FREE ANTIRACISTS TODAY, SMASH CAPITALISM TOMORROW

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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CHICAGO, January 20—"FREE THEM ALL! DROP THE CHARGES!" This was the main rallying cry heard in front of the Leighton Criminal Court-house as over a dozen antiracist fighters braved freezing temperatures outside. Today marked the date of a court hearing for an antiracist fighter who was among the thousands attacked and charged by the racist capitalist state for their participation in a militant rebellion last year.

For nearly an hour, we led chants, gave short speeches, and picketed in front of the stairs leading into the bosses’ racist criminal injustice center. Members of the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) helped lead chants, held up anti-capitalist banners, and shared copies of CHALLENGE newspaper. Many drivers and workers passing by honked their horns or raised their fists in support. Our rally today took on an even wider significance given that it was the inauguration of the latest fascist-in-chief, U.S. President Joe Biden. Those of us in PLP made it clear that no matter who holds the reins of power in the capitalist system, the attacks on our class are bound to continue. In the wake of the Donald Trump-led Small Fascist wing of the U.S. ruling class storming the Capitol building, the splits among the bosses and the racist contradictions of the system have been made even more apparent.

PLP has been honored to fight alongside our class within these worker and student-led struggles. The solidarity and collectivity shown in these fights, no matter the size, is what gives our class the confidence and training that we need to ultimately run an egalitarian communist world in the masses’ collective interest.

The struggle expands

The newly created Chicago Activist Defense Committee (CADC) organized the action today. What originally started as an initiative to support Black artist/worker Jeremy “Mohawk” Johnson (see previous CHALLENGEs) after his arrest by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) during an anti-racist demonstration last August has grown into a wider network to support all those attacked by the capitalist state, citywide.

Adding more fuel to our fire is the clear racist double standard that was on display during the Capitol building siege on January 6th (see editorial on page 2). A mob of mainly white racists quickly overrun scant security forces and were allowed free reign to livestream their mayhem. To date, approximately 100 of those who participated have been arrested and face charges, compared to at least 3000 who were arrested in Chicago alone for fighting back against the racist murder of George Floyd.

As one CADC member put it, “A Black woman was shot to death for driving too close to the White House and our protests are met with extreme violence just for standing in the street and speaking out.” Racist terror and exploitation are ingrained in this capitalist system!

Fight for a system that serves workers

One PL’er concluded, “We fight today to get our comrades freed and their charges dropped, but we must have no illusions that this capitalist legal system exists to serve us.” We must continue fighting and winning others to defend and protect ourselves not only in the present, but also to build the mass PLP which represents the only force that can free us from the racist and sexist misery of capitalism. Let’s keep fighting!. 
In the fight between Fascists, liberal bosses still main danger

Biden's election the day after the Capitol attack. Nearly two-thirds of them voted against impeaching Trump for inciting it. The January 6 siege revealed the Small Fascist infiltration of the U.S. military and police forces around the country. Local police chiefs are turning their own people into the FBI (Washington Post, 1/16). Fearful of rogue elements in their ranks, the military was forced to counter fresh batches of Trump and front-plug -led Guard troops sent to D.C. to safeguard the inauguration (defense.gov 1/16).

Big Fascists are the main danger

For the first time, as the Small Fascist loyalists tried to disrupt the presidential election and kidnap and assassinate the opposition leadership, the U.S. ruling class was unable to impose a peaceful transition of power. Exposed and humiliated, the Big Fascist finance capitalists are struggling to regain control. Dozens of companies, including Marriott International, Dow, Airbnrb, and Morgan Stanley, declared an end to donations to any member of Congress who voted to block Biden's victory (New York Times, 1/11). Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, a shameless opportunist who walked in lock step with Trump for the last four years, is now blaming the ex-president for the Capitol attack and suggesting he might support an impeachment conviction. History shows that in periods of crisis, capitalists need to build fascist movements. While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China in 1991, but it retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

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 piecemeal politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, has brought about poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state and pseudo-state, governs the police, schools and culture——it maintains a dictatorship over the workers. The capitalist dictatorship, supported by the anti-workers philosophy of the bourgeoisie, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

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

Communism means abolishing abolish racism and the exploitation of races. “Capitalism means to make super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing abolish the special oppressions of men——sexism—— and divide communal gender roles created by the class society.

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

Communism means the that the masses of workers will use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party is the only entity for society. For this to work, millions of workers, actually every worker, 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 Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “challenge” around any particular individual.

