

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## Legal Aid Attorneys Demand

# ICE out of NY Courts



**BROOKLYN**—More than 500 workers rallied on the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall to demand that federal immigration storm troopers be banned from state courthouses. The demonstrators represented dozens of unions and immigrant rights and community groups, including the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys-UAW Local 2325. Members of Progressive Labor Party are active in a number of these organizations, where they have sharpened the political struggle against the capitalist injustice system and its escalating persecution of undocumented workers.

Nine days earlier, hundreds of Legal Aid and Brooklyn Defender attorneys walked out after a client at a scheduled court appearance was seized and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. They marched to the Brooklyn District Attorney's office and demanded that the Office of Court Administration and Chief Judge Janet DiFiore prohibit ICE from entering court property. As one speaker at today's protest said, "We have seen first-hand the effects of ICE's

presence in and around the courts, and we refuse to see the lives of the people that we love continue to be destroyed by it."

Beyond terrorizing immigrant defendants, ICE's presence discourages immigrant victims and witnesses from appearing in court. This exposes the sham of the rulers' "due process" and adds to the devastating effects of Trump's racist policies.

### **Bipartisan Racism**

Under capitalism, the so-called legal system functions like every other part of the capitalist state apparatus—as the bosses' weapon to attack, intimidate, and control the working class. While racist-in-chief Donald Trump has intensified anti-immigrant rhetoric and unleashed the mad dogs of ICE to escalate worksite raids, Democrats and Republicans alike share a despicable history for scapegoating immigrants for the failings of the profit system.

In the 1990s, the Bill Clinton administration deported a record 12.3 million immigrants, most

of them "voluntary" returns. It also pushed for laws that established "new grounds for deportation, penalties for the crimes of illegal entry and re-entry, mandates for detention of deportable noncitizens, and a framework for cooperative arrangements on immigration enforcement between the federal government and state and local law enforcement agencies" (Migration Policy Institute, 1/26/17).

Returns decreased significantly under Barack Obama, due primarily to a drop in net migration from Mexico into negative numbers. But Obama also systematically implemented a George W. Bush-era deterrent strategy to remove a record 3.1 million undocumented immigrants through formal deportation proceedings. As a result, a much higher percentage was subjected to criminal charges; re-entry became a felony offense. By 2013, the Obama administration had weaponized another Bush program, "Secure Communities," to allow the fingerprints of all those arrested by local cops to be matched against FBI and Department of Homeland Security databases (MPI, 1/26/17). The recent courthouse, workplace, and neighborhood sweeps under Trump are a direct extension of the racist, anti-immigrant policies of the Clinton-Bush-Obama era.

### **End Anti-Immigrant Terror by Smashing Capitalism**

The rulers need to demonize immigrants to make super-profits through super-exploitation—and to keep documented and undocumented workers from uniting to fight for communism and smash the capitalist system. The job of the liberal bosses, and the Democratic Party in particular, is to keep a lid on any struggle and steer it back into electoral politics. Our job as communists is to help workers see through the Democrats' misleadership. When New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito spoke at today's rally, a number of demonstrators heckled her.

Anti-immigrant racism and terror are hallmarks of periods of accelerating inter-imperialist rivalry. Attacks on immigrants and refugees are growing as the bosses inch closer to yet another world war. PLP is organizing to smash all borders by building an international revolutionary communist movement. One way we advance is to be active in struggles like this one, and by showing our coworkers that the only way to end racist terror is by ending the system that created it. ☪

## **JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION**

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# OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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**WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?**

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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# Editorial

## Trump’s Jerusalem Decision Undermines U.S. Imperialism



U.S. President Trump’s recent move to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital was a holiday gift to the Israeli ruling class, a big-power blessing of the country’s anti-Arab racism and apartheid. It is also a reflection of the embattled U.S. bosses’ growing isolation in the region and the world. This would lead to even more instability in the Middle East, collateral damage to U.S. allies, and a rise in mass anger and fight-back against the U.S.

In reversing decades of U.S. foreign policy against the advice of his Secretaries of State and Defense, the imperialist-in-chief was transparently playing to his evangelical

and Zionist bases, including megabucks campaign donor Sheldon Adelson and Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who has invested heavily in Israeli settlements (New York Times, 12/6). Trump showed yet again that he has spun out of the control of the main wing, finance capital bosses, who have tried to preserve a charade of evenhandedness in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

With the other 14 members of the United Nations Security Council voting in favor, the U.S. was forced to veto

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## A Lose-Lose Contest in Alabama

When Democrat Doug Jones upset accused child molester and open white supremacist Roy Moore in the December 12 special U.S. Senate election in Alabama, the vote exposed deepening divisions within the U.S. capitalist ruling class. It also pointed to the challenges facing the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party.

News of the race monopolized the bosses’ media for days. The rulers’ dominant finance capital wing, representing the interests of ExxonMobil and JPMorgan Chase, went all out to stop Roy Moore. The Democrats poured in more than \$4 million to the Jones campaign through a “mysterious super PAC” called Highway 31, “a joint project of two of the largest national super PACs—Senate Majority PAC and Priorities USA Action” (Politico, 12/11). The party brought in its biggest guns—Barack Obama and Joe Biden—to campaign for Jones. Meanwhile, top Republican leaders publicly slammed rogue Republican Moore as a serial sexual predator who was unfit for office.

The rulers understood that stakes were high, though not for the reasons broadcast on CNN. Here are some lessons we might draw from what happened in Alabama:

- Gutter Klan-type candidates get slapped down because they are bad for business. Moore threatened the main wing bosses’ con game by peeling back the curtain and revealing the rotten essence of capitalism. While the finance capitalists depend on racism and sexism to divide and exploit workers, they also rely on the false unity of U.S. patriotism as they ramp up toward World War III. They need a multiracial army of men and women willing to fight and die for the bosses’ profits.
- Moore’s defeat was a setback for Donald Trump, who played to his arch-racist base by endorsing his fellow predator. While Trump’s political loyalties remain unclear, he is too unreliable to represent the mainstream bosses in a time of intensifying inter-imperialist rivalries. Like Moore, he exposes the hellish profit system—with its racism, sexism, and grotesque and widening inequalities—for what it is. Now that Trump is showing weakness, the main wing may decide to show him the door, sooner than later.

