

CHALLENGE



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AUTO WORKERS AGAINST RACISM



NEW YORK CITY, SEPTEMBER 7 – One hundred and fifty members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union brought the message of international working-class solidarity to the NYC Labor Day Parade. Comrades from Progressive Labor Party (PLP) were active in the contingent, pushing the demonstration to the left through our militant banners attacking U.S. President Donald Trump and the fascist capitalist system.

The weakness of this march was its unquestioning acceptance of the Democrats and liberal bosses. President Trump's deportation machine was developed by the presidents before him, going back to the Clinton era. A workers' movement that does not attack both political parties and bosses has no fighting chance to change the world.

Although the union remains weakened by the poisonous politics of liberalism and nationalism, PLP is making modest gains in winning more workers to a more anti-racist, internationalist, communist line. Slowly but surely, we are fighting to connect our local struggles to the wider movement for workers' liberation, and call on our class

to reject the bosses' election traps and build the fight for revolution.

Bring an anti-racist, communist line to the masses

As the liberal misleaders organize these larger marches and work hard to water down any militant struggle, it's essential to bring a sharper anti-racist message to win workers to a better line. The lead nationalist banner read, "No Trump, No KKK, No Fascist USA!" and another read, "Solidarity Has No Borders, No Ban – No Wall!"

As our delegation marched up 5th Avenue, we stopped at Trump Tower and held a brief rally against the author of the racist Muslim ban inspired by Obama era policies, advocate of the anti-refugee atrocities at the U.S./Mexico border, and the current head of U.S. imperialism.

Two years ago, we held a similar action after the racist Nazi-riot in Charlottesville, Virginia where a deranged racist drove his car into a crowd of protestors. Recently, we also marched after the racist mass murder in El Paso, Texas by yet another

emboldened racist killer, egged on directly from the White House.

Our small delegation stood out from the massive march that must have included well over 10,000 workers from almost every union in NYC (which has the highest union density in the U.S.). There were many U.S. flags, a few bagpipe marching bands and one contingent was led by two military Humvees with camouflage-uniformed National Guard members inside. Although PLP has been active in this union for many years, struggling with many workers around major aspects of our line, especially internationalism and anti-racism, we still are confronted with the bosses' garbage ideas within the mass movement.

But by participating in many struggles, large and small, both against the bosses and the International UAW leadership, we have earned the confidence of our sisters and brothers and have been able to influence the larger union that represents around 14,000 workers in the NYC metropolitan area. Through this slow-moving difficult process, we have also established a small but regular readership for CHALLENGE.

Don't vote—fight for communist revolution

For us, the main lesson is that we can do much better. The racist profit system has nothing to offer but growing wars, poverty, and terror. "Capitalism" has become a dirty word to millions of workers who are searching for answers, especially young workers. It's essential to win these workers to the truth that the problems confronting our class did not start with Trump, nor will they end once he's out of office. We need to expose the liberal wing of the ruling class as they try to win a new generation of workers to fight and die for the needs of U.S. imperialism. We need to explain that their rivalry with the bosses in China and Russia is leading us to a third world war.

With the 2020 elections already starting to consume the unions, we will have to fight harder and smarter to help workers avoid the trap of "lesser-evil" politics and choose the long road to 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

G-7

The burning house of capitalism

At the start of August’s Group of Seven (G-7) meeting in France, lame-duck German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for a renewed effort to fight climate change and stop the raging forest fires in the Amazon rainforest. Seconding French President Emmanuel Macron, she declared: “Our house is burning, and we mustn’t remain silent about it” (Wall Street Journal, 8/24).

But just as the relentless capitalist drive for maximum profits imperils the environment, with no solution in sight, the liberal main-wing finance capitalists are unable to put out the flames in their own house. The G-7 is getting burned by deepening divisions amid the intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and China, with the European Union in the middle. For the capitalist bosses, global warming is a cynical talking point. Despite Macron’s phony plea to save the Amazon, France remains Europe’s second largest consumer of energy after Germany. Last year, as Macron arrived in St. Petersburg for economic talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the French energy giant Total S.A. bought a stake in a Russian Arctic gas project, the new frontier for environmental atrocities. The oil and gas “supermajor” has been pillaging the planet since World War I (U.S. Energy Information Administration).

Most of all, it’s the house of capitalism that’s burning. From Europe to South America, from Asia to Africa, the profit system is in crisis. It cannot meet workers’ needs for a decent life. It’s built on racist and sexist inequality. It’s propped up by increasingly open fascism. The international working class, led by Progressive Labor Party, needs to burn this rotten house to the ground with communist revolution!

Isolation and chaos

The G-7 is a bloc of capitalist countries—the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom—that formed in 1975 to counter the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries’ (OPEC) oil embargo. In its prime, during the late years of the Cold War, the G-7 leveraged its members’ economic power against the already capitalist Soviet Union. The group is run by finance capital, the main wing of capitalism worldwide.

Over the last three decades, however, the G-7’s collective gross domestic product (GDP) has declined from nearly 70 percent of the global economy to less than 50 percent (Council on Foreign Relations, 8/20). Though China is not a member of the G-7, it is “the world’s largest economy in purchasing power parity at more than US \$25 trillion” (Asia Times, 9/2), and at the G-7 meeting it was the elephant in the room.

Under President Donald Trump, who fronts the priorities of more isolationist domestically oriented bosses, the U.S. has undermined the G-7 by opting out of the Paris Agreement on climate change, imposing tariffs on allies and enemies alike, attacking Germany’s trade surplus, and attempting to restore Russia’s membership despite its annexation of Crimea.

Meanwhile, the UK is in chaos. Like Trump, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has exposed a deep split within the country’s ruling class. In 2016, Britain voted narrowly to leave the European Union. Since then, the UK’s main-wing bosses have struggled to delay or even reverse the vote without exposing British “democracy” as the sham that it is. Less than two months after taking power, Johnson has lost his control over Parliament. A Conservative Party advisor called it “a complete fracturing of the British political system, and a British government that has ground to a halt” (New

York Times, 9/4).

China rising

The divisions don’t stop there. China’s checkbook diplomacy has opened rifts within the broader European Union. After receiving massive Chinese investment, Greece and Hungary defied the U.S. bosses and watered down an EU statement on Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. As an EU policymaker stated, “We’ve now reached a situation where China essentially has veto power inside EU decision-making bodies” (foreignaffairs, 8/19).

