



GEORGE FLOYD  
#JUSTICEFORFLOYD



BREONNA TAYLOR  
June 5, 1993 – March 13, 2020



AHMAUD ARBERY  
May 8, 1994 – February 23, 2020

# ABOLISH the Racist Police

## DEFEND OUR MOVEMENT ORGANIZE FOR PEOPLE'S POWER

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### 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



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.

#### 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 whose workers are low paid and mercilessly exploited – is not 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 murders 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 into 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.

**Struggle for Socialism/La Lucha por el Socialismo  
Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido**



# Mumia Abu-Jamal: After 100,000

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

What happens when the counter strikes 100,000? Nothing.

One hundred thousand American dead; that means, for all intents and purposes, nothing much. For does the counter stop counting? Or does it continue rolling on like the mighty Mississippi River?

Is 100,000 an end or just another number? And then summer begins to emerge and people rush out-of-doors to get some socializing in. What happens in the next two weeks — a spike, a dozen spikes?

It must be said that even as the official number strikes 100,000, the official number isn't the real one, for the U.S. is so stingy with test-

ing that thousands of people, some who died at home, were never tested. How many homeless people have died, and do you really think they get tested?

In times like these, all people are not created equal. For Black folk, this has been a time of ineffable loss. For many workers — cleaners, nurses, orderlies, bus drivers, cab drivers and the like — their work was on the front line of the contagion of the coronavirus.

As America now opens its doors, what will they find: a new day or more death?

From Imprisoned Nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

*Listen to Mumia's commentary on Prison Radio.*



Memorial for COVID-19 victims at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery.

# Herd immunity usually occurs only after staggering numbers of people have died

By Scott Scheffer

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.

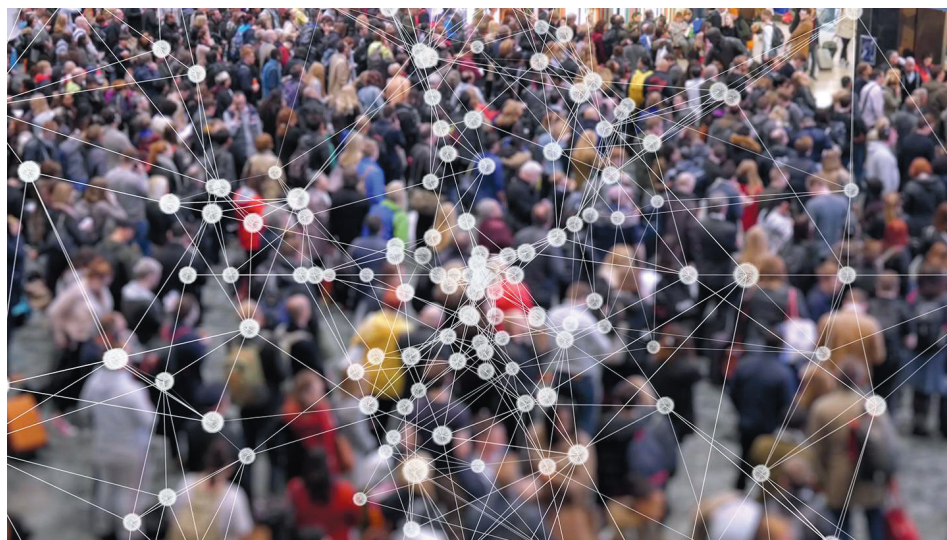
Incarcerated populations, nursing home residents, asylum seekers trapped at the border and the homeless are particularly vulnerable.

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 end 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.

But 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 rac-

ism 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 500, 800, 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! 🇺🇸



## BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle. This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

**Black August** celebrates the legacy and accomplishments of Black women.

► The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom ♦ Contributions by Gloria Verdieu

♦ Carl Muhammad ♦ Zola Fish ♦ Mary Lou Finley ♦ Dennis Childs ♦ Eusi Kwayana ♦ Mumia Abu-Jamal

♦ Curtis Howard ♦ Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

[tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5](http://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5)

STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM ★ LA LUCHA POR SOCIALISMO



# Minneapolis is burning! The capitalist system must burn

By Gloria Verdieu

While reading Mumia Abu-Jamal's latest commentary, "One Hundred Thousand," 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 onto Prison Radio, 46-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 police to take the pressure off Floyd's neck as he gasps, "Please, 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 knee 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 li-

cense; Floyd was brutally killed for allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill.

