From Minneapolis to Los Angeles, Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and even internationally, people in cities and towns have taken to the streets in outrage over the inhumanity of racist police terror. U.S. police and vigilantes have been given a license to murder Black, Brown, Indigenous and poor people. The victims of police terror must have the right to defend themselves, their families and their children. While the egregious murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery have ignited mass anger and pain nationally, it is the racism and white supremacy integral to the system of capitalism that is the underlying cause of the rebellion.

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**Capitalism and imperialism have failed the people**

The massive movement in the streets in every town and city also takes place in the context of the massive failure of capitalism to protect people from the deadly coronavirus and its imperialist promotion of poverty and war.

The lack of health care, housing, food and income has deepened suffering for the vast majority of workers. Black, Latinx and poor people have suffered disproportionately, especially as essential workers are forced to work in unsafe conditions without the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). The disparity of death rates is glaring. The refusal to address what is a near-death sentence for millions of prisoners and immigrant workers and their families locked up in detention camps; and the callous disregard of frontline workers who are being sacrificed for profits has fueled this new movement.

**The community doesn’t own corporations, banks & police precincts**

Useless arguments emerge aimed at distorting and clouding the events surrounding rebellions and insurrections to both mislead, divide and confuse the people. Arguments like “People are destroying their own neighborhoods” are one example.

Target – a billion dollar chain store owned by the community any more than the banks or a dozen other businesses. And the police precincts in cities are nothing more than outposts of an occupation army in Black and Brown communities.

**Who really looted our communities?**

It is the bankers and billionaires who are responsible for the austerity measures that have defunded education, health care and housing in every major city. The mortgage crisis created by these same banks ripped off and stole millions from Black and Latinx working-class families who lost their homes. Black families lost half their wealth in this crisis, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

**What is the real source of violence?**

How can the media and politicians equate the breaking of windows, the burning of police cars and what they describe as “looting” with the deep white supremacist violence that is a daily part of the lives of Black and oppressed people in this country?

What about the violence of poverty threatening workers and poor people 365 days of the year?

What about the horrific conditions that immigrant workers and their children face in detention camps? You cannot compare a broken window with the lives lost to police or racist murders. A window can be repaired. A mother’s son or daughter’s life cannot be brought back. And without protests those murderers will continue.

It is hypocrisy for government officials to pretend to be concerned about small businesses or to pit them against protesters and the movement. The recent stimulus package was a giant giveaway to billionaires while small community businesses, particularly Black businesses, were frankly ripped off. Nothing has been done during the pandemic to assist these businesses.

**Solidarity against police & military repression!**

As people are risking their lives from both the viral pandemic and the pandemic of racist state terror that has escalated to military troops, tanks and chemical weapons, it is of utmost importance that organizations unite to defend the Black community’s right to protest the life-threatening terror by the police — an entity originally created for the purpose of capturing runaway slaves.

Trump has encouraged genocide and called for the military to put down the people’s movement. The Movement for Black Lives has advocated for Trump’s immediate removal. The Democratic Party has been complicit with its silence, or worse, imposed curfews and ordered National Guard troops to our neighborhoods.

Let our movement unite in strength and solidarity to defend itself and become a force that can win these demands and abolish the root cause of police murder and state repression: capitalism, war & imperialism.

**WE DEMAND**

- Abolish the racist police system
- Police and National Guard withdraw now
- Release all arrestees — Drop all charges
- End the curfews & escalation of violence by police
- Black, Brown and Indigenous communities must have the right and resources to create and control their own entities to keep them safe

**ORGANIZE FOR PEOPLE’S POWER**

- Demand the right for scientists, workers and their children face in detention camps?
- Berlin & Moscow: Before a sword of death to be brought back. And without protests those murderers will continue.

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**Struggle for Socialism/La Lucha por el Socialismo**

**Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido**
Herd immunity usually occurs only after staggering numbers of people have died

By Scott Scheffler

There have now been over 100,000 lives lost in the U.S. from COVID-19, and nearly half the country is still experiencing uncontrolled outbreaks. Incarcerated populations, nursing home residents, asylum seekers trapped at the border and the homeless are particularly vulnerable. Essential workers, mostly people of color, are getting infected at alarming rates.

Yet, most states are easing stay-at-home restrictions under pressure from the White House. Right-wing foundations have funded a “movement” that featured armed racists at numerous state capitols demanding that the economy be reopened. The argument that underpins the push to undo the social distancing measures and put millions of workers in harm’s way is the false notion that the severity of COVID-19 is being exaggerated and that the virus will work its way through the population naturally until most of the people infected will recover from mild symptoms and become immune.

Experts say that herd immunity — as it is called — is accomplished when between 50 percent and 80 percent of the population has the antibodies needed to fight off a virus. For the flu, that happens through a combination of some people getting infected and recovering, and through a mass vaccination campaign.

