

Deepen the mass struggle against Trump's right-wing program!

Billionaire Donald Trump has begun implementing his reactionary political agenda. How far he gets – and whether it can be rolled back – depends on the resistance struggles put up by the masses of people. These are beginning to take shape. Trump's inauguration was met with protests, and they've continued everyday in various parts of the country. Moreover, demonstrators are often attacking the heart of Trump's demagoguery: capitalist divide and rule. Trump scapegoats and incites violence against immigrants, national minorities, and women, seeking to build a reactionary political movement to “keep them in their place” – especially as super-exploited workers – and to further strip them of rights. We must strengthen the movement against this. It is key to pushing forward the struggle against Trumpite reaction on all fronts.

A center of Trump's campaign was telling nazi-style big lies against immigrants and refugees (rapists! terrorists!). This racist and bigoted incitement “made America great again” after the election with daily abuse and physical attacks on immigrants and refugees. Now Trump has gone on a rampage of executive orders coupled with more big lies that will make the lives of tens of millions of people in this country a worse hell than it already is. While Obama promised to admit a measly 10,000 war refugees from Syria, Trump has shut the door to them indefinitely. He's also shut the door for four months on refugees from six other mainly Muslim countries until new vetting rules are written. (These people are now being detained or arrested at airports around the world.) Obama's vetting process was a guilty-until-proven-innocent outrage, and Trump is making it still more extreme. Obama deported more immigrants than Bush, and Trump promises to deport still more – which forces millions of people further into the shadows as super-exploited wage slaves. Both parties united to build over 650 miles of walls and fences at the border with Mexico, and Trump wants to build his notorious wall. And knowing the American people have broadly supported the sanctuary cities movement, Trump has said he will pull their federal grants.

All these injustices must be fought tooth and nail. More, the aim of billionaire Trump and the capitalist class behind him should be clear: they're scapegoating immigrants and denying them rights as a first step for big assaults on all the working people. We can't let them get away with it. In every part of the country large numbers of people have been filling the streets to denounce Trump's anti-people executive orders. Our spirit should be “an injury to one is an injury to all!” Our demand should be “full rights for all immigrants!”

- Police killings rose to their highest level in 20 years under Obama. Native Americans and African Americans bore the brunt of this savagery. Donald Trump? He's called for a national “stop and frisk” policy. He's told big lies to support the cops, e.g., “we have to give power back to the police” – as if they've lost their power. And to isolate resistance and demands for justice, Trump has slandered the Black lives matter movement as haters, etc. As a fitting response, “Black lives matter!” has been one of the main chants at all the demonstrations since Trump's election.

- The rights of the poorest of the poor – women, especially national minority and immigrant women – have been eroded under both parties for decades. Now, after preaching contempt for women throughout his campaign, Trump says he'll appoint another anti-abortion justice to the Supreme Court. This means *Roe v. Wade* will likely be overturned and we'll be back to the days of “back-alley” abortions. Along with this will come legislative attacks on women by the Republican-controlled Congress. But some four million people marched against all this on January 21: the largest protest in U.S. history. More protests are being planned, including for International Working Women's Day, March 8. Let us work to deepen this movement!

- Obama talked about preventing run-away global warming, while opening more lands and waters to carbon extraction and promoting fracking. Trump is taking this farther. He's already ordered the Dakota Access and Keystone XL oil pipelines ahead, and ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to

freeze its grants and contracts. More is to come. But in every corner of the country people are in motion against this profit-driven destruction of the planet. This broad struggle must be taken farther with demands to rapidly convert to renewable energy sources and keep carbon fuels in the ground. Furthermore, we need to oppose neo-liberal market solutions like the IMF and World Bank supported carbon tax (or carbon pricing). The carbon tax won't work, and it will be passed on to the workers and poor. Instead, we need to fight for direct regulations and economic planning. And there must be mass involvement to ensure that poor, national minority and indigenous communities are not dumped on.

- Obama proclaimed the right of the U.S. President to murder anyone anywhere with drone missiles in the name of fighting terrorism, and he indeed murdered several thousand people that way. Trump will continue, and he's monstrously added: "you have to take out their families." Trump will also continue the wars started by Bush and Obama, and in the oil rich Middle East, he's screamed he will "bomb the hell out of ISIS." Our reply is that U.S. imperialism should get the hell out of the Middle East!
- The biggest war in the world today, Assad's war against the democratic uprising of the Syrian people has left over 400,000 people dead and millions as refugees. Obama assisted the dictatorship by actively preventing the rebels from getting what they most needed: anti-aircraft weapons. Naturally, Trump also opposes this just rebellion. Our response should be to join the demonstrations in solidarity with the Syrian people's uprising.
- Obama has proposed a "modernization" of the U.S. nuclear war arsenal that would cost up to a *trillion dollars* over 30 years. It would include a new generation of precision-guided mini-warheads that makes their use "more thinkable" according to one of his top strategists. Trump gives the same line: "We have a military that's severely depleted. We have nuclear arsenals which are in very terrible shape." But we must say no to these war preparations.
- Wages, health care and retirement benefits have

long been under attack by the capitalists, with the youth of the country living worse lives than their parents or grandparents did. This is right up businessman Trump's alley. He's appointed Andrew Puzder, the CEO of Carl's Jr. and Hardee's fast food restaurants, to be Labor Secretary. Puzder bitterly opposes a living wage, and he aims to deny overtime pay to 4.2 million workers. But the leaders of the AFL-CIO and Change to Win don't want a serious class struggle against any of this. In fact, the leaders of the Teamsters and nearly every major construction union have met with Trump and *praised* him! Meanwhile, these traitors to the working class have done their best to prevent, undermine and sell out strikes for generations. For this reason, unionized workers are going to have to organize themselves from below for strikes and other actions, and the non-unionized workers are going to have to organize themselves into unions. This kind of work has achieved small but important victories in recent years, and the decades-long capitalist offensive Trump wants to intensify is going to demand it be stepped up and turned into a movement.

For an independent political movement of the working class

The masses of American people are fighters. It was the large, deep and self-sacrificing mass struggles – especially in the 1930s and the 1960s and early 1970s – that brought the economic gains and political rights that both capitalist parties have been taking back. But the present big demonstrations are often been led by liberals seeking to orient them toward reliance on the Democratic Party, writing letters to officials, symbolic actions, and the mildest forms of struggle. We should fight this by bringing our own signs, banners, slogans, chants, leaflets, etc., to all the protests – while building the protests and building our own movement! Let us everywhere expose and denounce the class content of Trump's attacks on the masses of people and the environment. Let us everywhere stress the need for working class organization and ferocious resistance!

Seattle Communist Study Group, 1/29/2017
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