Now parts of Minneapolis are burning, as 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., murdered by vigilantes while jogging. 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 130 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, 1,252 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 Freddie Gray, Leah Jenkins, Ahmaud Arbery, Marlyn Barnes and many others. Another disturbing factor is that out of the 400 people killed in 2020, 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; Brown lives do not matter; poor lives do not matter. Today, Minneapolis is burning. Soon the masses of people must 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. 📌

## 'Whose streets? Our streets!' Atlanta responds to the murders of Black men & women

By Lizz Toledo

May 29 — Thousands descended on Atlanta this afternoon. They came by bus, train and cars, from all the many cities: Norcross, Ellenwood, College Park, East Point, Decatur and of course Atlanta, among others. These protesters were mostly youth, mostly Black and very militant.

Chants of "No racist police!" "F\$&k the police!" and "Until we have justice, you won't have no peace!" roared through the streets. The march started at Centennial Olympic Park and went through the streets of downtown Atlanta towards the state capitol, the seat of the state government. The same government that has no regard for all the Black and Brown lives being taken by COVID-19. Gov. Brian Kemp, being the last to order shutdown and the first to order reopen, is more interested in pleasing Donald Trump and saving this rotten capitalist economy, than in protecting the lives of the people of Georgia.

"Say her name!" chanted the chant leader and the crowd responded with a resounding "Breonna Taylor!" "Say his name!" "Ahmaud Arbery!" and "Say his name!" "George Floyd!"

Young, old, Black, Latinx and LGBTQ2S, all in solidarity and angry at the coldhearted response of

the Minneapolis District Attorney regarding charges of third degree murder and manslaughter against Derick Chauvin, who, for the whole world to see, brutally murdered George Floyd.

The murdered victim called out for his mother as this racist killer cop knelt on his neck until he died.

Demonstrators chanted "I can't breathe!" just like George Floyd's last words.

Georgia, of course, is no stranger to police brutality or murder at the hands of white supremacists. Ahmaud Arbery was murdered on Feb. 23, 2020, by white supremacist vigilantes, who chased him down and shot him three times, yet were not arrested until two months later. One year ago, we reported on the arrest of Renardo Lewis after Marietta police handcuffed him and threw him to the ground inside a Marietta IHOP. He too was choked and on a video that went viral, Mr. Lewis can be heard saying "I can't breathe." Fortunately, he was not killed, although many witnessing this brutality believe that the fact that this was being recorded and that they had no reason to arrest him saved his life. And although there was no reason to arrest him, Mr. Lewis spent one month in jail and is still fighting to have those made-up charges dropped.



SLL PHOTO

The people are fed up and tired of promises that never materialize. They demand justice by any means necessary. A police car started to burn and CNN's storefront windows were liberated as youth stood on top of the iconic CNN sign in Atlanta with the names of three of the latest victims of white supremacists and police brutality!

We stand in solidarity with and

feel revitalized by the militant and fierce youth of Minneapolis, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles and many others throughout the country, who are saying this system must be burnt to the ground. They will lead us into a future where we throw out the police from our communities and have real community controlled policing. Death to capitalism! Black lives matter! 📌

# Why we say A JOB IS A RIGHT

By Greg Butterfield

“How bad is unemployment?” headlined the May 8 edition of the New York Times. “Literally off the charts.”

Axios reports as of May 30 that the real unemployment rate was at least 24 percent and likely above 30 percent.

It's not getting better. “Unemployment rate expected to hit highest since Great Depression,” Yahoo Finance reported June 4, as nearly 2 million more workers applied for unemployment benefits.

“Nearly 43 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits during the pandemic,” says CNN. That's not counting the many laidoff workers who've been unable to file their claims through overwhelmed state unemployment offices.

The long-brewing crash of the for-profit capitalist economy, sped up by the global COVID-19 pandemic, has left millions of working-class families hanging on by a thread.

Now Donald Trump, Wall Street and governors from both the Democratic and Republican parties are rushing to “reopen” while serious health risks continue. That means 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 are told to return to work, employees who balk at the health risks say they are being confronted with painful reprisals,” 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 un-

employment benefits cut off.”

You need a job to keep a roof over your head, feed yourself and your family, and pay the bills. Everyone 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 1946 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 enforcement.

