

ABOLITION, DECOLONIZATION, AND LIBERATION

By Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-L.A./People Against Racist Terror (ARA-LA/PART)*

The resistance to European colonialism in Africa, Asia and the Americas has a history over 500 years in length. Resistance to capitalism stretches back over more than two centuries. The cataclysmic human and environmental costs of the prevailing economic and political order are now exceedingly clear, and have been for decades.

So we have to ask ourselves, why does capitalist imperialism still dominate this country and the world?

What lessons can we learn from previous partial victories that were undermined and overcome by the system, as well as from previous efforts at revolutionary social transformation and human liberation that succeeded for a while, or those that are still in existence? How can we apply those lessons in practice to try to advance the struggle in a fundamental way that shifts the balance of forces between the state, the corporations and the elite on the one hand, and the insurgencies and resistance of exploited and oppressed peoples on the other?

It is vitally important, as many of the illusory restraints and “guardrails” of bourgeois democracy are being stripped away, not only by Trump but in a global turn towards authoritarianism by the bourgeoisie and the so-called “tech bro oligarchy”, that we turn these crises into opportunities for revolutionary transformation through solidarity and united anti-colonial, anti-capitalist struggle.

How can we open a path towards an egalitarian, ecological human society that respects human and biological diversity, and liberates our creativity and capacity for love and pleasure, before the current system carries out any further genocides and does irreversible damage to the planetary ecosystem?

To answer these questions and unleash the tactical ingenuity of hundreds of millions of people, we need to understand the actual bases of the state, and the economic system, and their grip on our own thinking and practice. At an earlier stage, we talked about becoming ungovernable. Now, as the ruling faction of the bourgeoisie seems intent on destroying government in favor of direct corporate rule, we need to build forms of anti-authoritarian self-governance, mutual survival, and communal self-determination.

Although people commonly talk about the “nation state”, the true paradigm of the state has always been the empire, not the nation. States have always been and still are built for and through conquest and subjugation of land and people. A look at the history of any of the European states will demonstrate the truth of that, but it’s also true of the pre-Columbian societies that had state formations in the Americas, as well as pre-capitalist regimes in Africa and Asia before European penetration and conquest.

The US is the quintessential settler colonial empire state. Trump’s professed aims of annexing Greenland and Panama, or Canada as the 51st State, are right in line with Jefferson’s Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon, Jackson’s invasion of Spanish Florida, James Knox Polk’s invasion and conquest of northern Mexico, Lincoln’s purchase of Alaska from the Tsar, or the US 1898 takeover of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines and its overthrow and annexation of the internationally-recognized Kingdom of Hawaii.

The states created by imperial map-making almost always crisscross existing nations. The boundaries drawn by military conquest divide people and impede human migration and mobility as natural beings.

Similarly, the first form of capital was private ownership of land, a social relationship between the “owner,” land and other people. Modern European ruling classes and the empire states they built were based on the conquest and privatization of communally held land and the societies that lived on them, first in the Americas and later within Europe itself. The basis of the state and the economic system is the planting of flags and the imposition of grids, property lines and maps on the fluid reality of human societies and continental terrain. This was accompanied by deforestation, in the Americas (where it is ongoing in Brazil and elsewhere) and then in Europe.

The second form of capital, well before industrialization, was the possession and ownership of enslaved human beings, mainly from Africa. Enslaved Africans were simultaneously capital “investments” owned by capitalists, high-value commodities bought and sold in markets, and obviously labor, capable of producing wealth for their capitalist owners far in excess of the costs of their labor and often resulting in their relatively swift demise in the mines and on the plantations.

Much of the basic organization of capitalism, including the form of limited liability corporations, shares of ownership, and double-entry bookkeeping, were generated in the organization, insurance, and financing of the trans-Atlantic slave “trade”. The product of these enslaved

people, including sugar (and rum), tobacco, and silver, (and later cotton) formed the basis of global trade relations that extended across not just the Atlantic but the Pacific, and then of industrialization.

The wealth they generated created the European bourgeoisie, and transformed land and property relations in Europe itself, transforming feudal land-holdings with obligations to the serfs that labored on them, and the commons and the commoners who survived through their use, into private property in the hands of now capitalist landowners looking to produce commodities for profit on those lands.

That enabled the driving of European people from the land as well, transforming them into proletarians only able to survive by selling their labor power. This was predicated on the so-called “primitive” or primary accumulation, the looting of colonized people and their land, the land theft and expropriation which is still on-going and central to understanding the nature of “capitalism.”

The ability of the resulting bourgeois empire states that emerged in Europe to conquer additional territories and people, using the time-tested strategies of divide and rule, building more extensive empires, also created the basis for winning the allegiance of substantial sectors of the populations of the imperial countries, who actively engaged in settler colonialism. Various forms of identification with the empire, through mechanisms such as racial and national privilege, neo-colonial elitism, and the incorporation of pre-existing systems of hierarchy and domination – such as gender – into capitalism, account for the longevity of the system, along with its willingness to use overwhelming, brutal force to conquer and control colonies.

But the failure of anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist forces to recognize the system for what it is – a constant, institutionalized state of war – also sustains the system. We talk of “class war” without having a deep understanding that our enemy is waging class and colonial war every minute, every day. We try to identify allies and classes without seeing that capital in land is an essential form of capitalism. Participating in building a society based on conquered land and the private ownership of that land impacts not only class consciousness but actual class realities and identification and goes far to explaining why the US is the world bastion of reaction.

Settler colonialism also explains why the right understands that the state does *not* have a monopoly on the use of force, but the left fails to recognize this. It exposes the material basis of white supremacy and white privilege that must be overcome. Imperialism offers privileges to control people, our thinking and our practice. What you have by privilege is not yours by right, and not a road to freedom. It can be taken away at any time if it does not secure your compliance.

Settler colonialism and racial capitalism explain why the US is a carceral state and a police state beneath the trappings of liberal bourgeois democracy, and why prisons and policing, along with private security and intelligence forces, are such a large sector of employment. They are enforcing a constant state of war that exists on stolen land and focused on controlling stolen people. This is the deep vein that Trump has tapped and metastasized in MAGA.

We have an implacable enemy who has stopped and will stop at nothing to maintain its rule, and only war will end it. Just as colonialism is central to this system, decolonization is central to dismantling it. Once we see those central strategic realities, then a vast array of tactical and organizational possibilities open up.

The Empire is fractal or holographic in nature – every part of it is imbued with the whole. We can organize in the workplace or the community, in the city, suburbs or rural areas, around issues of liberation from the oppressive binary gender system or educational or environmental justice, around the human right to housing or health care. Just remember, there are no citizens in an empire, only subjects, and there is no room for collaborating in our own oppression or compromising with our exploiters.



Remember that conscious solidarity with all oppressed and exploited people is essential.

We must act with an understanding that we confront an enemy with whom we have an irreconcilable contradiction, and yet one that has its claws inside our minds and hearts. The class struggle takes place within us and within classes as well as between them. That makes self-critical analysis of our weaknesses and failures, using our strengths to overcome them, absolutely essential, so that masses of people will see the prospects and possibilities of victory.

As Steven Biko of South Africa’s Black Consciousness Movement said, the greatest weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the minds of the oppressed. We have to free our minds, break the identification with the oppressor that chains us, to forge a different and better future.

We have to study the class enemy as deeply and rigorously as it studies us. We have to determine its weaknesses and disabilities, and our own. In their case, we seek to magnify and exploit the enemy’s weaknesses, and undermine their strengths. In our own case we seek to build our strength and unity, and purge or overcome the weaknesses through constructive criticism and self-criticism.

Only in this way can we weaken the power and grasp of the Empire, end the compliance, complacency and complicity that sustains the Empire, and strengthen the powers of resistance and self-determination. As we break free, take direct action to build our unity and solidarity, and meet human needs, we simultaneously increase people’s power and decrease the power and endurance of our enemy.