- The domestic-leaning wing of the ruling class—represented by Steve Bannon and the Mercer and Koch billionaire families—is determined to spend less on a worldwide military and to cut U.S. support for NATO and other expensive alliances. To gain white workers’ support, they are aiming to build more open racism. Though these bosses lost the battle in Alabama, they’re not about to surrender. With the help of Fox News, they managed to mobilize 48 percent of the electorate, 68 percent of the white vote, and 91 percent of registered Republicans to choose a monster over the big bosses’ Democratic and Republican machines. With rumblings of a threatened “deep-state” coup against Trump, the prospect of civil war no longer seems so farfetched.
- Black workers made the difference, with 95 percent—including 98 percent of black women—voting for Jones. They represented 30 percent of the turnout, significantly more than their share of the Alabama voting-age population, and even more than the Black share of the electorate in Obama’s presidential runs (Mother Jones, 12/13/17). Despite the ever-deepening crisis and intensifying racism of U.S. capitalism, masses of Black workers—the essential vanguard for a communist movement—remain trapped by the rulers’ false promise that voting can lead to real change. The victory of Doug Jones, another politician pledged to keep this racist system going, highlights the need for our Party to recruit many more Black women and men as revolutionary communist leaders.

In short, what transpired in Alabama was a victory for bosses of all stripes. Barely a year after the widespread cynicism that surrounded the presidential race between Trump and Hillary Clinton, the special Senate contest renewed millions of people’s enthusiasm for elections. Younger voters, in particular, were galvanized by Jones, a “former crusading civil rights lawyer” (DailyMail.com, 12/13) who won 60 percent of the 18-to-29-year-old vote in a heavily

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# CUNY Workers Fight for Better Conditions, Against Union Misleadership



**NEW YORK CITY**—The contract for the professors and staff at the City University of New York (CUNY) expired on Thursday, November 30. The difference in the response of a small group of CUNY employees in the Bronx versus the leadership of the union (the Professional Staff Congress, PSC) that represents them serves as a lesson for all workers. While small, the Bronx event was organized to happen on the day the contract expired and was militant and pro-worker. It provided a glimpse at the potential that our class possesses.

The union leadership, on the other hand, planned an event for December 4, and though much larger, was poorly organized and much less militant. Union leadership, no matter how progressive it may seem and no matter how big a crowd they can turn out, is leading us to disaster. They are leading us to passivity and to accepting, rather than fighting, the terrible conditions that we face. Working-class actions organized and led by the communist ideas of Progressive Labor Party, on the other hand, can help equip us for bigger and more militant fights ahead.

## Antiracist Rally on Campus

The union chapter at the Bronx campus had been organizing for the rally since the previous semester. Our fallen comrade Lenny Dick and other PL members and friends on campus advocated for the rally on the day the contract expired as a throwback to historical periods when working without a contract did not happen. Unfortunately, the working class is in a dark period of history where working without a contract has become the rule, rather than the exception and we wanted to honor our militant, communist-led past. We also planned our rally to happen on campus, where not only our fellow union members, but also students could see and hear the rally.

The campus, and CUNY as a whole, is predominantly Black and Latin and the attack on workers is also a racist attack on students. This message was made by many of the speakers at the rally and we got support from many students, including one who stopped and helped pass out literature. Other speakers highlighted the terrible working conditions faced by many PSC members, including some who have not gotten contractually obligated raises. Not only do we have to fight for a new contract but we have to fight even just to get what we're entitled to! A speaker also asked about the chant "No contract, no peace," and whether we as workers are prepared to carry it out. "Are we ready to strike?", "Are we ready to truly disturb the peace?" he asked. We finished the rally with a march around campus, where shouts of "The Workers United, Will Never Be Defeated!" echoed off the buildings.

## Passive Union Misleadership

Meanwhile, the leadership of the PSC betrayed its intentions from the very beginning. Instead of organizing for a rally on the day of the contract expiration, they waited until the following Monday. Previously, when union leadership was more heavily influenced by communists and socialists, even working beyond the contract expiration would be unthinkable, much less waiting to have a demonstration. Secondly, they marched the many hundreds of PSC members who did

show up to a CUNY Board of Trustees meeting. Instead of appealing to the workers of New York, they kowtow to the lackeys and servants of the ruling class. And at the same time, they build illusions among union members that the CUNY Board gives a damn about us. The march and rally were poorly organized and did not take advantage of our numbers. There was no picket in front of the board meeting. Instead, marchers were gathered into pens and stood around, listening to droning speeches from union leadership.

What militancy was present came from the crowd and perhaps the best moments were when the chant "7K or Strike!" repeatedly drowned out the leaders' speeches. The chant refers to the contract demand that adjunct professors, the most poorly paid and highly exploited faculty members – who are also disproportionately Black and Latin – get paid a minimum of \$7,000 per course (the current average is around \$3,200 per course). As they proved in the previous contract fight, the PSC leadership is afraid of this militancy and very noticeably did not take up the chant themselves. Instead, they offered the weak and pleading, "7K, No Delay."

The contrast between these two events could not be clearer. One was small, but reflected the type of fight that we need to make: a timely demonstration, appealing directly to other workers and students and linking together the ways that capitalism affects us all. The other was larger and louder, four days too late and characterized by dead-end politics and passivity.

## Plants Seeds of Revolution

Ultimately, as workers we have two choices: one choice is to go along with the union bosses and the smooth-talking politicians, the celebrities and religious figures. The big crowds, the media coverage, and the fancy signs can seduce us. We can believe them when they promise a better life.

But underneath the glitz and the glamour is just capitalism, with its racism, exploitation and imperialist war. The big crowds are made up of workers, with righteous anger at the terrible conditions that we face around the world, but the leaders on stage are capitalists of one stripe or another, who never call for an end to this murderous system. Instead, they are always about trying to make capitalism a little better for a few workers. This can never lead to liberation for our class and is a deadly trap for all workers.

The other option is to be in these struggles, but with our eyes open to the limits of what union leadership can bring us. We need to be in struggles like the bigger one, led by the PSC leadership, in order to make them like the smaller one, led by rank-and-file members with a communist and revolutionary ideas present.