In addition, Italy, a G-7 member, endorsed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China’s gigantic global infrastructure project. Even more ominous, Germany, the EU’s largest economy, now has more trade with China than with the U.S. As China continues to rise at the U.S. bosses’ expense, the threat of a global military conflict looms. The potential for World War III, along with working-class rebellions like the Yellow Vest protests in France, pushed French and German rulers to lead their G-7 agenda with a discussion of inequality (Trump dismissed this as a “niche” topic).

The main-wing’s Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has attacked Trump for adopting the unilateral, Fortress America position championed by the domestically oriented bosses, including the Koch-funded Heritage Foundation. The main-wing capitalists know they don’t have a prayer to fend off China’s ascendancy—much less defeat China in the next world war—without the multilateral alliances of the old liberal world order.

Main wing strikes back

The split in the U.S. ruling class is a big obstacle for the main wing and its ability to impose a war economy based on “shared sacrifice”—in other words, to impose fascism by disciplining its own class and attacking workers’ wages and health care. Without working class buy-in to a unified, fascist, imperialist patriotism, the finance capitalists are sunk. No wonder that Foreign Affairs, the CFR’s mouthpiece, is explicitly calling on Democrats and “neoprogressives” to “make equitable war finance policy a part of its agenda” (10/5/18).

Although Trump and Johnson represent short-term threats to the liberal bosses, finance capital still has the upper hand. In the UK, Parliament blocked Johnson’s push for a chaotic “no-deal” exit from the European Union. In Italy, the open fascist Matteo Salvini and his racist, anti-immigrant League party have been kicked out of the governing coalition and at least temporarily sidelined. In the U.S., more than a dozen Republican representatives are retiring rather than running with Trump in 2020. As of now, it appears likely that the main wing big fascists will be able to take down the domestic little fascists—and then turn their sights on the working class.

Workers have no side in the bosses’ fight

Historically, the liberal bosses have misled workers into supporting fascism and imperialist war through fake movements for social and economic justice. As always, these phony “progressives”—capitalist reformers like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—are the main danger to our class. PLP is a fighting party. We organize within the liberals’ mass organizations—on the job and in the schools—as well as in the bosses’ military. We plant the seeds to turn imperialist war into class war, and finally into worldwide communist revolution to smash the profit system for good. Join us!✊

Labor Day March

PLP promotes strike and communism to CUNY workers

NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 7—“Always go with the rank-and-file.” This is what a union member said today at the New York City Labor Day Parade when he heard about an ongoing dispute between union leadership and a militant rank-and-file group fighting for a better contract. These rank and file militants want to strike for better pay. In the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) we want that and much more. We want the working class to run the world.

That union is the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), representing 30,000 faculty and staff of the City University of New York (CUNY). One-third of the PSC contingent at the parade were members of a group called \$7K or Strike (7KOS), which is actively organizing on many campuses for a strike when (not if) CUNY refuses to increase the minimum pay for part-time instructors for a 3-credit course to \$7,000 (The current average pay for these workers is \$3,200 per course—a poverty wage).

Instead of pleading with politicians, they are

building unity and solidarity among all CUNY workers so that we can take the fight to the bosses. PLP has been active in this group, promoting a strike and struggling with our friends to the PLP and fight for communism.

At the parade we distributed CHALLENGE, our communist newspaper, which describes a world where workers are fighting back, as the capitalist rulers exploit us and bring us ever closer to world war. We also handed out a 7KOS flyer calling for working class solidarity across CUNY and across New York State. We got positive responses to both, reform and revolution.

The union leadership managed to bring out only 20 or so members. The number is unsurprising, given the demoralizing and disaffecting contract campaign that they have waged. Instead of building anger and militancy against the racist, deteriorating conditions at CUNY, they have repeatedly urged members to be patient, to “trust the bargaining team” as they negotiate behind

closed doors, and to rely on their strategy of begging politicians and shaming the CUNY Board of Trustees (as if this collection of CEOs and ruling class servants has any shame). This strategy is well on its way to producing a racist austerity contract that the leadership will most likely try to shove down our throats.

There is still a long way to go toward building a strike movement at CUNY. PLP members and friends will be there all the way, building working-class confidence, pushing for multi-racial unity and encouraging students and staff to join the Progressive Labor Party and the lifelong struggle for a better world, communism.

The truth is that \$7,000 is not a just wage for part-time instructors. There is no such thing as a just wage under capitalism, because all wages represent the theft of our labor. Justice for CUNY instructors and workers around the world will only come when wages, and the capitalist system, are obliterated.✪

Ayotzinapa, a crime of capitalism

GUERRERO, MEXICO—A massive demonstration on September 26 will commemorate the struggle for the return of the 43 students who disappeared in Ayotzinapa five years ago. The details of this incident, part of the criminal history of the capitalist system against the working class, have never been revealed. Communists in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) believe that as long as the capitalists are in power, they will continue to use state violence and criminal gangs to assassinate and disappear the students and workers who fight back. The only way to confront the bosses' violence is to organize our class for communist revolution!

Guerrero: target for local, international capitalists

The state of Guerrero, where the rural education school of Ayotzinapa is located, has historically been one of the poorest in Mexico. The misery of the workers in this mountain region is similar to the most extreme poverty in Africa, and has its roots in the racist exploitation of a population with indigeneous and African roots.

International and local capitalists look to amass the wealth of the resources in the region through militarization to enforce increasingly fascist order upon the working class around some of the richest gold mines in Mexico. Exploitation of these mines, along with some of the largest poppy fields in the country, require tight control of the territory and the transportation routes by the drug traffickers located in the region.

To the bosses, any working class resistance that threatens their profits is unacceptable. With the support of the political apparatus of the capitalist state, especially the police and the military, they can protect their investments by systematically attacking the students and workers. Under capitalism, these criminal groups of capitalists



entrenched in the mining industry and the repressive state apparatus are one and the same - and the workers need to organize to confront them all!

