

RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

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Michigan residents march and rally for clean and affordable water for all.

What Happens in Michigan Won't Stay in Michigan

History is being made in Flint, Michigan. The national corporate media finally (after two years) decided to cover an unprecedented catastrophe – the poisoning of a city of 100,000 people. As sick children, infants, and their families graced the covers of national magazines and television, powerful stories emerged about children's erratic behavior and the deterioration of their intellectual capabilities. Rashes, seizures, clumps of fallen hair, legionellosis and other unexplainable illnesses ravaged the city. Discolored water was deemed "safe" to drink. The general public and the world saw bottled water distributed by the thousands from fire stations and churches. The response was overwhelming, in terms of water and money donations to Flint, including from celebrities and athletes. Congress and state officials held hearings and launched investigations. It became obvious that the Flint water crisis was a failure of government at every level. Some have been fired or forced to resign, others face criminal indictment.

Yet, attention must be paid to the fact that residents of Flint, subject to the Emergency

Manager Law, had no right to overturn the decision that led to use of the toxic Flint River water – so they continued to be poisoned. They, like 17 other municipalities and school districts in Michigan, lost their democracy. Like the poisoned water, this too is historic and unprecedented.

The economic crisis in Michigan and in the country, the economic interests of capital under these conditions, and the development of the Emergency Management system in Michigan are all tied together. Even before the shocking events took place in Flint, the state had its own economic disaster problems. Between 2000-2009, Michigan lost 783,000 jobs (1 in 5 jobs). In fact, 24% of all private sector job losses occurred in Michigan during this period. One economist characterized it as a "one state depression." Detroit, Benton Harbor, Pontiac and Flint, once manufacturing powerhouses, were especially hard hit. Robotics, electronics, and outsourcing of capital overseas catapulted these cities into a brand new reality – from which they've yet to rebound.

Bondholders and hedge fund managers salivate over the potential to expropriate as-

sets from these abandoned cities. For example, in 2001 the Michigan Privatization Report, a publication of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy (a right wing think tank) devoted its entire issue to the city of Detroit. Every article extolled the virtues of privatizing virtually all of its city assets (sell off) and services (outsourcing). Detroit's Cobo Hall, garbage pick-up, historic Belle Isle., D-Dot (public transportation, EMS (Emergency Medical System), the public lighting Department and more each had an article devoted to them. One stand out article was entitled, "Water Privatization Can Help Detroit Avoid Drowning In Debt."

In March of 2011, less than 3 months after taking office, the now infamous Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation (PA4) that its sponsor, State Representative Al Pacholka, dubbed "fiscal martial law." It allows the governor to dispatch "Emergency Managers" to municipalities and/or school districts, replacing the locally elected mayor, city councils, and/or duly elected school boards. These managers are empowered to void or modify local contracts (outsource union work), hire and/or fire local employees, set aside local charters, initiate bankruptcy, dissolve or merge local municipalities, and most famously, sell assets. The unelected Manager may not be recalled and his or her orders may not be overturned by the people.

Playing the race card, proponents of the law launched a vicious campaign to justify its passage, claiming that African American local elected officials were "corrupt," "dysfunctional," "too foolish to handle" (finances), or otherwise just "too dumb to do the right thing." Major media outlets joined the chorus. They soon found out that dog wouldn't hunt, when voters launched and overwhelmingly passed an initiative to overturn the law in November of 2012. Undeterred, the legislature quickly passed a similar law (P.A. 436) tweaking the original, to make it repeal-proof. Clearly, a fascist culture had gripped the Governor's office and Michigan's legislature.

Some cities and school districts are predisposed to be taken over by Emergency Managers. They are the low-hanging fruit. They are majority-minority areas. Flint is

57% African American, 43% white. To date over half of African Americans who live in Michigan live under Emergency Managers or some form of it. Secondly, the cities have a high poverty rate. In Flint, 42% live below the poverty line. Finally, the municipality has valuable public assets. Among them, water is the most coveted.

On April 24, 2014, on orders from Emergency Manager Darnell Earley, Flint went from Detroit Water and Sewer Department lake water to the toxic and ultra-corrosive Flint River water. This would be cost-cutting and an interim source while a new KWA pipeline could be built to replace the Detroit system. This is what dictatorship looks like. An Emergency Manager orders the switch without the vote of City Council or the people. Soon the people discover they are being poisoned – but have no right to overturn the decision. General Motors engine parts are rusting from the corrosive water, and the Emergency Manager allows them to return to the Detroit water system. The people of Flint are not. With Flint residents paying among the highest water rates in the country for unusable water, all stops have been pulled out to secure Flint bonds for the new J.P. Morgan-backed water pipeline. While Flint suffers high lead, high costs, demanding that corroded pipes be replaced, and scrambling to cover healthcare costs from the toxic exposure, the city has not missed one bond payment throughout the entire episode.

The Michigan experience shows us that corporate private property has secured a fascist political model to carry out its aims. Democracy as we've known it has become a liability. With an Emergency Manager at the helm, you don't have to give campaign contributions to local politicians seeking office, sit down at the bargaining table and wrestle concessions or even face a referendum by local voters – even if they have been poisoned. Just sign an order – the deed is done.