If you are interested in discussing these ideas further, check us out online at <https://www.antiracist.org> (where you can subscribe to this journal by clicking on the “buy me a coffee” button), or contact us via email to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com (through which you can also donate via paypal).

Brits Arrest 6 Young Women Planning Gaza Protests

Quakers in Britain strongly condemned the violation of their place of worship as a direct result of stricter protest laws removing virtually all routes to challenge the status quo. On the night of March 30, more than 20 uniformed police, some equipped with tasers, forced their way into Westminster (Friends) Meeting House.

They broke open the front door without warning or ringing the bell, searched the whole building and arrested six women meeting in a rented room.

The UK’s Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act of 2022 and the Public Order Act of 2023 have criminalized many forms of protest and allow police to halt actions they anticipate may be too disruptive. Meanwhile, according to the British Quakers or “Friends”, changes in judicial procedures limit protesters’ ability to defend their actions in court. All this means that there are fewer and fewer ways to speak truth to power. The Quakers support the right to nonviolent public protest, acting themselves from a deep moral imperative to stand up against injustice and for our planet.

Many have taken nonviolent direct action over the centuries from the abolition of slavery to women’s suffrage and prison reform. Paul Parker, recording clerk for Quakers in Britain, said: “No-one has been arrested in a Quaker meeting house in living memory.

“This aggressive violation of our place of worship and the forceful removal of young people holding a protest group meeting clearly shows what happens when a society criminalizes protest.” He continued, “Freedom of speech, assembly, and fair trials are an essential part of free public debate which underpins democracy.”

THE THREAT OF TRUMPISM FOR SOUTH AFRICA: THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

by Amandla! Collective

<https://www.amandla.org.za/this-changes-everything-the-threat-of-trumpism-for-south-africa/>

In just a few weeks, the second coming of Trump has started to reconfigure the international political architecture that emerged after the Second World War. This has profound implications for countries both in the global North and South. That neofascists have come to power in the US, the most powerful country in the world, makes the chaotic and threatening global situation even more alarming.

Already, South Africa has felt the impact of Trump's MAGA (Make America Great Again) foreign policy. Most recently, the South African ambassador, Ebrahim Rasool, has been expelled. One of the first of Trump's many executive orders after his inauguration was directed at South Africa. All financial assistance to South Africa was stopped, with significant impact for vital health programs, including HIV/AIDS. In the same executive order, the US Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security were instructed to prioritize the resettlement of Afrikaner refugees facing the expropriation of their land. Apparently, about 70,000 have applied.

South Africans experienced first-hand the lies and myths which are the bedrock of Trumpism. For calling out Israel's genocide, the South African government is subject to Trump's punitive actions. And no doubt more is to follow.

All the while, the South African government is trying to diplomatically tiptoe around these setbacks in a vain attempt to retain friendly relations with the US. President Ramaphosa told Parliament recently that South Africa will send envoys to the United States to smooth out relations between the two countries. But that seems farfetched unless the South African government is prepared to completely capitulate to the US view of the world.

Trumpism 2.0

We need to understand the nature of Trumpism 2.0. Those in power in the US must be understood not as blustering buffoons, or vacillating deal makers, or isolationists intent on withdrawing the US from international affairs. Trump and his acolytes are part of an extreme right-wing force with a mass base amongst, mostly but not only, white Americans. They must be called out for what they are: neofascists.

Fascism was a phenomenon which arose in Europe, particularly after the First World War, in the midst of the deepest economic crisis experienced by capitalism. Unlike traditional military dictatorships, fascism mobilized the enraged petty bourgeoisie (middle class) and lumpenproletariat (the marginalized and unorganized) into mass movements to smash the organized working class.

Neofascism thrives in times of economic crisis, much like its 20th-century predecessor. However, today's variant is shaped by the crises generated by the failures of neoliberalism: rising inequality and climate catastrophe.

Unlike traditional dictatorships, neofascist regimes mobilize far-right nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and corporate-driven policies while maintaining the appearance of democratic institutions.

Trump's return will accelerate these crises by rejecting environmental protections, intensifying fossil fuel-based reindustrialization, reinforcing racial and ethnic scapegoating, and undermining democratic rule. This will further destabilize the Global South, including South Africa. Trump's leadership will further embolden this global trend, aligning the US with other neofascist regimes such as those in Russia, India, and Israel.

South Africa's vulnerabilities

It is likely that Trump's actions against South Africa are just the start of 'sanctioning' South Africa, and we are economically and politically vulnerable. Tariffs, which are not just Trump's favorite word but his preferred tactic to browbeat allies and foes alike, will be smacked on South Africa's exports to the US. It is also likely that South Africa will lose duty-free access to the US under the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA).

The US is an important export market for South Africa, accounting for about 9% of the country's total exports in 2022. Unlike with China, South Africa's biggest trading partner, a much greater amount of manufacturing goods are exported to the US, which gives the US market a strategic value beyond export volumes. Should the Trump administration impose tariffs on South African goods, it will have severe economic impacts, not least on employment.

The real danger facing South Africa isn't just Trump's tariff policies. The greater threat lies in South Africa's dependence on the US for finance. The US is a major source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in South Africa, particularly in finance, manufacturing, and mining, and companies like Ford, General Electric, and Coca-Cola.

More significantly, South Africa has a growing debt burden, a significant amount of which is denominated in US dollars. In the third quarter of 2024, South Africa's total external debt of approximately \$176.3 billion was owed to a diverse group of international creditors, including foreign governments, international financial institutions, and private lenders. Recently, the servicing of this debt has become expensive as the result of US-based credit agencies having downgraded South Africa's credit rating to junk status and because of rand depreciation against the dollar.



White Afrikaners rally for Donald Trump in South Africa.

In this context, the US government can quite easily provoke a financial crisis by encouraging investors to take their capital out of the country. More threateningly, it could cut South Africa off from international credit exchanges, which are vital for facilitating trade flows.

Confronting Trumpism

This in no way implies that South Africa must lie down and accept Trump's bullying. The current situation is an urgent wake-up call to abandon neoliberal economic policies that have made the economy so dependent on and vulnerable to global capital.

We ought to take a leaf out of the book of JD Vance, now US Vice President and a key ideologue of MAGA's neo-fascist playbook. In outlining the basis of US foreign policy, he articulated the critical role of reindustrialization:

"The most important part of American foreign policy is actually the strength of our domestic economy and the strength of our domestic population. If there is something that should worry all of us...It's that China, because of the stupidity of Washington leaders over the past generation, is now arguably the most powerful industrial economy in the world. If we're going to lose a war, it will be because we have allowed our primary rival to become arguably our most powerful industrial competitor."

Likewise, the reindustrialization of the South African economy is the most important strategic response that needs to be engineered if South Africa is going to survive in an ascendant right-wing nationalist and protectionist world.

Reindustrialization through meeting needs

Our reindustrialization strategy must be directed at meeting the unmet basic needs of the vast majority of South Africans. Millions of South Africans lack the most basic things to live a dignified life. Five million people are living in informal settlements without the provision of basic services, and there is a housing backlog of four million households. The government talks about making South Africa a construction site. It must not be a construction site for infrastructure to service business and attract foreign investors. It must be a construction site for a mass housing program directed at housing the poor and the homeless. This would stimulate downstream industries (bricks, mortar, glass, tiles, furniture etc.) All these industries can be localized if correct trade policies are implemented.

Combined with this, a mass expansion of public transport for passengers and freight would see thousands of new railway lines, trains and buses built. The resultant demand for steel would be able to rescue our ailing steel industry, with important knock-ons for both upstream and downstream industries.

In turn, this would require the expansion of electricity generation. If this is progressively supplied by publicly owned renewable energy plants, a viable electrical industry can be established. Millions of jobs would be created, necessitating the expansion of food production. Through land reform and agrarian transformation, economic life would be invigorated in South Africa's rural areas, providing political sustainability to this ambitious revitalization plan.