Ultimately, we need to turn these union protests into places where the bankruptcy of the bosses' system is made sharp, where union members can clearly see the limits of union leadership that asks its members to do nothing but beg politicians and CEOs for what we should be militantly demanding. We need to make these protests places where the communist ideas of the PLP can take root and grow in the minds of workers.✱

# Solidarity Fundraiser for Earthquake Victims in Mexico

**CHICAGO, December 9—**

Twenty people held a solidarity dinner for workers in Mexico after the earthquakes. We had great food and music. Family and friends who could not come to the dinner made some of the food. After our meal, a Progressive Labor Party member introduced herself as a communist and welcomed everyone to this PLP fundraising event. If the last "natural disasters" have shown us anything, it is that under capitalism, we as the international working class have to rely on each other—not on the capitalists or their politicians.

Two segments on YouTube of the recent earthquakes showed workers and youth coming to each other's aid. As one young woman said, there were no police to be found. The Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto wanted to bulldoze the areas even when the cries of victims could be heard underneath the rubble. Another young woman spoke about a family member's attempts to take needed items to Mexico but was prevented by the police, who wanted money. This is a regular occurrence when workers try to bring aid to Mexico.

Another young woman at the event brought her parents. She played the guitar and sang some songs of struggle. One woman spoke about being involved in raising money for an indigenous community of fifty families in Oaxaca. These families, which include 20 children, live in tents and have absolutely no economic help from anyone in the U.S. or elsewhere. She is hosting another fundraising activity. Some of the PLP members will be going to that event. CHALLENGE newspapers were circulated to our guests before they left. Overall, we had a wonderful night and raised a modest sum. More donations are coming in from friends that could not make it.

This is the beginning of many fundraising activities for our working-class sisters and brothers. Our friends and families showed that our Party is trusted to deliver this aid directly into the hands of the working class. This is solidarity, not charity. Long live communism and the international working class of the world!✱





# Lose-Lose Race in Alabama. Don't Vote, Revolt!

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Republican state (huffingtonpost.com, 12/13).

These young workers are the future soldiers the bosses will need to enlist for the next global conflict. They're also the ones our Party needs to win to shed this racist system and fight back for the international working class.

### Democrats Use Sexism Instead of Fighting It

The sexual assault scandals that have torpedoed liberal Senator Al Franken, among many others, may thin the field for the 2020 presidential nomination and help unify the Democrats. For now, the main wing bosses seem to be rallying behind the tack taken by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who led the charge against Franken and is using the pain of sexual assault as a prop to advance her own career.

This superficial solidarity, however, is limited by the deeply embedded racism of capitalist society. In Alabama, the Democrats' sudden show of zero tolerance for sexual assault may have gotten more younger and educated white women to tilt their way than in the past.

But 66 percent of white women in Alabama still voted for the naked racism of Moore (Newsweek 12/13).

Meanwhile, with the influence of older Black politicians on the wane, the rulers are cultivating new misleaders to keep Black workers and the entire working class tied to capitalism. A number of electorally focused organizations, like BlackPAC and Movement for Black Lives Electoral Project, are led by Black women. The bosses' media are pushing them as the people to follow (New York Times, 12/16).

### There Are No Good Bosses

"The elections in Virginia and Alabama have proven that it is possible for Democrats to focus on white and minority voters without alienating either," said Zac McCrary, a Democratic pollster based in Alabama. "Technology, for one, makes it possible to target specific populations with particular messages through email, text messages and phone calls" (NY Times 12/13). In other words, the new Democratic playbook is to quietly tell Black voters the party is against racism, but not to say it so loud that racist white voters will jump ship.

Capitalism can never end racism or sexism. With-

***The victory of Doug Jones, another politician pledged to keep this racist system going, highlights the need for our Party to recruit many more Black women and men as revolutionary communist leaders.***

out a divided working class and segments of super-exploited workers, the profit system would collapse. At the same time, the capitalists need to build unity around the myth that capitalist "democracy" is still the best option for workers. When workers stop voting and abandon the bosses' misleader politicians for working-class leadership in the class struggle, the whole capitalist system will be in jeopardy. That's the greatest fear of the ruling class.

And that's when our class will be free.✪

# Trump's Jerusalem Decision Undermines U.S. Imperialism

*Continued from page 2*

an Egyptian-drafted resolution expressing "deep regret at recent decisions concerning the status of Jerusalem." Trump threatened to cut off aid to any country that crossed him. UN Ambassador Nikki Haley vowed to "take names" of any countries backing the resolution at a December 21 emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly. According to a Reuters report, "Several senior diplomats said Haley's warning was unlikely to change many votes in the General Assembly, where such direct, public threats are rare" (12/10). With the U.S. in relative decline against its imperialist rivalry with China and Russia, Trump's bluster has less and less impact.

### Imperialism Creates Israeli Killing Machine

All national borders are drawn to protect ruling-class interests. In 1947, the UN adopted a partition plan to succeed the British colonial mandate over Palestine. This was the original "two-state solution," which led to the violent ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Arab workers from Israel, the new "Jewish state"; an adjacent "Arab state" that united with neighboring Jordan; and placement of the city of Jerusalem under UN trusteeship.

Although Jewish settlers had owned less than seven percent of Palestine's territory, the partition gave them 56 percent of Palestine's land. As Itzhak Galnoor noted in *The Partition of Palestine: Decision Crossroads in the Zionist Movement*, much of the Jewish state was in the Negev desert, a "vital land bridge protecting British interests from the Suez Canal to Iraq."

The UN plan enabled British and U.S. imperialists to divide and control workers in the region. Pitting Arab and Jewish workers against one another has served the capitalist bosses by preventing workers from uniting and fighting their common oppressors. Ever since its creation, Israel's racist Zionist regime has been of strategic significance for U.S. imperialism. It has waged several murderous wars to conquer more and more of Palestine.

As a holy city for three religions, Jerusalem has long been fought over by various murderous empires. Though the Israelis took full control of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War in 1967, the city remains a point of intense contention between the ruling classes of Israel and Palestine. All of this plunder and murder has been funded by the U.S. to the tune of \$80 billion in military aid. In 2016, another \$39 billion was guaranteed to the Israeli killing machine by President Barack Obama.

A few examples of Israeli state terrorism:

- The forced displacement of more than a million Palestinians and the seizure of workers' homes and land (see map, page 2);
- 70 percent of Palestinian families have had one or more family members sentenced to jail in Israeli prisons for resisting the occupation;

- Torture has been institutionalized in Israeli prisons, and has victimized Arab children as well as adults.