Capitalist dictatorship fears workers' fightback

The previous government administration, under Enrique Peña Nieto, used so-called “education reform” to begin to eliminate teachers' schools and to criminalize all types of social protest. Those of us fighting these conditions found ourselves in the crossfire of the repressive forces of organized crime that in reality are the same part of the police, military and paramilitary capitalist state

apparatus that protects the mining interests and drug trafficking interests in the state.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) promised justice in the Ayotzinapa case, but the repression of the workers has only increased since he came to power. In order for the capitalist class to carry out their exploitation and control of the region's resources, AMLO has taken advantage of the support of the working class that brought him to power to guarantee the benefits of the capitalists. For example, his new “ley garrote” (nightstick law), enacted in the state of Tabasco criminalizes social protest and resistance to the capitalists' megaprojects. There can be no justice for the workers under capitalism. The laws and the courts only serve to defend the interests of the capitalists.

Past and present: workers rebel!

This oppression has given rise to armed rebellion that began in the 1970s, under the leadership of teachers Genaro Vasquez and Lucio Cabanas, who graduated from the rural Education School of Ayotzinapa. For many young people in the region, to become a teacher is to live a life of subsistence. Many of these young teachers have helped to raise the political consciousness of the working class communities where they work. For this reason, the state has begun to eliminate these rural education schools and the resistance that they generate, due in large part to the pro-working class and communist ideas they learn in the schools.

We cannot expect justice from politicians like AMLO. Only a society led by the workers can end the misery, exploitation and crimes committed against our class. PLP honors the memory of the 43 students and all of our class brothers and sisters who have been killed or disappeared for the bloodlust of capital. We call on the workers to have confidence in our class and to organize against this criminal system. Read and distribute CHALLENGE and join a study group or action today!✪

AMLO's capitalist role in Mexico— Workers need communism

Last year in Mexico's presidential election Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (aka AMLO) came to power in Mexico. He rode a wave of massive discontent with the previous president Enrique Pena Nieto. Also, he promised an end to official corruption which he calls Mexico's IV transformation. The other three, he argued, were the War of Independence (1810-1821), the War of Reform (1858-1861) and the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917). The following is a report on the reality of this so-called transformation.

AMLO's arrival to power in Mexico must be analyzed within the obvious failure of its policies, which, in the late 1970s, represented an option to rescue the capitalist system. Around the world, this failure is evident and demonstrates that the only two options to reorganize the distribution of the world are war and the fake democratic process. The working class is either deceived to accept or openly subjected to the vagaries of the market and the consequent exploitation of raw materials and people.

In Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Greece and Mexico, the bosses have taken advantage of the distrust and depoliticization of the working class to boost charismatic politician allied to the system. These characters take advantage of the workers' anger and frustration in the face of the ineptitude, corruption and all-out thievery of the rulers who preceded them, and based on this discontent, they get them elected.

In Mexico, AMLO's electoral campaign got the workers to accept the candidate's trap. The leadership of Andrés Manuel simulated an opposition to the governments that have taken the workers to the extreme conditions of exploitation in which they have lived, as well as to a war against drug trafficking that has sown the territory with bodies of the dead and soldiers. With AMLO in power, the consensus and agreements necessary to make legitimate use of force have been developed. Arguing their status as a democratic government that represents the interests of the people, the imperialist projects have been given continuity, which entails confronting the "opponents" of these projects with the use of force

or co-optation, and thus obtaining the support of public opinion. In reality, the new government represents with its actions, the interests of capitalists who aspire to have a greater share of power and resources in the country.

This government's conduct does not represent a change, it essentially benefits for the most powerful sectors of the Mexican bourgeoisie, who see the possibility of breaking with their dependence and submission to US imperialism and the opportunity to conduct business with other imperialists from Europe and Asia. For example, China aspires to have a leading role in the construction of the Mayan train.

For this reason, an adequate environment for foreign investment is guaranteed, with the support of the population gained through a new version of political patronage that promises the redistribution of taxes for the needy. In this way, conditioning the support of the people to the unsanctioned approval of the conditions for the reproduction of capitalism based on extractivism, investment-dependent production for maquiladoras, monopoly and super exploitation.

The megaprojects promoted by the previous governments were continued and multiplied in the 4th Transformation. Since they guarantee big capital's need to reproduce and to exploit within its territory: minerals, hydrocarbons, exploitation and privatization of gas, construction of thermoelectric plants and gas pipelines.

Thus, instead of seven Special Economic Zones (EEZ), a free zone will be created with six industrial parks along the Isthmus of Tehuantepec—that connects to the ports of Salina Cruz, Oaxaca and Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz— one of the most lagging areas of the country (La Jornada April 25, 2019. Alma E. Muñoz and Fabiola Martínez). It will be called a Trans-Isthmic corridor, as well as the creation of maquiladora parks in the southeast, thermoelectric plants, gas pipelines and energy infrastructure projects with Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. According to AMLO, these projects will also serve to contain the wave of migrants seeking asylum who are facing violence and unemployment in their countries.

The United States conditioned the imposition of tariffs on Mexican export products in exchange for Mexico becoming a dam to contain migrants.

One of the first tasks of the newly created National Guard, has been to deploy more than 6 thousand soldiers to stop migrants, but its main mission is to contain social protest, since there are more than 400 environmental conflicts being waged by many social organizations and defenders of the environment; they oppose the effects that the 26 thousand mining concessions produce. The new police state protects the mining bosses and attacks and represses the working class.

The US bosses will benefit tremendously from the industrial corridors planned in Mexico and Central America, since the transportation of goods will be cheaper to reach Asia, in particular China. This situation has similarities with what happened in the Middle East where the imperialists made war to facilitate the transfer of gas and oil where only a few benefited through the death of thousands of people.

The working class must understand that the capitalists will create wars and allow governments such as AMLO's to guarantee their interests and continue exploiting the natural and human resources of its territory. They will try to make us believe that their shameless implementation of fascism is, in reality, the will of the 30 million people who voted for it. Many workers thought they were voting to the end of decades of social and political injustices but, in the end, AMLO is just delivering the continuation of neoliberalism.

The disappointment of the workers in Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Greece in the face of the failures of the "progressive" governments to solve their problems opened the doors for fascist governments. The PLP communists in Mexico and the world fight against the plans of the liberal and fascist capitalists, but mainly we organize our class and educate ourselves so that we understand that communism is the only alternative to the hell of capitalism. Join us!✊

Haiti education conference:

'Fight to learn, learn to fight'

HAITI, SEPTEMBER 10— As a new school year begins across the northern hemisphere, ruling classes across the globe herd working class teachers and students back to classrooms and school systems designed to reproduce capitalist social relations: racism, exploitation, and poverty. Communist teachers, parents and students are faced with a dual task: battle like hell now for immediate improvements in learning conditions while never losing sight of the larger fight for communist revolution.