Yet no administration — neither Republican nor Democrat — has ever 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 and create 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, empowers the governor to take 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 spheres to mobilize the resources of business, labor, 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 she defended the right of sit-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.


## How to begin

“The right to a job is a property right,” explained socialist leader Sam Marcy in his 1986 book, “High Tech, Low Pay.” “The right to seize and occupy the plants [which includes stores, hospitals, schools, etc.] is an accompanying right. Doing it will make it lawful if carried out in earnest and on a mass scale.”

What if labor unions, together with immigrant workers' organizations, the movement against racist killer cops, community groups, the anti-war, women's and LGBTQ2S movements, made these demands of 2020 presidential candidates Trump and Joe Biden:

- Issue an executive order halting layoffs and forcing the Fortune 500 companies to rehire;
- Call a special joint session of Congress to deal exclusively with creating a jobs program that will put 10 million people to work right away with union wages and benefits, with special attention to oppressed communities devastated by the coronavirus;
- End the raids against undocumented workers, ban foreclosures and evictions, make quality health care available to everyone and pass a big increase in the minimum wage.

What if we called upon the unemployed and underemployed to come and occupy Washington until the president and Congress meet their demands?

For a start, they can tax the rich, defund the police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Pentagon to provide jobs and income for all. 

# U.S. unemployment: Don't blame China

By Gary Wilson

The New York Times headline declared: “U.S. unemployment worst since the Great Depression.” (New York Times, May 9, 2020, print edition)

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 what you'd earn for a 40-hour week if you were getting paid \$15 an hour. It's more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. The stimulus payments end in July.

The unemployment checks will stop because Trump and most capitalist economists say that the current unemployment crisis is the result of the deliberate shutting down of the economy made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By decree, the country will be reopened for business and unemploy-

ment will be over — that is, benefit checks to the unemployed will be over. In part, it's also a propaganda move to say there's no economic crisis of capitalism.

## Covering up capitalist crisis

The politicians and the capitalist economists don't want to acknowledge that there is a cyclical capitalist crisis of overproduction, a recession, maybe a depression.

Steep, long-term unemployment is what defines a depression. In the Great Depression, after employment reached its deepest lows in 1933, full employment did not return until the U.S. had entered World War II in 1941.

Today, Trump and many capitalist economists say this is only COVID-19, there is no underlying economic crisis. Therefore, full employment will return quickly when the pandemic is over, maybe in the next year or two.

So it's not a depression, not even a recession?

The global economy was already approaching a recession when the pandemic hit. Reports showing the looming recession are hidden in the financial press — never mentioned in the popular media.

On top of the economic crisis came

the government-ordered COVID-19 shutdowns of many businesses and stay-at-home orders. Shipping and travel declined dramatically, causing the demand for oil to plummet.

However, Trump and the capitalist economists are now claiming that there was nothing wrong with the U.S. economy before the pandemic hit. Instead, they are blaming both the pandemic and the economic crisis on China, and even the Chinese Communist Party. If it wasn't for China, Trump now claims, everything would be fine.

It's not only Trump and the Republicans who are blaming China. Joseph Biden's Democratic presidential campaign blames the economic crisis on COVID-19. Biden holds that while Trump's reaction to the pandemic was incompetent, the real villain is China. To have anyone believe this, Trump and Biden rely on a combination of anti-Chinese racism and old-fashioned anti-communism.

## A built-in crisis

U.S. capitalism was in a crisis of overproduction in 2019 and in the beginning of 2020. This could be seen in the record level of consumer debt. On Feb. 11, the Federal Reserve

Bank of New York said consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new record level at \$14.15 trillion. That's mortgages, student loans, auto loans and credit card debt.

Also rising, 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 response, in fact, was to print more money to bail out Wall Street and the unstable businesses.

The “Great Depression,” as they call the COVID-19 economic shutdown, has a very real impact, but it is layered on top of a recession that would have meant mass job loss, either later this year or in 2021, whether or not the pandemic had occurred. This is not to deny that the pandemic will profoundly shape the new recession. The current economic situation is being shaped by the interaction between the “Great Depression” and an underlying cyclical crisis of overproduction.

Full report at [tinyurl.com/y83hhf4x](https://tinyurl.com/y83hhf4x)

# The rule of the rich is not democracy

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. was established as a republic in 1787 and remains so 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 formerly enslaved. Democracy, as Aristotle explained, means the rule of the poor.