Every virus has unique characteristics. SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 is the current strain of coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease) has a very high fatality rate and spreads very efficiently. Although it appears that there will be immunity after recovering from infection, even that is not known for sure. Without a vaccine, ending preventative measures that slow down the spread is a recipe for overwhelming hospitals with sick and dying patients.

Before the use of vaccines, the herd immunity milestone occurred only after staggering numbers of people had died. A mid-nineteenth-century cholera pandemic killed a million people; a flu pandemic in 1889-1890 killed another million; in 1911, cholera killed 800,000 people again; and in 1918, the misnamed Spanish Flu killed between 20 million and 50 million people.

Given that African American, Latinx and Indigenous populations from one end of the country to the other are suffering the highest death rates by far, the push to reopen the economy is another example of racism under capitalism. In Louisiana, African Americans are 70 percent of the COVID-19 deaths. In Chicago, the number is 56 percent. In New York, Black people are twice as likely to die.

The average rate of infection in the U.S. as a whole is around 400 persons per 100,000. Indian Country Today reported that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of San Felipe and the Pueblo of Zia have COVID-19 rates per 100,000 people of 1,100, 1,400, and 3,300 respectively.

Social distancing and quarantine should help to slow the rate of infection while gathering the data needed to develop a vaccine. That is the way the fight should be conducted. But under capitalism, instead of a massive, centralized effort to come up with effective tests and ultimately a vaccine, the research and development and the distribution are in the hands of private corporations for profit. The problem is not only a hoarding of knowledge, but a dangerous lack of oversight. In 1955, the lack of centralization and regulation under President Eisenhower allowed one company, Cutter Laboratories, to market a defective polio vaccine that infected 40,000 people with the disease.

There are great examples internationally of successful public health intervention. In Kerala, India, where the health minister is a member of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), an all-out campaign of contact tracing and isolation of infection kept the number of fatalities to single digits among a population of 35 million. People who were quarantined — even travelers from other areas — were housed and fed.

Remarkably, this month China tested the whole population of 11 million in the city of Wuhan in around two weeks. They also have a vaccine in human trials — the first country to do so. At the World Health Assembly, held online in early May, President Xi Jinping proposed that regardless of who develops a vaccine first, it should be for the “global public good,” meaning not for profit but free for the entire world.

The representatives from the U.S. refused to sign on to the proposal because — in a repeat of how the U.S. fought against a generic HIV medication — they want U.S. corporations to be able to license a vaccine to sell at a profit.

Everything done by the Trump administration in relation to COVID-19 has been to the benefit of the capitalist U.S. ruling class and has either been a failure because profit was prioritized over human lives or has been outright sabotage of important global efforts. The coronavirus pandemic has now become a vehicle for the growing U.S. hostility toward China. A White House press conference on May 29 featured Trump announcing that the U.S. is cutting off funding for the World Health Organization because of his administration’s view that the WHO is too “cozy” with China. Capitalism is the disease! Socialism is the cure!
Herd immunity usually occurs only if people try to make sense out of this senseless, inhumane killing of Black people in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis that is affecting us all.

Some of the news coverage has said that this incident opens up “old wounds.” These wounds are not old; they are deeply, chronically infected, not close to being healed. Earlier this month, we heard about Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky., murdered in her home. We saw the video of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Ga., killed by vigilantes with a shotgun. The families, friends and supporters of Arbery and Taylor are running, marching and rallying for justice in cities nationwide, while safely wearing masks and maintaining social distance.

Since January 2020, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., there have been 400 police killings in the U.S.—73 Black, 43 Latinx, 11 other and 190 unknown, as reported in a Washington Post database that contains records of every fatal shooting in the U.S. by a police officer in the line of duty since Jan. 1, 2015.

The Washington Post has taken up the arduous task that the Guardian started in 2013: “The Counted: People killed by the police in the U.S.”

The counting began in 2013, after the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement released a 2012 report that found a Black person is killed by the police, security personnel or vigilantes in the U.S. every 28 hours.

Have the numbers changed in the past eight years? According to the Washington Post, the death toll is unchanged. The database shows that the number of Black people killed by the police in 2015 was 258; in 2016 it was 234; in 2017 the number was 223; in 2018 it was 229; in 2019 it was 235; and, as of May 28, 2020, the number was 73. This does not include George Floyd. He hasn’t been added to the database as of May 28, though he was killed by police on May 25.

Over four-and-a-half years, the Washington Post database has a total of 5,338 people shot and killed by the police. Of the deaths, 1,352 are Black, 1,091 are nonwhite and 610 are unknown. According to the 2016 U.S. census data, white people are the racial majority, 72 percent of the population. African Americans are the largest racial minority at 12.7 percent; Latinx people are the largest ethnic group at 17.8 percent; and Indigenous peoples are just under 1 percent.