At a recent conference run by a local reform organization, the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members provided a model of raising communist ideas inside the bosses liberal reform organizations. (see box). The stated purpose of HAGN is to "support the rights and emancipation of girls and young women in Haiti."

It was recognized by Beyonce for its work in 2013 (haiti-girlsnetwork.org; www.beyonce.com) and is allied with the Abundance Foundation, and the liberal Harvard-based philanthro-MDs Steven Kahn and Paul Farmer. Harvard was built by slave labor, financed by slave trading (Wilder, Ebony and Ivy), pioneered the racist pseudoscience of eugenics (Harvard Magazine, March/April

2016) and to this day remains a nerve center the U.S. ruling class imperialist main wing. The same big fascists that invented napalm at Harvard, for the purpose of butchering workers during the Vietnam war. Now they want us to believe they are friends to Haitian girls, but our comrades and friends are not fooled.

Liberal parasites prey on Haiti's youth

Under the Harvard-led liberal imperialist world order, education for the children of the Haitian working class is a disaster. 40 percent of children aged 5-15 don't go to school at all, and 60 percent drop out before finishing primary school to help support their families. Only 20 percent of eligible students go on to high school. Schools for the children of the working class lack toilets, running water, walls that reach the ceiling and libraries; in rural schools, the teachers are not trained and often have not completed secondary school

In the coming school year, as liberal education bosses pose as fighters for education reform, comrades everywhere must fight to raise our Haitian comrades' analysis of schools and capitalism, which holds true worldwide. ✊

No future for working class youth under capitalism

Education in a society which prioritizes the production of wealth to the detriment of human beings has lost its sense of what's right and what's wrong. Such a society cannot really produce free or liberated women and men, integrated into their society and truly productive human beings. The preparation of the child so that she/he has a "secure economic situation" in later years is nothing but an illusion. Education does not guarantee anything under a system of exploitation—capitalism—for the masses of workers and their children! Daily, in fact, schools pass from what should be their objective, developing the student fully as a human being and cultivating the ability to realize her/his full potential, to the student becoming merely a cog in the wheel of the bosses' system. And the schools are required to reinforce the inequalities of the system as a whole. They prepare individuals to be blind to what's really going on, who cannot see the true from the false, the good from the bad.

Children don't all have the same opportunities in school. Your level of education depends upon what the bosses need you to become as an adult. If you are to work in a factory/sweatshop, basic reading, writing and math are all that is required. If you are to work in the fields, even less is required. If you will be needed to be a teacher or a lawyer or a doctor, then of course you will get more education. Those children who don't even have the opportunity to go to school at all will become the unemployed workers of the future, working in the informal sector, selling a few loaves of bread or some carrots on the street. This is why the various churches, private institutions and the State want to control education: their interest is to see that school doesn't let the children flourish as human beings who question this system based on exploitation and inequality and that is truly dangerous. It is thus necessary to really transform education, not just reform it, and members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) will fight tooth and nail alongside students and their parents at all levels in the struggle for a better life, a decent life.

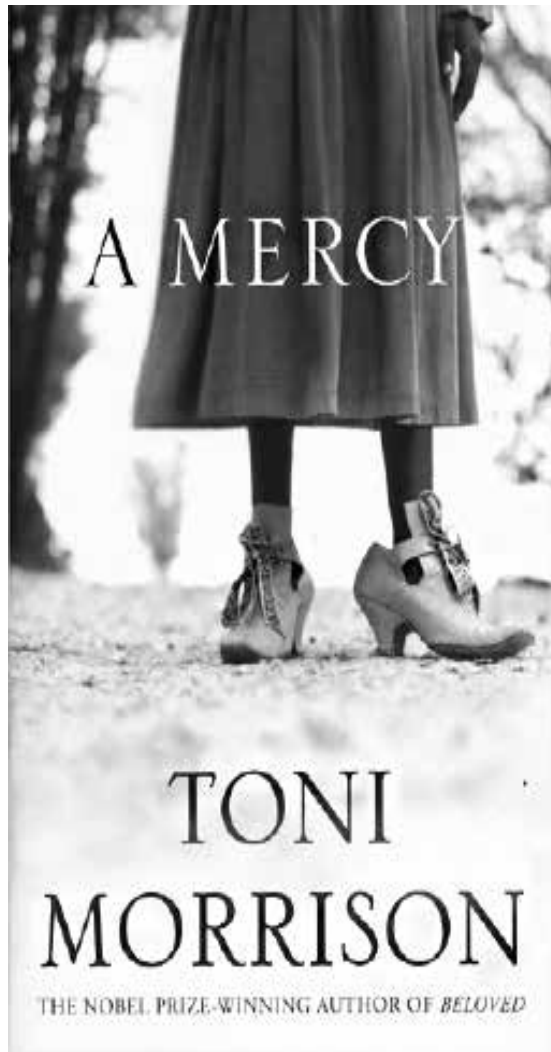
But in the end, a system that is based on inequality, that creates rich and poor, bosses and workers, doesn't deserve to exist. And that means we must fight for the destruction of the capitalist system that forges inequalities of all kinds, exploiting women and men, for the sole purpose of building or multiplying capital for a very small minority. So our struggle to end this exploitative and dehumanizing system embraces the transformation of education as well. Children are the adults of tomorrow, and you have a choice: resign yourself to being exploited or fight back, not just for yourself and in your hometown, but for all the children of Haiti and elsewhere around the world. Together we can fight back and win.

Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*: a Marxist appreciation

Words of praise poured in for the Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison when she died on August 5, 2019. She was lauded for her mastery of language, the depth of her characterizations, and her profound understanding of the lived consequences of sexism and racism. She was also celebrated as a national treasure. As the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy K. Smith wrote, "I don't believe there is a writer who understood America better and loved it with more ferocity than Toni Morrison." There is no doubt that Morrison was not a radical, but a liberal, and that her heavy reliance on psychoanalysis to explain her characters' behavior fails to target the roots of their systemic oppression in the coercive power relations generated by capitalism.

