

Buffalo Forum



Local Publication of the
U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

Workers of all countries, unite!

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November 18, 2016

Vol. 20 #11

ORGANIZE FOR A DEMOCRACY OF OUR OWN MAKING

Build the Alternative of Political Empowerment

It is not the people who are divisive, racist, anti-immigrant and pro-war — it is the U.S. state and its monopoly media, which repeats and echoes the demands of the state. The working class has shown itself to be against racism and war and for rights, as currently indicated in the united

stand clear across the country by workers, especially young workers, in favor of the courageous struggle at Standing Rock. This is a struggle in defense of the rights of indigenous peoples and protecting water and Mother Earth for all. It is growing
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The U.S. State and Electoral Process are Divisive and Racist — Not the People

Every effort is being made to claim the election of Donald Trump for president shows that the country, or at least the majority of workers, are racist, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim. The same monopoly media that promoted every racist, anti-people comment by Trump and spread it far and wide, that routinely portrays African

American males as criminals and Muslims as terrorists, now is trying to portray itself as “inclusive.”

A *Washington Post* editorial instructed, “How each of us can help keep America inclusive, even under Trump.” A *NY Times* editorial similarly reads, “What does Trump’s win say about us

Racist U.S. State • 6

NOT OUR PRESIDENT, NOT OUR DEMOCRACY

With Trump Presidency Ruling Circles Resort to Government of Police Power

The election of Donald Trump as president indicates that imperialist rule by the oligopolies will be by unfettered police powers. It shows how completely the old arrangements of government of laws, with functioning political parties and a functioning political process are finished. It spells

grave dangers for the peoples at home and abroad, as Trump embarks on a presidency to expand police powers and the impunity that goes with them.

U.S. rulers are facing a situation where their previous overwhelming economic
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TWO BUFFALO MEETINGS ADDRESS THE ISSUE

Lead Poisoning Remains Major Problem in Buffalo and Erie County

Two meetings in Buffalo, both held November 16, addressed the problem of lead poisoning in Buffalo and Erie County, both from lead paint and poisoning of the water. Both meetings were efforts to provide information to the public about the

long-standing problem of lead poisoning, from lead paint, prevalent in Buffalo’s old housing stock, and from water, given Buffalo’s old sewer systems.

One meeting, “Lead in Our Houses: On the Walls and in the Water,” was held

at the Merriweather Library by We Are Women Warriors. It provided information about having children tested, which should occur when they are 1-2 years old. If not, young children should be tested by a pediatrician and lead levels

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I • LEAD POISONING**Support the
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The national paper of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization. *VOR* works to raise the level of political discussion in society by taking stands that provide a way forward, oppose the chauvinism and racism of the U.S. state, and advance the interests of the working class and people. *VOR* also reports on the organizing work to build the alternative by Creating Politics of Empowerment. Together It Can Be Done! Read, write and distribute *VOR*.

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in blood above 5 micrograms per deciliter is considered dangerous. Indeed, many experts consider any amount of lead in the blood to be dangerous, especially for children, causing permanent brain damage and mental and behavioral disorders.

While a number of city and county officials were invited, only one county official came to the meeting. This is a further indication that officials do not consider lead poisoning, especially of the water, a major concern. Parents and teachers, on the other hand do, as they directly experience its consequences on the children.

Participants at the meeting were given a hand-out of several pages with information about lead poisoning and steps to take for children, such as testing for both paint and water poisoning, providing bottled water when needed, running tap water for at least 30 seconds and not utilizing hot water for drinking or cooking, as it could contain higher levels of lead. For Buffalo, zip codes 14211, 14213 and 14215 are considered among the areas with the greatest risk.

Participants brought out that one of the main problems is that the large majority of homes in those areas and others where children have been found to have high levels are not being tested, especially for lead in the water. The county maintains that the water is safe and they will not test it without evidence that it could have lead. This is an unsafe and unwarranted stand by the county, given that poisoning of the water is the most likely source after lead paint.

The second meeting took place at the Roosevelt Inaugural Site and featured updates from Investigative Post's Dan Tevlock on lead poisoning in Buffalo and the County and the general lack of testing. It included a panel discussion featuring Dr. Yanna Lambrinidou, an affiliate faculty member at Virginia Tech and founder of the non-profit children's environmental health organization Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives; and Elizabeth McDade, Program Coordinator of the Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative; and Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards on skype. Edwards played a major role in assisting residents in Flint to have their water tested and exposing the high levels of lead poisoning there. Panelists emphasized the need for testing by city and county officials of all high-risk homes. This so

far is not being done.

The reality of lead poisoning in the water was also recently revealed based on state-mandated testing of all schools. The testing program found lead in some of the drinking water in at least 11 school districts – Lackawanna, Williamsville, Clarence, Depew, North Collins, Orchard Park, Lockport, Hamburg, Cleveland Hill, Fredonia and Silver Creek.