Since Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, thousands of Arab workers have taken to the streets in protest, from Amman to Istanbul. With the Israelis emboldened to expand their racist occupation into Palestine, more death for Arab and Muslim workers is in store. On December 15, the day after Trump's announcement, the Israeli military fired on protesters in Gaza and the West Bank, killing four workers and wounding hundreds more (NYT, 12/15).

### One Workers' State

The Progressive Labor Party rejects the bosses' narrative that Muslims and Jews have always existed in antagonism (see box). We also reject their phony two-state "solution," which Israeli settler land grabs have made unattainable. Multiple major uprisings, including two Intifadas have shown the bravery and willingness of Palestinian workers to rise up, but all have ended in defeat. The local, nationalist ruling classes offer no hope for workers. The cynical Hamas resorts to terror tactics, while Fatah has sold out.

Only building a mass, international working-class army and smashing religious and nationalist borders will end the suffering of the working class. PLP is organizing to create a world free of borders and racist and sexist exploitation. Join PLP!

### U.S. Bosses' Loss is Russian Bosses' Gain

The need for the U.S. ruling class to regain lost ground is tied to the successes in the past year of the Russian ruling class in projecting their imperialist influence. The Russian bosses militarily backed Syria's president Bashar al-Assad in the seven-year proxy war that killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions more.

With the U.S. missing in action, Russia has demonstrated its growing influence in the region by recruiting Turkey and Iran to begin peace negotiations. With U.S. credibility at an all-time low, exacerbated by Trump's unstable decision-making over the Paris Accord, North Korea, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, it is likely that this signals a trend for the U.S. to be shut out of more and more negotiations as rival bosses seek new allies and cut new deals.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also been successful in drawing traditional U.S. allies Turkey and Egypt into their orbit. Turkey is expected to sign a \$2 billion dollar deal this week to purchase Russian S-400 air defense systems, in addition to the country's announcement to create an embassy in East Jerusalem in support of a Palestinian state (Los Angeles Times, 12/14). Russia has negotiated a nuclear deal with Egypt to use its airspace and bases, and has also collaborated on various military training exercises (NYT, 11/30).

For centuries, before imperialist powers intruded, Jews and Arabs lived side by side in harmony in the Middle East. Here is just one example, from World War II:

"At every stage of the Nazi, Vichy, and Fascist persecution of Jews in Arab lands, and in every place that it occurred, Arabs helped Jews. Some Arabs spoke out against the persecution of Jews and took public stands of unity with them. Some Arabs denied the support and assistance that would have made the wheels of the anti-Jewish campaign spin more efficiently. Some Arabs shared the fate of Jews and, through that experience, forged a unique bond of comradeship. And there were occasions when certain Arabs chose to do

more than just offer moral support to Jews. They bravely saved Jewish lives, at times risking their own in the process. Those Arabs were true heroes."

*Among the Righteous: Lost Stories from the Holocaust's Long Reach Into Arab Lands* by Robert Satloff

### Workers Must Reject Nationalism and Religion

We take inspiration from thousands of workers around the world outraged by Trump's decision. But much of it has a nationalist character. The bosses use nationalism and their construction of borders to convince us that other workers cause their suffering. The root of suffering is capitalism, which is reinforced by both the Jewish and Arab bosses.

The racist, Zionist bosses and the racist, Palestinian bosses will never build a world that serve the needs of the working class. Under capitalism, the only future workers in the Middle East can expect is low wages, checkpoints, collapsing education and healthcare systems, and violent crackdowns to control them from rebelling against those conditions.

### Smash Borders with Communist Revolution

Workers on either side of the Israeli/Palestinian walls have more in common with each other than they do with the respective bosses. Worker on both sides face labor exploitation and budget cuts of social programs that are needed for their very existence. Palestinian and Black African workers are attacked most of all because of capitalism's need for racist super-exploitation.

Palestinian and Black workers in the region have always risen up against racist terrorism, and Israeli workers must follow their lead to smash this profit system. The only hope for eventual peace is for workers to build one world without borders through a communist revolution.✪

# A Bolshevik Revolution Celebration in Brooklyn

**BROOKLYN**—A multiracial, multigender gathering of 150 members and friends of all ages of the Progressive Labor Party gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, and kick off organizing for this year's May Day celebration. Organized and led by younger comrades, the event was set up where there was interaction between participants.

The speakers got things started by describing some of the tremendous accomplishments made by the communists in the Soviet Union from wiping out illiteracy to wiping out the Nazis during World War II. One young transit worker was inspiring, describing how buying chicken for your fellow workers enables a deeper discussion of revolution (see letter, page 6).

There was plenty of discussion in various groups in the audience. Rather than listen to lectures, the event was intended for people to interact and talk with each other.

The two questions were posed for small group discussion: Why did the Bolsheviks need a party, and why do we need an international party today?

## Reflections from Participants

Afterwards, a speaker from each group summarized the ideas of the discussion. One woman said we

need an international party because we are all workers and we are all suffering at the hands of the capitalist bosses. Another woman said we need a party to help organize the working class to fight against the bosses.

An EMT worker said that we need a party because this system does not care about working class lives. She mentioned her encounter with other working class people who refused medical treatment because of fear of having to pay out-of-pocket because they lacked health insurance. This is a crime against the working class that would be illegal under communism, but we need a party to organize the fightback and lead the way to revolution.

One young man pointed out that the party keeps us disciplined in our fight. He pointed out that unlike anarchists, we believe the leadership of the working class is necessary to lead us toward a better society where all of us have our needs met. He also said the Bolsheviks needed a party to make sure the working class was organized and following the line of the party.

The reason we need an international working class party today is because we know from studying the history of the world communist movement, especially the Bolsheviks, that nationalism was one of the causes of the reversal of workers' power.

There was bilingual translation (English/Spanish) at certain tables, but for the most part the whole event was a bilingual event. We are truly an international party. Money was raised. We had a table of some Party literature and Society posters decorated the walls. There was also a silent auction where members and friends bid on framed posters of the Revolution.

The celebration ended with everyone singing Bella Ciao and The International in both English and Spanish.

A final political strength of this event was that comrades inexperienced in planning mass events organized it. Evaluating how we organized for this event is vital, because as a communist Party we understand that collectivity and democratic centralism are needed to ensure our success—from organizing locally, to running a society under workers' power.

