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Mutiny

May Day 2025 : Against Capitalist Crisis, Against Imperialist War
No War But Class War



May Day, 2025 finds capitalism, no matter who's in charge, drenching the world with the working class's blood. It's now 50 years since the end of capitalism's post-war boom. After decades of declining profit rates in the "real economy" the situation is becoming more and more dire as war becomes increasingly the only option for states to confront capitalism's insoluble crisis. Imperialist wars are burning across the world from Ukraine, the Middle East, the African Sahel, the Congo and elsewhere, and a generalised world war looms on the horizon. The international working class has no interest in these wars caused by the capitalist system. They bring increased class repression, privation, displacement, death and genocide: all for a system far past its historical sell-by date. This crisis has no reformist solution: the solution of the working class can only be revolution.

What Peace?

Two of the bloodiest conflicts within global imperialism, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, were promised to be ended by Trump within a short time of his taking office. Already, it is clear that "peace" for Trump (and the rest of the capitalist class) means more bloodshed down the road. We find in Trump's talks with Putin and public dressing-down of Zelensky a chance for the United States to redirect its resources towards its main imperialist rival, China, while, with Putin, completely plundering Ukraine. While Zelensky is pressured to concede Ukraine's mineral wealth to U.S. companies (and make no mistake, the Biden presidency was committed to doing the same by having BlackRock and JPMorgan Chase oversee Ukraine's post-war reconstruction), Russia is looking to seize eastern Ukraine's large natural and industrial resources. Though it is clear that the war in Ukraine was fought between NATO and Russia, with the American strategy of making Russia fight a war of attrition down "to the last Ukrainian," the outcome is less certain. Whether Trump's plan to break the alliance between a now-weakened Russia and China is possible will be borne out by future events. Surely, the European capitalists are concerned as their "coalition of the willing" pledges billions of dollars in further arms to Ukraine and the EU shifts towards a rearmament strategy. In Gaza, too, "peace" was never more than a cover for massacre. During the ceasefire from January 19th to March 17th, at least 170 Palestinians in Gaza were killed, and, in just one week after Israel began its bombardment again, over 700 were killed. And as Trump was gesturing at a ceasefire in Gaza on one hand, he was devising plans to remove the whole of the Palestinian population in Gaza – many of whom are in refugee camps at the border with Egypt – in order to create a "riviera of the Middle East", if only he could force Egypt and Jordan to accept a deal on the logistics of the ethnic cleansing of the region.

The Road to WWIII

Ultimately, despite the rich talk, the United States has no interest in peace. The seemingly strange manoeuvrings of the Trump administration toward Russia, and also Iran through a new nuclear deal, are really about isolating China. The Chinese state is the true leader in this alliance of convenience which the US intends to break up. For almost two decades, US policy toward China has thus been one of belligerence, and the current tactics under Trump are no different than those under Obama and Biden – protectionism against the Chinese economy, the undermining of China's allies, and the preparation of the NATO countries for war. Chinese economic and military might is seen by the US as the greatest threat to their hegemony. The People's Liberation Army is the world's largest military, and the Chinese economy surpassed that of the US in 2014 when adjusted for purchasing power parity and is expected to surpass the US gross domestic product in the coming decade. In spite of its strength, China has seen indicators of slow growth and has for years sought to expand its markets in fierce competition with the US. In the pursuit of an ever-expanding need for profit, both powers find themselves at odds and these differences are irreconcilable. It is not clear that US rapprochement with Russia will work, as it could very well fail and leave Europe more vulnerable as the US begins withdrawing its military support for the continent. In any case, the motive is to drive a wedge between Russia and China and this is something that is easier said than done. Russia is economically reliant on China, as China has been its most powerful public backer and has aided Russia by sidestepping sanctions. Both have a shared interest in promoting trade outside of the dollar. The same goes for Iran–despite its power in the Middle East region, Iran is hobbled by international sanctions. Although China has supported Iran with sweetheart fossil fuel deals which help to hold the Iranian state together, the Iranian economy is weakening and its political sway in the Middle East is being undermined as its proxy forces are being weakened.