The above numbers are less than the numbers on the Guardian’s database because the Washington Post does not count people who died in police custody, were killed by off-duty police, by vigilantes, security guards or people killed by police while in pursuit. Some examples of people not included would be Fredrick Gray, Leah Jenkins, Ahmaud Arbery, Marilyn Barnes and many others. Another disturbing fact is that only 441 of the 2,320, 130 are listed as race unknown.

Even with these flaws, the Washington Post database is important and commendable. It is far from easy and requires input from many resources, but it is absolutely necessary. Mumia speaks of the ineffable loss that Black people are facing by the deaths during this pandemic. The devastating sadness and anger is intensified with the increasingly relentless persecution by the police of the Black and Brown communities across the U.S. Even though this has a huge impact on communities of color, police terror affects all communities, and it has not let up during the national COVID-19 crisis.

The police continue to do what they do. Black Lives do not matter; poor lives do not matter. Today, Minneapolis is burning. Soon the masses of people will realize that this whole capitalist system itself must burn and, until it does, we will continue to be brutalized, because in capitalism there is no room for human compassion or dignity.

By Gloria Verdieu

While reading Mumia Abu-Jamal’s latest commentary, “One Hundred Thousand Cities: Where he speaks about the increasing numbers of COVID-19 deaths, Mumia explains, “For black folk this is a time of ineffable loss.” What he did not know is that on May 25, the day before his audio commentary was loaded on Prison Radio, 25-year-old George Floyd was murdered by the police in Minneapolis.

Floyd, father of two, was murdered by the Minneapolis police in broad daylight in front of crowds of people, including children watching, pleading with the police to take the pressure off Floyd’s neck as he gasps, “Please, please. I can’t breathe.”

Video footage shows that Floyd was not resisting when handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a white police officer who pressed his hand on his neck for 9 minutes, while another police officer stood guard, preventing the people from interfering.

The paramedics reported that Floyd showed no sign of life when they arrived. Floyd died at the scene. Many saw this as a repeat of Eric Garner’s murder. Garner was brutally killed for selling cigarettes without a license.

Mumia speaks of the ineffable loss that Black people are facing by the deaths during this pandemic. The devastating sadness and anger is intensified with the increasingly relentless persecution by the police of the Black and Brown communities across the U.S. Even though this has a huge impact on communities of color, police terror affects all communities, and it has not let up during the national COVID-19 crisis.

Yet, we have justice! You don’t have to like Donald Trump to order reopening the U.S. first and order shutdown last and have a government that has no regard for the lives of the people of Georgia.

Minneapolis is burning! The capitalist system must burn.
Why we say A JOB IS A RIGHT

By Greg Butterfield


Axios reports as of May 30 that the real unemployment rate was at least 24 percent and likely above 30 percent. It is getting better. “Unemployment rate expected to hit highest since Great Depression,” Yahoo Finance reported June 4, as nearly 2 million more workers come back to work, unemployment benefits for employees who balk at the health risks. The states are told to return to work, employees who lost their jobs are not coming back. The long-brewing crash of the for-profit capitalist economy, sped up by COVID-19 pandemic, has left millions of working-class families hanging on by a thread.

Now Donald Trump, the supposed leader and governor from both the Democratic and Republican parties are rushing to “reopen” while serious health risks continue. This is an emergency measures to protect people from eviction and additional benefits for the unemployed will soon end. Many, if not most, of the jobs lost are not coming back. “As people across the United States try to return to work, employees who balk at the health risks say they are being confronted with painful layoffs,” reports the New York Times. “Some are losing their jobs if they try to stay home, and thousands more are being reported to the state to have their unemployment benefits cut off.”

You need a job to keep a roof over your head, feed yourself and your family. If your job needs a job or other source of income to survive.

Having a job is a basic necessity. It’s a simple human right. In fact, the right to a job is a matter of law — and has been for 62 years! The 1938 Fair Employment Act and the 1978 Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act legally obligate the president and Congress to use all available means to achieve full employment.

Also adopted in 1946, the United Nations Charter on Human Rights declares, “Everyone has the right to work... and to protection against unemployment,” as well as the right to housing, education, and health care.

The 1978 Full Employment Act provides for convening a National Employment Conference to discuss employment. Yet no administration — neither Republican nor Democrat — has attempted to fulfill these obligations. It’s high time the government was made to enforce these laws.

Gov’t power to ban layoffs and create jobs

Even before the usurpation of greater executive powers by George W. Bush after 9/11, the president was fully empowered to end unemployment by creating jobs in response to an economic crisis.

The 1978 law allows the government to create “a reservoir of public employment” if private corporations are unable to provide enough jobs. Every governor, mayor and county executive also has full authority to order an end to layoffs in an economic emergency.