Morrison's Black female characters: Pecola Breedlove in *The Bluest Eye* (1970), Sula and Nell in *Sula* (1973), Sethe and Baby Suggs in *Beloved* (1987) all experienced extreme suffering, physical and psychological. But the direct and indirect sources of their oppression, found in the capitalist drive to profit, remain obscure. Morrison's idealist approach to causality is reinforced in her novels by her occasional reliance upon the supernatural to account for her characters' motivations. In her book of literary criticism, *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* (1992), Morrison ahistorically traces many white writers' individualistic conceptions of heroism to a generalized need to dominate and marginalize a racialized "other"; the material origins of this need remain largely unexplored.

In one of her novels, however—*A Mercy* (2008)—Morrison quite persuasively utilizes the tools of class analysis to explore the origins of race-based social inequality. Set in late 17th-century colonial America, the novel confirms and enacts a Marxist understanding of the ways in which the category of race emerged and then hardened as capital accumulation took increasingly brutal forms. The kinds of insights into the origins of race and racism that we gain from historical texts like Lerone Bennett's *The Shaping of Black America* (1973) and Theodore Allen's *The Invention of the White Race* (1994, 1997) are amply borne out in Morrison's fictional treatment. Theodore Allen's biographer asserts that Morrison claimed to have



read both volumes of Allen's important study before writing *A Mercy*.

The novel stresses the common oppression experienced by a group of laborers in the same household: Lina, a Native American woman who survived a smallpox epidemic; Rebekkah, an English mail-order bride from an impoverished family of religious fanatics; Sorrow, a dark-skinned young woman who refuses to hate her own body; Scully and Willard, two indentured servants who may never escape their bondage; and Florens, a young

woman of mixed parentage who mourns her unexplained abandonment by her mother. Moreover, Jacob Vaarck, the "master" of the household, while clearly positioned to benefit from the labor of those he controls, is portrayed as initially humane and free of racialized preconceptions. He respects as an equal the free Black man whom he hires as a blacksmith; he hardens into a racist only when his wealth is invested in the Caribbean slave trade, and he aspires to turn his farmhouse into an Old World-style mansion with wrought-iron gates.

The novel is a painful read, in that Florens, through whose consciousness much of the story is told, never understands why her mother—an enslaved Angolan brought to Barbados—chose to "give" her away to Jacob Vaarck. Only at the end is the reader exposed to the thoughts of Florens's mother, who feared that her spirited daughter would be dragged into the whorehouse of chattel slavery should she remain on the Caribbean plantation. Ironically, the loss of her daughter was "a mercy" compared to such a fate.

Mainly, though, the novel testifies to the fluidity of conceptions of race in the colonial period; indeed, the narrative never uses the categories that would subsequently become "natural" descriptors: white, Black, Negro Indian. Moreover, Bacon's Rebellion of 1677—the last multiracial rebellion of oppressed laborers before the hardening of racial divisions—is referenced early in the novel as a lost possibility.

The novel is narrated in the present tense: the reader knows where the nation is headed, but the characters do not. That the United States should end up being founded on racialized inequality was a function of the ideologies of superiority and inferiority accompanying the development of capitalism, not an inevitable reflection of the human need to exploit those who look different. Tracy K. Smith's description of Morrison as a lover of America is not borne out of the incisive analysis of the class-engendered politics of divide and conquer that shapes *A Mercy*. In this novel, Morrison may have "understood" America; that she "loved it with . . . ferocity" is highly dubious. ☹

Revolutionary potential of CUNY students

NEW YORK CITY, September 9—A part-time history instructor at the City University of New York (CUNY) offers a description of "back to school" first days. "Where does the anti-racist club meet? I want to join!" Two days in class and students are already showing a great interest in fighting back as well as an openness to communist ideas. Ten students signed up to join our Activist Club, 30 copies of CHALLENGE were distributed and students have been engaging in sharp and lively discussions about the history of the United States and the kind of future we want.

On day one, we reviewed the early history of the U.S. from Columbus to the Civil War. After a brief summary of the events from 1619 (arrival of first Black indentured servants in Jamestown) to 1865, students pointed out that the main aspect of U.S. society was racism, whether the institution of slavery, the genocide of Native Americans, the war with Mexico or the Civil War. A student posed the question: Can we ever stop racism? Students mentioned that racism was taught and learned and that we are not born racist. When asked to answer the question, almost the entire class thought we could not end racism. Would it take a revolution? Almost every hand went up. That was a good time to share CHALLENGE with the class.

On Day two, we started to examine the Reconstruction era right after the Civil War and look at the great achievements made by Black workers and white workers in trying to build an equal society. We talked about the changes that were fought for and the hardships that were faced. There was a debate about which was more important, voting or owning land. I was able to point out how politicians come to our community, one of the poorest in the U.S., seeking votes but that's about it. A few students challenged the idea that voting is the way to change society. One student said, "The change must always come from us, not from any politicians." So that was an opportunity

to discuss student organizing, challenging tuition hikes and other issues on campus (e.g., broken elevators, long lines to get ID cards, shortage of classes, and limited healthy food options in the cafeteria).

We are looking forward to this semester on campus, discussing Progressive Labor Party's (PLP's) ideas with students and engaging in class struggle. We have a new study group that is discussing the history of our revolutionary communist movement and involving students in supporting the demand for higher wages for part-time teachers and challenging the bosses' tuition increases. ☹



LETTERS

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



Chicago's fair workweek reform not enough

The Chicago City Council and mayor recently passed a "fair workweek" ordinance (see CHALLENGE 8/28).

It gives workers of large employers certain rights, like a two week schedule change notice instead of the one or two days' notice many employers give now.

It also mandates compensation for workers sent home from work on short notice. These reforms are like putting a band aid on a deadly capitalist cancer. We need communist revolution to wipe the bosses off the face of the earth, once and for all.

SEIU and other unions lobbied the liberal mayor and her lackeys for these reforms. They had workers testify before the City Council on behalf of the ordinance. The testimony was pointless since the decision-makers had already decided, after business groups dropped their opposition when some ordinance changes favored their interests (like excluding workers making \$26/hr or more and not putting it into effect for a year and half, etc).

The unions are also fighting for a \$15/hr minimum wage. Many longtime union members, especially in hospitals, make much less. Many dietary and housekeeping workers are Black and Latin women, subject to super exploitation because of sexism and racism.

These laws will not solve the main contradiction between workers and bosses. A communist, Karl Marx, discovered a long time ago that under capitalism, the bosses exploit labor by paying as little as possible, thereby extracting profits. This system makes this robbery legal. Without exploiting labor, there are no profits.