But first, we must abandon neoliberal policies. Austerity, trade and financial liberalization and high-interest rate policies, which currently shape South Africa's macro-economic policies, would have to be reversed. So would the corporatization and privatization of state-owned enterprises and public services.

The resources to carry out such a program can be mobilized from the inevitable widening of the tax base as more people are employed. Other interventions would include heavily taxing the financial sector, redirecting public funds (such as those under the control of the Public Investment Corporation), curbing capital outflow (illicit and licit), and the implementation of prescribed assets (requiring financial institutions to invest a proportion of assets in designated sectors).

Overcoming corruption and restoring the legitimacy of the public sector will require a thoroughgoing process of democratization and popular control over public enterprises. None of this will happen without the organization and mobilization of a very broad mass movement, that can act as a counter-power to capital and the neoliberal state.

Amandla! is a bi-monthly magazine and website project that aims to promote discussion and debate towards a new left and anti-capitalist politics in South Africa and Southern Africa. Amandla! provides coverage and analysis of current political, economic, social processes, events and struggles from a radical perspective. It gives extensive coverage of the issues, activities and debates of South Africa's social, labour movements and other popular organisations, giving the reader an in-depth insight into their challenges, struggles, programmes and strategies. Analysis of current national, regional, continental and global events makes up the bulk of the magazine. It features proposals from a broad range of sources for alternative strategies and perspectives that can deepen the process of social transformation in South Africa and the continent. Features on current issues, book and film reviews, and letters ensures a lively and dynamic publication.

Amandla! Publishers aims to build an open non-sectarian space wherein perspectives on the left can be analysed, discussed and debated. Voices on the left are needed to comment on the current situation in our country, the continent and the world. Amandla! is a contribution to the creation of a wide platform for contesting public space, discourse and debate from rigorous and non-sectarian left perspectives. Apart from needing a voice of the left commenting on the current situation, a major objective of Amandla! is to contribute to facilitate greater collaboration between broad sections of the left, activists and intellectuals from different traditions and regions of the country.

French Far-Right Leader Marine Le Pen Convicted of Embezzling, Banned from Elections

LePen, daughter of the founder of France's nazi-collaborationist-rooted National Front, was convicted of using funds provided for the EU Parliament to finance operatives for her *Rassemblement National* (National Rally) party inside France. She was sentenced to four years in prison, two of which were suspended, and banned from further electoral activity, which would prevent her from contesting for the presidency of France when Macron's term ends.

The left party, *La France Insoumise*, issued a statement (translated): "Marine Le Pen and eight elected officials from the National Rally were convicted today of embezzlement of public funds. Their conviction carries an immediate disqualification sentence for most of them.

"We note that the facts found to be true are particularly serious. They completely contradict the "heads held high, hands clean" slogan on which this party has long sought to thrive.

"We acknowledge this court decision, even though we reject, as a matter of principle, the impossibility of appeal for any person seeking justice.

"As for the rest, *La France Insoumise* has never used a court of law to get rid of the National Rally. We are fighting it at the ballot box and in the streets, through the popular mobilization of the French people, as we did during the 2024 legislative elections.

"We will also defeat it tomorrow at the ballot box, regardless of its candidate."

Various right-wing elements denounced the verdict. According to Agence France Press and Le Monde, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban expressed support for Le Pen, tweeting "Je suis Marine!" in French on X. Elon Musk compared the conviction to that of Donald Trump in 2024, saying on X that it would backfire. "When the radical left can't win via democratic vote, they abuse the legal system to jail their opponents. This is their standard playbook throughout the world." Donald Trump Jr. asked on X "Are they just trying to prove JD Vance was right about everything?" The Deputy Prime Minister of Italy in the government led by neo-fascist Meloni denounced the conviction as "a declaration of war by Brussels". Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders posted on X in English: "I support and believe in her for the full 100% and I trust she will win the appeal and become President of France."

In not unrelated news, former right wing president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, was indicted in a plot to stage a coup to overthrow Pres. Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva of the Workers' Party. The capacity of other countries to expose and hold to account the criminality of right wing leaders demonstrates again how inadequate and shallow "democratic norms" are in the US world bastion of reaction.

Attack Dogs

Although attack dogs have been routinely used in VA prisons for decades (since the early 2000s), it is only now becoming an issue of public awareness and concern. The subject has begun receiving public attention through reports such as the July 23, 2023 INSIDER article by Hannah Beckler titled, "Patrol Dogs Are Terrorizing and Mauling Prisoners Inside the US." The use of dogs in VA prisons was the main focus of this article, because of the extreme number of uses of dogs in VA compared to other states. The INSIDER found reports of 271 dog attacks in VA prisons between 2017 and 2022 compared to the next highest number during the same period which was in Arizona of only 15 dog attacks.

In several recent articles Comrade Rashid publicized numerous incidents of abuses of these dogs in VA and has initiated public calls to remove these animals from VA prisons. He also connected the subject of VA prison dog attacks with the widely unknown history of the uses of canines as weapons of racialized terror to mass murder and exterminate Native peoples in this hemisphere, specifically the Tainos of the Caribbean by Spaniards; to enforce slavery against Blacks and track and often kill escaped slaves across the Amerikan South, especially in Va; to repress slave resistances such as the Second Maroon War in Jamaica (1795-1796) and the Haitian Revolution (1795-1804); and to attack Black Civil Rights demonstrators during the 1960s.

The uses of dogs to attack and maul humans was deemed barbaric and inhumane during each of these periods and led to public opposition. Their uses against the Tainos and slaves was protested by such figures as the priest Bartolome de las Casas called the 'Protector of the Indians,' Voltaire, Harriet Tubman, Martin Delaney and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Public outrage at the use of dogs to terrorize and maul Black slaves was one of the main outrages that won widespread white support for the Abolition Movement against slavery. Media images of dog attacks on civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama during May 1963 by the notoriously racist police chief Eugene "Bull" Connor galvanized international opposition to Jim Crow segregation and racism in Amerika. Yet, today, the revival of racialized uses of dogs hidden behind razor wire and concrete walls on Va's predominantly Black and Brown prisoners has gone unchallenged.

Interestingly, the use of dogs to maul humans was criminalized during the U.S. Civil War, when Confederates began using their slave hounds against Union soldiers in combat and prisoner of war camps. Some cases led to executions, such as that of Henry Wirz, the Confederate prisoner of war camp commander at Andersonville, Georgia, who was tried in September 1865 for using canines on unarmed Union prisoners of war. But these uses of dogs was criminalized ONLY when it was done to other whites.

What is particularly telling is, the U.S. Supreme Court has expressed that the purpose of the 8th Amendment, which forbids cruel and unusual punishment, is to reflect "the evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society." *Rhodes v Chapman*, 452 U.S. 337, 346 (1981). So the standards of decency in VA have not evolved, but devolved to periods of Native genocide and Black slavery. But even then mauling people with animals was publicly opposed and deemed uncivilized.

During 2024 the VA legislature passed a law, VA Code section 53.1-39.3 limiting the circumstances in which attack dogs (which VaDOC euphemistically calls working



Birmingham AL police attacking African Americans with dogs during civil rights protests era.

and patrol dogs) may be used against prisoners; namely in violent situations where there is imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to anyone, or altercations involving three or more prisoners. It should be noted that the "use" of these animals includes their presence and barking, growling and lunging at prisoners for purposes of intimidation.

The push for laws limiting the uses of attack dogs came not out of concern for the widespread abuses of the animals on VA prisoners, but rather after a dog was allegedly killed by a prisoner at Sussex 1 during 2023, which was widely and sympathetically publicized in the media and included VaDOC director Chadwick Dotson giving a eulogy to the dead animal on the televised news. This reflected the observation in many Black slave narratives that the animals that were used to brutalize and terrorize them were generally treated better than they were. From which came the term "treated worse than a dog."