New York state, for example, employs the governor to hire and fire workers and is held accountable for any action necessary to prevent or stop the suffering of people as a result of “a natural or man-made disaster.”

The same law requires “a joint effort” of public and private sectors to mobilize the resources of business, industry, agriculture, and government at every level to prepare for and meet disasters of all kinds.

The boom-and-bust system of capitalism, which always seeks the highest rate of profit with the least number of workers, is the ultimate “human-made” disaster.

First comes the struggle, then comes the law.

Worker unrest during the Great Depression of the 1930s, again following World War II, again during the Civil Rights era, and again during the recession of the 1970s forced the capitalist government to put these laws on the books.

The legal precedent goes back to 1937. Labor Secretary Frances Perkins stated then that workers had a property right to their jobs when they defended the lives of six down strikers to occupy factories.

Perkins, appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was no revolutionary. She was putting into legal terms what the workers had already achieved by seizing the plants, establishing workers’ control and putting capitalist property rights into question.

It will take further struggle — a united campaign of mass action — to turn these words on paper into reality. The point is, there already exists a legal framework to do so.

U.S. unemployment: Don’t blame China

By Gary Wilson


As many as 40 percent of the people laid off will not be getting rehired because their employers — restaurants, theaters, small businesses, and big companies like Hertz, JCPenney, Frontier Communications, J. Crew, Lord & Taylor — are going bust.

Before the coronavirus, people receiving unemployment benefits in most states got less than half their weekly paycheck. Now, the federal stimulus package provides $600 a week. That $600 weekly check is $600 a week. That $600 weekly check is not enough. The $600 a week is $600 a week.

According to the Fed’s report, were credit card delinquencies, that is, nonpayment of credit card debt. That’s because, in part, wages for most workers are lower, in real terms, than they were 40 years ago.

At the same time, business sector debt was historically high, the Fed also reported, higher and more unstable than consumer debt. The Fed’s report noted, was to print more money to bail out Wall Street and the unstable businesses.

The “Great Repression,” as they call it, does not end. The right to seize down, has a real impact, but it is layered on top of a recession that was already in progress. The Trump administration also failed to deliver a stimulus package either later this year or in 2021, whether or not the pandemic had occurred. This is not to deny that the pandemic has made it even more necessary to_shapes the new recession. The current economic situation is shaped by the interaction between the “Great Repression” and the looming cyclical crisis of overproduction.

Full report at tinyurl.com/3ybfhfp1

How to begin

“The right to a job is a property right,” explained socialist leader Sam Marcy in his 1986 book, “High Tariff, Low Pay.” “It is a natural and human right.” Doing it will make it lawful if carried out in earnest and on a mass scale.

What if labor unions, together with grass-roots organizations, the movement against racist killer cops, community groups, the anti-war, women’s and LGBTQ movements, were united in a mass struggle to achieve the following demands?

• Issue an executive order halting deportations, defunding the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Pentagon to provide jobs and income for all.

Bank of New York said consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new all-time high of $14.15 trillion. This is not caused by any recovery, but by the instability of the government’s fiscal stimulus package. A little money will fill a big hole.

The 1946 Employment Act and the 1978 Full Employment Act provided for convening a National Employment Conference to discuss employment, as well as the right to a job. The conference established workers’ control and put capitalist property rights into question.

The right to a job is a fundamental right. The U.S. capitalism was in a crisis of overproduction. This could be seen in the record level of consumer debt. On Feb. 11, the Federal Reserve

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The rule of the rich is not democracy

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. was established as a republic, not a democracy, to this day. It is a republic, but not a democracy.

The American Revolution was not a democratic one, like the great Haitian Revolution of 1791–1804, where the ownership of the land was turned over to the former enslaved. Democracy, as Aristotle explained, means the rule of the poor.

Aristotle, describing the democracy of his time, was quite explicit about the fact that democracy means rule by the poor. Rule by the rich is oligarchy. Aristotle says that democracy is the rule of oligarchy and democracy is in fact the distinction between whether the wealth came from the poor rather than wheth- er the many or the few rule.

In the U.S., the wealthy rule, not the poor. It is an oligarchy, not a democracy.

The American Revolution — as the War of Independence by the 13 North American colonies against England — was a republican and anti-monarchist character. But republicanism is the political ideology of a landlord class derived from the ownership of the land, anything not democratic.

In the 13 colonies, the leadership of the American Revolution consisted of men of wealth and land; 34 of the 47 signers of the Declaration of Independence were slaveholders, perhaps the most conservative leadership of any revolution in history.

Not until the Civil War and Black Reconstruction was there a democ- ratic revolution in the U.S., but the Reconstruction revolution was drowned in blood. Pro-slavery ter- rorists murdered tens of thousands of Black people in the South from 1865 to 1877, burying the Reconstruction revolution.