Among other things, revolutionaries and others must sound the alarm about the fascist footprint at play in Michigan. Otherwise, what happens in Michigan won't stay in Michigan.

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Build the World We All Want

Inside *Rally, Comrades!*

Over fifty percent of public school children live in poverty. Regardless of how much their parents work, many of these children are homeless, are hungry and don't have access to food or decent clothing. A public school teacher fosters two homeless girls, who also attend her school in Albuquerque. She told the *Washington Post*:

"Getting rid of bedbugs – that took us a while. Night terrors, that took a little while. Hoarding food, flushing a toilet and washing hands, it took us a little while," she said. "You spend some time with little ones like this and it's gut wrenching. These kids aren't thinking, 'Am I going to take a test today?' They're thinking, 'Am I going to be okay?'"

Isn't it time we put an end to a world where anyone, let alone children, have to live like this?

The ruling class sets the conditions that are destroying families, condemning our "little ones" to a life of suffering and terror, eradicating the most basic human connections. The League of Revolutionaries for a New America, with *Rally, Comrades!* as its voice, is fighting for a world where no one goes to bed hungry, or cold, where no one has to live on the street or in their car, and where the worst thing that happens to a child is a summer cold.

We can't protect our children and our families simply by fighting back, by reacting to what is done to us. Our cover article, "What Happens in Michigan Won't Stay in Michigan," shows what the ruling class is capable of and what they intend. They poisoned

an entire city and permanently disabled thousands of children. This was all made possible with by the forcible and legal elimination of democracy that is Michigan's Emergency Manager System. The ruling class is not going to let a bunch of workers they no longer need decide their future. But these workers took matters into their own hands – organized, publicized, and taught about what was going on, not only in Michigan, but all over America.

"Global Capitalism and World War" shows that the work of the ruling class does not end at the U.S. borders. The U.S. has a multi-pronged strategy to dominate the world market, suppress the rise of rival economies, and position itself geopolitically using constant war, terror, and torture.

There is little doubt that we are in a battle for our survival – as human beings and as a class. We have to have a plan, a strategy, a way to get from A to B and on down the line. First, we have to know what's possible. The advances in robotic and computer technologies are making it possible to provide a decent and stable life for everyone. There is no reason for anyone to be without the wherewithal of life.

So what is the problem? Private property ownership of the means of production by the capitalist class stands in the way of this abundance being distributed to everyone. This means we have to figure out how we are going to get control of these means of production for the good of all, not the few, as it is now.

We have to figure out who our forces are, who has the same interests that we do. We can see that those of us in the same economic boat must unite around our common economic interests. A class that poisons children has nothing in common with our class.

"Demonized and Deported: Both Parties

Blame Immigrants" shows that around the world debates over immigration are being used by the ruling class to deflect blame for the way they are reorganizing economies and governments in the interests of globalization. Unless our class – this growing global proletariat – comes to see ourselves as the mighty class we can become, we won't be able to defeat the enemy's strategy of dividing us by color, immigration status, language or religion.

The article "The Battlefield of Nationalization and the Fight for a Cooperative America" points out the next step we need to take – "placing the corporations under the control or ownership of the government." But it has to be in the interests of the people, not the corporations as is the case today. Raised with one voice, these demands bring our class together in common cause and point the way to a cooperative society.

"Public Education and the State" shows just how deeply the government is entangled in turning public education over to the corporations. It shows how the only solution is for the "federal government to live up to its responsibilities to guarantee quality education for all and therefore nationalize education in the public interest." It then goes on to show why nationalization is the best solution not only for education, but for every aspect of society.

Our class is going through hell. But the world we want is out there, within reach. It will take strategy, organization and unity. The League of Revolutionaries for a New American is building an organization of revolutionaries, dedicated to presenting a vision of what the new technologies make possible, and strategy to get achieve that vision. Join Us!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally: to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

Comrade: a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages. It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League, to engage them in debate and discussion, and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

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Demonized and Deported, Both Parties Blame Immigrants

“There are an estimated 232 million international migrants and 740 million internal migrants in the world.”

— World Migration Report, 2015

Unprecedented numbers of unemployed are forced to migrate from the countryside into their country’s festering slums, or across borders and oceans into other countries, hoping to survive or maybe prosper, as some immigrants have. But today they face a globalized capitalist class, which runs factories with more robots and fewer people, pushing millions of workers worldwide out of production and into the growing class of the permanently jobless and impoverished. Until this new global proletariat sees itself as the mighty class force it can become, it won’t defeat its enemy’s strategy of dividing it by color, immigration status, language or religion.

history, this agitation has inevitably ignited some acts of violence, shocking many people into supporting Hillary Clinton, because they perceive her as the anti-fascist candidate. But that is a serious mistake – Clinton’s politics are really a form of a new 21st century fascism that is no less dangerous than Trump. We’ve already seen how the NAFTA trade treaty proposed under George H. W. Bush was passed under Bill Clinton, and how wars initiated by Republican presidents were continued by Obama, with the support of his Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

There is no reason to believe that the debate over immigration will turn out differently. In fact, Trump has already adjusted some of his positions to move closer to Clinton’s. Democrats insist that a vote for Trump is a vote to uphold anti-immigrant racism. But the Democratic leadership’s strategy for the

improving and getting closer to the rates for whites. Guo reported that Trump performed the best in exactly those areas. This indicates that many white workers, who are suffering under capitalism, vote for Trump because they see that the Democrats are not dealing with their suffering and not because they are racial “haters.” But that’s exactly what they might become, if the only political analysis of their own plight comes from fascists, while so-called progressives only talk to them about someone else’s suffering.