Parents of children in those districts were notified that unacceptable lead readings were found in some water fixtures in school buildings, and that those fixtures have been shut down for repair or replacement.

Over the next few weeks, experts said it is likely that hundreds of school districts all over the state will also find lead in the water. School Districts are responsible for fixing the problem.

A sizeable number of Buffalo Schools had high lead levels in faucets and drinking fountains, including some with levels as high as 79 parts per billion. While 15ppb requires action, many feel the better standard is 5 ppb. No lead levels would be safest. Among the schools with problems were, Dyouville Porter Campus, Frank A. Sedita, Harriet Ross Tubman, Bennett Park Montessori, Bilingual Academy, Lovejoy, International School, Olmsted, Hamlin Park, West Hertel, Waterfront, City Honors and International Prep. A full listing including the number of faucets or fountains with high levels at each school can be found at the Buffalo Schools webpage, buffaloschools.org, under water testing in the quick links column on the left side of the page. The fact that many schools had problems indicates problems both with their filtration systems and likely with the city's sewer system. The Buffalo Water Authority, a private company, still has not provided information as to how many sewer lines have lead and where they are located. This information should be required so as to better target homes for testing.

The fact that in this modern age these long-standing problems remain is really a crime against the children who suffer permanent damage. The city and county should immediately ensure that all high-risk homes are tested and remediated, at government expense. Buffalo Forum urges teachers, parents and city and BPS officials to work together to ensure no child suffers from lead poisoning.

Police Powers Needed When Rulers Have No Solutions

Police powers by their nature are arbitrary and implemented on the basis of broad impunity. It is not just a matter of police and military forces of various kinds taking action, but rather of a means of governance in a situation where the rulers have no solutions and where they are compelled to block the striving of the people to modernize and broaden democracy. Unlike a government of laws, which must at least have the appearance of legitimacy and concern for social needs, a government of police powers does not.

In this vein, Trump voiced his disdain for social needs by emphasizing that he will treat government as a business. In his victory speech he said, "I've spent my entire life in business, looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over

the world" and "That is now what I want to do for our country." Business is run on the basis of the "bottom line" and treating human beings as things, even products, to be disposed of. Responsibility to society and to meet the needs of society are not main considerations.

Legitimacy of government is also not a main concern. Police powers are to punish, criminalize, destroy, even whole nations and the human productive powers they encompass. This election showed the rulers are no longer concerned with maintaining even the appearance of a functioning political process, with Trump the embodiment of this reality.

U.S. rulers are contending with a situation where, as Trump said, the U.S. is in decline as an economic power and has yet

to impose its hegemony over all those who resist. It must contend with rivals and allies alike as it strives for world domination and does so by continually threatening and upping the ante. This brings on more violence and contention, as is already occurring at home and abroad. Obama was seen as a more reluctant force, more on the sidelines in this striving for domination. Trump is seen as a deal-maker who can put and keep the U.S. in the game where everyone is threatening everyone else. He will on the one hand strike deals, likely behind closed doors and using his executive powers. On the other, brandish the full might of U.S. police powers without concern about legitimacy, abroad and at home. This is the necessity of U.S. rulers today and it is hoped that Trump can meet it.

I • BUILD ALTERNATIVE OF POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

into a fight condemning the U.S. state and its brutality against the peoples and one widely supported by workers.

It is the single united working class that has the role of blocking the racist U.S. state as it pursues its wars of aggression and anti-social agenda, and of leading the fight for empowerment of the people to govern and decide. The presidential election and all the promotion of the workers as racist is a means to hide this reality and divide and disrupt the struggles of the people for rights. It is to hide the fact that the working class is contending with a situation where its voice is silenced, or portrayed as backward and racist. The class is contending with a situation where existing institutions at all levels are not democratic and are instead blocking people's democracy.

It is the racist electoral system that promotes voters not as human beings with rights, but rather as voting cattle. There are black cattle and brown cattle and white cattle, all shunted into corrals and reported on as if they were things, not people. We are to believe white workers are to blame for Trump, not the divisive electoral process that routinely whips up racism and divisions while *excluding* working people and keeping them out of power.

Workers are not voting cattle and this election indicates a rejection of these



notions, by the human beings involved, that they will vote like cattle along predictable lines. It also indicates a rejection of a set-up that is not democratic and that sows doubt and divisions rather than arming people to solve problems in a rational, reasoned manner. Not a few both Trump and Clinton voters say there must be no repeat of this situation in four years. An alternative that empowers the people, not the rich, is in order.

This election is a clear call to step up resistance and advance the fight for politics of empowerment, so it is the people themselves who are elected to govern and decide. It is a call to build up the independent institutions of the working class so that its voice is heard and carries

weight. This means joining to strengthen independent press like *Buffalo Forum*. It means strengthening independent organizing to raise the level of political discussion and involve fellow workers in it. It is a call to advance our own thinking and our pro-social, anti-war agenda. This can be done, for example, by countering the presence of the military in our high schools and universities by demanding an anti-war alternative and providing it in the schools. It can be done using surveys and other means to bring the fight against U.S. wars and for an anti-war government to the fore, at the inauguration actions and elsewhere. Politics of empowerment embodied in political organizing in the interests of the people are the order of the day.

