

INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMENS' DAY

Another International Working Women's Day, another appeal for the class war! 108 years on from women proletarians launching the 1917 Revolution in Russia, we find the fundamental issues unresolved.

As a way of example, let's call to your attention two key struggles in women-dominated sectors: In New York City, homecare workers for the ill and elderly face grueling conditions, working sometimes up to 24-hour shifts due to legal loopholes. As a response, many workers held a hunger strike to City Hall and the SEIU union's deaf ears. In Québec, daycare workers are set to go on strike this year against peanuts-for-wages, in a sector already seeing degraded conditions, as a rematch to their 2022 strike. This time, they will almost certainly be met by the government's response that "there is no money for you" — perhaps it had to be allocated to the all-time high military budget!

Proletarian women across the board are facing great attacks by the capitalist class. Being part of that class which is ruthlessly exploited for profit, proletarian women also encounter the designation of women as "secondary" wage-earners, meaning degraded wages and viewed as "superfluous" (often taking on the most brutal poverty). In addition to being expected to work for less pay, harassment and other attacks must be endured. All gains are in reverse and recent events have revealed the rottenness of the capitalist system. From the Andrew Tate scam to the demonization of trans people, open chauvinism is on the rise. Even #MeToo, from the outset a reformist outcry against sexual assault in Hollywood, was crushed, with the Democrats landing the killing blow after the Cuomo scandal and Biden's presidency. Let alone the 38% (at least) of proletarian women who have faced sexual harassment in the workplace!

The attacks on women proletarians are just one part of the greater assault on the working class. The fundamental crisis of



capitalism, i.e. the tendency for profit rates to plummet as more and more capital is accumulated, results in both the extreme squeezing of the working class and the drive for imperialist world war. It's no coincidence that as workers across North America are facing a decades-long decline in living standards, vicious chauvinism and world conflict proliferate. As Trump threatens annexations of the Panama Canal and Greenland due to "Chinese influence" and the widespread kidnapping of our migrant class brothers and sisters, as misogyny and transphobia become openly asserted, the working class as a whole is being told to pay for the capitalist crisis. Between inflation and bullets, evictions and sexual violence, work speed-ups and missiles, precarity and mass slaughter, the entire working class must fight back.

There's no way around it— for us to put away for good misogyny, transphobia, poverty, predation, slaughter, the proletariat must unite in a single class movement to seize power and rid the world of the capitalist system. An attack on one part of our class is an attack on it as a whole. Not only do proletarian women have to unite with their class brethren in the class war against the bourgeoisie, but our class must be and is able to combat oppression as well as any chauvinism within its ranks (whether gendered, sexual, or other).

It's through our fight as a single class of wage-workers that we can pose the question of the revolutionary transformation of society into a classless future, one where the family can no longer be an economic unit and where imperialist war will be a footnote in prehistory. We have a fundamentally differ-

ent perspective from the feminists who want more women in positions of bourgeois power. It was not as women that the starving female proletarians of 1917's St. Petersburg toppled the Russian Czar, but as members of the only revolutionary class, the proletariat. Today, we find the working class in a perilously weak position. We advocate everywhere we can for the self-organization of our class, which has been for too long dominated by capitalist "reformers" and the trade unions. Meanwhile, the highest tool available to it is notably absent— the revolutionary party. It's the party that can unite workers from all different sectors and pose its historic mission of revolution. The creation of such a party is the goal set out for us in the ICT. If you broadly agree with what you've read, consider joining us.

MASS DEPORTATIONS ARE AN ATTACK ON THE WORKING CLASS

On January 29th, the Laken Riley Act was signed into law by President Trump. The act is designed to enable the state to indefinitely detain and summarily deport immigrants no matter their legal status. Immigrants can now be simply accused of committing a crime, including non violent misdemeanors, and be deported without ever being convicted of any offense against the state. This act was clearly bipartisan; 50 House Democrats voted for it and it's a continuation of Biden's brutal anti-immigration policies for expediting mass deportations. The act is a part of the growing social reaction put forward by politicians as economic crises exacerbate the already precarious situation for the near pauperized working class. The growth of social reactionary sentiment is driven by the fears of working class's enemies including the small capitalists in their anxiety over ruination as capitalism's crisis deepens. These small capitalists, or petty bourgeoisie, will always tend to side against the working class in the hopes that they may avoid the fate of joining the ranks of the working class. The capitalist class is operating under increasingly narrow constraints leading to more desperate acts as profit rates remain ever anemic, opening new chapters of brutality to piece together the decaying social system.