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

CHALLENGE/DESAFO (ISSN 0009-1949) published bi-weekly by Challenge Peri- odicals, 1 issue $1. One Year, $20. Six months, $10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, February 3, 2021 Volume 53 No. 2

"Revolution, Fascism, No"

Theurrection in the U.S. Capitol was no one-off. It marked an explosion of the divisions in the U.S. ruling class that have simmered to a boil——and that point to even bloodier battles in the years to come. As U.S. imperialist spirals into decline and rival imperialists in the world, China is poised to become the world’s top dog capitalist—superpower. The U.S. bosses are falling out like the thieves they are. A subordinate but not insignif- icant character in the spectacle, the ‘America First’ wing frontal by Donald Trump, is chal- lenging the liberal finance capitalists who ruled the globe since World War II.

This split can’t be reconciled by a “democratic” election, the charade the bosses use to perpetuate their capital- ist dictatorship. It won’t be healed by Trump’s leaving office——through an inauguration of legal vac- eation. Joe Biden in the armed camp known as Washington, D.C. One side——most likely the finance capitalibers, who still have the upper hands——must smash the other.

In a time of fear, volatility, and a murderously mis- handled pandemic, it’s important to remember that the international working class has no dog in this fight. Both wings of the ruling class stand for fascism (see glossary, page 6). Both spell misery and death for the working class. Trump’s Small Fascists are a nest of gutter racists and genocidal war criminals (see glossary, page 7) and analysts who make most of their money within the U.S. The lib- eral Big Fascists build their mountains of profits from genocidal wars, ruthless international exploitation, and vicious racial inequality.

Pushed to the edge, the finance capitalibers are building fascism with a multicultural cover, a few crumbs for the working class, and the excuse of fake compar- ison. After disciplining their own class, they’ll demand “sacrifice” for their system and enlist workers to die in their next war world. Make no mistake, the Big Fascists are no lesser evil. As they grow more desperate, they will stop at nothing.

We live in a period with only two roads. One is impe- cumbent war and full-bloned fascism. The other is commu- nist revolution. The task of Progressive Labor Party is to build a revolutionary communist movement to smash capitalism once and for all.

Small Fascists make inroads

Contrary to the myth of a grass-roots movement of alienated white workers, the Small Fascists are or- chestrated and financed by the likes of the super-rich Koch and Mercer and DeVos families. A new group with deep pockets, the anti-tax and anti-regulation Club for Growth, “has emerged as one of the biggest backers of the Republican lawmakers who sought to overturn the U.S. election results” (The Guardian, 1/16). Assured of this financial support, 147 Republican members of Congres- sion support in the finance capital’s face and challenged

Drive toward war accelerates

Over the long term, the intensifying U.S. civil war can only benefit the bosses. As the U.S. bosses’ power to stop at nothing.

The future can be shaped by our class

With the rulers sharpening their long knives against one another, there’s one big unanswered question: How will workers respond to the movement toward war and fascism? The greatest danger for our class is that a large section of workers will be terrorized into running into the arms of the Big Fascists. But we cannot forget that Biden, Pelosi, and the rest are also part of a movement that gener- ated the 1943 mass incarceration crime bill (authored by Biden himself), mass impoverishment welfare re- form, and countless coups and wars that have slaugh- tered millions of workers around the world.

We call on workers to reject the liberal bosses and their sham democracy with the same force that they re- jected open fascists like Trump. The movement to smash the fascist menace is communism, a state run by and for workers. As a class and as a communist party, we must build a revolutionary movement to destroy capitalism once and for all. Join Progressive Labor Party

www.plp.org

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LOS ANGELES, January 5 — On New Year’s Eve, I got news that my patient of more than five years had died of complications from Covid-19 two days ago. He developed pneumonia with sepsis that led to patient care. Healthcare workers and its impact on the quality of care also got a firsthand account on the conditions for working-class families. The best I could do at the moment was exhausting due to shortness of breath. The family had made him “DNR” (Do Not Resuscitate) and after two days removed his life support. He died of complications from Covid-19 two days ago. He was hospitalized at Martin Luther King Community Hospital which is currently overran by Covid-19 cases.

He was heartbroken on getting the news of his passing and had mixed emotions on what more could have been done. I called a physician friend I know who works there to get her take on his situation but to also get a firsthand account on the conditions for healthcare workers and its impact on the quality of patient care.

She looked into his case and informed me that he developed pneumonia with sepsis that led to organ failure. His family had made him “DNR” (Do Not Resuscitate) and after two days removed his life support. She lauded the doctors and nursing staff of their medical and intensive care teams and said that while they are working in terrible conditions, “I have never worked under [worse conditions] in my entire life.” She assured me the quality of care has not yet been impacted in any major ways. She felt confident that while tragic, there was nothing more the MLK medical team could have done for my patient.

What followed, however, was more disturbing.

Death panel protocols

She mentioned MLK hospital was thinking about implementing plans to ration care and that “Death Panel” protocols have been developed. She was furious at the hospital bosses for even considering this of their medical teams when there is currently no county-wide coordination between hospitals and said, “I refused to deny care for my patients while resources in hospitals in Santa Monica or in West LA remain available!” She said, “They’ll get my resignation letter first!”