The War-Proofing of the Capitalist State

The civilian Russian economy has been hollowed out by the long and bloody war in Ukraine. It has been able to survive years of conflict by converting to a wartime economy–one where the defense industry is central to the economy as a whole, and where self-reliance is prioritized to weather any sanction or potential blockade. In times of world conflict, global trade takes a major hit and production is brought home where possible. Countries like Russia and China are more prepared for a global conflict in this sense–whereas Europe and the United States are fully dependent on international trade. Additionally, although defense spending in Europe has been increasing in the past decade, it has been perceived by its US ally as inadequate. And while social services have seen a decline over the last half century, there has been consistent spending and indeed deficit spending to keep social services running.Trump is making no secret of the fact that 'the Europeans' are going to have to pay for their own defense. For the US and Europe, the turn toward a wartime economy has already begun in the form of promises to spend big on defense. Europe has outlined a planned €800 Billion in additional defense spending, approaching the nearly $850 Billion called for in defense in the US Budget. Of course, Europe and the US are also reeling due to the massive spending required to handle Covid, placing many of these countries well past the 100% mark for debt-to-GDP ratio, something that serves as an indicator of future crisis. War looms on the horizon whether there is room in the budget or not, so it is likely that further austerity measures will be levied on the working class, who will not only bear the brunt of lost services but who will also be expected to head to the front lines in the event that war breaks out.

In the US, the Trump administration has favored extreme protectionism combined with a closed-door immigration policy and deep cuts to the Federal government's non-military spending. This "fortress America" approach breaks every rule for what has kept capitalism profitable for the past fifty years. However, this autarkic United States would be capable of producing the necessary equipment to fight a war with China without the concern for supply chain disruption. Even the outwardly bizarre threats to annex Greenland and Canada (and aid the attempt to secure control of newly opened Arctic sea routes), as well as Panama can be rationalized as attempts to control critical resources for defense production and to gain total control over trade in the Western Hemisphere. By imposing high tariffs on China and allies in Europe and Canada, the US can break its reliance on overseas trade and force its allies to do the same, it will be the working class that pay the price. Add to this that the United States is preparing cuts in programs such as Medicaid, Social Security, and foreign aid simply because there is very little else left to cut to make room for soaring defense spending in the years to come. Again, it will be the working class who will be expected to pay the price.

Internationalism in the Face of Rising Nationalism

These recent conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, fought between proxies of the US and China, have wrought great suffering but still pale in comparison to the possibilities of a direct confrontation–what could only be described as a world war if it were to break out. There remains one question we must ask ourselves if the world gets dragged into a war of this scale: Which side are we on? Nationalism is surging throughout the world as we appear ready to descend into barbarity. The call will always look the same; it is necessary to sacrifice, ration, take a cut in wages, or perhaps get conscripted. Those who do the bidding of the capitalists will be given high praise as "patriots" or "defenders of democracy". But there is no greater lie than the lie of nationalism. Even the nationalism of the underdog is a deception meant to herd workers into the capitalists' camp. Any fight against capitalist war will have to recognize that the working class must fight against the entire system of imperialism, in which each and every country falls into. The antidote for nationalism is internationalism. It will never make sense for the working class to kill one another on behalf of their rulers. It will never be the capitalist's caskets lowered en masse into the cold graves in the military cemeteries.

To answer the question above, our side is the working class in its war waged against the capitalists. The international working class must resist the call for the slaughter of its class, and turn its ire on the capitalists who give them their marching orders. This May Day we should look to those workers who chose to fight the class war and who collectively brought down empires before they could fire another shot at their comrades, as in the First World War. Whilst today we can take heart from current examples of resistance, such as the Palestinians protesting against Hamas, the Israeli soldiers refusing to fight, and the Russians and Ukrainians deserting from the war fronts. Despite their limitations, they are an important signal for the future.The fight begins anew with every strike, every moment of self-activity of the working class. Our class is constantly facing general attacks from the capitalist class, be it precarity or bullets, inflation or bombings. What is needed is a general fight back of the entire working class, outside of the confines of the unions so that it can fight as a single, solidified, class. However, for this fight to be carried to its logical conclusion, the revolutionary victory of the working class and the end of this system of profit and war, each step must be linked to our class's political objectives. It is for this reason that the ICT has helped form No War But Class War (NWBCW) committees across the globe, grouping together internationalists of various political tendencies to defend working class politics within the wider struggle which so desperately needs it. Even more necessary is a true political reference point within the working class, one that is able to build deep roots inside of it and lead it towards the revolutionary finale of this nightmarish saga. With the formation of an international revolutionary party, the slogan No War But Class War will one day be made reality by the revolutionary action of the entire working class.