As everyone confined in VA prisons where the dogs are present knows, these animals are "used" in situations where absolutely nothing is going on, such as during general movements, where they are allowed to violently lunge, strain against their leashes and attempt to attack prisoners, which specifically violates the limits set on the uses of these dogs by the new VA law. The exact same practice of using attack dogs to terrorize detainees generated an international scandal against the U.S. war in Iraq in 2004, when photographic images were leaked to the media of U.S. soldiers allowing military dogs to strain against their leashes towards Iraqi detainees. Several soldiers were court-martialed for this practice. Yet this practice occurs all day everyday in VA prisons in defiance of the new VA law.

These animals are also being assigned for use only at prisons in the VaDOC's predominantly white-staffed Western region, where VA's high security prisons are strategically located in remote segregated white communities, while the vast majority of those confined in these prisons are Black and Brown. This repeats the historical use of dogs as weapons of racialized violence.

Independent of anything contemplated by the Georgetown Law Civil Rights Clinic, Comrade Rashid is filing suit in state court about the use and abuse of these dogs. The suit will seek a declaratory judgment acknowledging the violation of the new law limiting the uses of these dogs and relief for the uses of these animals for racially targeted harassment and assault. The governing laws will be VA Code sections 8.01-184 - 8.01-191 (declaratory judgment

act), 8.01-42.1 (civil action for racial or ethnic harassment, violence or vandalism), and 8.01-221 (damages from violation of statute).

Before the routine use of these dogs began in the early 2000s, the VA DOC used them in a handful of isolated cell extractions in an experimental pilot program in the old solitary confinement unit at Powhatan Correctional Center's M-building in the mid-1990s. Comrade Rashid was a target of several such cell extractions in M-building. The use of these animals was ended after less than two years and less than ten canine cell extractions, when one animal severely mauled a prisoner's forearm, nearly requiring its amputation.

It's important that prisoners and our loved ones and supporters understand the history behind and laws governing conditions we live under, penetrate the lies used to falsely justify what is done to us and to make it seem just, and so we understand how we got where we are, the context of the conditions we live under, and how to legally challenge them.

If you know other prisoners or outside loved ones, supporters, etc interested in receiving these InsideOutsideUnity updates, please send us their names and numbers or email addresses via return message here on Jpay.

Also get outside people involved with UPROAR (Uniting Prisoners' Relatives Organizing Against Repression) send them to our IG page /uproaragainstrepression or have them contact UPROAR-members@mayfirst.lists.org. Spread the word!

This is InsideOutsideUnity report #3, FOR EDUCATIONAL AND MEDIA PURPOSES. Welcome to InsideOutsideUnity, a project of BP Publishers to expand the political and social knowledge of the incarcerated.

Related to the topic covered in this issue (uses of attack dogs in Virginia prisons), attorneys with the Georgetown Civil Rights Clinic want to hear from any prisoners who have been victims of canine attacks in VA prisons. Anyone who's been a victim or with information on any such attacks please contact attorney Nicole Rheault at:

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The above is a summary of recent articles published on rashidmod.com and other platforms.

Trump/Musk Slash Institute for Museum & Library Services; American Library Association Responds

The latest decimation of a federal agency, administrative leave for everyone at the IMLS, the main federal conduit for grants to libraries and museums, is a further fascist attack simultaneously on federal employees, freedom of speech and the press, and public educational services. Libraries are a lifeline across the digital divide and an essential community resource. As in the days of the USA PATRIOT Act, librarians are stepping up to defend the right to read. The ALA responded to this attack with a statement and campaign:

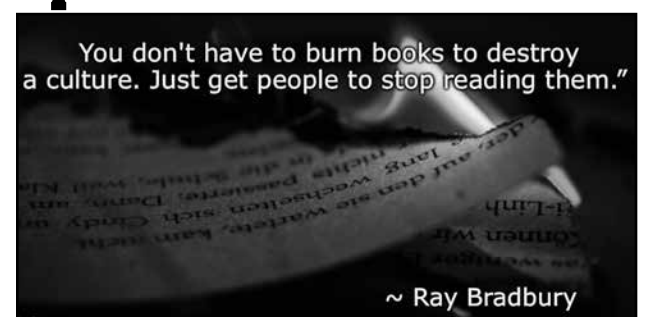
"Within months, if not weeks, local libraries will experience the impact of IMLS grant cancellations. Even now, state libraries are making hard choices about what their communities may have to do without: library loans that give rural residents more choices, or talking books for people with print disabilities, including many seniors? Or do they cut summer reading programs for kids? Discontinue programs for veterans or end services to small businesses?

"Whether on a campus, in the neighborhood, on a military base or elsewhere, libraries mean opportunity for everyone in our communities. By cutting off federal support from libraries, the Trump administration is cutting off opportunity for the American people – economically, culturally, professionally and socially.

"Congress created IMLS by law, with bipartisan support. Republican and Democratic Presidents signed those laws, including President Trump in 2018. Any significant reductions to the IMLS' small and talented workforce would undermine the agency's ability to carry out that law.

"To the dedicated staff of IMLS, you have the full support of ALA. We thank you for your service to America's libraries. We are exploring all possible policy and legal responses to this order, and we promise to mobilize library supporters nationwide to return you to the vital work entrusted to you.

"ALA calls on IMLS Acting Director Keith E. Sonderling to continue funding for IMLS grants and return the staff



needed to manage those funds to benefit the American people as mandated by Congress.

"ALA calls on all Congressmembers to support more opportunity for their communities by safeguarding IMLS funding and, with it, opportunity for their constituents. And, because Congress listens when library supporters speak up, we call on library users everywhere to demand their elected leaders protect the services they rely on. You can Show Up For Our Libraries with support from ALA. Visit <https://ala.org/showup>."

Trump Shuts Down Efforts to Combat White Supremacist and Far-Right Terrorism and Violence

by Global Project Against Hate & Extremism (GPAHE) [Excerpts]

<https://globalextrmism.org/post/trump-abandoning-efforts-to-combat-white-supremacist/>

Since Trump returned to office in January, several government programs to combat domestic terrorism from white supremacists, militias, and other radicalized far-right extremists have been curtailed or abandoned. Public safety, civil liberties, and national security will suffer.

About a month after Trump returned to the White House, the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism's (GPAHE) Global Extremist Symbols Database, the largest available with nearly 1,000 such symbols from around the world, disappeared from the Homeland Security Digital Library (HSDL). The library, run by FEMA as part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was filled with information critical, according to the website, to government officials at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, as well as the U.S. military. GPAHE's symbols database, which is free of charge to all, is used by law enforcement at the local, national and international levels and by tech platforms to identify extremist groups, individuals associated with these groups, and symbols used as tattoos, and was only one of many important resources for confronting white supremacy and other forms of far-right extremism and violence that disappeared.

GPAHE filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

request, as is our right, with FEMA about the reasons for pulling such essential material. FEMA has yet to answer.

Purging the HSDL of materials on far-right extremism is only one of several actions taken by the administration that are undermining efforts to protect Americans from bigoted and antigovernment violence, and to preserve civil liberties.

Trump's lack of interest in public safety was apparent on Day One when he pardoned some 1,500 January 6 insurrectionists, letting back onto the streets violent members of white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys and militiamen from the Oathkeepers who orchestrated the attack on the Capitol, injuring dozens of police officers. Many of those pardoned already had extensive criminal records unrelated to the assault on the Capitol for crimes including rape, manslaughter, domestic violence, and drug trafficking. Some of those pardoned have since been re-arrested for crimes including child sex charges and gun violations.

This is all part and parcel of the far-right campaign to rewrite recent history that includes glossing over the Jan. 6 Capitol attack on our democracy, downplaying the threat posed by white supremacists, and claiming groups like

"antifa" are the true threat—greater than white supremacists who have killed dozens in terrorist attacks at synagogues, mosques, Walmart, and grocery stores. (Antifa is short for antifascist and is not a group itself.)