The act also allows states to sue the federal government to prevent local governments from ever letting immigrants out of detention, or to

pressure sanctuary cities, which will enable the indefinite detention of immigrants under the fear of lawsuits or federal interventions, and several states have followed the federal-level lead in attacking undocumented immigrants. Although the bill failed to pass, Mississippi proposed using bounty hunters to track down immigrants. Texas's SB 4 has acted as a model law for states that seek to compel sanctuary cities to aid ICE in enforcement. Idaho has passed a new law that compels deportation of anyone in the state that is undocumented and has committed at least a misdemeanor, a statewide version of the Laken Riley Act that also places pressure on local law enforcement to facilitate ICE round-ups. Additionally the administration has resurrected the Alien Registry Act of 1940 & the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952; these laws requires undocumented persons to provide fingerprints and an address to the Federal Government or face fines, immediate imprisonment and or deportation. The surge in attention on undocumented immigrants at both the federal and state level is likely to increase the pressure on sanctuary cities to comply with federal border enforcement. Threats from the Trump administration on local and state officials that refuse to cooperate with ICE place further pressure on these jurisdictions.

The reason for the coordination and intensity of these assaults on undocumented workers is

that the Trump administration has promised to deport all undocumented people in the United States, which is approximately ten million people. To deport this many people, the administration will require increased capacity for detention to handle the processing and removal to a country that will accept them. President Trump has ordered the infamous Guantánamo Bay to become the US's Devil's Island for around 30,000 immigrant detainees. The base can only hold 800 now and it's unlikely that "adequate" facilities can even be constructed due to rugged terrain, leading to mass suffering and fatalities. Guantánamo Bay has already received its first batch of 10 prisoners that were transferred there from US army base Fort Bliss on the US - Mexico border. This memorandum is a part of the ongoing military operation on the US - Mexico border, with all the familiar language heard in imperialist geopolitics. The USA is calling the situation an invasion of criminal gangs and a threat to national sovereignty as a way to justify interning these "dangerous subversive elements." The justification is reminiscent of Woodrow Wilson's Palmer Raids, where communists and syndicalists were deemed subversive and were exiled, or when the liberal conciliator FDR interned the Japanese. In both of those past cases, anti-immigrant sentiment was inexorably connected to increased militarism as an aspect of the crisis of imperialist capitalism. In-

creased xenophobia is an antecedent for the drive towards generalized wars that appears to rear its ugly head once again as the threat of war is once again top of mind.

In alignment with the recent administration's decision to detain migrants in Guantánamo Bay, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has negotiated a legally dubious and financially lucrative agreement with Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele to ship undocumented migrants and US citizens convicted of violent crimes to the newly constructed Terrorist Confinement Center (CECOT) in El Salvador. After Bukele instituted martial law in 2022 with the political cover of cracking down on gang violence, El Salvador's prisons have seen an increase of over 83,000 occupants as of December 2024, roughly 28 times the average yearly growth of



the Salvadoran prison population in the last 20 years. The prison system is rampant with instances of torture, abuse, and overcrowding, with prisons reaching over 300% capacity. Those jailed since Bukele's imposition of martial law have been targeted along race and class lines in mass arrests with little to no due process, while daily quotas and anonymous tips incentivize military officials and police to detain men living in impoverished areas wracked by gang violence. Those imprisoned in the CECOT, now the largest prison in Latin America with a holding capacity of 40,000 inmates, are held indefinitely, restrained in cells of roughly 80 inmates, and kept from ever going outside. If a deal is formally reached, we can expect undocumented migrants and US citizens alike to vanish into the unrestricted expansion of the Salvadoran prison system, as even innocent civilians of El Salvador accused of gang affiliations have been forcibly disappeared under the auspices of the Bukele regime.