No War but Class War!

Bill 89: A New Frontier For Misery

Canadian workers have been through the wringer in the past couple of years. We have seen widespread strikes pivotal to the supply chain across the nation, and at the same time, we have witnessed the Labour Minister crushing every single one of them through an unprecedented legal apparatus. While workers are clearly responding to pauperisation and worsening labour conditions, the extent to which the government will tolerate even union-led grievances has diminished significantly. This is also something that has been shown across the continent, with the historic defeat of the rail workers strikes in the US in 2022 demonstrating how quickly politicians of all stripes will crush anything with the potential to hurt capitalist profits. This is especially true in matters of national competition, now entering a fevered pitch as Trump's tariff salvos hit dozens of countries around the world. It is in this context that a Canadian ruling class, already stridefully attacking workers, can utilize a rediscovered nationalism as a new weapon. However, it should be emphasized that the legal tools in question are not solely the outcomes of political conflicts led by 'bad leaders', but are also continuous with the general assault on the working class by the ruling class. It is precisely in this context, while workers are clouded with nationalism, that the general tendency of policing and preparation for clampdowns manifests itself.

Here in Quebec, we see a prime example of this sort of development with Bill 89, a bill detailing exceptional legal powers to shut down industrial action if it is contrary to 'public interest'. While legal scholars have already challenged the pretext of the bill under the vague wording of what is the 'public interest', there is also a concrete motive that is especially important to workers. Given the tightly intertwined nature of capitalist production, any strike can potentially pose a threat to 'public interest', not just tied to the most profitable or strategically important industries; hotel staff, daycare workers, SAQ employees, all could in principle be harming the public interest if capitalist holdings in these relevant industries decline. The vagueness of the language is therefore not a legal aberration or an attempt to secure power for one faction of the bourgeoisie, but a necessity in order to be able to present, and defend capitalist society as a single coherent organ. A strike under such a scheme transforms into something objectionable not just economically, but morally. The key is therefore the change from strikes being tolerated, evaluated, and negotiated through as transactional affairs - as something mediated through official bodies and the legal apparatus, into a reappraisal of their character necessary for the reproduction of society as a whole. In such a context, pharmacists going on strike would be politicised and clamped down upon with ease, because one can invoke countless examples of grandma getting her medication late due to industrial action to get workers on the picket back to work. Thus the Quebec National Assembly aims to further legally solidify the justifications of back to work orders which have already been imposed on port and postal workers in the recent past. This upgraded policing from the state is something that we as workers have seen before in the form of 'no strike' clauses developed during the great imperialist confrontations in the 20th century. Although Quebec is still far away from wartime production, the tools capitalists developed to pacify the working class in times of dire need can always resurface and the path towards authoritarian policing re-emerge.

In light of this development, examples of strikes in non-critical industries immediately become attacks on society at large. Hotel staff suddenly strike not for wages, but out of a perverse hatred for elderly customers. Daycare workers strike because they hate and want to punish children. SAQ workers strike because they are lazy and inconsiderate. Any number of contrived and extreme examples can be invoked, but as the capitalist crisis deepens, and as imperialist confrontations sharpen, milestones such as Bill 89 become important reference points for capital in preparing the working class for further misery.

Elections In Canada: Axe The Capitalist Class

April 28th marks another election, yet nothing changes for the working class. With each election, politicians promise everything and deliver nothing to the working class. This election, tariffs, job loss and economic depression are providing political ammunition for all parties to attack one another. Each party is trying their best to appeal to the working class as they all promise to alleviate the capitalist crisis, presumably by changing political colours. Each capitalist party represents different ideologies yet they are united in that none of them represent the working class. The working class is facing the onslaught of economic fallout from Trump's tariffs and a stagnant economy over many decades, exasperated by COVID-19. Workers have to deal with increasing rent and home prices while real wages fall due to inflation, and they are increasingly reliant upon food banks in order to secure the most basic necessities. No capitalist party will solve these issues, no capitalist party represents the working class, and the capitalist parliament is not the place for the working class struggle!