Learning these lessons is a part of realizing and gaining confidence in the strength of the international working class.

With that confidence, the same confidence the Bolsheviks demonstrated one century ago, we can advance and build our international Party and beat the bosses everywhere as they try to run and hide. On to May Day (April 28) and communist revolution!✊

# 2017: Year of Rising Fascism and Fightback



2017 May Day in Brooklyn

On the one hand 2017 was another year of rising imperialist rivalry between the Chinese, U.S., and Russian capitalist bosses, leading to more and more devastating attacks on the world's workers. It was also the year Donald Trump was inaugurated and carried on many Barack Obama policies, while adding his more openly vicious brand of racism, nationalism, sexism and warmongering.

As the imperialist powers prepare for more wars and eventually world war, the rulers are trying to get their houses in order. While Presidents Xi Jinping of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia lead somewhat disciplined ruling classes, Trump presides over a U.S. ruling class in disarray. Moreover, Trump's chaotic "America First" foreign policy has alienated many of the U.S.'s allies.

At the same time, the world's workers are fighting the attacks of capitalism, but they need communist leadership more than ever. The fightbacks are often based on nationalism, religion or identity politics.

It is the job of the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) to build working-class unity. PLP has participated in many of these struggles and we have been able to raise revolutionary communist ideas, helping to unite the working class and bring us a little closer to a society run by the working class of the world.

## Masses Rebel vs. Rising Fascism

The year started with a bang of mass protests following the inauguration of racist Trump. PLP members and friends energized those around them in a passive crowd of 60,000 at the National Women's March in Oakland, with militant anti-capitalist chants and speeches. Just hours after the inauguration, 175,000 people gathered in Boston to stand against Trump's racism and sexism. The following weekend, thousands across the U.S. poured into the streets and airports to protest Trump's racist travel ban against Muslims. One of many moving moments came when a multi-generational Latin family enthusiastically joined the internationalist chant, "Working people have no nation, smash racist depor-

tation."

## Clap Back vs. Racism on Campus

In addition to the mass organizing against racist segregation and redbaiting in the Brooklyn high school Park Slope Collegiate, the working class shut down fascist, racist speakers throughout the year.

• At the University of California at Davis several hundred students and workers shut down fascist Milo Yiannopoulos of Breitbart News.

- The fascist, anti-Muslim hate group Act for America was confronted in 25 cities and towns across the U.S. PLers joined hundreds of anti-racists in the Bay Area to shut down Nazi demonstrations two days in a row.
- Yiannopoulos was again shut down at the University of California at Berkeley.
- Students at Bethune-Cookman University, a Historically Black College and University, turned their backs and booed their graduation speaker, Trump's Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.
- Over 300 Columbia University students militantly protested against Tommy Robinson who violently opposes all immigrants and calls them criminals.
- At Stanford another 300 protested anti-Muslim racist Robert Spencer.
- And racist and sexist eugenicist Charles Murray was shut down by an integrated group of students at Middlebury College. The list goes on.

## Building International Workers' Movement

Meanwhile in Mexico, 2017 started with occupations, demonstrations, marches, and road blockades throughout the entire country. This was the working class response to the government's 20 percent price increase on gas and diesel fuel. PLP has been involved in the reform fightback while organizing for communist revolution.

In Colombia, PLP is organizing with construction workers who went on strike demanding back pay that was stolen from them. During the summer, 350,000 public school teachers went on a 37-day strike demanding better health care, higher pay and more school funding. Many teachers discussed revolutionary ideas and helped distribute PLP literature.

At airports in Chicago and Indiana militant protests

tried to stop the deportations of our immigrant brothers and sisters. In Chicago, protesters almost got onto the tarmac to stop the planes, but were misguided by liberal misleaders. In Indiana they were confronted by fascist cops in military gear. In both places PLers raised revolutionary communist ideas in the heat of these battles.

The summer also saw thousands of multiracial anti-racists confronting and attacking hundreds of Nazis, KKK, and white supremacists in Charlottesville, VA. PLers were there to confront these racist scum and call for revolution.

The call for communist revolution also went out in Haiti as several thousand workers and students demonstrated for three straight days for an increase in the minimum wage. Later in the year there were more demonstrations and a call for a general strike as up to 10,000 angrily took to the streets against the government's anti-working class budget. The Party in Haiti pledged to fight to build "a new society, communism, based on equality, where workers rule in our own interest."

All these fightbacks and the Party's struggle to make revolution primary are important. But the imperialists' drive toward world war is relentless and the devastation on the world's working class is beyond horrendous. These imperialist butchers only expose these atrocities when they can attack their competitors.

The U.S. bosses say little about Yemen that would reveal that their Saudi ally is bombing Yemen into oblivion. They want Saudi oil. But they criticize the Venezuela bosses who are allying with China and Russia. China doesn't criticize the North Korean butchers because they are "allies." Russia loves butcher Assad because Syria houses Russian military bases and the U.S. attacks him for the very same reason. Neither set of bosses gives a damn about the working class in Syria.

## Year of Capitalist Disasters

With hurricanes, earthquakes and other disasters, the bosses have a similar spin. But instead of blaming another imperialist rival, they blame nature. Whether it is famines and droughts in Africa, massive flooding in South Asia, earthquakes in Mexico, or hurricanes in the Caribbean and U.S., it is never the fault of their capitalist, profiteering system. They ignore the fact that the capitalists survive these 'natural disasters' quite easily, while workers suffer greatly.

And now added to this worldwide, capitalist disaster, we have Trump. The capitalist propaganda says that world war with nuclear weapons is unthinkable. They tell us they can control themselves, compete gracefully, and divide the world among themselves peacefully. That was always bull, and with Trump, the world is more volatile than ever.

## Another Year of Workers' Unity

Our job as communists is more vital than ever. Let's rise to the task and build our revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party so we can lead the world's working class to turn the bosses' imperialist war into a war for workers power—communism!✊



LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Greetings from Comrade Camacho

On the day of the centennial celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution in Brooklyn (see page 4), coincidentally, I received a package from our comrade Epifanio Camacho giving revolutionary greetings. He was a leader in the National Farm Workers Association. He led struggles that led up to the famous farm-worker strikes in the 1960s and 1970s and his subsequent expulsion from the UFW by Cesar Chavez for organizing farm workers for something much more profound and important than reforms. In the mid 1970s, Camacho joined the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and has helped organize many workers into the ranks of international communism through his efforts as a party organizer.