Independence for bankers and slaveholders

The 1776 Declaration of Indepen- dence was a call to revolution written by bankers and planter owners. It is the Declaration of Independence by the King of England Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation in 1775, also known as the First Emancipation Procla- mation, that revealed the objectives of men of wealth in the Royal Colony of Virginia.

Another grievance against the king cited in the declaration was the Royal Proclamation of 1763, a decree prohibiting settlers moving into any land west of the Appalachian Moun- tains and recognizing the rights of the Indigenous peoples living there.

John Adams says that the Ameri- can Revolution did not start in 1776 but in 1760, at the end of the Seven Years War (also known as the French and Indian War), a war that was led by the commander of the Virginia militia, the wealthiest plantation own- er George Washington. With their victory, the 13 colonies took control of all land from the East Coast to the Mississippi Riv- er. Washington, one of the biggest slaveholders in Virginia, was given 200,000 acres of land as a reward for his service in the war.

The British crown borrowed heav- ily from British and Dutch bankers to finance the war, the British king’s national debt. George King III

This nineteenth-century engraving by A. Pleydenwurff, published in a 1824, 1825 war council. Pontiac is urging the mem- bers to unite and rise up against the arrogant settlers. He declared that since the French and Indian War was for the benefit of the colonists, they should contribute to paying down the war debt. To defend this nation territory from future attacks, King George III also decid- ed to install permanent British army units in the Americas, which re- quired additional sources of revenue.

These are the taxes that the colonists objected to and rallied against.

The Constitution, as it was, was the only objection. One of the offenses cited by the colonists against the King of England was the decree prohibiting settlers West of the Appalachians. In May 1763, Pontiac, an Ottawa lead- er, led a number of Native nations in an up- rising against British forces and set- tlers along the frontier, commonly called Pontiac’s Rebellion. The Royal Proclamation served as a peace with the Indigenous nations who were battling to defend their homeland.

Today, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 is recognized under international law as establishing the legal prec- edent that the Indigenous population had rights to the lands they occupied. The colonists considered the entire territory West to the Mississip- pi to be their own conquered land and refused to recognize the Royal Proclamation.

War against the British and Native nations

The War of Independence (1775– 1783) was fought not just against the British, but also against the Native peoples. At the end of the war, victo- ry was declared not just over Britain but also over the Indigenous nations.

The newly formed United States and the Iroquois signed a treaty in 1784, under which the Iroquois ceded much of land to the U.S., followed by another treaty in 1794, in which they ceded even more land. The governor of New York state, George Clinton, used the treaty to pressure the Iroquois to turn over their land to white settlers. At the same time, European settlers continued to push into the lands beyond the Ohio River, leading to a

war between the Western Confeder- acy and the United States. The war against the Native nations continues to this day.

Because the leaders of the War of Independence were the landowner- s, merchants, and bankers, they understood that the enslaved peoples and tenant farmers tended to side with the British against the revolutionary movement. This was behind British Gov. Lord Dunmore’s proclamation liberating all enslaved peoples. The British raised several black regiments for the revolution. The proclamation also abolished all tenant farmers of their feudal rents, which were tied to the land.

After the War of Independence was won, each of the 13 former col- onies had separate governments run by the landowners and slaveholders, merchants and bankers, and lawyers. They had led the rebellion, but the soldiers who fought the war were all from the laborers and small farmers who were prom- ised “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence’s call to revolution. They also promised pay for their service. They got none of it.

Shays’ Rebellion

Shays’ Rebellion has been rele- gnost by U.S. historians and books seeking to glorify the rule of slaveholders like George Washing- ton and James Madison and financiers like Alexander Hamilton. “Whose Constitution is it?” by Gary Wilson, 1987)

Daniel Shays was a poor farmer, a laborer who had joined the Continen- tial army when the War of Indepen- dence broke out. He fought at Lexington, Bunker Hill and Saratoga and was wounded in action. By 1776, Shays had resigned from the army since he hadn’t been paid. Back home, he found himself in court for nonpayment of debts. Army veter- ans were given certificates of prom- ises instead of pay.

Farmers, many of them veteran- ans, began to organize and form committees. It was a poor people’s revolution. In 1786, the unemployed of New Hampshire as well as Massachu- setts, rallies were held against the heavy taxation and debt burden. The army of farmers in Western Massachusetts were more forbidding. Taxes were high and the poor had no money to pay what they owed. Farmers with guns began to show up at court hear- ings to prevent their land from being taken away. Even the state militia, it was called, refused to put down the farmers, split its ranks between those supporting the farmers and those opposed.

In 1787, a group of Massachusetts farmers secretly assembled in Philadelphia in 1787, not in 1778, as Shays’ Rebellion would have you believe. They needed money and they had the money to raise a new army to put down Shays’ army.