The administration has also tied its immigration policy to its other favored policy of tariffs, and the administration has been gung-ho in their statements promising tariffs on Canada and Mexico—in addition to continuing Trump's traditional rhetoric of tariffing China. Giving pretext for the new hostile approach to the former trading partners of past administrations, the Trump Administration has cited an "extraordinary threat posed by illegal aliens and drugs." Citing a belief that Chinese officials allow the flow of precursor chemicals to drug manufacturers, a supposed "alliance with the government of Mexico" held by traffickers south of the border, and drug labs owned by cartels in Canada, Trump's reversal of America's neoliberal course has been a trumpet's herald proclaiming a revived manufacturing base to the nationalists. This has been a cause for celebration for some sections of the American bour-

geoisie—and those who fight for them—under the assumption that industry and the jobs it entails will return to America and American workers. Thus, unions such as the UAW representing workers in many manufacturing industries have supported the news, even if it means dividing the working class along national boundaries and weakening working-class power.

In the course of the ongoing crisis, there is the inevitable sinking of the small capitalist (i.e. the small business owner, the farmer, etc.) into the working class as capital becomes more concentrated into the hands of the large capitalists. American mythology venerates this class as the beating heart of the country, but this middle-class idealization cannot conquer the laws of capitalism. At this precipice, they now flail and scapegoat any group that appears to them to be taking their "American Dream" away. In their reactionary evaluation, if there are social services provided by the federal government, not only should immigrants be kept from them by means of deportation, but that allocated money should be used instead as a capital investment in their businesses, a sentiment that is refrained often as "taking care of Americans here at home." Moreover, these small capitalists endeavor to "roll back the wheel of history" by expelling immigrants in a bid to save themselves as capitalists, and to justify this they rely on racism: immigrants are not racially acceptable to receive the American dream. In Donald J. Trump, the small capitalists find their chief: a celebrity, but not a particularly successful business man in the grand scheme, and not someone of particularly high net worth. Perhaps not a small capitalist, but significantly smaller than the Forbes 400. His use of racism and various other bigotry to justify his failings are particularly attractive to the reactionary middle classes.



But what of the large capitalists, and why do they allow this hysteria? In general these kinds of isolationist policies are not good for business. In the short term we might expect to see labor shortage and a pressure to increase wages, but with the working class disorganized and in retreat, it is almost trivial for the capitalists to suppress wages with their reign of terror in workplaces, and so it is no major detriment to lose some less than 5% of the total workforce. Here and around the world we have a capitalist class preparing for imperialist war. National self-sufficiency is critical to avoiding supply chain disruption and reliance on international partners, or even enemies, such is the case with China, for resources needed for national defense and the manufacture of weapons and military equipment. On top of this, it is always beneficial for the capitalists to isolate its national working class from those of other nations to prevent solidarity and organi-

zation across national borders. Ultimately the larger capitalist has little to lose by supporting the reactionary whims of the small capitalist, where ultimately on the aggregate the capital owned by the middle classes will be appropriated one way or another by the large capitalist.

But we do not call for solidarity with a crumbling middle class, we call for solidarity with the working class across borders. We call for unity and internationalism with those who are already under the yoke of exploitation and the cooperation towards a party of the working class that can end this mode of exploitation, racism, and bigotry. We call for no war but the class war, and we call on those workers who would be the first conscripts to hold together with your working class comrades and fight back against the capitalists who would make you cannon fodder in the name of their profit.

OUR POLITICS

Internationalism At root, our politics are internationalist. For us, the progressive role of capitalism is exhausted and each and every country in the world is capitalist. Since modern capitalism is at its core imperialist, and since there is no escape from the worldwide chain of imperialism, there is no real possibility for national liberation. In opposition to nationalism, we counterpose with revolutionary defeatism and opposition to national chauvinism with struggle and workers' revolution.

Revolution The room for reform of capitalism has shrunk more and more as the rate of profit has declined. So-called working class parties that have entered the ready-made state machinery become mere task masters for the continued assault on the working class. We call instead for revolution, and not in one country, but rather a worldwide revolution capable of striking at the heart of the capitalist system. This revolution will be accomplished by that class with nothing but its labor power in its possession, and nothing to lose but its chains—the proletariat.

The Party The Internationalist party is the most irreplaceable weapon for the working class for achieving revolutionary victory. The party's program is not constructed haphazardly, but rather is developed through careful observation and elaborating the lessons from the past class struggle. The party allows for the proletariat to act in a more unified way on a program for concrete political action and contend for class politics within the working class's historically found class wide organs (Soviets, Councils, Committees). The party isn't the class and can't substitute its role, rather it will help lead the working class towards seizing political power during its final confrontation with the bourgeoisie state.