I • GOVERNMENT OF POLICE POWER

power is in decline and where military might alone is not sufficient to maintain and extend their world empire. They are insistent on such empire though, and prepared to risk world war and civil war and potentially drag the world down with them. This campaign brought to the fore that they are not able to sustain a political process that provides legitimacy to their rule, as they reject the need to modernize democracy by empowering the people.

Obama came forward in 2008 in part to unite the warring factions of the military bureaucracy, across all the various branches and various police forces and intelligence agencies. He was to overcome the humiliation and disrepute of the U.S. on the world stage generated by the Bush regime. Instead, with his drone warfare, torture, indefinite detention and other crimes against the people, he only succeeded in further lowering U.S. standing in the world. At home people openly spoke during this election of how eight years of Bush and eight years of Obama had done nothing to resolve the issues of poverty and inequality and aggressive wars while making people feel even more powerless and marginalized than before.

Governing institutions like Congress and legislatures more generally are dysfunctional and the political parties and political process that go with them are also dysfunctional. None of the actions of the political representatives of the oligopolies, which are endangering life on earth, contribute to the development of an aim for the polity consistent with the needs of humankind and life itself. Indeed the imperialist rulers are blocking such an aim and striving to keep the people from themselves being political and uniting with others to bring the economic, political and social structures into conformity with the modern reality of socialized conditions.

In a situation where a political process cannot be sustained and government of laws is being eliminated, the response of the rulers is to take the country further backward. A Trump government of police powers creates an even more dangerous situation for the peoples at home and



abroad.

Extending Police Powers in the Name of Making America Great

A main role of Trump is to further extend the police powers utilized by Obama — such as his drone warfare, torture, mass detention of women and children refugees, militarization of police forces — and to eliminate any fetters that remain. To the degree that Congress still holds the purse strings is one such fetter Trump will strive to minimize, perhaps by using police powers against those who oppose him, as he has threatened. Further extending the impunity of the executive to act is another. Both of these however threaten to increase potential civil war scenarios, as contending authorities among the policing agencies, at state and local levels, and with the presidency, collide. This is something the rulers want to avoid. Trump will attempt to contend with this in part by using the anger among the people with the current process and with Congressional dysfunction to justify the need for more executive action. In his claim to represent a movement that is anti-establishment, he is seeking to bring the people in line with this direction of government of police power.

The content of Trump's plan to Make

America Great Again can be seen by appointments for his cabinet. Alabama Senator Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, named after the president of the confederacy, Jefferson Davis and confederate General Beauregard, is to be Attorney General. His appointment represents an effort to unify forces among the rulers north and south in conditions where civil war scenarios are already evident. Trump's means to do this is to openly embrace those known to support the slave-power of the south. It remains to be seen if this will be successful.

Sessions has also voiced support for Trump's plans to quickly begin deporting immigrants and to do so even more rapidly than Obama has done. Immigration is one of the areas where the executive can act with broad impunity and take action without Congress.

On this front Trump is already facing contention from local and state authorities, including those in California and New York, home to many undocumented immigrants he seeks to target. Los Angeles police, for example, have stated they will not cooperate with federal forces, as have New York City Mayor de Blasio and Chicago Mayor Emanuel. Various

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officials from other sanctuary cities, like Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle have said the same.

A main problem the rulers face in imposing a government of police power is precisely that of unifying the various policing agencies and bringing them under federal and military control. This is a main responsibility of the president, charged with preserving the U.S. state. Various recent police actions, including those at Standing Rock where many state police from different states and National Guard were brought together to repress resistance, are part of such efforts. The resistance from state and local forces that Trump is facing in regards to immigration indicate the difficulties the rulers confront in imposing their dictate. The various authorities are all contending for power and Trump may not be so successful in uniting them, especially considering the various mayors have huge police forces of their own.

Trump and Sessions are also backing expansion of the previous government registry, known as the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS). It targeted non-citizens living legally in the U.S. as well as those entering legally, many with student visas, from 25 Asian and African countries, many mostly Muslim, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. It existed from 2002-2011, with portions of it still in place, including a giant biometric database of registrants, used by the many policing agencies at all levels.

The use of a special registry is not a Trump invention. It is part of the direction of governance towards one of police

power that has been developing and that Trump seeks to build on and expand. It is also a means to bring the various agencies involved together, in the name of national security. Such registries and plans more broadly for biometric ID for immigrants, then all workers, are also a means by which to criminalize the workforce and enable the imperialist rulers to more readily impose their government of police power. These are among the reasons that stepping up the broad resistance to all such measures are critical.