The data on the threat posed by the far right doesn't lie. Far-right extremists have been a rising threat to Americans over the past half decade. A February 2023 Government Accountability Office report found the FBI tallied 9,049 such cases in 2021, up from 5,557 in 2020; 4,092 such cases in 2019; and 3,714 in 2018.

But the Trump administration seems not only unconcerned, but determined to deny the existence of violent far-right extremism and brush off any harmful acts. In addition to letting off criminals convicted of violent offenses with pardons and commutations, the administration is abandoning a broad range of efforts to keep Americans safe from far-right violence. These include efforts to identify and possibly expel extremists from the military; cutting DHS's civil liberties and other staff; refocusing the FBI away from white supremacists and towards Black Lives Matter, "Antifa" and Tesla vandals; firing, demoting or reassigning prosecutors and agents focused on this threat across the departments; and gutting DHS prevention and protection programs. Even more alarming is the fact that the effort to protect Americans from domestic terrorists is now in the hands of Trump appointees with known connections to white supremacists and conspiracy movements.

FBI Shifting Away from Far-Right Extremism

At the FBI, Kash Patel, now head of the agency, has been gutting the ranks of those who worked on the January 6 prosecutions and those who have expertise in far-right extremism. In January, the Trump administration demanded the FBI provide the names of up to 6,000 of its agents who pursued January 6 attackers, something the acting directors had refused to provide until finally relenting in early February. Trump-appointed officials at the Justice Department have said they are reviewing FBI agents' handling of those cases for potential misconduct. What Patel will do with those names remains to be seen, but indications so far point to retaliation.

The FBI has cut staffing in an office focused on domestic terrorism and has scrapped a tool used to track such investigations, in a shift that could undermine law enforcement's ability to counter white supremacists and anti-government extremists. FBI leadership recently transferred agents and intelligence analysts out of its Domestic Terrorism Operations Section, which supports investigations run from the FBI's 55 field offices and provides information on domestic threats. It has been reported that only about 16 people had been reassigned from the section, which would have hundreds of employees if fully staffed. A different source said senior FBI officials have discussed disbanding it entirely, though a final decision has not yet been announced.

These moves are an indication that domestic terrorism investigations, which in recent years have largely involved violence fueled by far-right beliefs, are being eliminated or deprioritized. Patel has been a prominent critic of the effort, as have many Republicans, conflating domestic terrorism investigations with targeting "conservatives."

The FBI has also reportedly discontinued a practice of tagging investigations with a connection to domestic terrorism. The tags were an important tool in helping the bureau identify trends and track relevant probes across the country. The Trump administration has separately directed the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces, which investigate domestic and international terrorist threats, to instead assist in Trump's immigration crackdown.

None of this is surprising, given the revisionist narrative the Trump administration is pushing around January 6, and Patel's support of Jan 6ers including the promotion of a song by the January 6 "choir" of insurrectionists. In his confirmation hearings, Patel claimed ignorance, or some say simply lied, about the choir, when he claimed he was unaware that it included individuals who assaulted police at the Capitol. Patel also has courted QAnon adherents, a conspiracy movement the FBI has identified as a domestic terrorism threat. Far from maintaining professional distance, Patel has woven himself into that conspiracy's community. "We try to incorporate it into our overall messaging scheme to capture audiences," he explained about QAnon, praising the movement's supposed "acumen" while serving on Trump Media's board. Patel's children's books arrive autographed with "WWG1WGA"—the QAnon slogan meaning "Where We Go One, We Go All." His Truth Social posts have actively promoted Q-affiliated accounts.

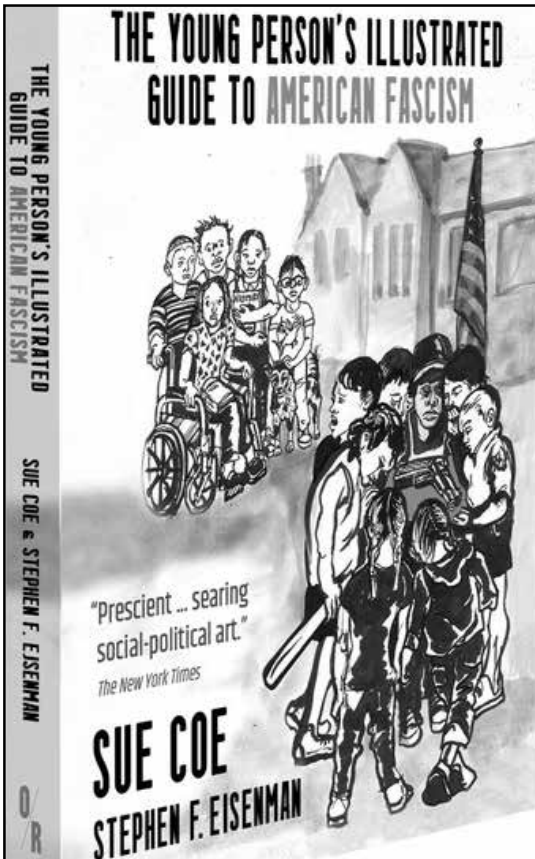
The Young Person's Illustrated Guide to American Fascism

by Sue Coe and Stephen F. Eisenman, OR Books, New York 2025
Paperback ISBN 978-1-68219-611-3, (Text: Eisenman, art: Coe), \$23
<https://orbooks.com/catalog/the-young-persons-illustrated-guide-to-american-fascism/>

In a few brief texts, this book connects the issues of US fascism today with the history of chattel slavery, the Ku Klux Klan, World War II-era fascism in the US, post-war McCarthyism and gay-bashing, and of course the rise and career of Donald Trump. The language is unadorned and direct, and it clearly links US phenomena, such as the KKK or Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent* and promotion of antisemitism, to Hitlerian nazism and fascism. It connects Trump's lifelong and family-rooted racism to his promotion of fascist forces and authoritarianism. But the heart, focus and bulk of the book are Sue Coe's drawings and other artwork, many of them powerful and hypnotic exposures of fascist malevolence and violence.

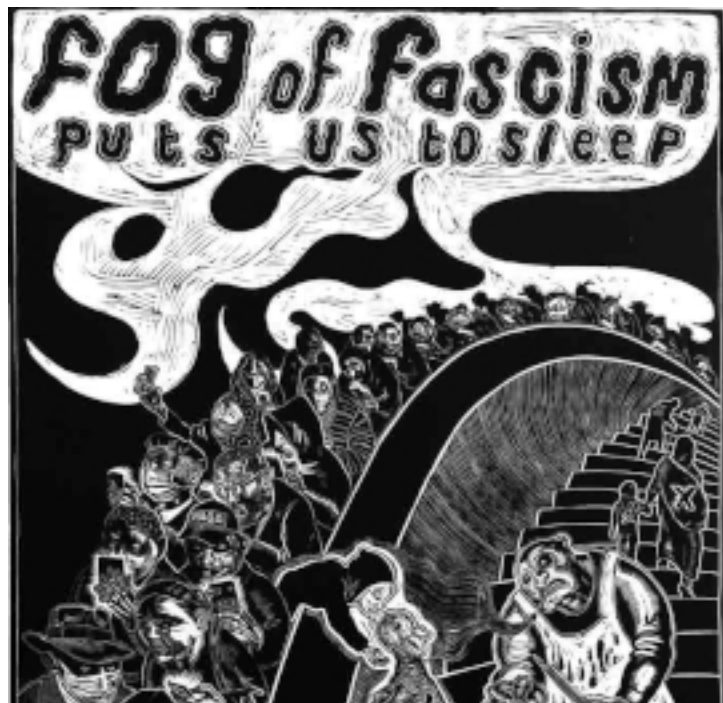
The book is worth getting and sharing with young people you know, but there a couple of odd flaws or absences that could perhaps be corrected if there is a second edition. The introductory text has a section headed "McCarthyism and the CIA," but there is no actual mention of the CIA, either in its 'Operation Paperclip' importation of German nazi spies and rocket scientists into the formation of the national security state apparatus and the launching of the anti-Soviet "Cold War", or in the use of the CIA to finance and control journalists, academicians and cultural institutions not only globally but within the US itself. Nor is there a mention of the US use of concentration camps on Japanese Americans on the west coast, justified by the same Alien Enemies Act of 1798 that Trump is using today on his deportation of Venezuelan migrants to El Salvador.