However, many hospitals in LA County are already reporting their ICUs are full and as of last week the county had one percent of their beds available and the current surge is only expected to worsen in January. Hospitals are now discharging severely ill all patients home sooner than they normally would. Ambulance services are being told to restrict the transportation of patients whose hearts have stopped and can only transport to the hospital if they’ve successfully resuscitated the patient out in the field. In other words, patients will be left to die in ambulances or at home (LA Times 1/4/2021). Clearly, the move to fascist “Death Panels” is

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Tenants & antiracists organize vs evictions, expose slumlords

Class struggle and multiracial unity is our only defense, not the liberal bosses

MARYLAND, January 20 — Just a week before the financial capital wing of the ruling class gathered to celebrate Jim Crow Joe Biden’s inauguration, a working-class family was set to face eviction charges.

As soon as the family received the notice, members of the Mount Rainier Organizing for Racial Equality (MORE) and Progressive Labor Party (PLP) promptly began organizing assistance for their working-class brothers and sisters. Step one was creating and distributing flyers outlining tenants’ rights explaining that only working-class unity can protect us from bosses’ criminal capitalism.

The family faced challenges that so many working-class families suffer under capitalism: the father is currently unemployed, the mother is six months pregnant, with two children requiring medical assistance, and limited means to provide health insurance, food, or shelter. As the family struggled to protect themselves, they were faced with a rent increase in October amidst a deadly pandemic.

They live in the Heritage Park Apartments (HPA), owned by Dreyfuss Property Management (DPM), a large complex with seven rental buildings and condos, in addition to 31 other buildings in the Maryland area.

In November, just a month after they raised rents on HPA tenants DPM purchased another set of buildings to the tune of $15 million in the way of capitalism, profit is primary as bosses threaten the lives of working-class families.

Working-class lightback is our only protection

As members of MORE and PLP were alerted to the eviction notices, they wasted no time organizing. Comrades quickly gathered information on the family’s necessary healthcare, delivered food, money for supplies, and set up meetings with the family to begin organizing other HPA tenants.

PLP members active in the tenant struggle stressed to their base that all workers deserve decent housing, which cannot be achieved as long as housing is part of the capitalist profit-making system. A communist system, ensuring the fundamental needs for all workers, is the only acceptable alternative to racist landlords with extortionate rent and cold calculation evictions.

Once meetings were organized, the collective printed flyers and joined with Prince George’s County Tenants Defense and Prince George’s County Mutual Aid to canvass the HPA apartments.

Sustained struggle until revolution

PLP members have joined with other fighters from several small groups and neighborhoods to push forward in preparation for many more evictions as pandemic protections disappear. Since the summer of 2020 there have been two rallies to stop evictions but residents are afraid and often vacate their homes before getting evicted for fear of long term damages to their credit rating or their ability to regain decaying housing. Preventing the symptoms so unique to capitalism and should be combated.

Communist revolution is the only solution

We continue to work with the multiracial group MORE and local residents to protect tenants but there are limits to this fight.

As we strengthen our understanding that class struggle, not liberal politicians or reform movements, are the way forward, we have armed ourselves and our friends with copies of CHALLENGE. It is only with revolution against the capitalist class that we can secure a path to workers’ power.

The enormity of the challenges facing our brothers and sisters during this capitalist crisis can be overwhelming. But stepping forward to rely on each other, fighting racism, encouraging discussions over a communist future, and taking on the bosses with intensified class struggle, can move our class towards the solidarity needed for victory.

Many of the people we have been engaging with have been won to the Party’s ideas and are considering joining this long but necessary fight. We will continue to distribute CHALLENGE and organize until revolution is won.

Fight For Communism, Power To The Workers!

February 3, 2021 • CHALLENGE • page 3

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Tenants & antiracists organize vs evictions, expose slumlords
‘Soup joumou’ nourishes workers with communist ideas

**Haiti, January 1**—The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in Haiti organized its annual solidarity soup in two working-class neighborhoods in a provincial town. Many people had the opportunity to drink the callaloo of traditional January 1 independence pumpkin soup (soup joumou) with us. The tradition celebrates the victory of the revolutionaries of Haitian independence in 1804 over racism, slavery and colonialism, and therefore against the domination and exploitation of capitalism. To share the soup of independence is therefore to say no to capitalism and yes to communism.

**Capitalism: the Haitian working class’ worst nightmare**

This year, the socio-economic situation marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the rise of the dollar on the foreign exchange market, kidnapping, gang wars, etc., has shocked the working masses. For some families, it would have been impossible to drink the traditional soup as evidenced by the plight of many people asking Party comrades if “there will be soup joumou this year?”