AN OBJECTIVE BASIS FOR CLASS UNITY

Unlike during the period of 20th century fascism, working class unity today is more than just a dream or a demand; it is the only way to actually ensure survival for millions of people. High-tech capitalism has produced a global ruling class, including billionaires of color like Mexico’s Carlos Slim Helú, fourth richest person on earth. As they utilize robotics to make workers unnecessary, they add to the already terrible poverty in the poorest countries, while also creating a growing “equality of poverty,” amongst millions of workers of all colors in the wealthier countries. In the U.S., millions of workers have lost the standard of living given them as a social bribe for supporting the system’s wars and inequality. Workers of all colors are now part of a class whose conditions provide the material foundation for understanding themselves as an objectively communist class, whose needs will not be met under capitalism.

But class unity won’t happen automatically. It requires that revolutionaries play their role of bringing political education and clarity to the people who make up the new proletarian class, but who don’t yet realize it. Fascists like Trump are focusing on sections of this class, mobilizing them to obtain better lives by turning against their immigrant class brothers and sisters. New-style, Democratic Party fascists like Clinton respond by posing as defenders of migrants, while they turn the question away from global capitalism, to merely immigration, that is to competition between the incoming migrants and those already here (usually due to past migration). Instead of organizing against the ways the government helps corporations create unemployment and migration, these Democratic populists actually contribute to dividing workers into pro-versus-anti-immigrant and therefore worker-versus-worker.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT: BUILDING A MASS BASE FOR FASCISM

Trump and other Republicans divide workers by posing as champions of documented workers, who “deserve” the jobs and services they promise to take away from immigrants. Their vicious calls to control the Latinos and Muslims, disguise the fact that the others they control are the white workers, for whom capitalism no longer has any use, and who must be prevented from understanding that truth. The national leaders of the Democratic Party divide workers by pos-

ing every struggle as fundamentally a racial/ethnic or gender issue and by narrowly criticizing individual corporations, or individual conservatives like “the evil Koch brothers,” but never the corporate ruling class as a whole. Of course, the spontaneous movement of the working class first arises in forms fighting against specific attacks and not against the system in general. But Democratic leaders go beyond tactical necessities and implement a strategy of preventing class unity. For example, the Democratic Party fails to fight to defend the rights of Latino immigrants and to combat poverty among white workers, even in areas where both are suffering.

Another way Democratic politicians mislead the workers, is in their role as the “wolf in sheep’s clothing,” promising some concessions to win the workers’ trust, before launching new political attacks on them. In the immigrant rights movement, the Obama Administration played this role by first proposing a national Dream Act, issuing the DACA executive order permitting thousands of undocumented youth to work, and by reducing the number of ICE raids in workplaces and communities. This convinced many activists to reduce their mobilizations, trusting that Obama would reform immigration policy. Then, as immigration reform bills got stuck in Congress, the Administration increased deportations, until they totaled over 2 million people – more in Obama’s first five years as president – than under George W. Bush’s full eight years.

How did they reduce raids, yet still increase deportations? First, they greatly increased border patrols and enforcement. Second, they shifted away from informal “Returns,” which simply sent people they arrested back across the Mexican border and instead started processing more arrested migrants into formal “Removals” (Deportations), which carry a risk of prison for those arrested again. In 2011, this change resulted in more Removals than Returns for the first time ever. By 2014, the numbers of Removals/Deportations were nearly three times as high as the old informal Returns. It is clear that by taking this harsher approach on the border, the Obama Administration laid the political foundation upon which Donald Trump would later call for his infamous Wall and for increased deportation raids.

Thus, Democratic Party immigration policies, as well as those of the Republicans, have actually facilitated the growth of a mass base for fascism. Leaders of these two parties do not differ on *whether* to restructure government to more directly serve globalization’s corporate masters, or *whether* to build up the repressive powers of State machinery. Their contention is only over *how* to do it, without awakening the millions who are being pushed out of the economy and even out of the countries they call home. By shining a light onto globalization and its millions of migrant victims, revolutionaries can help rouse their class to unite, overcome its vicious class enemy and utilize the wonders of technology for the common good.

“Until the new global proletariat sees itself as the mighty class force it can become, it won’t defeat its enemy’s strategy of dividing it by color, immigration status, language or religion.”

“Globalization,” capitalism in the age of electronics, is destroying the foundations of capitalism itself, generating the tidal wave of migration, which has become a central issue in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. Every politician tells voters he or she will get back their disappearing jobs, by improving the economy and cracking down on “illegal immigration.” But leaks of government documents show that both Republican and Democratic officials are preparing for repression against the inevitable struggles of this new class for the basic necessities of life, whatever their citizenship. The immigration debates reflect the reality that migration is a huge, growing phenomenon, which is changing the patterns of ethnicity, language, and culture in many societies around the world. The debates are also a tool of the ruling class to deflect blame for the way they are reorganizing economies and governments in the interests of globalization.