Coe's art, while powerful, is very dark, not just literally in the many linoleum-cut mini-posters, but figuratively in the depiction of fascism's crimes, horrors and ugly violence. It would benefit from having more art inside the book like that on the front cover and inside the front and



back covers -- depictions of the people fascists target, and (inside, front and back), the strength, unity and massiveness of popular efforts to counter and defeat fascism. There are numerous images of Big Brother, surveillance, "fake news," and fascist violence unleashed or inspired by Trump, and powerful portrayals of the ecodie the system is carrying out. But there should be more images of the power of the people, and others exposing the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of fascism. Young people and others would like to see and would benefit from more depictions of the strength and beauty of people's power and resistance.

Andrew Tonkovich, a friend of ARA-LA/PART, wrote a very laudatory review of the book for the Los Angeles Review of Books, in which he described it as a volume that packs a punch, and would inspire young people to punch a nazi in the nose. The bestiality, criminality and destructiveness of fascism that might provoke such a response are creatively and movingly presented. The book itself cites similarities between Coe's work and that of Kathe Kollwitz. But a few more images in the style of Kollwitz's "War Never Again!" and "Solidarity", depicting the strength and power of the peace-makers and the united working people, would be a very welcome addition to the artwork.



100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of Turning the Tide

Over its 35+ year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we guarantee four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are still looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. Donate online at https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la Help it go viral!

Turning the Tide doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot!**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, X or Bluesky followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will resume publishing every other month in 2020. Postage is our biggest expense. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. But the Postal Service is not so generous. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at about 10% of our goal. LA area supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Now, while you're thinking about it, go to:

https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la
and donate, or use paypal to antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com if you prefer. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.

We Can't Wait Until 2028: The Case for a General Strike Now

by Carolina Ampudia

In every hospital I've worked in, every classroom I've taught in, and every union hall I've organized in, I've seen the same truth: the working class is already in crisis. We are doing everything we're told—clocking in, staying silent, voting when asked—and yet, our lives grow harder and more precarious. We're told to hold on, to be patient, to wait for the “right time.” But there is no later. The time is now.

The United Auto Workers' call for a general strike in 2028, anchored in demands like Medicare for All, is a bold vision—and it lit a fire across the labor left. But we need to be honest: a strike three years from now won't house a family this month. It won't stop retaliatory firings. It won't end the daily violence of poverty, debt, and abandonment. The crisis isn't looming—it's already here. And if we are serious about liberation, we must stop deferring power to a future horizon and start seizing it now.

The dominant narrative suggests we're not “organized enough” for a general strike. That it's premature, logistically impossible, or too risky. But that's not an assessment of the material conditions—it's a failure of political imagination. Because from Amazon warehouses to tenants' unions, Gaza solidarity protests to teacher walkouts, the working class is already moving.

The question isn't readiness. It's alignment. Support for unions is at its highest point since 1965, with 71% of Americans standing with organized labor. (Gallup, 2023) In 2024 alone, over 270,000 workers participated in major work stoppages. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024)

And yet, as labor militancy rises, trust in political institutions plummets. Congress has a dismal 29% approval rating. (Statista, 2025) The Democratic Party's approval has cratered to 36%. (Harvard-Harris, 2025) The largest political bloc today? Independent and anti-establishment.

This is not polarization. It is abandonment. And it's fueling a new hunger for left alternatives—rooted in class struggle, democratic ownership, and collective survival.

A Strike Must Belong to the Whole Working Class

This cannot be a traditional labor strike alone. That model—though powerful—is insufficient in a gig economy where millions are unprotected, misclassified, or criminalized. A 21st-century general strike must center those most impacted:

- Gig and informal workers
- Tenants under corporate landlords
- Undocumented and migrant workers

May Day! Self-organizing against authoritarianism, fascism and dictatorship!

<https://globalmayday.net/>

“The strategy of mobilizing people on the basis of economic and cultural anxiety, and constructing identity-based nationalism to gain power is described variously as majoritarian nationalism, populist authoritarianism or right-wing populism (RWP).”

- What Do Populist Authoritarians Do When They Rule?

by Kamal Mitra Chenoy, EPW.in

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2019/24/commentary/what-do-populist-authoritarians-do-when-they-rule.html>

Authoritarian and right-wing movements are gaining strength around the world and more authoritarian governments are coming into power. The developments range from an increasing influence of reactionary political movements (e.g. in Germany, UK, Denmark, Israel, and France) to increasingly autocratic and oligarchic regimes (e.g. in Argentina, the USA, Hungary, Austria, Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Italy, Nicaragua, Russia, India, Turkey and Bangladesh) as well as outright repressive and authoritarian states (e.g. in Myanmar).

Although it is necessary to look at the historical contexts on the ground to fully understand authoritarian developments, there are important commonalities. A common characteristic is the merger of organized capital interests with a repressive nation state. The first targets are often trans people. After Milei took over in Argentina they were the first ones to get fired from jobs in the public sector. <https://www.vozdeamerica.com/a/senales-retroceso-comunidad-lgbtq-argentina-bajo-nuevo-gobierno-de-milei/7608722.html>

Similar developments can be observed in Italy, with Meloni of Fratelli d'Italia in power. Here trans people were also attacked by the right-wing government. They restrict the access to medical care for gender transition, especially for young people. (<https://www.dinamopress.it/news/i-pochi-diritti-trans-sono-sotto-attacco/>)

Authoritarianism describes “ideologies of inequality” such as racism, sexism, nationalism, classism and chauvinism. It is a social, cultural, political and economic phenomenon. Looking at the world today, we can certainly speak of an awakening of authoritarianism.

Crisis after crisis after crisis. Social and economic insecurities shape precarious living conditions for many people. The offer of authoritarian ideas is a promise of security: you have a place in the world and can direct your frustration at the weaker. An increasingly unstable system is maintained by state forces. The spread of authoritarianism is therefore neither just a movement from above, i.e., a conspiracy of the elites, nor an “uprising from below”.

Parents locked out of childcare

Students and debtors

The unhoused and disabled

Incarcerated workers and their families

We must build a strike inclusive of the full working class. That means creating alternative systems of care and solidarity: mutual aid networks, eviction defense, childcare and food distribution hubs, legal and healing support. These aren't side projects—they are strategic infrastructure.

This is not charity. This is class war preparedness.

They Keep Telling Us “Not Yet” —

But We Know Better

The people saying “this is too ambitious” are rarely the ones suffering the consequences of delay. Movements know better. We've lived through the betrayals, the incrementalism, the managed expectations. And we've seen what happens when we wait.

What we need now is not consensus from the top. What we need is:

Coordination, not caution

Courage, not consultants

Boldness rooted in care, discipline, and community

As Raina Lipsitz recently wrote, “We have very few options left but to join together to organize a general strike.” She's right. Our moment isn't on the horizon—it's knocking at the door.

The government has money for war, but not for water. For private equity, but not public schools. Imagine being told to wait—by the very people profiting from your pain.

The Strike Has Already Begun

History is not made by those who ask for permission. It is made by those who act together, at the right time, with nothing left to lose and everything to gain. The general strike won't be a single day. It will be a wave. It will start with one shop, one tenant union, one school walkout, one picket line. And if we are disciplined, strategic, and in relationship with one another—it will grow.

I'm not writing this as a dreamer. I'm writing this as a physician who has seen patients die because they couldn't afford care. As a professor who's watched students collapse under debt. As an organizer who has sat with workers—exhausted, underpaid, brilliant—who are done waiting for justice to trickle down.