There has been a surge in insecurity throughout Haiti: theft, rapes, assassinations and kidnappings all add to the daily burden on the workers. Poverty continues to increase, we are in need of everything, mainly the subsistence minimum. About 60 percent of the population is food insecure—the bosses’ sanitized term that means hungry—with a high percentage severely food insecure—starving. The unemployment rate, for its part, cannot even be quantified. One could ask, “How do they manage to stay alive, these Haitian workers who have no access to health care, electricity or even drinking water?” Despair is written in big letters on the faces of the people you meet in the streets.

With mass misery at its height, and corruption and crime well established, the rulers are implementing a dictatorship worthy of the monarchies and aristocracies of past centuries. Executions, militias, federations of gangs: they have installed terror. Life is becoming cheaper for the bosses, who try every which way to topple anything that stands in their way. The working class without communist leadership wanders among the tumult of power struggles. Everything is scarce for workers, everything except death.

**Working class solidarity illuminates dark night**

PLP, our international communist party, understands the suffering and peril of the working classes of the world. Alongside workers in struggle, from near and afar, we participate in and promote the concept of mutual aid and sharing, of putting into practice the communist idea of “from each according to need, to each according to need.” It is an awareness of our equality as a class. As proof, our comrades and friends in the U.S. and in Paris, live in their costarica isolation, have contributed financially to our solidarity soup.

Long live sharing, long live solidarity, long live the class struggle. Communism is the future of our world. Let’s join PLP to build it.

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**The bosses took one more of our loved ones**

**My patient was a middle-aged Black man living with HIV and hypertension who was otherwise well controlled. Studies currently suggest that living with HIV and having an otherwise stable immune system poses no greater risk for Covid-19 than non-HIV infected individuals. Having said that, he worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a hospital also with rampant Covid-19 cases. His job as an “essential worker” is likely the source of his exposure. In either case, his reality of being a Black worker from Compton in a racist, capitalist system is what killed him.

**Sad, angry, but not helpless**

While it may be true that it’s the underlying racist conditions that are leading to the high diagnosis and death rates of Covid-19 in Black and Latin communities, MLK Community Hospital is also to blame for being overrun by the virus. When it was rebuilt and opened in 2015, its number of medical beds declined from 131 (down from 223) and it now lacks the trauma center it once had.

Originally born out of the Watts rebellions of 1965, this current hospital, while staffed by committed healthcare workers putting their lives on the line, is a skeleton of its former self and under-resourced (Politico 11/17/2021).

In the LA Times piece (1/2), one of the ICU doctors said, “For a hospital already struggling under the weight of one health-care crisis, the patients here are particularly helpless in this battle.”

That’s how my patient and so many other Black, Latin, immigrant and poor working class people are left by a system only concerned with profits. While I am deeply saddened, I am also angry and certainly don’t feel helpless.

**Mass work leads the way**

I currently work in a mass organization that has been fighting against racist incarceration and organizing healthcare workers, which has been written about in CHALLENGE. We have been building ties with families of loved ones who have been killed by the KKKops, and are getting to know the sister of Nicholas Burgos, who was murdered by LA County Sheriffs at Harbor UCLA hospital in October of last year.

I’m talking about my patient and the circumstances surrounding his death with coworkers and friends because only our growth and movement to overthrow capitalism can ever avenge his death and so many others killed by this system.

My patient was deeply loved by family, friends and coworkers. On his social media there are countless messages of shock and sadness. One coworker wrote, “When you work with people for long 12+ hour shifts dealing with critically ill patients and situations unlike any other work place, a special type of bond is formed. He was just an all-around cool person, one of the most generous, friendly and funny people I’ve known. He was able to connect with patients, make them feel comfortable, care for them and make them (and me) laugh on a daily basis. He was an amazing caregiver in every sense of the word and risked his life to save others. You’re a hero in my book and we’ll never forget you. The bosses took one more of our loved ones and will continue to until we rise up. Healthcare workers need to fight for the lives of our patients, fight for access to vaccinations, refuse their racist “death panels” and join us to build for communist revolution and overthrow this pathological system once and for all.”

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**We promote mutual aid and sharing by putting into practice the communist idea of from each according to commitment, to each according to need.**

**CAPITALISM IS THE VIRUS. COMMUNISM IS THE CURE.**

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Fight the capitalist system that killed my patient

Continued from page 3

likely to become a reality.

In addition, the LA Times (1/2) has run a series of articles on MLK Hospital that illustrate how the pre-pandemic day-to-day lives and underly- ing health conditions of Black and Latin workers are creating “a crisis on top of a crisis….Many residents live in dense, multigenerational hous- ing, work essential jobs and suffer from secondary health conditions due to a lifelong, systemic lack of access to quality primary care.”