They went out immediately for a strong central government to, in the words of the preamble of the Consti- tution, “insure domestic tranquility.”

The Constitutional Convention, secretly assembled in Philadelphia in 1787, 1788, after Shays’ Rebellion was put down, did not represent the small farmers, the slaves, the poor indentured servants, women, Native peoples or any of the other oppressed. They were the bankers, merchants, landowners and slave- holders, shippers and lawyers. They represented the rich.

In 1776, African Americans com- prised about 20 percent of the entire population in the 13 colonies. At that time, enslaved people were about 60 percent of South Carolina’s total pop- ulation and 40 percent of Virginia’s. Although the largest percentages of enslaved peoples were found in the South, slavery did exist in the middle and Northern colonies. In Boston and Newport, 20 to 25 percent of the pop- ulation consisted of enslaved labor- ers. Other large cities, such as Phila- delphia and New York, also supported significant enslaved populations.

Although enslaved people in cities and towns were not needed as agri- cultural workers, they were em- ployed in a variety of other capac- ities: domestic servants, artisans, craftsmen, sailors, dockworkers, laundresses and coachmen.

All slaves were considered prop- erty that could be bought and sold.

Brushing off this moment of the poor’s army cast their ballot. Wrote one of the many years this gray-haired man has spent considering the Declaration of Independence, wrote a letter to George Washington: These farmers believed that since the revolu- tionary war had been fought “by the joint exertions of all and therefore, the land, etc. ought to be the common property of all.”

The judicial postposition of the hearings. The poor people’s army closed the court for several months. Shays’ Rebellion was serious.

The upper classes throughout the 13 states were thoroughly frightened at this armed uprising of poor peo- ple. There was no money to pay the veterans what they were owed, but they had the money to raise a new army to put down Shays’ army.

Gen. Henry Knox, who became the first secretary of war of the Unit- ed States, wrote a letter to George Washington at the time, warning of the dangerous ideas of the Mas- sachusetts farmers. These farmers believed that since the revolu- tionary war had been fought “by the joint exertions of all and therefore, the land, etc. ought to be the common property of all.”

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The U.S. Constitution is almost a direct copy of that of the Roman Republic, a slaveholder state.

Constitution modeled on Roman Republic

When the framers of the Constitution met in Philadelphia, they chose as a model the Roman Republic, a slave state. It was a republic, not a democracy. Rome was considered to be the most stable slaveholder state in the past. And that’s what they wanted.

The U.S. Constitution is almost a direct copy of that of Rome. The Roman Constitution was designed to give the semblance of power to the free, non-enslaved citizens (men only) while actually concentrating real power in a senatorial elite. The state structure in Rome was made up of:

1. The Consul. Consuls held the highest office and took on the knotty “power to command.” Two consuls were elected for a year and alternated in office on a monthly basis. The president of the U.S. has the same position today as the Roman consul. The consul has supreme command of the army and the civil administration.

2. The Senate, which could pass decrees and represented the class from which the consuls were generally chosen. The U.S. Senate was explicitly modeled on this. Two senators were appointed by each state in the U.S.; direct election of senators didn’t happen until 1913 with the 17th Amendment.

3. The “comitia centuriata” or Assembly of the Centuries, an assembly of military officers (property owners) that selected the consul by indirect election: almost exactly copied by the U.S. Electoral College.

4. The Plebian Council or People’s Assembly. This was a mass democratic assembly that could pass laws. The Plebian Council operated on the basis of direct democracy, not elected representatives. It could not, however, set its own agenda, having to vote on motions put to it by magistrates who were invariably from the upper classes. The U.S. Constitution does not have a popular democratic assembly, but instead substitutes a House of Representatives, based on elections (which are funded by wealthy oligarchs).

The effect of the Roman structure was that executive power was always held by a member of the slave-owning patrician class. The Roman Senate likewise was always made up of slave owners rather than common people. Similar effects were achieved in the U.S. Of the first to presidents of the U.S., only two, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, were not slave owners. John and John Quincy were both lawyers, serving bankers and landlords.

The Constitution legalized slavery, as noted by Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1987, and specifically prohibits Native peoples from having any rights.

Elections by ballot favor wealthy

Elections by ballot, Aristotle also pointed out, are a mark of oligarchy, the rule of the wealthy, not of democracy, the rule of the poor. Elections always favor the wealthy. It is not required to be a professional politician. The rich can spend to influence elections and have an education that prepares them as orators. Indirect elections, the Electoral College, only increases the rule of the wealthy.

In the 2000 election, George Bush lost the popular vote but won in the Electoral College. The same happened again with Donald Trump, who lost by almost 3 million votes over 2 percent — but won the indirect Electoral College vote.