Internationally, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is a likely choice for Secretary of State. Giuliani is notorious for his use of police powers in New York City, including the racist Stop and Frisk police action directed primarily against African American and Puerto Rican youth. It is an example of police taking action without cause and on an openly racist basis. This then is to be implemented on an international basis. However, just as Obama's actions along these lines served to further lower U.S. standing in the world, Trump's effort to greatly expand the use of police powers could well do the same.

Not Our President, Not Our Democracy

The many demonstrations across the country and those planned for Trump's inauguration indicate that government of police powers is not acceptable to the people. Signs read: Not My President, with many also expressing, not our democracy.

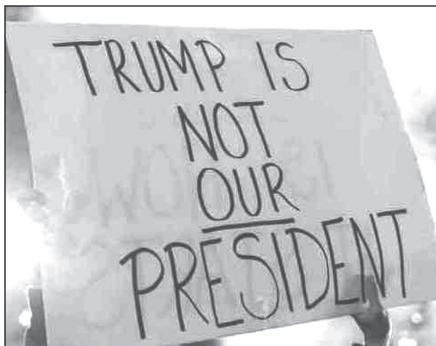
Those fighting against war and for rights are contending with the reality that the dysfunctional political process and rise of police powers also means that a civil society based



on government of laws is being eliminated. The tactics based on these old arrangements, such as notions of pressuring politicians to meet the needs of the people and take their views into consideration are also coming to an end. New forms and tactics are needed in the situation. Resistance involving efforts to deprive the rulers of their ability to deprive the people of their rights are vital.

The struggle at Standing Rock is an important example of such efforts. It is an example too of focusing on using demonstrations as a means to strengthen the level of organization and consciousness and to raise the level of political discussion and politicization of the polity as a whole, all of which are needed.

Trump's presidency indicates that U.S. rulers can no longer sustain a political process with government of laws. They are instead compelled to impose a government of unfettered police powers, a dangerous and undemocratic direction. The times demand instead advancing the cause of democracy by organizing today, in our many actions and fighting organizations, to enable the people themselves to be the decision makers. The new direction needed is a pro-social, anti-war direction and bringing it about requires a democracy of our own making where we the people decide.



Election Shows Failure of Existing Set-Up

A huge cacophony has followed in the wake of the U.S. election that paints voters as racist. This serves as a means to ignore the many indications that people are rejecting the existing set up and demanding something different, including candidates that do actually represent them and not the imperialist rich.

Among these facts are the estimated 100 million who did not vote. Many, especially among the youth, said that they did not do so because they felt insulted by both candidates and were preparing for things to get worse whoever won. They were concerned with how to build up resistance, not voting for candidates they rejected.

Overall, Clinton got about 60.5 million votes, Trump about 60 million. Neither represents even close to half the electorate, with eligible voters now numbering about 232 million. The 100 million eligible voters who did not vote represent a far large number — but they are not to be counted

when these generalizations about a racist electorate are made. Additionally, if one puts those who did not want to vote for either candidate, 6 in 10, of the estimated 132 million who voted, together with the 100 million eligible voters who did not vote, plus the estimated 6.1 million people convicted of felonies who are not permitted to vote, one gets a very large majority against Trump (and Clinton for that matter). And what this majority holds in common is that its decision does not count in the U.S. polity — it is disenfranchised — as well as the underlying repudiation of an electoral process that produced such unwanted pro-war, racist candidates.

The problem lies not with individuals, but with the Trump presidency, which is a representative of a racist state bent on unleashing even greater police powers against the peoples at home and abroad. To advance the fight against racism and for equality, it is necessary to target the racist U.S. state and refuse to submit to

its diversions and efforts to divide the people.

Numerous demonstrations, petitions, meetings, and more show the people want an end to war, want peaceful relations of mutual respect internationally and want the budget directed to defending rights, like education, housing and healthcare, not imperialist war. They want a different, new direction for the country. All this is to be denied and hidden. Everyone is to remain stuck in lining up for or against Clinton or Trump and targeting how people voted, even now when the elections are over. Everything is being done to divert discussion from development of an alternative political process that empowers the people and enables them to enforce their drive for an anti-racist, pro-social, anti-war direction for the country. By targeting the racist U.S. state and defending the rights of all abroad and at home the people can build up their fighting unity and provide for their own security.

I • RACIST U.S. STATE

as a nation?” Another *Times* op-ed answers more directly “America Elects a Bigot” and we are all now to doubt “whatever faith you had in the country itself.” Numerous pundits and commentators professing to be progressive are themselves expressing the racist stand of the U.S. state by blaming the people for Trump and labeling them as racist and sexist.

What is the aim of presenting the people of the country, especially white workers, as racist? And of promoting the notion that simply voting for Trump makes all those who did racist or supporters of racism? What is the aim of emphasizing that the election represents the “mandate” of the people on such issues as poverty, inequality, immigration and war? The aim is to divide the working class and discredit it as the only social force capable of actually taking the country in the pro-social, anti-war direction desired by the people. It is to hide the racist nature of the U.S. state and the dangerous direction it is headed in — which is the direction of eliminating a government of laws and making a government of police power, with all its violence and impunity,

omnipotent.