Chief Medical Officer John Fisher said: “I describe our healthcare system as separate and unequal and we have a community here that is a reflection of that. We’re all Black and Brown, low income, almost all publicly insured, and really lack the access to healthcare that other communities have. Because of that, we are being hit hard — harder than every other community — by Covid.

“My patient was a middle-aged Black man living with HIV and hypertension who was otherwise well controlled. Studies currently suggest that living with HIV and having an otherwise stable immune system poses no greater risk for Covid-19 than non-HIV infected individuals. Having said that, he worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a hospital also with rampant Covid-19 cases. His job as an “essential worker” is likely the source of his exposure. In either case, his reality of being a Black worker from Compton in a racist, capitalist system is what killed him.

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Turkey grows closer to U.S. rivals, war ahead

In the transcontinental country of Turkey an ally or a rival to U.S. imperialists? New President Joe Biden’s choice for secretary of state Antony Blinken declares Turkey is acting more like a betrayer: “The idea that a strategic, so-called strategic, partner of ours would be acting in line with one of our biggest strategic competitors in Russia is not acceptable” (Daily Sabah, 1/20).

Turkey—cozying up with Russia and China and destabilizing its solid alliance with the U.S.-aligned world order—is a house of cards. Any of these capitalist players can incite war. We have no stake in the bosses’ bloody games for profit and power. From Istanbul to Hong Kong to New York, our liberation lies in building a mass, international Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and transforming the bosses’ profit wars into class wars for communist revolution.

Inter-imperialist rivalry is the name of the game

The U.S. bosses’ led liberal world order is in utter disarray (see page 2). To understand the driving force of world events, we must grasp the inter-imperialist rivalry which is becoming sharper. This means bosses who cut the world into spheres of influence are preparing for war with each other. Their struggle is intensifying, especially as U.S. imperialist influence around the world is crumbling.

As the biggest imperialists prepare their fight, they maneuver to gain advantage over their rivals. They fight to control as many second-tier countries as possible. But the bosses of these second-tier capitalist states have ambitions of their own. That’s what’s happening with Turkey.

Regardless of how the bosses’ alliances shift over time, the result is that under capitalism workers will always lose.

Relationship with the West unravels

Turkey has been a member of NATO (the transatlantic alliance led by U.S. bosses) since 1952. Since the Cold War, its NATO base in Incirlik has played a key role in containing the USSR (and now Russia) and helping U.S. forces launch their murderous wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the Middle East. Turkey is deeply integrated into NATO’s military structure. It hosts the standing headquarters for NATO’s land forces in the city of Izmir.

When U.S. rulers tried to destabilize the Middle East with the Arab Spring, Turkey lost by backing the losing side, the Muslim Brotherhood. This isolated Turkey from the region, especially from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

The Syrian civil war was a direct result of the Arab Spring. The U.S. was incapable of achieving its objective of toppling Syrian ruler Bashar Assad, who was backed by Iran and Russia. Worse for Turkey, the U.S. allied with its enemy the YPG (Kurdish forces which Turkey categorizes as a terrorist organization). The Turkish and U.S. bosses’ relationship has only continued to unravel.

Erdogan cuts deals with Russia

These developments encouraged an attempted military coup against Turkish President Recep Erdogan in 2016. Erdogan had been in power since 2003 and had been consolidating his control while transforming Turkey into a quasi-religious fascist state. The coup was an opportunistic attempt by the military to be the ultimate power broker in Turkey, a role that they were accustomed to.

Erdogan survived and blamed the West. It also became fed up with the unfulfilled promises of EU membership. So, Turkey, in crisis and isolated, warmed up relations with Russia.

Erdogan’s first call and foreign visit after the coup was Russia. Since then, Turkey and Russia have brokered the peace talks in Syria (Reuters, 12/16/16). Russia lifted most of the sanctions it had imposed on Turkey. They met seven times that year culminating with the sale of a Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile system to Turkey (CNN, 7/13/19).

Liberal Order sanctions Turkey

This dealing with Russia has its contradictions. Russian and Turkish troops still face one another not only in Syria, but on opposite sides of the Libyan civil war, and the conflict between Azerbaijani and Armenia. Turkey also has refused to recognize Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula (ABC News, 10/16/20).

Turkey continues to anger the EU by sending a research ship escorted by gunboats to prospect for gas in waters internationally recognized as part of the exclusive economic zones of EU members Greece and Cyprus (BBC, 10/12/20). It has weaponized refugees by busing hundreds to the Greek border and pushing them to cross in a bid to pressure the EU and Greece.