Dignity is not a privilege. It's a right. And rights are

not requested. They are taken. We don't need permission. We need each other.

We don't need a calendar date. We need the courage to strike. And we build it—together.

Carolina Ampudia is known for her work on Florida reform initiatives. Hailing from Ecuador, her advocacy for labor rights and healthcare is evident in her dedicated efforts to secure fair pay for adjunct professors. Carolina champions inclusive and progressive policies. She served as the President of the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida and is the current president of its chapter in Broward County. Her vision centers on fostering change, unity, and empowerment for all.

TTT comment: This is a helpful reminder of what Martin Luther King Jr. called “the urgency of now.” Links to some of the exemplars she mentions might be helpful. So here they are:

Here's the UE, a democratic class struggle union:

<https://www.ueunion.org/> and **Labor Notes:**

<https://www.labornotes.org/>

Here's the DSA LA Labor committee's “Labor Circles” <https://dsa-la.org/labor-circles/> and the upcoming DSA-LA convention: <https://dsa-la.org/convention2025guidelines/>. April 13

Reach MALAN, the LA mutual aid network here: <https://mutualaidla.org/> Here are links to a couple of similar pieces by **TTT** editor Michael Novick on the **Change Links** website: <https://change-links.org/everyday-is-earth-day/> and <https://change-links.org/one-struggle-many-fronts/>, especially the latter about the need to get out of our silos through conscious solidarity.

Here's Cooperation Jackson's peoples' strike educational series on the Build and Fight program:

<https://cooperationjackson.org/announcementsblog/buildandfighteducationalseries>.



This is a link to **Global May Day** - one world, one struggle: <https://globalmayday.net/> (See their analysis and call below) and to local L.A. May Day organizing

<https://www.instagram.com/communityselfdefensecoalition/>

URGENT APPEAL

To gain power reactionary politicians use anti-systemic rhetoric, public safety concerns and accusations of criminality (e.g. against the opposition, civil society and social minorities) as a pretext to restrict freedoms, often with the support of entrenched elites.

The early years of industrialization already saw the demonization and state repression of the poor, the indigent, political movements of workers – anyone who was not part of a docile waged labour force. Once social struggles win democratic space, organized capital is willing to sacrifice human rights to repress labor. (Neo)liberal democracies are no guarantor for a future free of authoritarianism. Anti-authoritarianism must go beyond simply “defending democracy”.

For many countries of the so called global South, liberalism in the global North has more often meant tyranny rather than

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Postage alone for this issue comes to \$1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. If you're a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a bundle of TTT to distribute; \$5 will get you 20 copies. And check out our 100X100 campaign elsewhere in this issue. If you live in L.A. or nearby, we can come to house meetings to speak and collect donations for the paper. Email antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com

CUBA: SOLIDARITY AS A BANNER - A RESPONSE TO MARCO RUBIO'S CYNICISM

By Manu Pineda

The statements made by the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, against Cuban medical missions are nothing more than an echo of ideological resentment, incapable of recognizing the magnitude of a humanitarian project that has saved millions of lives.

The history of humanity is marked by an irreconcilable contrast: the struggle between those who build bridges of solidarity and those who erect walls of selfishness. In this context, the statements made by the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, against the Cuban medical missions are nothing more than an echo of ideological resentment, incapable of recognizing the magnitude of a humanitarian project that has saved millions of lives. His criticism, tinged with envy and hatred, reveals a moral myopia that confuses altruism with propaganda, and ignores the value of a revolutionary ethic based on service to others.

Cuban internationalism: Medicine against indifference

Since 1963, when Cuba sent its first medical brigade to Algeria, the island has deployed an army of white coats to more than 150 countries. These professionals do not travel with rifles, but with stethoscopes; they do not impose economic conditions, but offer care in the most remote and vulnerable areas.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, while powerful nations hoarded vaccines and resources, more than 3,700 Cuban doctors arrived in 40 countries, from Italy to South Africa, demonstrating that solidarity is not an abstraction, but a concrete act. How can this commitment be explained? The answer lies in the founding principles of the Cuban Revolution: a socialism that understands health not as a privilege, but as a universal right.

Ideological blindness: Blockades vs. brigades

While Cuba exports health, the United States — under policies backed by figures like Rubio — exports military interventions, economic sanctions and support for oppressive regimes. The blockade against the island, in force for six decades, is an act of cruelty that seeks to suffocate not a government, but a people.

Paradoxically, however, this same hostility has sharpened Cuban ingenuity: despite material shortages, the island has developed its own vaccines against Covid-19 and maintains one of the most efficient health systems in the world, even under extreme pressure.

Rubio's obsession with demonizing Cuba fails to hide an uncomfortable truth: his model fails to generate empathy, while Cuban medical internationalism gains global recognition.

Humanism as a revolutionary legacy

Rubio's criticism is not only against Cuba, but against the very idea that a poor country can exercise moral leadership. For him, it is incomprehensible that Cuban doctors treat patients in Haiti, Pakistan or Brazil without demanding payment in exchange. But that mercantilist logic — where even human life has a price — clashes with the philosophy of the Revolution, which prioritizes collective dignity over individual benefit.

Cuban professionals are not heroes by chance: they are the product of a system that trains doctors with a social conscience, not with ambitions for profit. Their "payment" is the gratitude of those who regain their sight thanks to Operation Miracle, or of mothers who see their children survive after Ebola or cholera epidemics.

The arrogance of power vs. the force of ethics

Marco Rubio is a character who has made hatred of Cuba his *modus vivendi*. He represents a political elite that measures the value of nations by their military might or their wealth, never by their capacity to serve. His hatred and envy towards Cuba stems from an inability to understand that true greatness is not measured in dollars, but in lives saved.

While the US spends billions on invisible bombers, Cuba builds hospitals in Guinea-Bissau. While Washington imposes sanctions that starve people to death, Havana trains doctors from Honduras or Angola. The paradox is clear: a small country, besieged and slandered, shows the world that another model is possible. And although it may burn Rubio, that lesson in humanism — born of socialism — will endure as a challenge to the arrogance of empire.

Source: Cubadebate, translation by Resumen

Latinoamericano – English
<https://resumen-english.org/2025/03/cuba-solidarity-as-a-banner-a-response-to-marco-rubios-cynicism/>



U.S. MAIL - NOT FOR SALE

First Class: The US Postal Service, Democracy and the Corporate Threat

by Christopher W. Shaw, foreword by Ralph Nader

Open Media/City Lights Books, citylights.com, \$16.95 2021 ISBN 978-0-87286-877-9

This book about the effort to privatize, and essentially destroy the US Post Office system, is a comprehensive look at the history of the postal service, which precedes the formation of the US government itself, created by the Continental Congress a year before the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, and thus long before the Articles of Confederation or the US Constitution. It is more valuable than ever with the onslaught of the second Trump regime, and the Musk-led attack on the federal government, regulation, the social safety net, public employees and the public services they provide.

Shaw underscores the growth of the postal system and the vital services it provides through previous periods in US history, during which concerted political demands and struggle overcame private economic interests to provide Rural Free Delivery and Parcel Post, subsidies for the press, book publishers and dealers, and libraries. He outlines the negative consequences of deregulation and privatization in other spheres, such as air transport (although he misses the critical importance of US airmail to the development of the airline industry), and the elimination of services, decline in efficiency, and increase in costs that resulted from the privatization of postal services in the UK, Sweden and New Zealand.

He emphasizes the critical role of postal workers and their union, clarifying that the effort to destroy them, along with the "threat of the positive example" of a government run public service that touches the daily lives of everyone in the use, lies behind the concerted and unending efforts to eliminate the regulated monopoly that the USPS enjoys so that mail and package delivery can become a new profit center for big business, while costly but essential services -- "the last mile" to homes and businesses in rural and other areas are left to decay at public expense.