The U.S. government is made up of professional politicians, lobbyists and bureaucrats. After the American Revolution, most states allowed only white male adult property owners to vote, about 6 percent of the population. In the early 1800s, the property requirement was gradually changed to paying taxes so that by 1857, all white male taxpayers were allowed to vote. Citizenship was not required until 1928, following an anti-socialist, anti-immigrant campaign that led to the illegal deportations of 1.8 million people.

The Reconstruction era 15th Amendment states that voting rights cannot be denied or abridged based on “race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” And briefly, voting rights were opened to African Americans. Disfranchisement came after the defeat of Reconstruction, with Jim Crow laws effectively keeping white male taxpayers from having any rights. Great struggles were waged in the following years and over time more democratic rights were won, particularly the right to vote. After a mass women’s movement for suffrage, and when the right to vote was won in 1920, with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment prohibited the requirement to pay poll taxes in order to vote. Not until the historic Civil Rights Movement won the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a nationwide “one person, one vote” electoral system established in the U.S., with the notable exception that prisoners are often denied the right to vote. The U.S. currently has 2.3 million people in prison, the most of any country in the world.

Reconstruction: A democratic revolution

A democratic revolution in the U.S. came with the Civil War (1861-1865) and Black Reconstruction (1865-1877), but that revolution was dashed by the Ku Klux Klan and the Northern capitalists. Disfranchisement became law in 1870-1877, but that revolution was drowned in blood, much like the revolution that has to be finished.

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The Social Evolution of Humanity
Marx and Engels Were Right

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, pensions, and 2004, four steel companies and pension obligations. Between 2001

One of the great victories of the working-class struggles of the 1970s was establishing Social Security on Aug. 14, 1935. Fifteen days later, the Railroad Retirement Board was founded.

Social Security didn’t cover farm-workers and domestic workers at first. So nearly two-thirds of Black workers didn’t qualify for retirement benefits at that time.

Many Indigenous and Latinx workers were also excluded. It wasn’t until 1950 and 1954 that amendments were passed that farmworkers and domestic workers got some retirement pay.

The struggles of the 1960s included winning Medicare and Medicaid. They were established in 1965, the same year the Voting Rights Act was passed.

That wasn’t accidental. The human rights demonstrators who were assaulted by club-wielding Alabama state troopers on March 7, 1965, in Selma, Ala., also helped win health insurance for tens of millions of people, most of whom were white.

Capitalist media mouthpieces have claimed for decades that Social Security is going broke. Their solution has been cutbacks.

That’s what racist Reagan did in the 1980s. Reagan’s “social security reform” raised the retirement age in most cases to 67.

That’s terrible. Forcing older workers to stay on the job means fewer jobs for young people.

In the socialist Soviet Union, the retirement age for men was 65 and for women it was 55. Coal miners and other workers in similar occupations could retire at 50.

That’s another reason the capitalists hated the Soviet Union and worked to destroy it, just as they overthrew the Reconstruction governments in the U.S. South.

Young people need jobs and older workers need a decent retirement without any financial discriminations. The minimum Social Security monthly benefit should be at least $2,600. Rent, utilities and all medicines for retired and disabled workers should be free.

The billionaires can pay for it. We can win if we fight for it.

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, ‘Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.’

McCubbin is the author of ‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’

First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.
¡Tom Soto Presente! 1943 - 2020

The peoples’ movement has lost a giant. Puerto Rican revolutionary Tom Soto died on June 1 in the city of Santiago, Dominican Republic, after a year-long struggle with cancer.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1943 and raised in Guánica, Puerto Rico, Soto was radicalized while serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He played a leading role in many struggles in the United States in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. These included fighting for open admissions at City College of New York in 1969, and organizing Vietnamese veterans against the war and to fight for jobs and compensation for time lost in service. Soto was a founder of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee to support prisoners fighting for justice inside U.S. prisons. He was at Attica, representing the PSC during the heroic 1971 uprising that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller drowned in blood.

To the end, he remained a revolutionary socialist and liberation fighter, dedicated to educating and spreading knowledge. An account of his revolutionary life may be found at tinyurl.com/TomSoto

Bill Dores

Desde Minneapolis hasta Los Ángeles, Atlanta, Nueva York, Chicago, Filadelfia, Dallas, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. e incluso internacionalmente, las personas en ciudades y pueblos han salido a las calles indignadas por la inhumanidad del terror policial racista. La policía y los vigilantes de EE. UU. han recibido una licencia para asesinar a negros, latinos, indígenas y pobres. Las víctimas del terror policial deben tener derecho a defenderse a sí mismas, a sus familias y a sus hijos. Si bien los abusos asesinatos de George Floyd, Breonna Taylor y Ahmaud Arbery han provocado ira y dolor masivos a nivel nacional, es el racismo y la supremacía blanca integrales al sistema del capitalismo la causa subyacente de la rebelión.