Today, reading what he sent, I was struck by the parallel lessons we have learned from farm-workers here as well as by the valiant comrades in the Soviet Union. If it were not for the Soviets leading our path, we might as well be fighting for socialism today—stopping short at a better wage system.

Farmworkers here have shown us courageous struggles and the necessity to go beyond reforms, uniting immigrant workers and citizen workers to smash borders. Camacho's politics were beyond that of the more publicized "leader" Cesar Chavez of the NFWA. Long before joining the union, Camacho fought the rose-production bosses against their thieving practices. For example, the bosses promised a bonus of \$2 per thousand rose grafts IF the grafts proved 90 percent successful the following year! Though the plants survived, year after year, the bosses never followed through. Camacho led this fight alongside a handful of workers. For his efforts Camacho was blacklisted not only from rose fields, but all agricultural bosses' crops. In the spring of 1965, he had to steal food from the fields at night so that he and his wife and their two daughters could eat. For more on the life struggles of Epifanio Camacho, read Autobiography of a Communist: Communists are Made, not Born. Available at [www.plp.org](http://www.plp.org).

Later, hundreds followed his leadership in a strike demanding a contract for the NFWA giving wage increases. He had confidence that the skilled grafting workers would never scab, but Chavez cut the strike short to three days. Chavez also betrayed the fight by settling for a promise of higher wages without a contract.

Camacho was undiscouraged. He wasn't even disappointed that the blacklist against him in the

roses remained in effect. He told his friends, "be prepared because strikes are contagious."

There were more than 63 "labor disputes" in California in 1965. Despite these hard-fought efforts, official wages during these years rose from an average of \$1.33 an hour to only \$1.50! We are encouraged by the history of workers here who have fought for unions. But we will never forget the need to point the way from a slave wage system to communism.

★★★★★

The Story of the Chicken



While building the party there are steps or events we leave out or don't realize are part of base building process. We don't noticed our communist morals playing a role in our everyday life. Is it base building or is it your working-class morals that are at play on any given day? I would like to think they are one and the same.

We develop theories on how to win people in our base to fight the good fight and not just reform. Yes, CHALLENGE is a good base building tool but what practice leads up to introducing a person to CHALLENGE? I would would say it's chicken! Yes chicken is what leads to CHALLENGE being introduced to another person. Please let me explain.

It's past the hundred-year anniversary of the great October Revolution. The Bolshevik comrades that led the way didn't do it by publishing a newspaper. Their newspaper might have been the twitter of their time, but neither waving the paper nor tweeting will lead to revolution. The pre-twitter comrades got their hands dirty, as

should we. They broke bread with the same workers they wanted to win over. They shared dinner, difficult working conditions, stories, and traditions with their base.

They didn't lead how the rich lead. They were not standing on the hilltops winning people over. They were in the trenches. We need to be in the trenches. We need this, and everything else we write and say, to be discussed in the trenches.

I'm not just talking about the trenches of some war the bosses make us fight for their profit. The trenches are the streets, your job, your school, your hospital, your fightback, and everywhere else you have been building a base.

In the trenches of my current transit job, the rules (traditions with a more aggressive approach) are you buy chicken under three occasions: if you're new to the location; if you break a jerry (sledgehammer); and if your work anniversary comes up.

Now I could have just said no. However, what would that do for me? It's the workers' tradition. Am I not a worker? Do I not want to build with my fellow co-workers?

I saw first hand how they talked about the one worker who didn't buy chicken. That worker was not "in." In order to build with my co-workers; I needed to be in. They needed to know that I could come through for them. I bought that chicken and some sides. Did it improve my base? Will this lead to the CHALLENGEs for everyone? Only time will tell but workers gave me an opportunity to relate. If I can relate then maybe so can my fightback. Let's build this movement but let's not downplay the small things that can lead to workers relying on each other and future victories.

★★★★★

Oakland Celebrates Bolshevik Centennial

Some comments from participants at the celebration of the hundred-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Oakland:

After learning about the Republican tax bill passed in the dead of night, it felt like good medicine to dine and discuss fight back with a hall full of people dedicated to a better society. Shout out to a disabled comrade as they played your track, "I'm a worker" in which you spit hot fire for disability justice!

After a great discussion against racism, sexism and fascism, we listened to Public Enemy's Fight the Power. It seemed appropriate after the short film, "Fight like Ferguson."

**New book: Leon Trotsky's Collaboration with Germany & Japan**



It's \$25, plus \$5 for shipping and handling. Send your order and a check to Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn NY 11202.

The latest book on Leon Trotsky's collaboration with fascists.

At the Moscow Trials of 1937 and 1938, some of Leon Trotsky's followers accused Trotsky of secretly conspiring with Nazi Germany and fascist Japan.

Since Nikita Khrushchev's "Secret Speech" of 1956 attacking Stalin, these charges have been routinely dismissed as false by Soviet, Russian, and Western historians. But we know now that Khrushchev was lying!

Grover Furr asks the question: What is the evidence that Trotsky conspired with the Germans and Japanese? How should this evidence be analyzed and interpreted? In this book, Furr conducts an objective study of the evidence. He concludes that Trotsky did indeed collaborate with the Germans and Japanese.

The proof that Trotsky was guilty of collaboration with the Nazis and Japanese dramatically changes our understanding of Soviet history of the 1930s and of Joseph Stalin's role.

# LETTERS

&gt;&gt;

★

At the time when capitalism is robbing the poor to give to the rich, it is beautiful and hopeful to see more and new faces, especially young people recognizing the need for communism to destroy capitalism. The PLP celebration of 100 years of the Bolshevik Revolution was a gain and I hope to see the party growing to achieve our goal, smash capitalism.

★

Thanks for including us. It was a great program. I think the idea of discussing how workers can run the economy and guide the society towards a common goal of taking care of all, uplifting those oppressed, and preserving the ecology should be a topic of further discussion in future meeting, in my opinion.

★

## Feeling Sad and Depressed?



Are you anxious?

Worried about the future?

Feeling isolated and alone?

