

The Elections Are a Real Attack on the Working People; Build the Independent Political Alternative to this Farce

In the opinion of the Workers Party, USA, whatever the outcome of the 2018 midterm elections, it will change nothing for the working class and anti-militarist masses.

What matters is that the future of our country depends on the workers and people asserting themselves and taking their rightful place as the active and leading force in our country. The starting point is to come into the political arena on the basis of our own independent aims and program.

On the other hand, the election process serves to lock out and exclude the people from the decision making process. The political “messages” and “programs” of the Democratic and Republican candidates show how decayed and rotten the system is. The elections are used to degrade the consciousness of the people. Continuous disinformation campaigns are promoted to hide the aims of the capitalists. A blockade of silence is maintained against the working class and popular struggles. Attempts are made to defame every section of the people – the youth as “drug dealers,” the oppressed minorities as “welfare bums,” the workers as “culturally backward,” etc., etc.

Tens of millions of dollars are spent on mud-slinging and sensationalism.

None of the concerns of the people are even taken up for discussion. The whole process shows that the rich are in the driver’s seat while the workers and people are disempowered and disenfranchised.

While the formal shell of universal franchise exists, the current system of representative democracy does not place sovereignty with the people themselves but rather with the government, which is free to carry out its policies without regard for the will of the people, and which has placed itself above society, unaccountable to the people.

The venal politics promoted during the elections finds its source in the fact that the capitalist system in the U.S. is in a profound crisis and the program of big business is to shift the entire burden of this crisis onto the backs of the people. This anti-social offensive is a bi-partisan program carried out by the Democrats as well as the Republicans.

The only conclusion that we can draw from what the politicians are saying and doing is that the offensive against the people is going to continue.

The need is for the people not only to resist this offensive but also to organize themselves and prepare the counter-offensive.

In order to carry out a thoroughgoing renewal of the political process and political system, the working people must completely break the stranglehold of special interests and big money over the political process. The people must create a fundamentally different political

system which expresses their sovereignty and in which the entire political process is controlled by and accountable to the people themselves. The people themselves must be the sovereign power and, amongst other things, have the right and means to bring forward their own agenda and initiate political, economic and social changes.

The working class and its Party must take the lead in opposing the reactionary agenda of monopoly capital. Cooperative effort is required both to expose the origin of the reactionary anti-

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New Steps Taken to Build Up the Apparatus of Repression

The capitalist state has deployed troops for a mission inside the U.S., near the border with Mexico.

In full acceptance of the self-contradictory proposition that the people themselves can be a “threat to national security,” the Trump administration ordered some 7,000 U.S. troops to Arizona, California and Texas last week.

The old worn-out “war on drugs” was the feeble pretext given for the weighty act of suspending ordinary law at the border by deploying the military domestically.

The presidential memorandum was originally issued under the title, “Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security” and dated April 4.

According to the document, “The security of the United States is imperiled by a drastic surge of illegal activity on the southern border. Large quantities of fentanyl, other opioids, and other dangerous and illicit drugs are flowing across our southern border and into our country at unprecedented levels, destroying the lives of our families and loved ones. Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and other deadly transnational gangs are systematically exploiting our unsecured southern border to enter our country and develop operational capacity in American communities throughout the country.

The anticipated rapid rise in illegal crossings as we head into the spring and summer months threatens to overwhelm our Nation’s law enforcement capacities.”

This move follows years of non-stop propaganda about the “threat of terrorism” which has been used to create a phony “crisis” atmosphere inside our country so as to strengthen the repressive apparatus of the state and trample on the democratic rights and civil liberties of the American people. These have included many flagrant violations of U.S. law and the Constitution such as warrantless wiretaps, torture of prisoners, arbitrary detention and rendition, secret dossiers and police spying. Congress has passed various laws, such as the USA Patriot Act, which criminalize dissent and political opposition. So too, the two parties have imposed government indoctrination and chauvinism in the public schools, invested more and more of the resources of the public schools in extending military training to children and building military institutions.

Even according to the theories of bourgeois democracy, people are supposed to be guaranteed certain inalienable democratic and political rights precisely as a safeguard against the usurpation of power by the government. But

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as the current situation shows, in real life, the capitalist government recognizes no restraints on its power; it is an arbitrary power, based on violence, which stands in direct contradiction to the sovereignty and rights of the people.

The capitalist program of poverty, fascism and war arises from the unresolvable crisis of capitalism.