Last month, the U.S. Congress passed a law mandating the President to impose sanctions on Turkey for buying those Russian missiles (WSJ, 12/10/20). The EU is also debating sanctions against Turkey for its incursion into its maritime zone. These imperialists are sending a clear signal to Turkey to play by their rules. Joe Biden, representing the Big Fascists, is “willing to work with ‘opposition leadership’ in [Turkey] to topple Erdogan in Turkey’s 2023 elections” (Daily Sabah, 1/20).

U.S. at risk of losing Turkey to China?

Although China and Turkey have long been at odds over China’s racist state terror against Uighur workers, in recent years the relationship has thawed. Since 2016, they have signed at least ten bilateral agreements, and China is now only second to Russia in trade with Turkey. While the U.S. bosses have railed against Chinese tech giant Huawei as a security threat, market share of the company in Turkey has only grown (Foreign Policy, 11/16/20). Militarily and economically, the U.S. bosses are losing serious ground.

Considering everything, this hornet’s nest “risks bringing Turkey and the United States into a military confrontation, unheard of in their 70-year long alliance” (Brookings, 2/14/18). Biden’s job, as dictated by the Big Fascists, is to prepare for eventual war against the U.S.’s rivals, China and Russia.

No honor among imperialist thieves

Communists know that the world’s ruling capitalist classes are mass-murdering fascists and racists. They are only interested in maintaining their power and control over the world’s resources and workers. They have no principles. They only use religion, patriotism, nationalism, identity politics, and sexism to divide and confuse workers to kill each other for their profits.

As such, their wheeling and dealing is all opportunistic and self-serving. They have no loyalty to each other. When the bosses talk peace, workers should prepare for war. We are the wild card in the rulers’ games. These capitalist rulers are highly dynamic human actors interested in maximum profit. We need to understand their motives to prepare ourselves for battle.

This battle we’re building right now must have no borders. Reject all bosses and their ideologies—turn imperialist war into class war and communist revolution with PLP/O
No vaccine for the virus of capitalism

I read this article “Fighting Covid-19 with vaccines and community action” in the 19th, 2020 issue of CHALLENGE, and discussed it with Progressive Labor Party healthcare workers in Chicago. I thought it was a good article but wanted to add some additional points.

Public health issues require a comprehensive response. The vaccine is just one piece of a larger response, but it is being promoted as the only solution to the pandemic. This isn't by accident. It is done as the only one that is purposeful to absolve the ruling class of responsibility. The government would rather frame the solution as a vaccine because it desires to evade getting to the root of the issue.

The inadequate public health infrastructure, poverty, racism, and capitalism all play a role in the pandemic. Workers will continue to be vulnerable to another pandemic if these issues aren't tackled. As the vaccine rolls out, the government and the bosses' media will praise the scientists but will also expand their attack on the working class. They try to convince us that the free market has brought us the vaccine and saved us all. However, it was always capitalism that pushed the spread of Covid-19 by forcing people to work, getting public services, and providing no alternatives to workers.

The state wants to limit the response to the pandemic to the narrowest terms possible. It wants to avoid giving people a stimulus check, spending on social services, rent freezes, letting people out of prison, housing the homeless, etc. By only focusing on the vaccine, they get to evade any responsibility in addressing these other issues. The effects of the pandemic have touched our lives, and they will continue to do so. Workers have lost jobs, been kicked out of their homes, and found themselves in a much precarious, uncertain situation. Even the Teecher was half of that of those born in the nearby countryside.

It's true, as the article says, that Engels did considerable research into the lives of his exiled wife, Mary Burns. Engels related to the lives of workers and their families, especially to Irish workers, who were the most exploited workers in England.

Engels research his 1845 book, The Condition of The Working Class. He found that the working class will continue to be easy prey for employers. London’s children have carried on the tradition of the people and profits above workers' health, and systemic racism kills. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state to stop workers from building unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalism and politics and calls for sacri-ifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next imperialist war. Big Fascists The Big Fascists are the dominant financial capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthy capitalists who possess the most property in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media corporations. As the dominant group since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strate-geic control of the Middle East and the rich economies of Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, militarized military force in the imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are swelling with the rise of the middle class, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They are willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They are more open to racism to build a political following.

Letter: Capitalist healthcare is a racist atrocity

It was interesting to hear about healthcare ra-tioning in California and other states overwhelmed by Covid-19 infected patients. I was a respiratory therapist for over 40 years, and I recall healthcare rationing hospitals serving mostly Black & Latinx communities on the south and west sides of Chi-cago for decades.

Some ways rationing is practiced in these working-class neighborhood hospitals is through lack of staff and supplies. In a large medical and trauma center in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where most of the patients were Black & Latinx. The respiratory therapists in the emergency room (E.R.), 24 hours a day. In one of the busiest trauma centers in Chica-go, one respiratory therapist was assigned to cover one or two patient floors, in addition to the intensive care unit.