You might  
be suffering  
from  
**CAPITALISM**

Symptoms may include: homelessness, unemployment, poverty, hunger, feelings of powerlessness, fear, apathy, boredom, cultural decay, loss of identity, extreme self-consciousness, loss of free speech, incarceration, social or revolutionary

The Progressive Labor Party's celebration was a wonderful and educational event. We examined the past and the present history of class struggle through a diverse set of lenses. We shared these stories through pictures, songs, and speeches. I learned a lot that night and had a fantastic time!

★★★★★

### Welcome to Therapy: Fighting Mass & Individual Cynicism

Capitalist blues. The daily terror campaign from that orange Hair Führer. Lack of confidence combined with deep cynicism. Whatever you call it, we live in profoundly subjective times.

One answer the bosses provide, a Kool-Aid I drink, is therapy. I've been going to a nice liberal shrink for longer than I'm going to admit and still manage to be miserable. Capitalism is a cesspool of hypocrisy, lies, and dispossession. The system chips away at our class and individual ability to make change and own our destinies. So, we develop maladaptive behaviors to stay sane, some more than others (like me). But no one is truly sane in an inhumane and insane system. (Under communism will we *begin* to fathom what we are capable of doing, thinking, and creating.) In reaction, we choose the comfort of individualism, which proves to be just a Band-Aid anyway.

Therapists are not your friends. They will be useful ruling-class tools under growing fascism. Therapy sells you the dream that happiness is an inside job. Isolate yourself in the Redwoods or Green Mountains to find inner peace. (Yea, that doesn't sound lonely at all.) Self-actualization, they call it. Understand your deepest darkest parts, and stay confused of the dark times around you.

Therapists will openly admit their concern is *your* health—not your friends', co-workers', or wife's. And they definitely don't care about the

health of the class struggle. Stressed? Don't go to so many protests; take a bubble bath instead. Do you, boo. Unable to commit to a relationship? It's your mother's fault.

Joy is a collective job. It lives with the working class. Growing through sh\*t is part of the capitalist package—some more than others because of racism and sexism. The system isn't just about wage slavery. Marx and Engels had a name for it: alienation (it covered both the economic and political condition. Yea, your subjectivity is a political thing.)

So what does this mean in a time when our class is beaten down? To be honest, I don't have the answers. That's why I read CHALLENGE. But I do know my attitude and mood have a relationship with my involvement in the class struggle.

The kind of confidence we need as a class happens in a process where we fight together and stretch outside the borders of what the ruling class finds manageable. If we fight the false comforts, and confront our shortcomings in an honest, collective way, we stand a chance to be useful to our class, our kids, and ourselves. We got to weather this unstable climate.

Communists are not immune from this toxic system. We can't let the bosses win by becoming toxic ourselves. "The revolutionary must destroy the rut or the rut will destroy the revolutionary."

Open yourself up to those around you. A shrink is a poor substitute for the real therapy of class struggle. There is no glorious short cut; it's an ordinary and protracted process. We can choose comfort. Or we can have struggle, connection, and a little bit of courage to put our ideas and our flawed selves out there. We can get cozy with a beer and a binge on *Stranger Things*. Or we can learn to face discomfort, change ourselves, and contribute to a fighting atmosphere in this turbulent climate.

★★★★★



## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

### Black Flint & white W. Michigan, both victims of toxic water

NYT, 11/25 — They found pollutants in the water....Soon people were turning off their taps....

The source:...a local shoemaking company, Wolverine Worldwide, the maker of popular footwear...like Hush Puppies and Merrell....

Decades ago, Wolverine dumped sludge and leather from its tannery in the woods around here. For years, the company and the government stayed mostly silent about the trash piles, even as developers built houses...and even as researchers documented serious health risks from chemicals in the sludge....

Some of the same government agencies that botched the initial response to lead-tainted water in Flint...are on the case here....

...One Plainfield resident, Meaghan Schweinzer...lives on the same street where Wolverine once dumped sludge that included Scotchgard, the waterproofing chemical used in Hush Puppies shoes that contained [the pollutant] PFAS....

PFAS...has been linked to...decreased fertility and increased cancer risk....Wary locals have been reporting potential dump sites — 76 so far...— in backyards and hillsides...just north of Grand Rapids....

Several nervous residents pointed out flaws in Michigan's response in Flint, about 120 miles east...in the city's water source that ultimately

poisoned people with lead....

Flint, a majority-black city that has struggled with depopulation and poverty, looks very different from Plainfield Township, which is mostly white and middle-class....But residents of both places ...describe their fear and their feelings of betrayal....

"It's the same way with Flint," said Sandy Wynn-Stelt, whose water in Plainfield Township tested well above the advised levels of PFAS. "People were willing to sacrifice people's lives and people's livelihoods...because they wanted to make a profit....

Ms. Wynn-Stelt's husband died last year of liver cancer....Exposure to PFAS has been tied to liver problems and some kinds of cancer.

"I've got to believe drinking Scotchgard for 24 years was probably...taxing on his liver," said Ms. Wynn-Stelt.

### India's democracy: corporate-friendly pollution policies killing millions

NYT, 12/10 — The pollution in New Delhi is especially bad right now....One of the Sri Lankan [cricket] players...started throwing up on live television....

New Delhi's foul air...contained 22 times the level of hazardous particles that the World Health Organization considers acceptable....

...According to a new Unicef report, it might be permanently damaging children's brains....

[Prime Minister Narendra] Modi's...business-friendly policies, like loosening rules on construction sites, have made a toxic air problem even worse.

"Environmental regulations are being diluted

to promote the ease of doing business," said...a wildlife conservationist...."In some cities, we draw in poison with every breath we take."

....The authorities shut down schools. People flooded into hospitals with nasty coughs. Some said it was like fingers were closing around their throats....

... [The] chief minister of the state of Delhi.... said Delhi had turned into a "gas chamber"

....In 2015, pollution was linked to 2.5 million deaths in India, the medical journal The Lancet said....High levels of air pollution can cause neuroinflammation, damaging cognitive development in young children.

### CIA spy base directs murder of workers in Iraq and Afghanistan

NYT, 11/25 — Alice Springs, Australia — ...A top-secret military base...hidden in the Australian outback....known as the...Pine Gap...gathers information used to pinpoint airstrikes around the world....

...The facility...has become a magnet for Australian antiwar protesters....

...The station is involved in real-time contributions to the United States global military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Pine Gap...also "contributes data for C.I.A. drone operations in...Yemen, Somalia [and] Pakistan....