Tax cuts

From the NDP to the Conservatives, every party is proposing tax cuts upon different income groups as a way to secure working class votes. The Conservatives promise tax cuts for only low income seniors, the NDP promise tax cuts for the "middle class", and the Liberals are already delivering on their cut to the Carbon Tax. Each of these tax breaks are an attempt to win over the working class, but they only amount to a few extra dollars at the end of the year. This small sum of money at the end of the year won't even begin to compensate workers for the job losses and inflation that eat away at their wages. The tax breaks are a way for the state to promise workers more money at the end of the year while not actually raising wages. The tax breaks also come at a cost, as they allow any future government to chip away at the welfare state and decrease funding for social services, in order to try to save any meager profits.

Creating Jobs

Each party claims they will create jobs for workers by spurring on construction via this or that policy initiative. In reality, the aim is to keep real estate speculation afloat by having the state further the cycle. No party seems above removing restrictions to build any new infrastructure, typical of when the rate of profit is falling and there is a race to secure new capital investment projects quickly and extend fits of speculation. Removing restrictions around building laws will surely increase the pace for workers to build homes but in the end the aim is protecting national capital. Removing restrictions will also impact the environment as development expands into the far North for more and more minerals. In order to remain competitive on the global market and fast track mining operations, restrictions will have to be lifted, something no part is above doing. Workers have nothing to gain from any of these plans, and they all offer workers faster work, worse living and working conditions, and a deteriorating climate.

Canadian Nationalism

Canadian nationalism has received a boost in recent months due to the Trump tariffs: workers are encouraged to only buy Canadian products, and to vote for Canadian patriots at the polls. The politicians are playing on this nationalism to secure votes, painting rivals as pro Trump in order to paint themselves as the real friend to all Canadians. Nationalism tries to bind all the classes together into a nation. In the nationalist's mind they aren't capitalists and workers, they are all Canadians! Nationalism obfuscates the class struggle by creating an illusion of cross class solidarity, and painting workers of rival capitalist powers as enemies. Nationalism must be opposed no matter its form. We need to struggle as a class, for that is our objective position, not our nationalities!

Against Electoralism! For the Class Struggle!

The working class has no friends in any capitalist parties. No matter which party prevails in the upcoming federal election, or any election at home or abroad, the consequences for the working class are the same: exploitation, misery, and death. No matter which form of capitalist politics, right-wing or left-wing though it may be, the slogans of the rival parties all line up to say in the same voice: "The greatest danger to you is the foreign invader. We, your kind capitalist rulers, are your saviors." Workers must realize their power cannot be exercised through any capitalist parliament or government, but rather through their independent struggle as a class. To do this the working class must form its own party. A party of the working class is not a parliamentary party; as Damen said: "The revolutionary party does not ape bourgeois parties, but obeys the need to adapt its organisational structure to the objective condition of the revolutionary struggle.". Although we are not yet the class party, we are beginning to group the most class-conscious workers to build that party; a party that as Damen says does not "ape" the bourgeois parties by participating in parliament or offering reformist demands, but advances the class struggle and works within the class so that the workers themselves can seize power and overthrow capitalism.



What Does Klasbatalo Fight For?

We fight for the political independence of the working class, which means we reject all cross-class alliances with the capitalist class, including its left-wing. We believe the working class must fight on its own terrain: first, to defend itself against the bosses' attacks; and, second, to achieve its ultimate task, that of establishing the world communist future which will rid the planet of exploitation, oppression, and war. It is towards this goal that we fight for the creation of the world communist party, whose purpose is to clarify the confusions among the class and to unify it towards its ultimate end; we believe this party to be the most potent weapon of our class. While we are for the party, we do not believe ourselves to be the party, nor do we believe that our organization alone will become it; rather, we see it as the product of both the wider class struggle, and of the real work of revolutionaries, of which we see ourselves as only one of many elements. We do not see this party as a government-in-waiting, for the emancipation of humanity depends on the active struggle of the whole working class, and this struggle cannot be replaced by the dictates of a minority.

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