Aristotle, describing the democracy of his day in Greece, was quite explicit about the fact that democracy means rule by the poor. Rule by the rich is oligarchy. Aristotle says that the real distinction between oligarchy and democracy is in fact the distinction between whether the wealthy or the poor rule, not whether 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 is called — had a republican and anti-monarchy character. But republicanism is the political ideology of a landlord class defending itself from the encroachments of the king, not anything 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 democratic revolution in the U.S., but the Reconstruction revolution was drowned in blood. Pro-slavery terrorists murdered tens of thousands of Black people in the South from 1867 to 1877, burying the Reconstruction revolution.

## Independence for bankers and slaveholders

The 1776 Declaration of Independence was a call to revolution written by bankers and plantation owners. It includes in its list of violations by the King of England Lord Dunmore's Proclamation in 1775, also known as the First Emancipation Proclamation, that freed all enslaved peoples 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 Mountains and recognizing the rights of the Indigenous peoples living there.

John Adams says that the American 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 wealthy plantation owner George Washington. With their victory, the 13 colonies took control of all the Native land from the East Coast to the Mississippi River. Washington, one of the biggest slaveholders in Virginia, was given 20,000 acres of land in the Ohio region for his services in the war.

The British crown borrowed heavily from British and Dutch bankers to bankroll the war, doubling Britain's national debt. King George III



This nineteenth-century engraving by Alfred Bobbett shows an April 28, 1763, war council. Pontiac is urging the members to unite and rise up against the incursion of colonial settlers.

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 newly won territory from future attacks, King George III also decided to install permanent British army units in the Americas, which required additional sources of revenue. These are the taxes that the colonists objected to and rallied against.

Taxes, however, weren't 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 leader, led a number of Native nations in the area of the Great Lakes in an uprising against British forces and settlers along the frontier, commonly called Pontiac's Rebellion. The Royal Proclamation served as a peace treaty 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 precedent that the Indigenous population had rights to the lands they occupied.

The colonists considered the entire territory West to the Mississippi 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, victory 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 their historical homeland 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, was constantly pressuring 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



Painting depicting Shays' Rebellion, a thousand armed farmers stormed the courts to stop evictions. Gen. Knox wrote to Washington: These farmers believed that since the revolutionary war had been fought "by the joint exertions of all, therefore [the land, etc.] ought to be the common property of all."

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

Because the leaders of the War of Independence were the landowners and slaveholders, merchants and bankers, shippers and lawyers, the enslaved peoples and tenant farmers tended to side with the British against the revolution. That was behind British Gov. Lord Dunmore's proclamation liberating all enslaved peoples. The British raised several Black regiments during the war. The proclamation also absolved all tenant farmers of their feudal rents, which were owed to the local landlords.

After the War of Independence was won, each of the 13 former colonies had separate governments run by the landowners and slaveholders, merchants and bankers, shippers and lawyers. They had led the rebellion, but the soldiers who fought the war were all from the laborers and small farmers who were promised "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" in the Declaration of Independence's call to revolution. They were also promised pay for their service. They got none of it.

## Shays' Rebellion

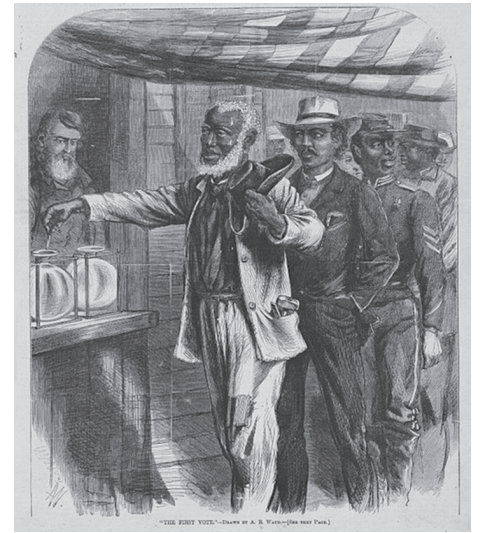
Shays' Rebellion has been relegated to obscurity in the U.S. history books seeking to glorify the rule of slaveholders like George Washington and James Madison and financiers like Alexander Hamilton. (See "Whose Constitution is it?" by Gary Wilson, 1987)

Daniel Shays was a poor farm laborer who had joined the Continental army when the War of Independence broke out. He fought at Lexington, Bunker Hill and Saratoga and was wounded in action. By 1786, Shays had resigned from the army since he hadn't been paid. Back at home, he found himself in court for nonpayment of debts. Army veterans were given certificates of promise instead of pay.