It is also to promote guilt by association, with no basis in fact, something very much needed by a government of police powers bent on criminalizing the people. Workers are to target each other and treat each other as things to be labeled, not as human beings with common concerns. The various actions by KKK and neo-nazis taking place since the election are not to be blamed on the racist U.S. state, which backs and arms such forces, but on individuals who voted for Trump.

We are also told to rely on the state, when it is the source of the problems. Using guilt by association, the U.S. state will impose more criminalization of those resisting, under the guise of prosecuting “hate crimes.” Even before Trump there were efforts, for example, against those defending Palestine to have organizing on campuses branded as “hate crimes.” Now with the need of the government to impose a government of police powers, one can anticipate that guilt by association will more broadly be used against those resisting state attacks and defending rights. Only it will be blamed on

Trump the individual, not Trump the representative of the oligopolies and their rule.

The U.S. state has been racist from

its origins, founded on the genocide of slavery and against indigenous peoples and continuing today, with mass incarceration and including the many electoral laws blocking African Americans from voting. Voter suppression, especially of minorities, remained a problem this election yet it is barely mentioned.

A state that organizes for the widespread impunity for racist police killings and brutality and government profiling cannot be relied on. The efforts to blame the people are to hide this reality, at a time when state organized racist attacks will increase.



NO TO TRUMP AND HIS RACISM

NO to Wars at Home and Abroad!

United National Antiwar Coalition, November 13, 2016

We stand in solidarity with all oppressed people under attack at home and abroad!

We urge full participation in the anti-Trump demonstrations!

In reaction to Donald Trump's election victory, tens of thousands of people, most of them youth, have taken to the streets across the country in militant protests to condemn the racism, sexism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant bigotry that Trump represents. Many are fearful, especially immigrants, Muslims and LGBT people. Their rage and that of their supporters signify the movement that needs to be built to end racism, wars and the attacks on working people endemic in the U.S. today.

As thousands have protested, the corporate news media, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other leading Democrats who expected their party to continue in office now tell us we must make friends with Trump, that maybe he is not so bad after all.

The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) planned post-election protests regardless of who won the election. Our view has always been that all social progress – for labor's rights, civil and democratic rights, women's rights, immigrant rights and against all U.S. wars – has been the product of working people and their allies among the oppressed mobilizing in democratic, united and massive movements that challenge the institutional powers and parties. In these struggles everyone is needed and welcome.

It was clear from the start that the antiwar and general progressive movements could not win in this election.

On the one hand was the war hawk Hillary Clinton, who has aggressively supported all U.S. military actions during her entire political life. She promoted the mass bombing of Libya, cheered the lynching of its president, supported the right-wing coup in Honduras and called for a no-fly zone in Syria that would put the U.S. military in direct confrontation with a nuclear-armed Russia. Here at home, she



supported the 1994 crime bill that led to mass incarceration of the people she called “super predators.” She supported “welfare reform” that took food from the mouths of poor children. She has loyally served Wall Street, sat on the board of Walmart and supported globalization schemes that have cost millions their jobs.

On the other hand was Donald Trump, a racist, misogynist, crooked billionaire who spouted venom toward people of color, undocumented workers, Muslims and women, has a history of supporting anti-labor policies and has raised the specter of the U.S. actually using nuclear weapons.

The Wars Have Come Home

For years, the 1 percent that runs this country has been ratcheting up its war against working people here at home. Income inequality has never been greater. Wages have been stagnant for many years. Many of the unionized industrial jobs have been automated or moved overseas. Police killings of Black and other people of color has become endemic. The prisons are bursting with workers, most of them people of color, for whom this system no longer has any jobs.

There was no way for working people, youth, the Black community or antiwar activists to win in this election. Clinton represented the establishment. Trump was projected as anti-establishment, but he reserved his fiercest attacks for people

victimized by that establishment. Too many were sucked in by his demagoguery showing deep divisions, much of it caused by racism. The antiwar movement and all fighters for justice must fight against this racism.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have worked hard over the years to create an atmosphere in which Trump's racism, Islamophobia and immigrant bashing are acceptable. Under Obama, more undocumented workers have been deported than at any time in U.S. history. Under both Bush and Obama, mosques were infiltrated and Muslims framed in schemes wholly invented by the FBI to brand them as terrorists and justify their wars against Muslim countries. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, killer cops are left on the streets instead of being sent to prison.

If there is a silver lining, it is that the electoral system, as a whole, along with the corporate media have been exposed before millions. As tens of thousands have risen up in actions, we can see the future fight-back that UNAC along with many others will help to organize to end this system of exploitation and war.

NO to the Wars at Home and Abroad!

Come to Washington in January to protest Trump's inauguration!

Money for human needs, not war!