IMMIGRATION AND THE ELECTIONS

A major aspect of the presidential campaigns of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump is linking immigration to two great fears many Americans have: fear of unemployment and terrorism. Trump employs the more classic fascist approach made familiar in the Depression era, turning economic fears about joblessness into political fear of specific groups such as Muslim and Mexican immigrants. Since racism and religious discrimination have deep roots in our nation’s

struggle against racism also undermines that struggle, by keeping it separated from the struggle against the class exploitation and impoverishment of Americans of all colors. It’s true that without unity against racism, the poorest workers cannot end poverty. It’s also true that without unity against working class impoverishment across color lines, the class will never be strong enough to end racist immigration policies. When the only response to right-wing Republican populism is identity politics and the left-wing populism of the Democrats, workers end up confused and divided. Trump’s attacks will misdirect some white workers into fighting their conditions by supporting anti-immigrant discrimination. Meanwhile, Clinton loudly opposes anti-immigrant and anti-Latino discrimination, without exposing the causes of the growing poverty among white workers that Trump is falsely tapping into.

Washington Post reporter Jeff Guo studied primary election voting patterns and found that “economic distress in many parts of the country is driving voters toward Donald Trump” and that he was more likely to have won votes in “the places that lost a lot of manufacturing jobs since 1999.” He also found that Trump got the most votes in areas where whites have begun to die at an earlier age than they used to. Princeton social scientists Anne Case and Angus Deaton found areas where death rates for middle-aged white Americans were increasing, while death rates for middle-aged African Americans and Latinos were

Public Education and the State

Students, teachers, and entire communities are in ferment across the U.S, Canada and Mexico, defending their human right to education. Battles for public education commonly recognize that there is no place for private profit in a public service. Aided and abetted by the State, the corporatization of public education reduces the wonderful promise of school to a miserable level.

A national movement is essential to force the federal government to fully fund public education at all levels. It must recognize and address that organized State-sanctioned violence, employing both police and social coercion, permeates public education in the United States.

Large urban K12 school districts have more police in schools than counselors. More state tax money is spent to build prisons and jail ex-students than for public education. “Zero-tolerance” policies criminalize childhood, while children are handcuffed or body-slammed in their classrooms. The Homeland Security Agency trains school administrators in interrogation techniques that have been designed to deal with terrorism.

In this environment, coercion enforces massive push-outs of students, who are then vacuumed up by the school-to-prison pipeline. Student debt is a coercive means for corporate social control and capital accumulation, since students legally cannot discharge student loans through bankruptcy. Colleges across the country are expanding courses for criminal justice and the military, while attacking curricula like ethnic studies and peoples’ history.

The State and the government have different but interconnected functions; both serve property relations and class rule. The State is an apparatus of force, including organized violence that ensures the political rule of the capitalist class, while politically suppressing the working class. Its purpose is to organize and apply social force, both open and hidden, that reinforces the rule of corporate private property, with the power to exploit society and the planet.

The government is an apparatus that, among other things, controls and distributes the taxes and public resources of society. Particularly now, with the merger of the corporations and the government (and State), it establishes specific laws and institutions that help constitute the market. It sets the conditions for the government to intervene in the economy on behalf of the corporate State. State-sanctioned violence is essential to constitute the market and guarantee corporate private profit.

CONSTITUTING THE “PUBLIC EDUCATION MARKET”

Today the State, especially through the federal government, uses its coercive powers to create and protect the infrastructure for private profit in public education. In 1994, the U.S., Canada and Mexico agreed to NAFTA, declaring that public education is a commodity, not a right. As corporations merged with the State, government began to create markets for the corporate seizure of public education.

Organized social violence is infused into this process. Coercion increasingly becomes privatized.

The federal government has played a leading role in establishing charter schools as markets for corporations. Obama’s Race to the Top, to fund public schools, was the first federal program that abandoned equality as the basis of funding public programs. In effect, these policies represent the nationalization of the country’s local public schools in the name of corporations. States and school districts were compelled to create charter school markets, in order to receive federal funds. The federal government alone has spent over \$4 billion since 1990, to fund the charter school industry, money that has been taken from public schools.

Until the federal government established Common Core as the national basis for high-stakes testing, the education market was fractured into 50 different state testing structures. Common Core unified a national K12 education market by providing a common metric to evaluate students at every school. It was immediately valued at \$18 billion a year. Microsoft and Pearson, the giant international education corporation, quickly began the corporatization and privatization of this market.

Common Core standards are based on documenting the “Student Learning Outcomes” that global corporations demand for the new global workforce. Now SLOs are penetrating and deforming education in community colleges and higher education. The social violence and police coercion that is becoming the norm in K12 schools is transforming the system from socializing children into the industrial workforce into “schooling” children to accept State control. For all those who face a jobless future, “schooling,” not quality education, is what the State is preparing for their children.

By driving the public out of control of its education, capitalism uses market-based reforms to close schools. The dispossession of the public’s schools is part of the corporate real estate plan to seize entire communities. Gentrification and displacement amount to banishment of people from their homes, since they can no longer afford skyrocketing housing costs. This disruption is massive social violence.