NWBCW No War but the Class War (NWBCW) committees consist of organizations and individuals that share our internationalist position. This means being against oppression, exploitation, imperialism, all nationalisms and the economic and political attacks that the current war and the ones to come bring. It also means being for the self-organized struggle of the working class and for a society where states, wage-labor, private property, money and production for profit are

replaced by a world of freely associated producers. Adherents will not agree on everything, but will be able to jointly intervene to spread the internationalist message, to promote discussion between internationalists, and, where possible, to provide concrete solidarity in the class struggle. Capitalism is in a long term and deepening crisis which is taking us down the road to generalised war, posing the question of war or revolution. At first, many will choose war by siding with one section of the ruling class. Through NWBCW, we can more loudly and coherently answer revolution.

Unions Unions are tools of the state, used to negotiate the sale of workers' labor-power. The very nature of the union form dictates its relationship to the working class; it cannot escape its negotiating role and therefore poses a barrier to proletarian class struggle and class consciousness. Despite unions' claims to advocate for workers, they exist to meet the needs of capital and preserve the capitalist system. Regardless of the composition of unions, they cannot serve as organs of mass struggle that the political minority of the class, the party, will use to deliver its program and slogans to the working class. Only in times of rising class struggle can these mass organs develop. Even then, workers must self-organize outside of the union structure. It is the task of communists to take part in workers' struggles and point the way forward, going beyond the advocacy of immediate gains and politicizing the workplace struggle, linking it to proletarian class struggle on a global scale. The organization of the most class conscious workers in the workplace will facilitate the creation of a direct link between the party and the wider working class.

The Russian Revolution In 1917, as the bloody First World War continued and imperialist powers sent their working classes to die in the slaughter, Russia became the center of revolution that had the potential not only to stop the war, but to bring an end to the indignities and oppression of capitalism altogether. The Bolsheviks held to their conviction that the working class was betrayed by the Second International that cheered on the war and sided with its own national capitalist class. As the Russian Czar's power weakened, and he

was eventually forced to abdicate, the Bolsheviks challenged the power of the new capitalist-led Provisional Government. Instead, they saw power in the soviets, or workers' councils, that formed to advance the cause of world revolution. The wave of revolutions that followed were inspired by the common principle that the working class must take power for itself to once and for all end its oppression.

Capitalism The fundamental basis of this societal regime is accumulation of capital. The drive for profit is the secret of all productive activity and therefore the basis of all social life. Once we see that the source of profit is the exploitation of labor, we arrive at the conclusion that capitalism is predicated on the oppression of the proletariat. However, this drive toward profit ultimately leads to its own doom. The more capital accumulates the more the rate of profit falls, and the more desperate the capitalist class becomes in trying to avoid collapse. Ultimately its only solution remaining, with its back against the wall of the forces of competition and imperialism, is war.

The Italian Left Our political tradition is a direct contribution of that of the Italian Communist Left. After the betrayal of the parties of the Second International in supporting their own national governments in the First World War, the (3rd) Communist International arose as the reaffirmation of revolutionary proletarian politics. In Italy this was no exception. However, with the quick onset of counter revolutionary conditions in Russia, the Third International de-

generated into an organ for the defense of the Russian State. This translated into increasingly opportunist politics within the communist parties who lost sight of their revolutionary path. The Italian left was steadfast in its criticism of this opportunism, ultimately leading to its expulsion from the Third International. In exile and underground, it maintained its existence until 1943, when it reorganized itself as the Internationalist Communist Party (PCInt). It was the only party formed during the Second World War to uphold internationalism and revolutionary defeatism in the face of the greatest slaughter the proletariat has ever witnessed—yet (because the next one will be worse!). Now our Italian affiliate, the PCInt, has woven the red thread of revolutionary politics from that tumultuous period to the present.

The Work of the ICT One of the key lessons of the Italian left, and of the last great revolutionary wave is that there is a permanent need for a revolutionary party. As such, we see our own goal as providing a real contribution to the next international party. Obviously we are not The Party. The elements of the new party will require deep roots within the working class. With that in mind, we intervene within the wider class struggle, both political and economic, not just to spread our politics but also to build our capacity to be a reference point for the working class in its struggle to pave the path toward revolution.

For more information about our organization and answers to frequently asked questions: <https://www.leftcom.org/en/about-us>

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