Many times, we were busy giving care on the patient floors, and then we had to stop and scurry to the emergency room for a trauma emer-gency. The patients on the regular floors were sometimes waking up and not able to be in two places at the same time. On many occasions, treatments could not be given because we were occupied attending to patients in the E.R. Still, in other instances, patients in the E.R. would be waiting for treatment while we attended to patients on the regular floors or other seriously ill patients in the E.R.

Lack of equipment was also a common prob-lem. Many times I had to look for necessary equip-ment, a flowmeter, to deliver oxygen, or other equipment and supplies to set up a ventilator used to help patients breathe.

The short staffing was not restricted to patient floors. The E.R. I worked in during the night had to care of 11 patients who were all on ventilators in the intensive care unit. We had to keep track of our productivity when it was obvious that all too often, we did more than 12 hours worth of work, and it became the basis for complaints.

The hospital's deliberate short staffing and lack of equipment serving mostly Black and Latinx communities is racist health care. It leads to un-safe working conditions and standard care or even worse. On the 16th side of Chicago, where life expec-tancy is 69 years, while six miles away downtown, life expectancy is 85 years. This gap is a result of capitalist oppression of all workers, but especially of Black & Latinx workers. Capitalists worship mon-ey and profits above workers' health, and systemic racism is their number one weapon to keep workers divided and keep society unequal.

We fought back with a petition that over 60 people signed demanding better quality of the equipment. We were forced to use devices that were ob-solete (spare parts were not being made for some breathing machines). Hospital bosses started a witch hunt to find the organizers of the petition. Instead being intimidated, many workers spoke up about the racist working conditions. We got more resources and staffing as we won victories under this system, it didn’t last long. When workers left, they would not be replaced, and the equipment was not allowed to be used. It was racist not to keep jobs open.

Rotten healthcare is bad for patients and hos-pital workers. The Covid-19 pandemic further em-powers capitalists' public health failures and gross racial injustices. According to the Chicago Department of Public Health report, 30 percent of the population in Chicago, but 72 percent of the reported Covid-19 cases. Black workers are seven times more likely to die from Covid than other workers living in the same city. Structural-and systemic racism kills.

We must fight back and build the Progressive Labor Party, because only communism can ensure a healthy future for our class.

Letter: Capitalist healthcare is a racist atrocity

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of its system, when the bosses can no longer control the masses, is to offer them liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisi-sis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state to stop workers from building unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalism and politics and calls for sacri-fice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next imperialist war.
NEW JERSEY, January 10 — As news was roll-
ing in of the attempted Small Fascist-led takeover of the U.S. Capitol (see page 2), the Modern Language Association (MLA) was hosting its annual conven-
tion. The Radical Caucus of the MLA, in which Pro-
gress for Labor study group has been active for many years, was preparing to confront how the Covid-19 pandemic has intensified the ongoing attacks on public higher education. The fightback among fac-
ulty and graduate students must now also confront the intensified political surveillance and ideologi-
ical repression that are sure to shape teaching and learning in the humanities classrooms in the com-
ing period.

Attack on faculty = attack on students

The crisis in higher education has been brew-
ing for at least three decades. All the following at-
tacks hurt students the most. Almost 75 percent of all courses are now taught by graduate workers and non-tenure track faculty. While administrators and athletic coaches rake in huge salaries, these teachers’ pay is pitiful, usually without benefits or job security; some adjuncts are on food stamps and homeless, living in their cars. Thousands of adjuncts have been laid off because of pandemic-related cutbacks. Many full-time faculty have been forced to increase their workloads, spend many ex-
tra hours on grading, and in some instances take pay cuts. These attacks the faculty—
adjunct and non-adjunct—attacks the quality of education for students.

Students who attend most institutions of pub-
lic higher education—mainly working-class, im-
migrant, and/or Black or Latin—are shoved into bigger classrooms, often with an inappropriate instruc-
tion, and face costly, delayed graduation dates due to fewer classes being offered. Many colleges have turned into dystopian diploma mills, robbing stu-
dents of quality education.

Organize with workers on campus

At the 2021 MLA convention, held online, the Radical Caucus organized two panels—one on "The Culpable Pandemic: Neoliberalism, Activist Pedagogies"—and held a well-attended meeting where anti-capitalist and pro-communist polit-
icians were present. The radical protest was framed in discus-
sion of the intimidation—and anger—experienced by teachers whose zoomed classrooms are subject to surveillance at any time.

Students and workers were to step up political work among graduate students, most of whom antic-
pete never getting a tenure-track job, as well as to organize anticapitalist campaigns uniting faculty with nonacademic campus employees, from janitors to food service workers.