The government supported higher education when it educated the intellectual workforce of the industrial era. Now that electronic production replaces human labor, the federal government has curtailed support for both universities and students. Costs have exploded. This “toxic neglect” creates the market by using student loans as capital to finance educational programs and university-based corporate research. Meanwhile, education no longer can guarantee a job, and 2/3 of graduates trying to enter the workforce have lifetime student debt.

In Mexico, as in the US, punitive standardized tests are being imposed on both students and teachers. Parents are now obligated to pay for all school costs, while the government is selling international bonds to create

a market for private investors. The resistance to “education reform,” by tens of thousands of Mexican teachers and parents has been met by federal troops. State-sanctioned violence caused the murder of 12 and the wounding of 50 more. This is publicly recognized as “the militarization of education reform.”

BROKE ON PURPOSE

In 2010 the G20, the most powerful capitalist countries, met in Toronto to adopt the global policy of “austerity,” to put the burden for the 2008 global capitalist meltdown on the working class. Massive protests were met by the largest mobilization of police and military in Canada’s history. State-organized austerity masks the fact that government at the state and local level is “broke on purpose,” a phrase made popular by the Chicago Teachers Union. Governments at all levels give corporations over \$170 billion a year in tax breaks. In 2011 alone, states were forced to cut public services and raise taxes by a collective \$156 billion.

Governments everywhere now advocate market-based solutions and public-private partnerships, where the public provides the money and corporations profit from what used to be free services. When the market is done with you, you are bankrupt. This provides the environment for the new face of U.S. fascism and corporate dictatorship – the State-imposed Emergency Manager. EMs arrive with dictatorial power to privatize everything that belongs to the public and sell it to pay off the debt, all ultimately enforced by the police.

Detroit Public Schools are an especially nasty example of this regime. One EM came from Flint after he poisoned 100,000 people with toxic water. His successor is the Detroit bankruptcy judge who ruled that people have no right to water. When EMs took over DPS in 1999, the schools had a \$93 million surplus. Today they are \$525 million in the red.

Emergency Managers are now spreading across the country in various forms. Michigan’s Emergency Manager Law is still the most severe. In California, state-imposed “administrators” have been imposed on the Oakland, Compton and Inglewood schools, as well as Compton Community College. When the private agency that credentials San Francisco Community College provoked an unnecessary crisis, California imposed “a State-Trustee.” Illinois billionaire Governor Bruce Rauner is now threatening to take over Chicago’s schools. In Georgia, the Governor is proposing to put all public schools under his authority as a virtual Emergency Manager to close schools by fiat. And now that Puerto Rico refuses to pay off its “debt” to hedge funds, Congress has imposed an unelected “Control Board” to guarantee that debts owed to hedge fund investors are paid in full.

A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

No fundamental changes are possible as long as the capitalist control of education for private profits is supported by such a massive system of organized force and violence. When the army is in the street, as in Mexico,

or police violence is organized into an elaborate State system as in the US, no reform is possible. The situation cannot be dismantled piecemeal by constant defensive struggles, or fixed by fighting backwards to the “good old days.” It requires taking the political offensive.

Hand in hand with the merger of corporations and the State, the federal government organizes the corporatization of public education as a national market. State and local governments become the structures to guarantee corporate profits by ending public control and access to education, while funneling tax money to corporations. This process is in effect the nationalization of public education by the capitalist class.

We are at a historical moment – either the corporations will continue to destroy society, or the people will take over the corporations. Revolutionaries have a special contribution here. The task is to politicize the combatants, so they recognize the necessity of winning political power to defend public education.

The crisis in public education cannot be resolved by simply battling school by school, or at a school district level alone. State and local governments simply do not have enough money to guarantee their responsibilities to provide equal quality public education. The federal government must live up to its responsibility to guarantee quality education for all and therefore nationalize education in the public interest.

Nationalizing public education at the federal level terminates the antiquated local dependence on property tax or state subsidies. This step needs to further guarantee equal public education funding that ends the historic segregation of America’s schools. This political revolution begins by holding government accountable at every level, to advance the interests of all people together, not corporations. Government is responsible to guarantee all aspects of human life, not corporate profit. Corporate power cannot be broken without terminating the legal status of public education as a commodity. Neither can public education be de-criminalized without a complete social transformation.

Guaranteeing the national public ownership of the schools requires changing society, so that corporations no longer are allowed to have any business at all controlling the wealth of the public. This step requires nationalizing the corporations and abolishing their political power, in order to guarantee that public education, like water and all human resources, is a public trust, ensured by the federal government nationally, with free access for all.

Creating the public schools that humanity deserves raises the necessity of building a new cooperative society, which organizes the potential of education, so that each and every human being can maximize their abilities and contributions. Without this programmatic vision, there is no way to pass from the defensive to the offensive.

The Battlefield of Nationalization and the Fight for a Cooperative America

Every social problem people face today poses the question: how will society be organized? Will it be organized around the power of the corporations over society – or around the power of society over the corporations? This question is being fought out today in the struggle for nationalization, both from the standpoint of the capitalists and the workers. The outcome will be determined by what people think and do. Revolutionaries have to be in this fight, playing their role as teachers and leaders.

Today this battle is unfolding in a new era when qualitatively new labor-replacing technologies are creating the potential of an unprecedented abundance and at the same time forcing millions into poverty wage jobs, or none at all. The people are in a life or death struggle for their very survival. They need, and are demanding, the abundance of food, clothing, housing, healthcare, education, and even water, whether they have money to pay or not. With nowhere to turn, they are placing their demands at the feet of government. These dispossessed workers are at the core of a huge social movement.