Farmers, many of them veterans, began to organize and form committees. It was a poor people's mobilization. In Vermont and New Hampshire as well as Massachusetts, rallies were held against the heavy taxation and debt burden. The uprisings in Western Massachusetts were more foreboding. Taxes were high and the poor had no money to pay what they owed. Farmers with guns began to show up at court hearings to prevent their land from being taken away. Even the state militia, when it was called out to put down the farmers, split its ranks between those supporting the farmers and those opposed.

At Great Barrington, Mass., a militia of a thousand was called out to put down the armed crowd. The militia would not move when ordered. When the chief judge suggested that the militia divide with those supporting the court going to one side of the road and those opposed to the other, over 800 went against. The court adjourned and the crowd cheered.

What brought Shays onto the scene was the indictment of 11 leaders of those farmers' protests. Shays organized a thousand armed farmers, most of them army veterans, and led them to Springfield, where the court was sitting. As they marched



Etching entitled and captioned: "First Black Vote. Though there would be still so many rivers to cross and mountains to climb, this was indeed a glorious, inspiring, landmark event. We can sense the many years this gray-haired man has waited for this moment to cast his ballot. In line are others, including a military man." Harper's Weekly, Nov. 16, 1867.

through the square their ranks grew. The judges postponed the hearings. The poor people's army closed the courts for several months. Shays' Rebellion was serious.

The upper classes throughout the 13 states were thoroughly frightened at this armed uprising of poor people. 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 United States, wrote a letter to George Washington at the time, warning of the dangerous ideas of the Massachusetts farmers. These farmers believed that since the revolutionary war had been fought "by the joint exertions of all, therefore [the land, etc.] ought to be the common property of all."

A call went out immediately for a strong central government to, in the words of the preamble of the Constitution, "insure domestic tranquility."

The Constitutional Convention, secretly assembled in Philadelphia in 1787 right 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 slaveholders, shippers and lawyers. They represented the rich.

In 1776, African Americans comprised 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 population 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 population consisted of enslaved laborers. Other large cities, such as Philadelphia and New York, also supported significant enslaved populations.

Although enslaved people in cities and towns were not needed as agricultural workers, they were employed in a variety of other capacities: domestic servants, artisans, craftsmen, sailors, dockworkers, laundresses and coachmen.

All slaves were considered property that could be bought and sold.

Continued on page 6

# Palestinians express solidarity with U.S. people confronting racism



By the PFLP

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) expressed its support for people in the U.S. confronting the injustice and racism practiced by the U.S. government in various cities and towns in the U.S.

This statement came in response to the repression against those protesting the deliberate killing of a Black citizen by the police in the city of Minneapolis, reflecting the racist character and right-wing policies of the Trump administration, which fuels racism and contradicts all its claims of defending freedom and democracy.

The Front noted that the U.S. government's use of its contradictory claims to defend democracy and equality in all countries of the world, and to use this as an entry point to

interfere in the internal affairs of countries, such as accusing China of destabilizing Hong Kong, no longer fools anyone. The practices of the U.S. administration and Trump are made clear by the brutal methods of repression used against demonstrators opposing racist policies toward Black people in the U.S.

The Popular Front concluded by stating that it is not surprising for a country like the United States, which has a strategic alliance with the Zionist entity [Israel], to intersect with it in the discrimination, racism and repression that embodies its treatment of Palestinians.

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine**

Central Information Department  
June 1, 2020

Translation by Greg Butterfield  
Source: PFLP.ps

## The rule of the rich is not democracy

Continued from page 5

Slaves thus constituted a portion of the owners' overall wealth. Although Southern slaveholders had a deeper investment in slavery than Northerners, many Northerners, too, had significant portions of their wealth tied up in the ownership of enslaved people.



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-enfranchised 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 kingly "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 10 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 said, are a mark of oligarchy, the rule of the wealthy, not of democracy, the rule of the poor.

Elections always favor the wealthy. It takes money 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 deportation 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 voting limited to white male taxpayers.

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, women's 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 drowned in blood, much like the revolution taking place at the same time in France — the Paris Commune of 1871. Reconstruction is known as the unfinished revolution.