The failure of the capitalist system is irresistibly bringing to the surface and intensifying the contradictions between the capitalist ruling class and the American and world's peoples. It is relentlessly confronting the people with the task of raising positive demands for peace, and of directing our struggles against U.S. imperialism itself which is the world's biggest outlaw state – the organizer of international drug trafficking, international terrorism, and the number one enemy of human rights.

From the very founding of our country to the present, the American people have tenaciously opposed any interference of the military in the affairs of the country and the people. From the very beginning, the American people have fought to create a society in which the political power arises from and is controlled by the people themselves.

Today, grave challenges face us. The monopoly capitalist class and its bought-and-paid-for government are continuing to impose a thoroughly anti-social agenda on our country. The capitalist government is throwing our country backwards – stripping away the few

rights gained by people over decades and putting everything at the service of big business.

It is only the peoples who can defeat the increase of the arbitrary, police power of the federal government and the initiation of direct military intervention in domestic affairs. Our goal can be nothing less than to overthrow the arbitrary, violent power of the capitalists and to create a new political power which arises from and empowers the people themselves.

The struggle against political opportunism is an essential part of this struggle.

Opportunism works to create every possible illusion in the capitalist class and the capitalist system. When the big monopolies are carrying out their fascistization of society through the two party monopoly, the opportunists want to cover over the cause of the problem in the deepening crisis of capitalism and push the fairy-tale that capitalism can have a “human face.” Instead of encouraging the countless new activists who are coming forward to speak and act on the basis of their convictions, to further politicize themselves and get to the root of things, the opportunists try to muzzle their voice by insisting they “not alienate public opinion” and instead work to “get out the vote.”

The labor aristocracy and opportunism deny that the interests of the capitalists and the workers are antagonistic, deny the laws of the class struggle and the necessity for the workers to come

out as an independent class force. For decades, even as U.S. imperialism has been the number one oppressor of nations and the major source of war in the world, the opportunists create the illusion that war and militarism come only from a few “right-wing hawks;” the peace movement is told to place its faith in the capitalist “doves.” Whenever the repressive arm of the capitalist state attacks the rights of the peoples, the opportunists tell the workers, the oppressed minorities and others that the very state which oppresses and represses them can be relied on to defend democratic rights.

The labor aristocracy follows the famous dictum of Samuel Gompers who insisted that “the movement is everything, the aim is nothing.” This is the line of surrender to spontaneity.

By renouncing any independent aim for the working class movement, the labor aristocracy liquidates the organization of the workers as a class-for-themselves and leaves their thinking to be dominated by bourgeois ideology. Without basing itself on its own aims and own theory, the workers' movement remains enslaved to forces which operate seemingly beyond the control of human beings; each aimless, individual worker remains at the mercy of the capitalist exploiters and the contradictions of capitalism which keep tearing society apart. The workers remain deprived of the capacity to develop their own movement for emancipation on the basis of a conscious plan and organization.

Just as the reactionary agenda of the government finds its source in the class interests of the capitalists, so too, the agenda for social progress, enlightenment, and emancipation finds its source in the aspirations and struggles of definite classes – in the struggle of the working class and people.

What is required today is the human factor that already exists. It arises from the very conditions of modern society and from the aspirations of the workers to create the conditions of their complete emancipation. All that is required is to develop the human factor – to bring the thinking, organization and action of the people to bear on the situation.

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social offensive in the crisis of capitalism as well as to put forward real solutions to the problems facing our country. It is necessary to popularize and elaborate the positive program of economic rights, democratic renewal and a democratic foreign policy. Politicizing ourselves on this basis means mobilizing the broadest possible sections of people and bringing to the fore the experience and aspirations of the people themselves – both their criticism of the status quo as well as their vision and aim for society and life.

Popularizing and summing up the struggles of people, giving systematic and theoretical substantiation to the thinking and experience of people, brings these aspirations to the fore and creates a new atmosphere in which the workers and people are increasingly conscious of their own movement. This work of embedding our thought and action in the real-life struggle for emanci-

pation includes popularizing and learning from the history of the working class and communist movements.

In order to defend our rights and put our country on the high road of progress and civilization, the class conscious workers and anti-militarist masses must create a new political culture and a new political unity amongst themselves. The marginalization and de-politicalization of the people must be overcome by giving expression to our own program of solutions.

The workers cannot allow the Republicans and Democrats to impose their political agenda. Nothing healthy will come about in our country until the tens and hundreds of millions of people currently excluded from politics come out on the basis of their own political aims and agenda by building up their own independent political movement in opposition to and struggle against the political power of the capitalists.

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