and the enthusiasm that social conditions provoke in the natural course of events (...) Correct Marxist practice holds that the consciousness of both the

individual and the masses follows action; and that action follows the drive of economic interest. Only within the class party do consciousness and, under certain circumstances, the decision to act precede class conflict; but this possibility is organically inseparable from the molecular interaction of the initial physical and economic impulses" ("History of the Communist Left").

The Party is not formed on the basis of individual consciousness: it is neither required nor possible for every militant to become conscious of, let alone master, class doctrine in a cultural sense, nor is it entirely possible even for individual Party leaders. Consciousness consists solely in the organic unity of the Party.

We reject the conception of the party as a collection of enlightened sages. It is the impersonal organ of the party that is wise. The Party is a material force whose wise and conscious action determines the great developments of history, but only when it encounters the gigantic thrust coming from the lower ranks of the class—from the ignorant and the unconscious—as a natural and physical phenomenon. Engels: "It will be the non-socialists who will make the socialist revolution"; Lenin: "We will make the revolution with the hands of others." Marxist socialism overturns, in theory and in politics, the democratic and popular misconception. It shows that the subjects of history are the classes. The class of the proletariat in upheaval possesses within itself the driving forces of the revolution. But the aspirations and ideology of the workers are determined from the outside, by the philosophy of the class that holds the monopoly of the means of production, and thus of culture. The Party's doctrine is the historical synthesis of those latent forces, and it alone can restore to the proletariat full self-awareness and the courage not to seek the means of its ascent outside itself, in the petty bourgeoisie.

On the Party's... *(continued from pg. 7)*

assessment of current trade unions, our attitude toward them, and the tactics the Party adopts in various circumstances. In this, the Party's action is linked to the interpretation of facts and the study of different situations, which is not immune to approximation and requires progressive clarifications and corrections (...)

"The Party's assessments and tactics regarding the current trade unions will therefore likely not be identical in all countries and circumstances. The Party's directive to cease organizing within the CGIL and to rebuild the class-based union 'outside and against the regime's union' is not a general principle of Party action, but the result of an assessment of the situation that has developed in Italy (...)

"It is possible that the working class may, in a phase of recovery, adopt organizational forms different from the traditional ones, which we cannot foresee today. The COBAS are therefore of interest to us not because they manifest original forms of workers' organization, but because they express the tendency toward reorganization against collaboratorist politics."

The pre-fascist CGL was an instrument of the working class directed by professional counterrevolutionaries. The current CGIL is an organization of the bourgeois regime, to which it answers and whose interests it serves, which keeps workers in line so they do not organize for the struggle.

Sporadic workplace struggles—even fierce ones—do not contradict this diagnosis: it is confirmed by the fact that, when they occur, they are isolated and confined within the boundaries of a single company, if not a single factory.

If for thirty years the workers of our party joined the CGIL and carried out communist union agitation there, it was not because we harbored any illusions about its nature and function, but because the most militant section of the working class that belonged to it still considered it their own "red" union, and because it was possible for communists to organize as a faction within it and to practice and propagate our class line.

The Party confirms all its positions and reiterates that our stance "outside and against" the CGIL is not due to a mania for purism or sectarianism, which we have always condemned as a manifestation of shortsightedness and revolutionary impotence. We fully share Lenin's criticisms in his "Extremism" of the "left-wing infantilets."

Since the 1970s, on the one hand, it was no longer possible for communists to make their voices heard among workers in the CGIL; on the other hand, in order to fight effectively, the proletariat set about forming new militant unions.

However, even the unions founded over the past 50 years in declared opposition to the regime's unions are not without weaknesses. Some follow sectoral logic; at times they accept self-regulation to legitimize themselves in the eyes of the state or to enjoy the benefits afforded to regime-aligned unions. Often their leaders belong to small self-proclaimed communist parties, whose main aim is to recruit members for their own party: carrying out a workers' struggle becomes entirely secondary for them. There is also good faith. Often, however, it is accompanied by the idea of creating hybrid bodies between party and union, whose characteristics remain obscure even to those who support them. All things we have seen before. But, despite the limitations of such unions, within them are the proletarians most willing to engage in class struggle, to whom we communists must direct our aid, admonitions, and guidance.