Support our undocumented sisters and brothers in their fight against deportation and for human rights!

Calls Grow for 'Sanctuary Campuses' for Undocumented Students

Nadia Prupis, November 16, 2016, commondreams.org

Students and professors across the country are calling for their schools to become "sanctuary campuses" for undocumented immigrants, in a creative form of resistance to the policies of the incoming Trump administration.

Inside Higher Ed reports that thousands of people have signed petitions urging their campuses to protect undocumented students, who will likely be at increased risk of deportation... Trump has promised to deport 2 to 3 million undocumented immigrants and to repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which grants temporary relief to hundreds of thousands of undocumented people brought to the U.S. as children.

"Immigrant youth who had a dream fought for and won DACA against all odds, and our communities won't be intimidated by Trump even as he threatens to take it away," said Thais Marquez, an undocumented student and organizer with Movimiento Cosecha (Harvest Movement), in a statement Tuesday. "We're calling on our classmates and our neighbors to stand for what's right and grow a network of support for immigrants on our campuses and beyond. Millions of immigrants do crucial work that makes the American economy run, and we need the support of our country's churches, community centers, and homes as places of sanctuary against deportation too."

A petition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) made these requests:

Guarantee student privacy by refusing to release information regarding the immigration status of our students and community members. Refuse to comply with immigration authorities regarding deportations or raids. Assign a specific office and specific administrators who will assist our DACA students and other students who lack the privilege of citizenship on a strictly confidential basis.



Guarantee that this same office shall be charged with pursuing funding for all students who lack citizenship. Guarantee in-state tuition to students previously awarded DACA recipients. Assure that all students receive a campus, classroom, and community experience free of hostilities, aggressions, and bullying by publicizing the campus-wide anonymous reporting mechanism, training all staff and faculty in de-escalation intervention techniques, and expanding the Safe Rides and Safe Walks program (training all assistants in bias events).

"Given what is on the horizon...there needs to be a clear message sent to our immigrant students that UIUC is going to be a sanctuary," Gilberto Rosas, an associate professor at the university and a co-author of the petition, told *Inside Higher Ed*.

María Blanco, executive director of the University of California Undocumented Legal Services Center, spoke with the news outlet:

"There are at least three kinds of different things that could fall under a sanctuary policy," Blanco said. "One is a university

saying that ICE will not come on their campus to do immigration enforcement without warrants unless there's an exigent circumstance." A second, she said, is developing a policy that says a university police force will not act on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws. A third, she said, involves information sharing—"to the extent that universities have any records that identify the immigration status of their students, to protect those if there were a request from ICE for those records."

"I think that what the students will be requesting are actually things that are doable, that don't put the university at any kind of risk in terms of their federal funding," Blanco said.

A similar petition making the rounds at Oberlin College in Ohio read, "Making Oberlin College a sanctuary campus supports these local efforts and demonstrates our commitment to support some of the most vulnerable members in our community."

Oberlin itself became a sanctuary city in 2009.

Shelley Lee, an associate professor at Oberlin College, who helped organize the letter, told *Inside Higher Ed*, "We wanted to take a moral stand on this issue very quickly and to urge the administration to take the steps to make a meaningful institutional response to this very uncertain situation in which very vulnerable members of our college and university community could potentially be targeted."

Meanwhile, students throughout the state of Indiana are planning walkouts for Wednesday afternoon to show their support for initiatives at their campuses. The walkouts are set to take place at Indiana University (IU) at South Bend, Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis, the University of Notre Dame, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana State University, and DePauw University, local media reports. [...]

ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The End of “Business As Usual”

Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

The Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) considers that the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States will represent the rule of the oligopolies through unfettered police powers. His election has plunged both the peoples of the U.S. and the peoples of the world into an even more dangerous situation.

On November 4, just prior to the U.S. presidential election that took place on November 8, CPC(M-L) wrote the following:

“... the campaign has revealed the extent to which the U.S. state and system of governance operate through corruption and coercion as well as how people are deprived of political power.” CPC(M-L) noted that how the people are deprived of political power is “the other very important aspect of the state power in the hands of the financial oligarchy. The ruling imperialist elite achieve this by depriving the people of an outlook, a way to look at the world and the problems that have arisen so that they can be calmly sorted out and provided with solutions.”

The same applies to the verdicts on the election results. Everything is being done “to deprive the people of an outlook, a way to look at the world and the problems that have arisen so that they can be calmly sorted out and provided with solutions.”

What are the verdicts being pushed? From the side of the Clinton campaign, the verdict is that the result is the apocalypse, and the values and vision of Clinton remain all that stand between “you and the apocalypse” as she said during the campaign. From the side of the Trump campaign comes the explanation that he led “a movement” which is anti-establishment, wants the problems of the economy dealt with and an end to “all the bullshit.” From both sides comes the agreement that now that the election is over, everyone’s duty is to abide by the Constitution, ensure the transition of power is peaceful and unite America.