While \$15/hr may temporarily help, the cost of living will keep going up in order for the rate of profit to be maximized at our expense. The unions and politicians are in an alliance to trap workers in endless reform battles and voting for politicians who promise they will work in our interests.

But the reality is that union reforms and liberal politicians will never tell workers that capitalism is obsolete and must be destroyed and replaced with

communism. Only communists and the Party of the working class, Progressive Labor Party (PLP), will advocate for an end to profits and exploitation. We need workers' power to outlaw the bosses and their rotten system.

★★★★★

Liberal politicians futile against climate change

While I personally feel that we in the Party should be more vocal about issues concerning environmental destruction, the recent fires in the Amazon are a strong example of why our politics are correct. Using paper straws will have no effect when there are capitalist interests in the mining and logging industries that politicians such as Bolsonaro serve. A switch from these industries to more energy-efficient ones, furthermore, would only be possible under a communist society. Thus, as long as workers rely on wages in order to survive, there will always be working class support of these dated and destructive industries, as exemplified by Trump's false promise to bring back coal jobs in the U.S.

Above all, the most important thing to understand is that even Democrats such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) cannot save us. As communists, this will probably be one of the most difficult things to communicate to our base. I myself have difficulty communicating it to myself. Nevertheless, as one comrade recently pointed out to me in a counter argument, AOC's Green New Deal will not stop the biggest cause of environmental destruction; inter-imperialist war.

There is a very informative book called *Shock of the Anthropocene* that highlights this fact. In its chapter labeled the "Thanatocene", it displays jarring data on how the bulk of environmental destruction in the last 100 years has been primarily warfare: direct causes such as shrapnel destroying fertile soil in large parts of Europe and emissions from the machines, and the creation and push for certain industries to utilize the surplus materials from warfare such as steel for cars.

The destruction of the environment has also exhibited itself in post-war ideologies such as the atomization of the average U.S. family in the 1950s as a way

to contrast and build anti-communist sentiment, thus creating an unsustainable consumerist society, as well as the shift towards petrol in order to make use of the geographic spoils from World War I.

The shift to petrol was also a successful class warfare strategy used to defeat militant striking coal miners, as well as to bolster use of the automobile for aforementioned reasons. All these have one thing in common and that is inter-imperialist war, and while I agree that much liberal concern over the environment is laughable, it is an issue that I think we CAN and NEED to address with our friends.

★★★★★

What about capitalist terrorism?

The bosses' media is all about fear and terrorism from white supremacists, guns, mental illness, violent video games and immigrant invasions. But has anyone heard about the economic terrorism and workers' lives lost to provide record breaking profits for Wall Street?

After generations of stagnant wage growth and declining living standards, capitalist inequality has produced a new class of deeply indebted workers with little hope of marriage, home or family that their parents took for granted. Year after year hundreds of billions are stolen from workers' paychecks because of racist and sexist pay differentials. In addition, the majority of our taxes go to trillion dollar endless wars and military occupations.

You never hear or read any of that (except in CHALLENGE) because it is part of the capitalist terror that translates into: a lower U.S. life expectancy, poor or no medical care, unaffordable housing and homelessness, crippling education costs, crumbling infrastructure, polluted water and air, and no plans to control climate devastations.

Regardless of who is president, the terror will continue because it creates division, fear and a disorganized working class, which the bosses can exploit and use to finance their wars against other capitalists.

Capitalism is like a vampire that needs a continuous supply of workers' blood to exist. Workers' survival depends on our joining the Progressive Labor Party's fight for communist revolution and turning the bosses' terror into class war that will drive a stake through their murderous capitalist profit system.

★★★★★

Need multiracial unity to halt opioid crisis

Prescription painkiller overdose deaths are rising quickly among white workers in the U.S. Now, drug-related deaths are considered a problem for the bosses! Deaths from opioid painkillers began climbing five years ago. Today there are 45,000 to 50,000 overdose deaths from "legal drugs" annually, mostly among white users; this is even higher than the 40,000 deaths from "illegal drugs," mainly among Black and Latin workers (wgbh/frontline).

If the bosses were really trying to fight addictive drugs with their so-called "War on Drugs," they would curb prescription painkillers, which are now sold openly on the street drug market. A half-hearted attempt to deal with the problem is the turn towards treatment rather than incarceration for drug use.

Yet, because opioid painkillers are manufactured and sold by U.S. pharmaceutical corporations, or international corporations active in the U.S., rather than elsewhere and brought across the border, the ruling class refuses to enforce its own anti-drug laws against such "legitimate" organizations. Instead, the federal government has its eyes only on those drugs that come across the southern border, which fits with its assault on migrant workers who try to enter the U.S. to seek jobs and a better life.

Corporate profits come first to the capitalists, so if they can use them to fan the flames of racism and division among the working class, opioids get a pass from the state.

This shows that white workers have a vital interest in fighting to abolish capitalism, to survive as a class. In order to do so, all workers, Black, Latin and white, need each other to fight back against the bosses and their greed for profits.

★★★★★

Communist revolution key to saving the planet

Climate catastrophes, including recent forest fires and hurricanes, have energized students and others in the fight against climate change. Capitalism causes nature's disastrous events because its profit-seeking goals preclude meeting, or even acknowledging, social needs. The most important step forward for the growing climate movement, therefore, is for the working class to mobilize a revolutionary communist party, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) that will lead the struggle to conquer capitalist power.

Nevertheless, we must consider the role of the main wing of the ruling class (as represented by Laurance Rockefeller and his foundation, in the environmental movement). Rockefeller has funded the environmental movement since the 1960s, and in the 1980s emphasized global warming.

The dominant section of the capitalist ruling class tries to use our fear of fossil fuels' destructive power to keep the domestic rival bosses in check and pressure imperialist China.

Emerging climate movement

Greta Thunberg, a Swedish student, launched the #FridaysForFuture youth movement against global warming. Now, an international youth organization is spearheading a worldwide "Climate Strike" from September 20-27 to demand an end to the use of fossil fuels. In Washington, D.C., 250 students and workers protested outside the Brazilian embassy against the Bolsonaro regime's tacit approval of the devastating Amazon fires. Mass protests are spreading across the world.

At these events, people know that the primary cause of global warming is the capitalists' drive for maximizing profits, which requires the disregard of the welfare of billions of workers and a catastrophic disregard of the impact of their greed on natural resources. But many have illusions about the role of governments; they believe that mass actions can force governments to promote climate stability.



