

The Communist Party

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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World Capitalism, Only Concerned with its own Survival, Exploits and Abandons the Working Class to the Contagion - Capitalism can and Must be Overthrown Everywhere

Comrades, workers

Capitalism is responsible for the losses caused by this epidemic. In all continents the chaotic cramming of rural people, in search of a wage to live on, in the frightening and insane urban agglomerations of capitalism, and the convulsive migration of people makes any preventive care impossible.

For years, medical science has predicted the worldwide spread of a new virus and its dire effects. However, epidemics can neither be avoided nor contained within present-day society. Capital, always in search of immediate profit, has no interest in predicting and preventing. It has not set aside adequate stocks of medical devices and has not trained an adequate number of medical personnel. Indeed, it has drastically reduced them everywhere, forcing them into intolerable overwork; it has closed many hospitals and turned others into “companies”. Its imperative is always to save on the maintenance and care of the working class.

The expected contagion has finally arrived, upsetting a humanity completely unprepared to face it and shattering the latest misplaced certainties about capitalism’s ability to protect health and life on the planet.

In the face of the universal scourge, which can only be attacked with a coordinated world-wide plan of science and solidarity, each state does its own thing. Worse, the crisis intensifies the competition between national centers of capital and their hateful and inhuman selfishness. It exacerbates the trade war in the fear that competitors from other countries will take advantage of the situation to deprive them of market share. In this war between national bourgeoisies, workers have nothing to gain and everything to suffer.

Industrialists have postponed the closure of factories to the point where further delay was impossible: from China to Italy and France, to the United Kingdom and to the United States, which has seriously extended the contagion. Even when measures to close commercial and recreational activities were no longer postponed, the managers of the majority of industries found ways to circumvent the rules to continue production, apart from companies where it was convenient to close, finding easy loopholes in the ambiguous rules of governing blocs.

So, they forced workers to go to the factory, even in industries that have nothing to do with the health emergency, such as steel production, and to flock onto public transport, grossly dividing society along class boundaries: proletarians today are no longer even masters of their own lives. As in war, they must sacrifice themselves to the god of the bourgeois, profit.

While factories are kept open, strikes and worker assemblies are prohibited. The unions, which have sold out to the regime in the name of “national solidarity”, endorse the bourgeois dogma that reducing production “is not an option”. Be content with a little more soap and masks: a few dollars.

And it is true. **In order to continue generating and appropriating profits, capitalists must infinitely grow the scale of production.** For this reason, each company, without any agreement with the others in the sector, indeed at war with them, pushes the rhythm and scale of work to the maximum, in the vain hope of being able to find a buyer for the crazy growth of goods of all kinds, a deranged and anarchic system.

Capitalism does not produce based on what is needed; it produces based on the expected profit. The majority of goods produced therefore have no social utility and increasingly penalize the workers who manufacture them, the consumers who are driven to use them, and the environment, which is unnecessarily cluttered and intoxicated.

This irreparable and obvious absurdity must necessarily block all

the apparatus for the reproduction of capital and commerce with increasing frequency. It is now a single and closely interconnected global machine, a monstrosity in which up to 95% of activity is useless or harmful.

In fact, in the course of the past year, well before the outbreak of the epidemic, the general, historical, centuries-old, inescapable crisis of the capitalist mode of production had arrived punctually and was already affecting all spheres of life and society.

So, it was not the plague that caused the crisis. Sanitary isolation, which is blocking the consumption of all the goods that are not really necessary for life, around the world and simultaneously, amplifies the pre-existing overproduction of goods, and is almost bringing the infernal cycles of capital accumulation to a standstill.

The panic spread among the bourgeoisie, who ran to sell on the stock exchange, while entrepreneurs were horrified at the decline of their profits. Desperate capitalists in all countries appeal to the State for orders, credits and commercial protection, as well as to help

them defend against the workers’ struggle. But states are nothing more than associations between capitalists and, in the end, they only derive sustenance from capitalist production.

They are not above the economic laws of capitalism: they can only transfer wealth from one part of the ruling classes to the other. Or anticipate something that must come back sooner or later.

Comrades, workers

The failure of this political, economic, social system is so evident that even many bourgeois, in the scientific, political and religious fields, are calling for its profound reform: a different relationship with nature, a different way of producing and a different choice of what to produce: “hospitals, not weapons”, they say. All empty talk. As soon as the emergency is over, and maybe even before, everything will go back to business as usual. **This system is as absurd as it is incapable of reform.**

The ruling classes will not peacefully surrender their power or give up their petty privileges, the immense profits and the repressive paraphernalia of their states.