Our goal remains the same as always: a single class-based trade union organization to which the majority of the proletariat belongs. It is with this aim that party members are active in the unions, promoting the work of coordinating bodies that unite proletarians from various unions in the struggle—in Italy, these are also open to the militant elements within the CGIL.

The line is the same as always, but obviously without a reawakening to the class struggle of a proletariat bent to individualistic resignation by decades of counterrevolution, no correct line, no organizational formula can bring about the rebirth of great class-based unions. Conversely, without these, the proletarian revolution is unthinkable. The union, in addition to serving as a transmission belt between the party and the class, is also the reservoir from which the party itself draws strength.

There is no room for doubt regarding our principles and our program, since they are not the product of individual speculations but of historical experience; they can only be accepted in their entirety or rejected. In this, we are dogmatic. It is in the analysis of various phenomena and situations that doubts are, on the other hand, inevitable and

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necessary.

Today the Party must analyze what is happening in various parts of the world, even where we have no sections or comrades. If we happen to make a judgment that is not sufficiently accurate—and this sometimes happens to formal parties—we will not give up. An example of the doubts we may harbor concerns the CGT, which in recent years has seemed receptive to the class struggles

that have developed in France, for example by organizing indefinite strikes at the national level in the petrochemical sector.

Just as the tendency of all bourgeois states to establish regime-controlled, if not state-run, unions impervious to class struggle, so too is the need for the proletariat to organize itself into truly combative and loyal unions.

As for those who never have doubts

FROM THE LEFT'S ARCHIVE

The Working Class is a Class of Emigrants

(Translated from Il Partito Comunista no. 18, February, 1976)

Part One

"The free laborer sells his very self, piece by piece. Each day he puts up for sale 8, 10, 12, 15 hours of his life, to the highest bidder, to the owner of raw materials, tools, and the means of life – i.e., to the capitalist. The laborer belongs neither to an owner nor to the soil, but 8, 10, 12, 15 hours of his daily life belongs to whoever buys them. The worker can leave the capitalist to whom he has hired himself out whenever he wants, and the capitalist sacks him when he wants, as soon as he no longer has any use for him. But the worker, whose only source of income is the sale of his labor power, cannot abandon the whole class of purchasers, i.e., the capitalist class, unless he wants to renounce his own existence. He does not belong to this or that capitalist, but to the capitalist class; and it is up to him to find his man – i.e., to find a buyer in this capitalist class"

Thus does Marx sum up, in *Wages, Labour and Capital* the conditions under which the worker is forced to live and work, and on the basis of which he is free neither to choose the task he performs, the factory in which he does it, or where he lives. All these conditions are imposed from without, to be precise by the economic determinism of the capitalist mode of production, in which anarchy, the unexpected, and chaos rule. Thus it is that the working masses suffer the vicissitudes of the "alterations of the industrial cycle", and find themselves divided into one part that is employed and the other that isn't, that is, in a condition of "relative overpopulation", of which a "fluid" part, as Marx defines it, "migrates and in reality cannot but follow the emigrating capital".

This is not an exception but the norm. From when the worker was deprived ("freed") of his means of production, and stripped of any property, from that moment he became "transient", alternately attracted and repelled by the needs of capitalist production. Capital is moved from one sector of production to another, withdraws from one activity to invest in another according to whatever is most expedient. Equally the worker is forced to keep up with these vicissitudes.

With these bare premises of a general character in place, we can tackle one of the particular aspects that labor-power assumes when in a state of "fluctuation", i.e., emigration abroad, by highlighting that the particularity of this aspect derives from conditions of a legal nature. In fact, the worker who moves from his place of birth to take up a job elsewhere, moving from the north of Italy to the south or vice versa, and without necessarily being treated better than a worker who crosses the state borders, that worker is also an *emigrant*. It is known that numerous workers from the South live and work in the big industrial metropolises of the North in a state of underemployment, without protection or welfare assistance, at the mercy of mafiosi "employers", and most of the time under worse conditions than those abroad. Every day the daily papers report on accidents and even homicides happening to "unknown" workers, who aren't on the official registers or known to the employment exchanges.