Clinton Concedes Nothing While Trump Sets Forth to “Make America Great Again”

In Hillary Clinton’s concession speech, besides the presidency itself, she conceded nothing, not even her defeat. Far from it, despite the fact that Clinton failed to unite America behind her vision and values, she said that going forward it is this shared vision and values, which she will continue to push and she calls on her supporters to do likewise. This vision uses aggression and war as negotiation, blames the U.S. economic decline on China and maintains Russia as the main enemy of the United States. It was captured in her slogan that the U.S. is the “indispensable nation,” which, of course, makes all others dispensable. It was expressed by Clinton in 2008 when she said the U.S. could “totally obliterate” Iran, and in 2011 when she greeted the assassination of the leader of Libya with the phrase “We came, we saw, he died.”

In his victory speech, Trump made sure to mention the large number of generals who support him, as well as the National Rifle Association and New York City

Mayor during 9/11, Rudolph Giuliani and others who stand for the unfettered police powers Trump thinks are necessary to “Make America Great Again.” The central points of his campaign were basically that the U.S. system is broken or rigged, that the U.S. has been weakened on the world stage and that only a man of Trump’s force of personality is capable of putting things right. His strategy is to be “engaged” and that the art lies in how you make the deal. In his victory speech he said, “I’ve spent my entire life in business, looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over the world” and “That is now what I want to do for our country.”

Blame the State, Not the People, for Racism, Sexism and Anti-Working Class Attacks and Outlook

Following the election, the section of media and those pundits, commentators and celebrities in the U.S. and abroad who believe themselves to be progressive and civilized are filled with the kind of racist, sexist and anti-worker stereotypes which they ascribe to Trump. According

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to them, the U.S. is divided between educated people and uneducated people and the “white working class” is to be blamed for the defeat of Clinton in the election. According to their stereotype, the American working class is basically everyone without a college education and the “white working class” is racist, sexist, white supremacist, xenophobic, backward, uneducated and uncivilized. Human beings are treated as “things,” not people.

Everything is done to hide that it is the U.S. state which is anti-worker, sexist and racist and anti-immigrant as well as profoundly anti-communist, which is why in the rendering of the election results, the defeat of Clinton is blamed on the working class.

Meanwhile, every state-organized and spontaneous white supremacist formation and unhinged individual and psychopath is given a green light to attack the targets of their personal hatred and psychotic nightmares. This is due to the boorish and inflammatory reality TV rhetoric on the basis of which Trump ran his election campaign, but also its ceaseless promotion

by U.S. media, and especially the Clinton campaign. The Clinton campaign spent twice as much money as Trump to make Trump the issue for the American people during the election. It is the Clinton media and entourage which now use every epithet in the book to portray the working people of the United States who voted for Trump as rabid, crazed zealots who are trampling the rights of the people in the mud.

It does not behoove those who devote all their energies to fighting for the rights of all to fall victim to this official, which treats people as categories of “things” and divides them on that basis.

All Out to Support the American Working Class and People Fighting for Empowerment and the Rights of All

CPC(M-L) denounces the attacks against the people which have taken place since the election, both those which are spontaneous and the ones organized by a crisis-ridden state which has now given itself a green light to govern through unfettered police powers. Police powers do not recognize

members of a body politic made up of a civil society with a government of laws. Police powers do not recognize rights by virtue of one’s membership in that body politic, let alone rights by virtue of being human. Police powers only recognize categories of “things” slated for some form of punishment. In scenarios which have been unfolding in the U.S. for some time, people are portrayed as “thugs,” “protestors,” “trouble-makers,” “enemy aliens,” “blacks,” “Latinos,” “Hispanics,” “Muslims,” “terrorists,” “deviants” and other categories designed to dehumanize them and target them for attack.

CPC(M-L) takes this occasion to profoundly sympathize with all those in the United States who are targets of the racist, anti-worker and anti-people attacks and are waging valiant protests and acts of resistance proclaiming loudly that this is not their democracy, Trump is not their President and that attacks against the people are “Not In My Name.” ... It calls on all to analyze the significance of the results and prepare for the battles which lie ahead. (*cpcml.ca*)

NOT OUR PRESIDENT, NOT OUR DEMOCRACY



Organizing for Buffalo Student Union Goes Forward

Students in Buffalo, at both the high school and university level are demanding a greater voice in problems they confront, such as unjust suspensions that impact African Americans in disproportionate numbers, the endless Common Core related testing, and curriculum that does not meet their needs and those of society today. Students are fighting for a decision-making role, alongside teachers and parents so as to have Education to

Change the World. Students from Buffalo State have initiated a facebook page and leafleting at the high schools in an effort to build a Buffalo Student Union and provide organization to the fight for the equal right to education. We reprint below the leaflet currently in use and a posting from the facebook page (see facebook.com/studentunionbuffalo). We urge students to join the effort! Call or text 716-602-8077

Think Suspensions are Unfair?