The present upheaval of the rhythms of life must not only teach us the failure of capitalism, but that the working class can do without capitalism, this entire social and economic system. It is the bourgeoisie that needs the working class and not vice versa. The international anti-worker solidarity of the bosses, who attack workers’ very existence, must be opposed with the international solidarity of the working class fighting for its emancipation and for the salvation of all humanity.

The working class will have to mobilize in all countries to defend itself from the disastrous effects of this crisis, to impose its long-standing demands through struggle:

- wages in full for the unemployed
- generalized reduction of working hours for the same wages
- regularization of the status of immigrant workers
- free health care for all workers

The working class, well organized in its true class unions and well directed by its party, the custodian of its long-established internationalist program, must succeed with its revolution in breaking through the thick shell of prejudices and forces of repression that still imprisons the new, communist society, which will be classless and stateless, and which is ready, robust and complete to free itself and spread to all the countries of the world.

FOR THE CLASS UNION: NOTES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE CLASS WAR

Turkey:

160 workers in Sanel Electronics factory in **Maltepe, Istanbul**, members of Birlesik Metal (United Metal - DISK) Sent on strike after one of them tested positive for coronavirus, but the necessary precautions weren't taken by the bosses who decided to continue production. [April 1]

An unknown number of workers in the Fontana Mold Factory in **Gebze** went on strike after one of them was hospitalized with the suspicion of corona virus. The workers are waiting for the results to go back to work. [April 1]

Workers in Sarkusyan factory in **Gebze**, also organized in Birlesik Metal, went on strike after one of the workers tested positive for Coronavirus. [April 2]

Workers of Valsan Valve Factory in **Tuzla industrial zone, Istanbul**, also members of Birlesik-Metal went on strike too after one of them tested positive for coronavirus. Apparently it's rumored that the representative of the DISK union is saying the workers will return to work the next day. [April 2]

2000 workers in Akar Textile, located in **Çigli Organized Industrial Zone, Izmir**, members of Deriteks (Leather and Textile Workers Union - Türk-İş Confederation) went on strike after one of them tested positive for Coronavirus. The bosses threatened the workers with firing them, while their henchmen armed with clubs attacked the workers. [April 4]

Coronavirus measures | UK: We are Not All in it Together!

After weeks of dithering in the face of the impending COVID19 pandemic, and talk of managing the waves of infection to "build up herd immunity", there were panic measures introduced to require social distancing and whole industries were closed down. Financial measures were announced to pay for the furloughing of millions of workers, with the state paying 80% of the basic salary. Those who would not qualify for the furloughing scheme were to claim unemployment and sickness benefits. The basic rate for these benefits is so low that the Government added an extra £20 a week to these basic rates for a year in order for those claiming the benefits to survive at all. A three month "holiday" on payments for credit agreements was rushed through and now everything is on hold for the moment. Meanwhile thousands of workers have been dying, often because of the lack of protective equipment in hospitals, in transport and other essential services, while daily government briefings try to claim: "We are all in this together!"

Vast sums of money are being provided to businesses to ensure their survival. The Government and the Bank of England is producing money out of thin air to keep the economy on life support. Some on the so-called left are fascinated by this extension of state spending, and state support for industries, as some kind of social democracy in action. The new "renovated" Labour Party under Sir Keir Starmer, and trade union leaders, are just aching to get involved in such activities. But soon all these state finances will have to be paid for, and it will be taken out of the working class. Then it will be even more important for the workers to be organised independently for their own interests. Organise as a class, think as a class, act like a class!

Workers in Melike Textile in **Antep's 4. Organized Industrial Zone** went on strike after it was rumored that two of them tested positive for Coronavirus. Consequently the factory administration declared they stopped work for two weeks. [April 4]

USA:

Oakland, California Dockers Refuse to Work Over Safety Conditions demanding better sanitation for themselves and local neighborhoods from Cruise Ship COVID contamination. [March 20]

Bath, Maine: Workers at the country's largest Naval shipyard struck to call for it to be shut down [March 24]

Lynn, Massachusetts: "Workers at a jet engine factory stood six feet apart at a protest outside the facility, following social distancing guidelines while calling on General Electric (GE) to reverse its recent decision to lay off thousands of workers and instead put them to work building badly-needed ventilators for coronavirus patients. In nearby Boston, GE employees also marched six feet apart to their company's headquarters with the same demand." [March 28]

Tampa, Florida McDonald's workers walked out on the morning of March 30 after being told not to wear masks and gloves in their store because it made customers uncomfortable. Soon after, workers in **St. Louis, Missouri** and **Memphis, Tennessee** similarly walked out when they found out their hours were dramatically cut.