From a national point of view capital presents itself as one gigantic firm, which ensures that the entry and exit of goods across the sacrosanct frontiers is subject to bilateral treaties and conventions between the countries concerned. Customs duties protect the interests of the national capital by taxing commodities that are imported, such that their competitiveness is reduced with respect to the same commodities produced in the national factories.

In theory the same criteria should also be adopted for labor-power, as a particular kind of commodity. But this commodity, due to its special qualities, such as being easily disengageable, is more elusive and less controllable, it being understood that clandestine expatriation is still a crime. Foreign workers, do not enjoy – even if set up in the job with all the blessings of the legality of the import-export of their labour – the same conditions as the indigenous workers, and even where the bourgeoisie finds it in its interests to formally equalize wages and normative conditions of the immigrant with the native workers, it nevertheless tends to differentiate them as regards their political, trade union and legal status. And the overwhelming majority of emigrant workers carry out dangerous and degrading rank and file jobs; think of the Italian miners in Belgium, the Mexican fruit-pickers in California, etc. There is not much, therefore, to distinguish foreign emigration from internal emigration. Economically it is an exportation of variable capital that returns a profit to the "exporter" country, that famous "remittance" of the emigrants, so appetizing for a state's balance of trade and foreign exchange. Socially it constitutes a safety valve, a momentary outlet for relative overpopulation, a local alleviation of the pressure of unemployment, and therefore a relative and temporary distancing of social risks for the wealthy classes.

In confirmation of what we've said so far Lenin, in *Imperialism*, reports on the thinking of the English millionaire Cecil Rhodes, writing: "*My cherished idea – says Rhodes – is a solution for the social problem, i.e., in order to save the 40,000,000 inhabitants of the United Kingdom from a bloody civil war, we colonial statesmen must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population, to provide new markets for the goods produced in the factories and mines. The empire, as I have already said, is a bread-and-butter question. If you want to avoid civil war you must become*

imperialists."

No beating around the bush then, which is always preferable to a snivelling and philistine moralism. But Rhodes conceals the other side of the coin, which is that while the English unemployed are sent to colonize Rhodesia today, Rhodesians are being employed in English factories on a lower wage.

A CENTURY OF UNITARY POLITICS

The Italian state offers an exemplary model in this regard. The squalid and cowardly Italian bourgeoisie, all the more squalid and cowardly after the unity established during the Risorgimento, found nothing better to do, in politics, than hiring out its state to the highest bidder and, in commerce, hiring out the commodity which in essence costs it nothing, and which it has had in abundance. Indeed, from the day of its political independence until today [1976], it has hired out, by exporting them, 26 million proletarians!

about their own analyses, this is because they are afflicted by petty-bourgeois intellectualistic presumption, inevitably ending up harboring doubts about the very principles of communism and Marxism. The party, in the trade union question, as in all others, has nothing to discover or innovate, but only to study, "in contact with the working class."

The data and news articles we have drawn on are from a specific publication of the Il Ponte magazine, entitled *Emigration – one hundred years – 26 million*. We will refrain from commenting on the views of the magazine's individual writers, who reproach the Italian bourgeoisie with having squandered such precious 'capital', having failed to understand, however, that the bourgeoisie, or rather capitalism, is capable of this and much else besides. In any case we will pre-empt the conclusion which we came to after reading the text and the numerous news items. Which is this: under all governments of the historical Right, and of the historical Left, whether democratic, liberal, fascist or anti-fascist, the emigration of the Italian proletariat has never stopped. The new evidence also applies to the emigration of proletarians from other countries, which have "socialist" regimes: East Germans emigrating to West Germany, Poles expatriating to work in Russia and East and West Germany, and Yugoslavians emigrating to all of the countries of Western Europe, etc. (To be continued)

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Website: <https://international-communist-party.org>

Email: icparty@interncommparty.org

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