Global warming caused by capitalism

Today we are experiencing a dramatic departure from the natural evolution of our planet. Climate scientists understand that the current period of rapid warming is a result of human activity over the past two centuries, the period when capitalism came to dominate the globe. Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) to generate electricity, power transportation, and provide heating and air conditioning generates carbon dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ and natural gas (methane) are the two greenhouse gases most responsible for trapping heat in the atmosphere.

The global warming effect generates a feedback loop in which the atmospheric heat generates conditions that further accelerate global warming. Heated air holds more water vapor, which exacerbates the heat trap effect and causes more frequent and violent hurricanes and flooding. Thawing permafrost releases methane trapped centuries earlier, again adding to heat

trapping. And as Arctic ice melts, the darker sea reflects less of the sun's rays, absorbing still more heat.

No solution within capitalism

Capitalism hastens global warming because its inherent competitive drive forces all corporations to constantly expand production in order to maximize profits. Moreover, the capital invested in the fossil fuel industries is enormous and not something the capitalist class will surrender for the benefit of workers. Reversing global warming will be impossible until capitalism is abolished. Today's capitalists control politicians. While the bosses are united in screwing the working class, their profit interests are divided. Politicians' statements about the Green New Deal are meaningless since such initiatives will cost the capitalists significant profits; the concept of democracy for the working class is a sham.

Revolution

The best action for climate change is a working-class revolution for a worldwide communist system. Abolishing capitalism and replacing the current fascist leadership with a communist-led international working class will enable us to implement technical solutions to global warming. Renewable energy sources including nuclear, wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric power will replace fossil fuels as the working class determines the options most appropriate for their needs.

Further actions that are unprofitable to today's capitalists—such as forest renewal and preservation, and removing CO₂ from the atmosphere—can be seriously implemented by workers in power. The working class will move mountains and resolve the climate crisis when it achieves political power through communist revolution and removes the capitalists and their profit system from the earth. Join us! ☘



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Slavery built Wall Street and U.S. rulers' wealth

NYT Magazine, 8/18 — "Wall Street"...[and] New York has been a principal center of American commerce dating back to the colonial period ... founded on the labor extracted from thousands of indigenous and African slaves.

Desperate for hands to build towns, work wharves, tend farms and keep households, colonists...Puritans, Dutch settlers and Quakers — availed themselves of slave labor. Native Americans captured in colonial wars in New England were forced to work, and African people were imported in greater and greater numbers...

Founded by the Dutch as New Amsterdam in 1625, what would become the City of New York first imported 11 African men in 1616....directing their labors to...land clearing and road construction....40 percent of New York households held enslaved people in the early 1700s.

...New York's enslaved put in place...the local infrastructure, including Broad Way and the Bowery roads, Governors Island and the first municipal buildings and churches...

New York City's investment in slavery expanded in the 19th century...Investors and financiers... doubled down in the business of slavery...invested heavily in the growth of Southern plantations, catching the wave of the first cotton boom. Southern planters, who wanted to buy more land and black people, borrowed from New York bankers and protected the value of bought bodies with policies from New York insurance companies...

...New York City's phenomenal economic consolidation came as result of the dominance in the Southern cotton trade....It was in this moment — the early decades of the 1800s — that New York gained its status as a financial behemoth through shipping raw cotton to Europe and bankrolling

the boom industry that slavery made.

In 1711, New York City officials decreed that "all Negro and Indian slaves that are let out to hire...be hired at the Market house at the Wall Street Slip...."..."The original wall for which Wall Street is named was built by the enslaved at a site that served as the city's first organized slave auction. The capital profits and financial wagers of Manhattan, the United States and the world still flow through this place where black and red people were traded and where the wealth of a region was built on slavery.

U.S. coal barons murder miners via black lung disease

GW, 8/23 — "It's a racket. Miners are being robbed every day," said Bethel Brock,...a coal miner for 32 years in Wise, Virginia. Between 1968 and 2014, an estimated 76,000 coalminers died of black lung disease, which slowly suffocates sufferers. He fought coal companies for 14 years to secure his own black lung benefits after he was diagnosed. "The coal operators don't care, they just want to take you like a piece of worn-out mining equipment and set you out in a field somewhere, that's their philosophy."

UK Democracy: kids living in shipping containers

NYT, 8/22 — Thousands of children in England are growing up in repurposed shipping containers, converted office blocks and cramped rooms in hostels, usually far away from their schools and family support networks...

...120,000 children in England are without permanent accommodations, an 80 percent increase since 2010....Those figures do not represent the hidden homeless, an estimated 92,000 children, who spend long periods of time "couch surfing" between different households...

Children have told...of the disruptive and...

frightening impact that can have on their lives.... describ[ing] having to eat their meals on the floor because of lack of space or being woken by water dripping from the ceiling. One teenage boy recalled living in a hotel for more than eight months alongside sex workers....

Some of the flats in East London were...only a bit larger than a single parking space.

This is prosperity?

NYT, 8/4 — The United States is the only... industrial nation that doesn't have national laws guaranteeing paid maternity leave....that doesn't guarantee workers any vacation, paid or unpaid... that doesn't guarantee paid sick days....has the lowest minimum wage as a percentage of the median wage — just 34 percent of the typical wage....

The consequences are enormous...for wages and income inequality...and for the many...who are mistreated at work...

...Many corporations...[are] hiring hordes of unpaid interns, expecting workers to toil 60 or 70 hours a week, prohibiting employees from suing and instead forcing them into arbitration (which usually favors employers)...

America's workers have for decades been losing out: year after year of wage stagnation, increased insecurity on the job, waves of downsizing...and labor's share of national income declining to its lowest level in seven decades....Corporate executives'...intimidation of employees can have deadly results. On April 5, 2010, a coal dust explosion killed 29 miners at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia... Explosive gases were allowed to build up. Workers knew...about these dangers: "No one felt they could go to management and express their fears," Stanley Stewart [said]... "We knew we'd be marked men and the management would look for ways to fire us."

David Koch, rival capitalist and little fascist

David Koch, one half of the toxic Charles/David Koch billionaire brothers, died on August 23. The Koch brothers have been leaders of the domestic small fascist bosses challenging the big fascists who have historically run U.S. imperialism.