Baltimore, Maryland Wastewater workers strike demanding better safety conditions [March 31]

Souderton, PA: Workers sicked out en masses at JBS Meatpacking; forcing them to shut down [Week of April 1st]

USA Nation-wide: Grocery delivery service Instacart on Thursday announced plans to distribute health and safety kits to its shoppers after they walked off their jobs earlier this week. The company says it will provide each full-service shopper with a reusable face mask, hand sanitizer and a thermometer. [April 4]

Los Angeles, California: Cooks and cashiers at a Crenshaw Boulevard McDonald's in Los Angeles announced a strike after a co-worker tested positive for COVID-19. They were demanding a full two-week quarantine with pay. [April 5]

Nationwide: Workers for Target Store's delivery service Shipt went on strike. They demanded \$5 of hazard pay per order, 14 days of paid sick leave for all workers regardless of whether they've received a positive coronavirus test, personal protective gear for all gig workers, and a return to a clear, commission-based pay model. [April 7]

California: Workers from Burger King, Taco Bell, Domino's, Pizza Hut, Subway, Popeye's, El Pollo Loco, and WaBa Grill will participate in the walkout, which was inspired by two strikes earlier this week at McDonald's locations in San Jose and Los Angeles, where two workers have now tested positive for coronavirus. [April 8]

King of Prussia, PA: Amazon workers strike over unsafe working conditions [April 8]

Seattle, Washington: Docks Shut Down Shipping Terminal After Co-Worker Gets Covid-19 [April 9]

San Diego, California transit workers call out sick [April 10th]

Bawley, CA: One World Beef workers Beef Workers Strike for Sanitary Conditions After Cowworker Test Positive for COVID-19 [April 14]

Chicago, Illinois Fast Food Workers from 50 locations strike over COVID-19 safety [April 15]

Renton, Washington: Boeing factory workers refuse to show Workers report many Boeing workers refuse to return to work due to COVID-19 concerns [April 20th]

Nationwide: Over 300 people called out of their shifts at 50 Amazon fulfillment centers on Tuesday [April 21]

Wallula, Washington: Tyson beef workers absent, scores of COVID-19 cases and community concerns about infections there. [April 23rd]

Portland, Oregon: 210 Nabisco workers Wildcat for contract: On April 3, graveyard shift workers started leaving early, and a majority of day and swing shift workers stayed off the job, shutting down all five snack production lines. The next two days, enough workers stayed home that only one line was able to restart.

Greely, Colorado: Hospital Couriers Delivering COVID-19 Samples Strike Over Lack of Protections [April 8]

Daleville, Alabama: Union private defense workers refuse to build missiles - employees have refused to work despite the Defense Department directive, and that the union is advocating for them to be spared disciplinary actions. [April 2020]

Shreveport, Louisiana sanitation workers stage sickout amid coronavirus. [April 13]

Norfolk, Virginia: Non-union General Dynamics contractors doing electrical repair on Navy ships refused to work due to conditions and worker death [April 14th]

Waterloo, Iowa: Hundreds of Tyson Fresh Meats Workers Sick-Out [April 15th]

Waynesboro, GA: Nuclear power plant construction workers absent over COVID-19 [April 16]

New York and New Jersey: Building doormen, facility workers and Janitors strike at dozens of buildings. [April 16]

Baton Rouge, LA: Bus drivers have warned the mass transit agency that member workers have the legal right to refuse hazardous work. [April 17th]

Phoenix, Arizona: Truckers protest dropping wages during the pandemic [April 24]

Los Angeles, California: Truckers slow LA highway traffic to protest dropping wages during the pandemic [April 24]

Logansport, Indiana: "Tyson Pork Workers close the plant because of ongoing absentee issues and community concerns" [Week of April 24th]

Shakopee, MN More than 50 Amazon warehouse walk out after management revealed two more cases of COVID-19 and unjustly fired another worker leader." [April 26th]

Richmond, Virginia Bus Drivers Sick Out: "Nearly half of the necessary bus driver workforce did not show up for their 4:30 am. shift. [April 27]

Crete, Nebraska: An estimated 50 workers at the Smithfield Foods pork plant walked off the job in protest after it was announced that the plant would stay open" [April 28]

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