Class consciousness vs. phony liberalism

Given the crisis in ruling-class legitimacy flow-
ning from the failed Capitol invasion, the Radical Caucus must also step up the struggle on the ide-
ological front. Most academics who devote their lives to the study of culture and literature do so out of humanistic impulses; they want to see a better world and are not trying to get rich.

But liberal ideas, which disempower effective fights against the capitalists, reign supreme. Marxist analysis of the grounding of consciousness in class-based social relations is often dismissed as “class reductionism.” Identity politics—which posit that race, gender, and sexuality define what is essential in human experience—dominate most intellectual inquiry and attempts at campus organizing.

We can anticipate that liberal multiculturalism, the principal ideology embraced by the dominant sector of the U.S. ruling class, will now be promoted still more aggressively as the supreme expression of patriotism. The bosses turn the workplace’s class in-

Racist police terror uses false ‘confessions’

NYT, 1/15 [Yusuf Salaam, Kevin Richardson, Ray-
mond Santana].— On December 17, 2002, a New York judge vacated the convictions for the brutal attack on Trisha Me-

Get over yourself, America. First of all, you are not a democracy. America is not a democracy. First of all, you are not a democracy. American population….

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By 2002, the MLA was well on its way to becoming a major force within the American left. The new generation of radicals was not content simply to oppose the capitalist war, but was also determined to organize the working class on a permanent basis. The new generation of radicals was not content simply to oppose the capitalist war, but was also determined to organize the working class on a permanent basis. Not only did they want to defeat the war, but they also wanted to build a new society.

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Workers pay the heaviest of prices for buying into capitalist ideas, which in every country capitalism tries convincing us are universal truths—in the U.S., schools and movies alike saturate us with ideas like “individual freedom.” But when evaluating the toll of COVID-19, the cost of these ideas is measured in the hundreds of thousands of workers dead and the millions of workers’ lives uprooted and shattered in the U.S. alone in the belly of the beast of history’s richest and most powerful imperialist power.

And the very first mechanism by which capitalism guaranteed the lethality of the COVID-19 was the infection of the working class with capitalist ideas, starting with individualism. To be sure, the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party recommends the COVID-19 vaccine, universal mask wearing, physical distancing, and self-isolation when necessary—to protect ourselves and everyone around us. These are common sense mandates. In many countries workers willingly obey these public health mandates and lockdown orders for that reason.

Yet the U.S. leads in the share of people who defy such public health measures. Many refuse to accept these mandates because they regard them as infringements on “individual freedom,” even though this individualism directly harms others. Mired by politicians like Trump and Christian fascist preachers who promote superstition over science, around more than 25 percent of all U.S. workers—rising to 33 percent of Black and 34 percent of Latin workers—believe the pandemic “probably or definitely” is a hoax (Pew Research, 7/24/20), dismissing the one-third of one million deaths and counting. Far too many of our working class sisters and brothers are incapable of distinguishing truth from falsehood.

Mimicking Trump’s irresponsibility, many state governors and politicians aligned with the Small Fascist, domestic-oriented “Fortress America” capitalist wing tell people to do what they want. Many small-time capitalists are on the brink of failure, squeezed by monopolies like Amazon on one hand and falling profits on the other.

But it’s not just Trump—it’s capitalism. Such blatan “me-first” disregard for the well-being of others didn’t begin with Trump or any particular faction of the capitalist class. It flows from the entire history and ideology of capitalism, from its early competitive days to today’s monopoly capitalist stage, imperialism.

Politics are primary

Capitalism consists of a relatively tiny class of capitalists at the top: the owners of production and wealth. These capitalists control the lives of the rest of society beneath them—the working class, in countries the world over—control that they exercise through their state power, represented for them by self-serving politicians. And these politicians are (usually) protected by the bosses’ police and military.

These politicians are a key part of capitalist state power, along with the entire monoply-owned mass media and educational institutions, who are all represented on think tanks like the Council on Foreign Relations. Capitalist state power is supported by and enhances individualism alongside racism, sexism and nationalism to weaken working class-conscious interests like equality, collectivity, internationalism and solidarity.

Communist collectivity vs capitalist individualism

Communist-led workers in China won a revolution and established socialism in 1949. For the first period of time that the heroic struggles of workers in China were led by communists, many millions of workers became conditioned with a collective working class consciousness that opposed capitalist individualism.

These movements ultimately failed and came under the leadership of pro-capitalist, pro-communists. The old communist movement, for so many achievements and advances, kept many capitalist ideas. They were wrong to believe that international working class could not be won directly to communism, and PLP has analyzed the lessons of these failures elsewhere.

Even so, remnants of that collectivity and solidarity persist. Russia and China have long ago betrayed revolutionary struggle and become fascist states today. And yet China’s success in containing the infection of the working class has come in China were led by communists, millions of workers became conditioned with a collective working class consciousness that opposed capitalist individualism.

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