On the other side of the battlefield, the ruling class, owners of the giant corporations that produce and own the wherewithal of life, are also in a life or death battle. They seek to preserve their wealth and property at a moment in history, when new objective conditions are bringing capitalism to an end, and for the first time destroying the foundation of private property itself.

Given these new realities, the ruling class has been forced to move to protect their profits and their property, as society transitions to a new world. This is taking place through the merger of the corporations and government. This is seen today through the increasing nationalization of the economy on behalf of the corporations. This reorganization is developing rapidly. To enforce this corporate takeover of society, new laws that eliminate democracy, and a militarized police State to suppress the struggle of millions for their survival, are being put into place.

NATIONALIZATION AND THE ROLE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Revolutionaries bring clarity to the people about what's at stake at each stage of the revolutionary process. The first step is clarity about what and whom the people are fighting, and a vision of what they are fighting for. This is achieved in the process of fighting for the next inevitable step in the revolutionary process. For example, during the 1930s, the political development of the working class depended on its social unity. Therefore the fight for African American equality was the inevitable next step in the struggle. Various sections of society were thrown into that struggle. For the revolutionaries, this was the battlefield and the place where they educated people about their class interests and stabilized their organizations.

Today the question is: what is the inevitable next battle of this stage of the revolutionary process? It is to prevent the corporations from taking over all of society. Control of the

government is their key weapon. The first fight, then, is to break the grip of corporate power.

The battlefield of nationalization is opening up because the qualitatively new economy is compelling both the masses and the rulers, though for different reasons, to nationalize key industries.

Nationalization is a battlefield where the fight to take over the corporations is moving the struggle along toward communism. Nationalization places the corporations under the control or ownership of the government. The fight is in whose interest will nationalization proceed, the capitalists or the workers?

“If the capitalists can't or won't provide for the people, then the government must. Nationalize healthcare! Nationalize education! Nationalize public housing! Nationalize water!”

Revolutionaries must fight for what is possible as each stage of the revolution unfolds or the process cannot advance. Although nationalization is not communism, the fight for nationalization in the peoples' interest is a key step in that direction. It politically prepares people for the next step.

NATIONALIZATION IN THE CAPITALISTS' INTEREST

The danger for the capitalists is that nationalization brings a huge section of society together in a fight for their class interests. This is happening today. The capitalists must ensure that nationalization proceeds on their terms. In an environment in which the American people have historically opposed government intervention, the capitalists are developing new forms of nationalization where government may not own, support or maintain a corporation directly – but it is still nationalization.

This process was witnessed in 2008 when the government came to the rescue of the banks deemed “too big to fail” through a series of partial and temporary nationalizations. Millions lost their homes and livelihood, but that was not the capitalists' concern. Without government intervention the banking system could have collapsed.

Today nationalization is taking place in the form of “privatization” – where all that remains in the public sphere – public services and public assets such as healthcare, education, pensions, housing, even drinking water are transferred into corporate hands at taxpayers expense. The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is a prime example. It transferred government tax dollars to prop up the financial stability of insurance companies. For the ruling class, nationalization will not end until every sphere of government is run by corporate interest.

NATIONALIZATION IN THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST

The demand for nationalization in the people's interests is developing on the basis of common needs and is in every battle unfolding today. The homeless are demanding that the government provide publicly owned housing to them and not the speculators. Communities are demanding public education for every child and an end to providing tax dollars to private investors. There is the struggle for government run healthcare for all, the demand for water as a public trust. People are demanding that government act as

their government. Although they may not be calling for nationalization per se, objectively they are fighting for it.

In Flint, Michigan the denial of democracy and government inaction over the poisoning of a city brought grassroots leaders together. They are demanding that Flint be declared a disaster area so the leaded pipes will be replaced, and more. They are demanding Medicare for all for life and an end to the emergency manager dictator laws that allowed for the poisoning.

This process points to the contradictory situation where people are fighting for the government to be their government, while at the same time, because government is failing them, they are beginning to change their ideas and separate from the government and the political system. This new awareness has penetrated the minds of millions across the country, who were outraged over what happened in Flint.

An expression of this new awareness was seen in Flint when Governor Snyder, who appointed the dictators who poisoned the water, told an audience, “government failed you.” People yelled back, “You failed us!” They want him jailed. When President Obama came to Flint, people wanted to know what he was bringing (in the way of federal monies). People are angry that the federal government has not declared Flint a disaster area, which would allow federal funds to flow into the city to help the people.

Consciousness is developing in other battles too. In Detroit, grassroots groups put forth a water affordability plan that is essentially the nationalization of water in the people's interests. It could have stopped the water shutoffs for tens of thousands of people unable to pay the skyrocketing price. City rulers, operating under the same dictator laws as Flint,

adamantly opposed the plan. It is now clear that the shutoffs, and the dictators, are part of government's plan for the complete corporate takeover of the region's water.

In Michigan, Nestlé, the largest water bottling company in the world, pumps millions of gallons for free from the Great Lakes while Flint drinks poisoned water. The state gave the corporation \$13 million in tax breaks for moving to Michigan. People learned how corporations, government, and even federal police forces like the FBI (who were brought in to intimidate the fighters) work hand in hand to secure corporate profits.