Pine Gap has "to bear a big responsibility for all the murder and mayhem that has taken place in Iraq and Afghanistan," said [protester] Jim Dowling.



BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION CENTENNIAL SERIES

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF SOVIET UNION FROM U.S. AUTO WORKER



This is the part of an extensive series about the Bolshevik Revolution and the triumphs, as well as the defeats, of the world communist movement of the 20th century. We welcome your comments and criticisms, and encourage all readers to discuss this period of history with their friends, classmates, co-workers, family, and comrades.

One of the reasons workers around the world need to join and build the international communist Progressive Labor Party on their jobs, campuses and in their military barracks is because there is no capitalist country on earth protected by capitalism's periodic crises. As we close out 2017, ten years since the last major political-economic crisis, capitalist economies are in a dark forest of uncertainty and peril for the international working class.

Capitalism Means Crisis

As CHALLENGE goes to press, the world's top-dog imperialist power, the U.S., is passing a complex tax reform bill that on the one hand, will rob the working class and give the U.S. economy a short-term jolt, and on the other, will have unpredictable long-term consequences. The tax bill's changes to will impact local and regional economies in ways far outside of what the federal government's economist fortune-tellers could ever predict.

As desperate as times have been for the working class since the last crisis, deeper crises loom ahead. Indicators like housing sales, construction activity, and freight movement contradict the falsely optimistic headlines in the capitalist press. The economy is troubled because of capitalism's fundamental contradiction: the private capitalist ownership of the few over how things are produced, and the majority dispossessed working class who are compelled by starvation to produce for them.

For the bosses, crisis means the surviving big capitalists gobble up their competitors and life goes on. As 18th century British banker Baron Rothschild once said of the necessary relationship between crisis and capitalism: "It's time to buy when there's blood in the streets."

History Is A Science

No amount of legislative sorcery from either the liberal Democrats or the Republicans can change capitalism's periodic plunges into crisis. And the bosses' solutions to the crises are as equally inevitable. In our era of imperialism, they solve them with sharpening racism and fascism to exploit and divide workers harder, and bigger imperialist wars to conquer more resources, workers, and markets.

As communists we learn from the past and study history as a science. One of the biggest crises of the last century was the "Great Depression" that began in 1929. This crisis sent the world capitalist economy headlong

into staggering unemployment and social dislocation.

This time though, the bosses and their liberal politicians were scared. There was one place in the world that completely escaped the Great Depression—the Soviet Union. There was such a shortage of labor that the Soviet Union invited workers from all over the world to help build socialism.

We reproduce below a description of workers' daily lives in the Soviet Union as told by a U.S. auto worker. It is the text of a letter dated January 20, 1934, when the Reuther brothers were working in a new Soviet automobile plant in Gorky. Walter Reuther had been laid off in 1932 as the Great Depression in the United States worsened. The letter is signed "Vic and Wal" for Victor and Walter Reuther.

Walter Reuther later became a vicious anti-communist. After he became president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in 1949, he promptly expelled all communists from their elected positions in the United Automobile Workers union. He also expelled 11 communist-led unions from the CIO.

In return, U.S. bosses "forgot" about the letter below:

Dear Mel and Glad: It seemed ages since we had heard from you, so you might well imagine with what joy we welcomed news from Detroit.

What you have written concerning the strikes and the general labor unrest in Detroit makes us long for the moment to be back with you in the front lines of the struggle: however, the daily inspiration that is ours as we work side by side with our Russian comrades in our factory, comes with the thought that we are actually helping to build a society that will forever end the exploitation of man by man. This thought is that what we are building will be for the benefit and enjoyment of the working class, not only of Russia but the entire world. This thought is the compensation we receive for our temporary absence from the

struggle in the United States.

Mel, you know Wal and I were always strong for the Soviet Union. You know we were always ready to defend it against the lies of reactionaries. But let me tell you, now that we are here we are more than just sympathetic toward our country, we are ready to fight for it and its ideals. And why not? Here the workers, through their militant leadership, the proletarian dictatorship, have not sold out. Here they have against all odds--against famine, internal strife and civil war, against sabotage, capitalist invasion and isolation--our comrades here have maintained power. They have transformed the "dark masses" of Russia into energetic, enlightened workers. They have transformed the Soviet Union into one of the greatest industrial nations in the world....

Here are no bosses to drive fear into the workers. No one to drive them in mad speed-ups. Here the workers are in control. ...This is what the outside world calls the "ruthless dictatorship in Russia." I tell you, Mel, in all the countries we have thus far been in, we have never found such genuine proletarian democracy.

In our factory...Women and men work side by side. At noon we all eat in a large factory restaurant where wholesome food is served. A workers' band furnishes music to us from an adjoining room. For the remainder of our 1-hour lunch period we adjourn to the Red Corner recreation, where workers play games, read papers and magazines or technical books, or merely sit, smoke, and chat. Such a fine spirit of comradeship you have never before witnessed in your life. If you saw our superintendent as he walks through the shop greeting workers with "Hello, Comrade," you could not distinguish him from any other worker.

The interesting thing, Mel, is that 3 years ago this place here was a vast prairie, a waste land, and the thousands of workers here who are building complicated dies and other tools were at that time peasants who had never before even seen an industry, let alone worked in one. Through the bitter Russian winters of 45° below zero they have toiled with bare hands, digging foundations, and erecting structures.

About a 20-minute walk from the factory an entirely new Socialist city has grown up in these 3 years. Here over 50,000 of the factory workers live in fine new modern apartment buildings. Large hospitals, schools, libraries, theaters, and clubs have sprung up, and all for the use of those who work. Three nights ago we were invited to the clubhouse in "Sosgor" (Socialist City) to attend an evening of enjoyment given by the workers of the die shop. Imagine, all the workers with whom we daily work coming together that evening for a fine banquet, a stage performance, a concert, speeches, and a big dance...

In all my life, Mel, I have never seen anything so inspiring. Once a fellow has seen what is possible where workers gain power, he no longer fights just for an ideal, he fights for something which is real, something tangible. Mel, we are witnessing and experiencing great things in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We are seeing the most backward nation in the world being rapidly transformed into the most modern and scientific, with new concepts amidst new social ideals coming into force. Who would not be inspired by such events?

Carry on the fight for a Soviet America.  
Vic. and Wal

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