El capitalismo y el imperialismo le han fallado al pueblo

El movimiento masivo en las calles de cada pueblo y ciudad también tiene lugar en el contexto del fracaso masivo del capitalismo para proteger a las personas del mortal coronavirus y su promoción imperialista de la pobreza y la guerra.

La falta de atención médica, vivienda, alimentos e ingresos, ha profundizado el sufrimiento de la gran mayoría de los trabajadores. Las personas negras, latinas y pobres han sufrido de manera desproporcionada, especialmente porque como trabajadores esenciales que son, se ven obligados a trabajar en condiciones inseguras sin el equipo de protección personal (EPP) adecuado. La disparidad de las tasas de mortalidad es evidente. El rechazo a abordar lo que es una sentencia cercana a la muerte para millones de prisioneros y trabajadores inmigrantes y sus familias encerrados en campos de detención y el desprecio insensible a los trabajadores de primera línea que están siendo sacrificados por ganancias, ha impulsado este nuevo movimiento.

La comunidad no posee corporaciones, ni bancos, ni recintos policiales

Surgen argumentos inútiles destinados a distraer y nublar los acontecimientos que rodean las rebeliones e insurrecciones para engañar, dividir y confundir a la gente. Argumentos como “La gente está destruyendo sus propios barrios” son un ejemplo. Target, una cadena multimillonaria de tiendas cuyos trabajadores están mal pagados y explotados sin piedad, no es propiedad de la comunidad ni tampoco los bancos ni una docena de otros negocios. Y los recintos policiales en las ciudades no son más que los puntos avanzados de un ejército de ocupación en comunidades negras y marrones.

¿Quién realmente saquea nuestras comunidades?

Son los banqueros y los multimillonarios los responsables de las medidas de austeridad que han retirado la subvención del ejercicio de la educación, la atención médica y la vivienda en todas las ciudades importantes. La crisis hipotecaria creada por estos mismos bancos estaba y robó millones a familias trabajadoras negras y latinas que perdieron sus hogares. Las familias negras perdieron la mitad de su riqueza en esta crisis, según la Coalición Nacional de Vivienda de Bajos Ingresos.

¿Cuál es la verdadera fuente de violencia?

¿Cómo pueden los medios de comunicación y los políticos igualar la ruptura de ventanas, la quema de autos de policía y lo que describen como “saqueos”, con la profunda violencia supremacista blanca que es una parte cotidiana de la vida de las personas negras y oprimidas en este país?

¿Qué pasa con la violencia de la pobreza que amenaza a los trabajadores y las personas pobres los 365 días del año? ¿Qué pasa con las terribles condiciones que enfrentan los trabajadores inmigrantes y sus hijos en los campos de detención?

No se puede comparar una ventana rota con las vidas perdidas a manos de la policía o los asesinatos racistas. Una ventana puede ser reparada. La vida del hijo o la hija de una madre no puede ser devuelta. Y sin protestas esos asesinatos continuarán.

Es una hipótesis que los funcionarios del gobierno hacen estar preocupados por las pequeñas empresas o enfrentarlas contra los manifestantes y el movimiento. El reciente paquete de estímulo fue un obsequio gigante para los multimillonarios, mientras que las pequeñas empresas comunitarias, particularmente las empresas negras, fueron francamente estafadas. Nada se ha hecho durante la pandemia para ayudar a estas empresas.

¡Solidaridad contra la represión policial y militar!

A medida que las personas arriesgan sus vidas tanto por la pandemia viral como por la pandemia del terror estatal racista que se ha intensificado con el despliegue de tropas militares, tanques y armas químicas, es de suma importancia que las organizaciones se unan para defender el derecho de la comunidad negra a protestar contra el terror amenazante por parte de la policía — una entidad creada originalmente con el objetivo de capturar esclavos fugitivos.

Trump ha promovido el genocidio y ha pedido a los militares que eliminen el movimiento popular. El Movimiento por las Vidas Negras ha abogado por la renuncia inmediata de Trump. El Partido Demócrata ha sido cómplice con su silencio, y peor aún, impuso toques de queda y ordenó a las tropas de la Guardia Nacional ingresar a nuestros vecindarios. Lo que se necesita es que nuestro movimiento se una fuerte y solidariamente para defenderse y convertirse en una fuerza que pueda ganar estas demandas y abolir la causa raíz del asesinato policial y la represión estatal el capitalismo, las guerras y el imperialismo.

Defensa de nuestro movimiento

Organízate para empoderar al pueblo

¡La Abolición del sistema policial racista!

¡La retirada de la Policía y Guardia Nacional ahora!

¡Liberar a todos los arrestados y retirar todos los cargos!

¡Alto a los toques de queda y la escalada de violencia policial!

Las comunidades negras, latinas e indígenas deben tener el derecho de crear y controlar sus propias organizaciones y así mantenerse a salvo.