Through these struggles the idea that water must be a “human right and a public good” is being propagated. In Fryeburg, Maine, the governor helped a subsidiary of Nestlé get a contract to take over the town's ground water for their own profit for 25 to 45 years. An outraged community spokesperson said the city should “put our water under a public trust” (a form of nationalization) so it will be available for future generations.

What is important in this entire process is that people are ridding themselves of deeply held ideas that those they elect, and even government itself, are going to represent them. They are seeing that there can be no democracy when private corporations own the economy. This is a necessary stage in the development of the workers as a class and for their political independence from the capitalist class.

A NEW SOCIETY NEEDED

The changes in people's thinking set the stage for revolutionaries to educate large numbers of people to the actuality that globalization and robotics makes it impossible for the capitalists to provide for them, and that a new society is needed.

Revolutionaries pose the question: why should anyone own life-sustaining resources such as water, or food, healthcare, and education? Revolutionaries show that the system of private property is not sacred – it stands in the way of people having what they need. There is no way to control these corporations except through public ownership. The workers must come together on a class program to achieve this, if they are to survive.

Taking over the corporations is a huge battlefield. It has never before been possible. Revolutionaries must take up this battle and build an organization of revolutionaries out of the struggle. The next stage of history, and the process of uniting the working class politically around a common program to take on the corporations, will be determined by the outcome of this fight. The demand must be: if the capitalists can't or won't provide for the people, then the government must. Nationalize healthcare! Nationalize education! Nationalize public housing! Nationalize water!

With conscious revolutionaries playing their role within these battles, the class will see that their livelihood depends on creating a new America where the world of plenty that exists today can be distributed to all based on need. In such a society, humanity can flourish.

Global Capitalism and World War

Global capitalism is in a state of renewed chaos several years after the global financial crisis that wreaked havoc on the peoples of the world. Many consequences of that crisis are still very much with us, as the global capitalists, led by the U.S., have been unable to end it. What we are witnessing are not residues of the crisis, but renewed chaos erected on the ruins of the 2008 capitalist debacle.

A few examples demonstrate the point: The European Union (EU) has recently experienced serious economic tremors in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and the U.K., and an economic earthquake in Greece. The Brexit vote has renewed the economic and political instability in the EU and U.K. and certainly compounded the political havoc caused by Turkey, when it opened up the floodgates to the refugees from West Asia and Africa to enter the EU. In the last decade U.S. real GDP per capita grew at a rate of 0.44 percent, a far cry from the long run average of 2 percent. In the first quarter of 2016 the economy grew at a rate of 0.8 percent. The gap between the rich and poor has widened in the U.S. over the past several decades under both Republican and Democratic administrations and Congresses.

CHALLENGE TO U.S. DOMINATION

The culprit in all this cumulative chaos is the global capitalist class, led by major U.S. financial institutions and the transnational corporations. The introduction of the electronic microchip into production has led to the displacement of workers by automated machines, the ongoing lowering of wages, rising unemployment and the resulting poverty, homelessness, and the rise of contingent workers. The system of private property has proven its incompatibility with a global economy based on the microchip.

The problem is compounded by U.S. unilateral domination of global capitalism. It controls world financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The U.S. dollar functions as the dominant international trade currency, putting the U.S. in control of all international financial transactions. After the dissolution of the USSR, rumblings within the EU against U.S. dominance in global capitalism appeared, especially in Germany. The U.S., however, squelched that motion, and the EU has remained subservient to the U.S. Today this fact still holds true.

However, the international polarization is also clear. As the developing nations are compelled to adopt electronic production, that contradiction becomes intense and dangerous. Protecting their market is a matter of life and death for these regions. On the other hand, the U.S. must have these markets, and wants to see these regions become richer, so they can become consumers of U.S. commodities. To increase consumers they must also increase producers, who cannot only buy, but who can produce goods for sale in other markets. The emergence of trade blocs, especially the BRICS, and the economic power of China and of Russia, are both an expression of and an objective challenge to the dominance of the U.S. This only increases the danger of war.

The unfolding of real events shows us this developing polarization. The Russian Federation soundly defeated the two wars in Chechnya that the U.S. and Saudis concocted, as well as the 2008 U.S. machinations in Georgia. The Russian Federation could no longer tolerate U.S. aggression by proxy, or its continual moves to expand NATO to the east. Parenthetically, the U.S. has also used NATO to keep Europe in check and thus maintain its influence over it. The recent major U.S. machinations in Ukraine are clearly designed to weaken the Russian Federation and penetrate it militarily, economically, and through “civil society” organizations. Equally important for the U.S. was its attempt to dominate the Middle East and erase Russian influence from that region, and thereby isolate China from its Russian ally. While the Russians were unable to stop the U.S. war on Iraq in 1991, and the country’s occupation in 2003, they are succeeding in countering U.S. geopolitical strategy, beginning in Syria.

“War becomes so entangled as an instrument of policy that if the policy is going to be put forward, war becomes the inevitable means of developing and implementing that policy.”