**Tired of all the Common Core testing?
Did you know you can refuse testing
related to state exams?**

**Think students should have a
say in curriculum?**

**Interested in classes about social
movements today, like those for student
rights, against inequality, police killings
and government racism?**

Students have an important role to play in changing the world and need to be organized to do so. The Buffalo Student Union is uniting university and high school students to fight for our rights, in school, in the community, in the country and the world. We join with students everywhere in raising our voice for the equal right to education for all and for changing the world so we can have a bright future.



**START A CHAPTER OF BUFFALO STUDENT UNION AT
YOUR SCHOOL! CONTACT US ON FACEBOOK:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STUDENTUNIONBUFFALO**

**STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS
MUST DECIDE: CURRICULUM**

**DEMAND FOR NEW MAJOR:
INEQUALITY AND
POLITICAL AND HUMAN
EMANCIPATION**

Buffalo State University Students are organizing for a new cross discipline major and are urging other High School and University students to do the same. Their petition states: Buffalo State has a diverse student population, with an estimated 26% African Americans, 12% Puerto Ricans, Native Americans and students from countries of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Caribbean and the Americas. All are confronted by various forms of political and social inequality and concerned about the problem of how to emancipate humanity from the current problems it faces. What is the history of and wisdom gained from the quest for political and human emancipation? What ideological, philosophical, political and economic questions have been solved, and what questions remain? Scientific inquiry into existing and previous movements for emancipation is needed. Research projects that take up the problem of emancipation from the present informed by the wisdom of the past to which many cultures and peoples have made contributions are needed. Study and investigation of social movements, present and past are needed — to understand them it is important to find out about them directly. We are demanding a broad, inclusive, cross-discipline major to address these problems.

Among our demands are:

- 1) That students and faculty work together to decide course content and character for new majors and programs
- 2) That public forums to discuss and debate development of new majors and programs be organized on campus to involve all concerned

UPDATE FROM STANDING ROCK CAMP OF THE SACRED STONES

We Cannot Negotiate the Safety of the Water

On November 14 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a statement offering to consult with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe about ways to proceed with the Lake Oahe crossing [for the Dakota Access Pipeline, DAPL]. While this is a step in the right direction, this ignores the demands made by the tribes, the grassroots encampment, countless allied environmental organization, and millions of people standing in solidarity across the globe.

The tribe's pending lawsuit against the Army Corps for its violation of federal law during the permitting process thoroughly articulates the tribe's case which asks for the Corps to permanently vacate the permits and initiate a full Environmental Impact Statement and a survey of cultural resources in formal nation-to-nation consultation.

The Army Corps has not only refused to perform this review as required by federal law, but has also allowed the destruction of countless sacred and cultural sites and authorized Morton County to arrest and forcibly remove people trying to access identified sacred sites.

In fact, DAPL's anticipatory demolition of sacred sites on September 3rd in order to avoid their protection triggers a clause in Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Acts that prohibits the Army Corps from issuing any more permits for this project.



The coalition on the ground reiterates its demand for a full Environmental Impact Statement and will continue to resist this pipeline as long as it lacks the free, prior, and informed consent of the people of this land.

The following are response statements:

LaDonna Bravebull Allard, Sacred Stone Camp spokeswoman: "We do not negotiate. We cannot negotiate the safety of the water, and we will not negotiate. We will stand, and continue to stand until every pipe is out of the ground. As our leaders come together, they need to understand that the people's voice comes first."

Tara Houska, Honor the Earth, National Campaigns Director: "There

are communities going underwater from rising seas. Cancer clusters, destruction of sacred places. Indigenous people being attacked by dogs, maced, shot with rubber bullets. Climate change is happening now. Dakota Access is bulldozing burial grounds

and hurting water protectors now. The delays and noncommittal statements from the Obama administration are disappointing to say the least. We want answers. Conduct an Environmental Impact Statement. Halt the construction of this destructive project."

Eryn Wise, International Indigenous Youth Council Spokeswoman: "We as youth will not be deterred from our ultimate goal: killing the black snake and protecting the water. Our ancestors prophesied that we would come together to ensure a future for the next seven generations and that is what we intend to do. Our very existence is an act of resistance and we will resist the Dakota Access Pipeline every single day until justice is restored to our Mother."

Kandi Mosset, Indigenous Environmental Network, Extreme Energy Organizer: "It's disappointing that we're all sitting on pins and needles waiting for an Obama administration to help us and yet they remain silent. President-elect Trump has no regard for the environment and cares even less about those of us trying to protect it. The Obama administration, now more than ever, has to step up and either rescind the permits given under Nationwide Permit 12; call for a full Environmental Impact Statement or flat out reject the Dakota Access Pipeline project from moving forward."



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION IN UNITY WITH STANDING ROCK



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HOUSTON



MENDOCINO, CALIFORNIA



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BUFFALO JOINS DAY OF ACTION IN UNITY WITH STANDING ROCK