These two wings of the ruling class are killers rushing towards a battle that will result in increasing fascism. Trusting either of them to liberate our class is a dead-end. Building confidence in our class by building a revolutionary communist movement to put the working class in power is the only way forward in the face of growing fascism.

Domestic oil vs. Mid-East oil

The Koch empire was built on oil refining, fracking, and petroleum products, mainly based on U.S. and Canadian oil and natural gas (Rolling Stone, 9/24/14). Koch Industries is one of the biggest family businesses in the world. However, even considering all of its extensive businesses beyond fossil fuels, it is still small compared to the big oil companies ExxonMobil, Shell and BP. The big oil companies, founded on the blood-soaked imperialist exploitation of Mid-East oil, are each two to four times the size of the entire Koch empire, and together dwarf Koch industries (Owler.com).

Wars over taxation and regulation

The Kochs and other small fascist bosses have banded together over the last 30 years to fight the big fascist bosses around two major issues: cutting corporate taxes that go towards supporting the big fascist bosses' worldwide military empire, and stopping government regulations that press the big oil producers' advantages and hurt the smaller companies.

When the Rockefellers and other big fascist U.S. bosses started the environmental movement (EElegal.org, 12/2016) to keep the domestic oil companies in check, the Koch brothers stood to take a massive hit.

"The effects of [environmental regulations] would be measured over decades for Koch. The company has billions of dollars sunk into the complex and expensive infrastructure of crude-oil processing. If a limit on greenhouse gas emissions were imposed...The total dollar losses would likely be measured in trillions over a period of 30 years or more" (NY Times, 8/23).

"No taxes and no regulations" became the battle cry of the Kochs. In the 1980s and 90s the big fascist liberal bosses were smashing unions, cutting benefits, eliminating job security and pushing racist lies to justify filling the prisons with Black workers.

The Kochs sought supporters for their movement in the army of workers who were being devastated by this drive of the main wing U.S. bosses. In the face of increasing competition from other rising imperialists, the liberal big fascists had to crush wage levels and smash the New Deal social contract that had staved off rebellion of U.S. workers during the 1930s.

Racism became the glue of the Koch movement

The main wing liberal bosses emerged from their victory in the Civil War as the most powerful ruling class in history by mobilizing millions to fight slavery. But it wasn't long be-

fore the liberal bosses betrayed the working class.

The entire history of U.S. capitalism is built on the foundation of racism. From slavery to the racist terror of the KKK; from Jim Crow segregation to mass incarceration; from segregated schools to racist cops gunning down young Black men. Even the New Deal, hailed by liberals, mostly excluded Black workers (see book *When Affirmative Action Was White*). Within a few years of the defeat of the Southern ruling class and the end of chattel slavery, the big fascist liberal bosses let the KKK ravage Black workers in the South and allowed the defeated southern bosses to institute Jim Crow segregation.

The biggest liberal bosses at the helm of U.S. imperialism have made their billions and built their political power by building racism to exploit, divide and attack the working class. The liberal bosses' racist ideas pollute our children's schools, permeate the entertainment our class consumes and fuel the bosses' organizations used to control us.

The Koch brothers used the racism cultivated through brutality by the liberal big fascists running U.S. capitalism against the liberal bosses themselves. At the heart of the Koch movements is open racism that paints Black and immigrant workers as the enemies of white workers. The Kochs didn't create racism. They just recycled the same lies that the liberal big fascists used to justify "Stop and Frisk", and to jail and terrorize millions of Black workers living in the cities controlled by the liberal big fascists.

The Koch brothers poured hundreds of millions of dollars into openly racist movement that gave life to the Tea Party (Rolling Stone, 9/24/14) and successive formations culminating most recently in Trump's mobilizing of racist voters to win the White House (NY Times, 9/6/2018).

The liberal fascists are again asking for help from our class, and particularly from Black workers, this time to fight the Kochs and their small fascist partners. The liberal bosses' mouth-piece, the NY Times, is running on all cylinders to build patriotism and unity with the liberal ruling class through articles like their 1619 Project on the role of slavery in building U.S. capitalism. The liberal big fascists are faking concern about racism because they need us to die in their battle for power. Like the scorpions they are, the liberal big fascist bosses will kill us once they have used us up, just as they have always done.

Racist hypocrisy of liberalism provides the fuel

Building openly racist movements has worked for the Koch brothers because of the profound and deep hypocrisy of the liberal big fascist bosses. As

unions were smashed by the liberal bosses and rural industrial workers across the U.S. saw their wages slashed and jobs disappear, the Kochs directed workers' anger at Black and immigrant workers as well as the wealthy liberals who have formed the backbone of the main wing bosses support in the major U.S. cities of New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

The wealthy "liberal elite" of the United States' biggest cities, who deride white workers as uneducated racists, while preserving New York City as the most segregated school system in the U.S. and the most unequal city in the world, were an easy target for first the Tea Party and later the Trump movement to rally against. The hypocrisy of the Democratic Party claiming to be against racism and inequality while working day and night to keep the working class segregated and exploited in the financial and media centers of the U.S. let the Kochs, and the rest of the small bosses' fascist movement, make the most open and vile racist lies attacking Black and immigrant workers.

Trump brought Koch movement into the White House

The election of Trump, with 62 million people voting for an open racist, signaled a new level of success for the domestic bosses and the Koch agenda. While the Koch brothers had a public spat with Trump, he has delivered on their agenda while trashing the main wing bosses' institutions. "The Koch network has gotten 85 percent of what it has always wanted out of the Trump presidency so far — especially the huge government-starving, upward tilted tax cuts, the evisceration of the EPA...cuts in social spending, and ultra-right judges who will eviscerate government regulatory capacities and further weaken liberal forces" (NY Times 9/6/2018).

David Koch's death will not lower the volatility. The threat posed by the Koch industry bosses and their fascist ilk poses a greater threat to the big fascist liberal bosses than ever before. The coming election in 2020 looks to be an extremely volatile event.

Look for the battle between the factions to sharpen as pressure from a rising China puts more strain on the liberal big fascist bosses to use more fascist methods and attempt to mobilize the working class on their behalf to regain control of their bloody racist empire. Going along with them is death for our class. We can never let the bosses lead us. We must make the fight against racism a fight to liberate our class from the system that breeds it: capitalism. We must build the PLP's working class-led communist movement to fight for communist revolution!✊

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