It was a revolution that destroyed forever the power of the slave owners as a class and chattel slavery as a system. The institution of slavery was overthrown, but the popular democracy that emerged in Reconstruction was subverted by racism breaking the unity of the poor, the laboring class, against the rich, and then crushed by the Ku Klux Klan and the Northern capitalists.

Reconstruction instituted voting rights, free public education and equal rights for all, including former slaves and women. There is no more democratic period in all of U.S. history. W.E.B. Du Bois' book "Black Reconstruction" details the significant, really revolutionary, advances made under Reconstruction.

As Du Bois notes elsewhere, socialism is the completion of the Reconstruction revolution. (See "Black August 1619-2019" compiled by Gloria Verdieu)

Socialism is democracy, the rule of the poor, the working class. That's the revolution that has to be finished. 📌

## The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

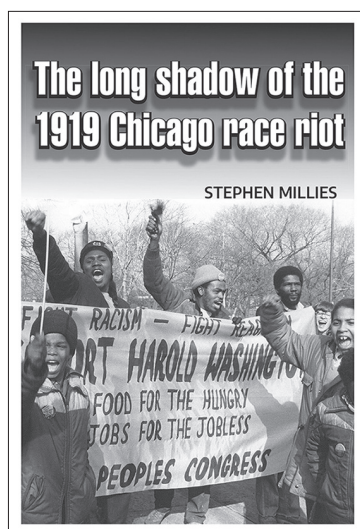
Stephen Millies

The following articles are included:

- Bombings greet the Great Migration
- What did the unions do?
- Communists fight racism and evictions
- Chicago Mayor Daley's racist machine
- Never forget Fred Hampton
- The people put Harold Washington in City Hall
- A city of struggle

At [tinyurl.com/uu4enop](https://tinyurl.com/uu4enop)

STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM ★ LA LUCHA POR SOCIALISMO



# Socialism and dignity: The right to retire

By Stephen Millies

Seventy-year-old Enock Benjamin never got to retire. The United Food and Commercial Workers union steward died of COVID-19 on April 3.

Born in Haiti, Benjamin was one of many workers from other lands employed in food processing plants and farms. Without their labor we would starve to death.

President Trump called Haiti a “shithole country” and wants us to hate immigrant workers like Enock Benjamin.

Why was Brother Benjamin still working at the JBS slaughterhouse in Souderton, Pa., just outside Philadelphia? Because he, like millions of older workers, couldn’t afford to retire.



Veronica Bryant

The average Social Security benefit is just \$1,503 per month. So half of all people getting Social Security have to get by with less than \$347 a week. That’s below what the minimum wage pays for a 40-hour work-week in 22 states.

How can you pay rent or utilities on a sub-minimum wage and still have enough money left for food? Last year, 75 million seniors were unable to afford a medicine prescribed by their doctor, according to a Gallup poll.

Sixty-five-year-old Kyle Cohen told National Public Radio that she spends 79 percent of her Social Security benefit on rent. NPR said Cohen had “two hundred and forty-five dollars a month for everything else: utilities, cleaning supplies, transportation and food for her little dog, Penny.”

Cohen’s neighbor, 73-year-old Veronica Bryant, also uses most of her Social Security income for rent. Even with other sources of retirement income, she still has to go to food banks sometimes to eat.

While New York City is home to 105 billionaires, elderly people can be seen in its neighborhoods collecting bottles and cans for a nickel deposit each. Why are people who have worked their entire lives forced to do this?

Pensions are deferred wages. Yet Social Security benefits in the United States average less than 40 percent of a worker’s earnings. In Italy and Denmark they amount to more than 80 percent.

## More profits by stealing pensions

Many retired workers also have pensions from their job. Millions of seniors don’t and have to rely on Social Security for almost all of their income. They either worked in sweatshops and little businesses that didn’t have a pension plan or they had been laid off before they qualified for one.



Enock Benjamin

Almost half of Black retirees rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income, according to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

Every company pension plan exists because of struggle. There were no pensions for those working 12 hours a day in Andrew Carnegie’s steel mills in the 1880s.

Strikes won pensions for millions of union members. Nonunion corporations had to offer pensions just in order to fight union organizing drives.

This was how millions of workers won dental insurance. Members of the Teamsters, the United Auto Workers and the United Steelworkers fought to get it in their union contracts. Other unions followed.