U.S. GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

The U.S. has a multi-pronged strategy to defeat the Russian Federation and China. The main elements of the strategy are: Surrounding the Russian Federation through NATO in Europe and implementing sanctions to deter Russia’s “meddling” in Ukraine by annexing the Crimean Peninsula. The U.S. is utilizing armies such as al-Qa’eda and Da’esh (ISIS), financed by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). These are supported logistically by Turkey and Jordan, and supported by military operations centers in both countries with command and control from U.S., British, Saudi, Turkish, and Israeli intelligence services. By redrawing the Middle East map and creating “micro states” based on sectarian and ethnic divisions, which serve U.S. strategic interests they seek to do away with Russian, Chinese, and Iranian regional influence.

The U.S. engineered a precipitous decline in the price of oil through Saudi manipulation of its production as a measure to weaken the Russian, Iranian and Venezuelan economies, all of which depend heavily on exporting oil. It is reorganizing its “backyard” in Latin America to recoup significant losses it has sustained. It got rid of the Argentinian regime and Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff and supported the right-wing opposition in Venezuela.

Domination of the Middle East would allow the U.S. to achieve several strategic goals. The U.S. would be able to encircle the Russian

Federation and China through NATO. (NATO is in Afghanistan, which borders China.) It could dismantle the Syrian and Iranian states with the help of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Jordan, and Israel, and could defeat the anti-Zionist resistance in Lebanon and Palestine. It could keep the EU in line by controlling the energy sources in the region, including those that have been recently discovered in the Mediterranean, and deny Middle Eastern oil and gas sources to its main rivals. It controls Yemen through Saudi Arabia. It could keep Israel the regional top dog.

The U.S. plan seeks world domination. This fact is further corroborated by the U.S. machinations in Africa and the Far East. The U.S. has engineered the division of the Sudan (a civil war is likely in Southern Sudan) and destroyed Libya, driving both the Russians and the Chinese out, leaving the stage for U.S., British, and French oil corporations. The French military is currently fighting in Mali, and contemplating merging southern Libya

on the altar of private profit. This is the danger that humanity faces.

Increasingly, fascist movements have been developing in Europe. The more developed movements are in France, Greece and Germany, followed by Sweden, Britain, and the Eastern European states, such as Poland, Hungary, and Ukraine. Those developments are occurring simultaneously as manifestations of the global capitalist crisis in the age of the electronics revolution.

The merger of the corporations and the State is creating the basis for political fascism in America. Draconian laws limit bourgeois freedoms and liberties, using the world conditions that the U.S. capitalists have created to justify these restrictions. Clearly those actions reveal the U.S. attacks on the people’s movements to squelch social awareness and public protest against corporate interests, that challenge the drive towards war. The shootings of civilians – predominantly youth – by police only show the rotten core of the rule of the capitalist class, represented by both political parties. The conviction of Reverend Edward Pinkney for voter fraud in Benton Harbor, Michigan, despite the fact that no evidence of wrong doing was presented, shows how the State is moving to attack anyone who stands in the way of corporate domination.

The ruling class is rapidly developing a mass base for fascism. All kinds of workers are being drawn to the banner of fascism, without even realizing what it will mean for them and their families. They have been socialized around the color factor and the myth of American Exceptionalism. The ruling class is preparing the American people for war. U.S. fascism would be best served globally under Clinton, who would be equally as dangerous as Trump. She is in the forefront of the movement to implement the U.S. geopolitical strategy we have described.

However, despite all of the brain-washing, many have stepped forward to fight against the onslaught of the fascist State and its gathering political movement. We also see an embryonic class awareness emerging from these struggles.

On the electoral level this motion manifested itself in the Sanders’ campaign. His pledge to support Clinton does not diminish the impact that his message has on millions of people. A section of the working class used his campaign as a vehicle to fight for its concrete demands that the government provide answers to their deteriorating social and economic situation.

These rising movements are coalescing on every front – against police brutality, against Emergency Managers, against environmental degradation, against homelessness, to name but a few – and are all objectively demanding a different, a better world, where all are provided for. They form the beginnings of a revolutionary movement based on the program of the emerging new proletarian class. This is the indispensable ingredient in the global struggle against war and fascism to rid the earth of private property relations.

with Mali so the West could exploit natural resources in both countries. In Libya, Algeria and Tunisia, al-Qa’eda and Da’esh, financed by Arabian money, have become more active. In Ethiopia, the construction of the Nahda Dam will deny Egypt its share of the Nile waters, a possible cause of war between Ethiopia and Egypt, which is battling Da’esh in the Sinai. With the blessing of the U.S., Israel is active in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Southern Sudan, and Uganda. The thrust of all of those developments means that the U.S. is attempting to deny China Africa’s resources.

During his visit to Vietnam in May of 2016, President Obama declared that both the U.S. and Vietnam had to band together in the face of China. Earlier, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter proposed that a coalition of Far Eastern countries should form to contain China and the Russian Federation.

FASCISM AND WAR

War is inevitable under capitalism. It is objective. It is not a matter of someone coming up with the idea, or making a choice. War becomes so entangled as an instrument of policy, that if the policy is going to be put forward, war becomes the inevitable means of developing and implementing that policy.

The drive for war has been historically much more pronounced under fascism. U.S. fascism is more sophisticated than Italy’s or Germany’s in WWII, and has more human, financial and natural resources to incinerate