Dental insurance became expected to be included in a wage package. Thousands of nonunion employers had to offer it too.

An important part of the anti-labor offensive since the 1970s is eliminating defined benefit pension plans. These are company plans, like Social Security, that promise a definite monthly payment depending upon your wages and years of employment.

Corporations have ditched these plans because it forces them to pay the promised benefits.

From 1992 to 2010, the percentage of employees with defined benefit only pensions fell from 44 percent to 20 percent of the workforce. Shedding these pensions allowed corporations to make billions more in profit.

In their place, many companies offer 401(k) plans, where workers contribute a tax deductible part of their wages. These 401(k) plans — named after a section of the 1978 Revenue Act passed by Congress — went into effect in 1980.

Companies can match their employees’ contribution completely or partially. But they don’t have to and 49 percent contribute nothing. Big firms, including Ford and Goodyear, have stopped putting any money at times into workers’ accounts.

These 401(k) plans tie a worker’s

pension to the roller coaster ride of the stock market. It’s gambling with retirement.

Even corporations that had defined benefit pensions often underfunded them. A notorious case was when the Studebaker automobile works in South Bend, Ind., shut down in 1963. Over 4,000 workers lost all or most of their pensions.

## Using deindustrialization to rip off retirees

The labor movement fought against these pension robberies. This led to Congress passing the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) in 1974.

ERISA set up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which was supposed to protect workers’ pensions and health plans. But the PBGC is underfunded and had a deficit in 2019 of \$54 billion.

Corporations use bankruptcies to get rid of their union contracts and pension obligations. Between 2001 and 2004, four steel companies and Trans World Airlines went bankrupt, robbing 256,200 retired workers of their pensions.

One of these outfits, Bethlehem Steel, terminated health and life insurance benefits for 95,000 retired workers and their family members in 2003. Vulture capitalist Wilbur Ross was the criminal in charge.

Ross made millions by helping to destroy Bethlehem, which was the second largest U.S. steelmaker. He’s now Trump’s commerce secretary.

Detroit’s bankruptcy in 2013 was used to drastically cut the pensions of retired public workers. So was Puerto Rico’s bankruptcy.

Pension ripoffs continue at the biggest corporations. General Electric froze its pension plan for 20,000 salaried employees in 2019. GE is also offering lump sum payments to 100,000 former employees if they give up their pension rights.

Stealing pensions goes hand-in-hand with illegal job discrimination against older workers. IBM has pushed out or fired thousands of older employees.

IBM was able to do this because workers at the computer giant don’t have a union.

## Young and old unite and fight!

Capitalists want you to work until you drop. Between 1986 and 2016, the percentage of people over 65 still working rose from 10.6 to 18.6 percent. More seniors are afraid of running out of money than dying.

One of the great victories of the working-class upsurge of the 1930s was establishing Social Security on Aug. 14, 1935. Fifteen days later, the Railroad Retirement Board was founded.

Social Security didn’t cover farmworkers 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 60 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 worry. 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. 📢



Kyle Cohen

The Social Evolution of Humanity  
Marx and Engels Were Right!  
Bob McCubbin



Paperback or Kindle

At: [tinyurl.com/vwarcv7](https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7)

## The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

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.



GEORGE FLOYD  
#JUSTICEFORFLOYD



BREONNA TAYLOR  
June 5, 1993 - March 13, 2020



AHMAUD ARBERY  
May 8, 1994 - February 23, 2020

# ABOLICIÓN del sistema policial racista

## Defensa de nuestro movimiento Organizarse para empoderar al pueblo

### Exigimos:

- ▶ ¡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 los recursos para crear y controlar sus propias organizaciones y así mantenerse a salvo.

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 atroces 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.

## ¡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. He was 77.

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 Vietnam 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](http://tinyurl.com/TomSoto)



- Bill Dores

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 distorsionar 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 puestos 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 de la educación, la atención médica y la vivienda en todas las ciudades importantes. La crisis hipotecaria creada por estos mismos bancos estafó 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 "saqueo", 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 hipocresía que los funcionarios del gobierno finjan 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 remoción 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.

**Struggle for Socialism/La Lucha por el Socialismo  
Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido**

**STRUGGLE** ★ **LA LUCHA**  
*for Socialism* | *por el Socialismo*

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