This is vital information to arm the fightback against the latest efforts to destroy the USPS through privatization. Wells Fargo Bank has published an investment advisory spelling out



how the dismantling and profit-taking would be carried out, recognizing that it requires Congressional action to reshape the entire legal framework. [See <https://change-links.org/wellsfargos-plan-to-privatize-the-post-office/> for more].

Unionized postal workers, half a million plus strong, almost 1/3 of whom are Black (compared to about 10% of the overall workforce), in several different unions including the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, are leading the struggle. But libraries, publishers, rural residents, poor people who depend on the USPS for money orders, and the rest of civil society have a crucial stake in the continued existence and in fact expansion of the USPS as a public service critical to democratic communication and not subject to the profit motive of private corporate wealth at the hands of the bankers and billionaires. Learn more here:

<https://usmailnotforsale.org/>

Saving the post office is a pro-social, pro-labor, anti-racist demand!

Louisiana Rejects MAGA amendments to Constitution, Wisconsin Rejects MAGA Court Nominee

In a rejection of Republican Gov. Jeff Landry, voters in Louisiana defeated all four of his constitutional amendments, including his plan to overhaul the state's tax and budget laws. Nearly 2/3 of voters rejected all of the amendments in a special election on March 29.

The governor, who has tried to strong-arm his agenda through the Louisiana Legislature, could become more vulnerable after failing to pass his policy proposals at the ballot box.

Landry's priority for the election, Amendment 2, would have lowered the maximum income tax rate in the state and restricted annual state budget increases. The proposal

would also have moved hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue from state savings accounts into Louisiana's general fund, where Landry and state legislators could have spent it more easily.

In a statement after the outcome was certain, the governor attributed the defeat of Amendment 2 to George Soros, a Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor whom conservatives have targeted for several years for his support of liberal causes. "Soros and far left liberals poured millions into Louisiana with propaganda and outright lies about Amendment 2," Landry falsely claimed.

Landry had support for Amendment 2 from conservative

Republican billionaire Charles Koch whose Americans for Prosperity knocked on doors, ran phone banks and sent out direct mail in favor of the proposal.

Opponents of Amendment 2 celebrated its overwhelming defeat, with 64% voting "no". Amendment 3, which would've incarcerated young people in adult prisons and lengthened sentences was also resoundingly rejected.

Musk, Trump and MAGA also suffered a major electoral defeat in a special election in Wisconsin on April 2, where a liberal bested a Musk-financed reactionary for the state Supreme Court. This left intact a liberal majority on the Court and probably helps protect the governor from GOP attacks. Trump had won WI in 2024.

On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at www.antiracist.org that go back more than 35 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as facebook.com/tideturning, and @antiracistaction_la on Instagram.

You can follow @ara_losangeles on X(fka Twitter), and the De-Colonize LA! blog at ara-la.tumblr.com.

Dead Pioneers fuse punk, poetry, politics and Native protest

By Cannon Taylor [excerpts]

<https://csindy.com/dead-pioneers-gregg-deal-colorado-punk-music/>

The album “POST AMERICAN” begins with the sound of Gregg Deal thumping an animal-skinned hand drum. He opens his mouth and belts out the American Indian Movement’s intertribal song of protest — more specifically, a version performed by the band Blackfire.

It’s the most melodic vocal delivery you’ll hear from Deal, who tends to blend spoken word poetry with incensed, punk zeal on most Dead Pioneers tracks. Before recording “A.I.M.,” Deal hadn’t sung in that way in 20 years. His bandmates, apparently, were gobsmacked when they realized he could carry a tune.

Deal’s singing is soon overtaken by an ominous, fuzzy distortion. The sound was accomplished by connecting the drum’s contact mic to the War Pony distortion pedal created by NativeAudio. The track goes silent as actor Michael Grey-eyes recites a quote from John Trudell’s character in “Thunderheart”: “Sometimes, they have to kill us. They have to kill us because they can’t break our spirit.”

Then, the sound erupts into a different kind of protest music: the irate guitar and pounding drums of punk rock.

Dead Pioneers began as an outgrowth of Deal’s 2022 performance piece “The Punk Pan-Indian Romantic Comedy,” a memoir-style talk about his upbringing and musical influences. Although Dead Pioneers is Deal’s first band, it’s far from his first artistic endeavor. Over a two-decade visual art career, his work has appeared everywhere from Colorado to Washington, D.C.

“Take Back the Power,” his 80-foot-tall mural painted in downtown Colorado Springs, depicts Deal’s eldest child, Sage, in an Interrupters t-shirt, with a red handprint painted over their mouth in recognition of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives.

“It was about representation in the easiest way possible. Like, Sage isn’t wearing regalia or feathers or beadwork. Sage’s hair is down, not bound up, and they’re wearing their favorite t-shirt for their favorite band,” Deal said. “You can see this in Dead Pioneers, because this is something I’m doing there as well ... representing Indigeneity without pandering my own cultural wares along the way.”

Deal’s first-ever performance piece, “The Last American Indian On Earth,” involved him donning culturally inaccurate Native American garb and going out in public to document reactions.

Deal writes about one of the encounters in Dead Pioneers’ first song, “Bad Indian,” which was written and performed as the conclusion of “The Punk Pan-Indian Romantic Comedy.” A woman begged him to tell her his “real” Native American name. Deal provides a few contrived examples: “Grayskull” (a He-Man reference) and “Walking Eagle” (based on a joke about how the only time an eagle walks is when it really has to use the restroom).

Bandmate Abe Brennan, a guitarist, has been in bands that have opened for the Descendants, Soundgarden and Nirvana. “I’m surrounded by musicians that know exactly what they’re doing,” Deal said. “They can hear things I can’t, and they can push me.”

Deal’s national art career also brings a lot to the table. Dead Pioneers were recruited to open for Pearl Jam on tour; Pearl Jam bassist Jeff Ament had purchased art work from Deal before, and they became acquaintances. In 2024, Ament recruited Dead Pioneers to headline the Big Sandy Pig Roast, a charity punk fest in his hometown in Montana. Ironically, the mascot of Big Sandy High School is the Pioneers.

The cover art for “POST AMERICAN” depicts a Native American cutting down a white settler. The image comes from “The Others,” Deal’s series of re-appropriated comic book depictions of Native Americans from the 1940s and ‘50s. For the exhibit, Deal added speech bubbles with lyrics from punk songs. The image on the cover was originally paired with a lyric from D.O.A.’s “That’s Progress”: “You’re evicted, time to leave / Don’t matter if your family’s lived here 30 years.”

The back cover and lyric sheet for the record were also designed by Deal and feature a plethora of Easter eggs, including cameos by actor Will Sampson and Deal’s mentor, James Luna.



Lee Tesche, Joshua Rivera, Gregg Deal, Abe Brennan, and Shane Zweygardt of Dead Pioneers.

The lyric sheet depicts a row of books, providing listeners with suggested reading material, from “How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi to a biography of Che Guevara. In an age where many labels lazily toss a black LP into a floppy cardboard sleeve, the design of Dead Pioneers’ second album is lovingly intentional, designed by a true discophile.

Growing up in Park City, home of the Sundance Film Festival, movies were just as important as music in Deal’s family. The influence shows in “POST AMERICAN.” Quotes from films like “Smoke Signals” and “The Outlaw Josey Wales” are sprinkled throughout the album, and there’s even a reference to Lily Gladstone’s Oscars snub in the humorously titled “My Spirit Animal Ate Your Spirit Animal.”

One track is an ode to Chief Bromden from “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” The character pretends to be deaf and mute for much of the film — the stereotype of a silent, stoic Native — but reveals he can speak when offered a stick of gum. “Who would have known that him saying, ‘Juicy Fruit,’ would have changed the face of Native people in cinema from that point on?” Deal enthused. “It’s this incredible moment in cinema, because you just took that monolith, and you just brought him into the contemporary world.”

Deal’s favorite genre is the Western. He grew up on spaghetti Westerns, thinks “Unforgiven” is a marvel of cinema and can even get a little enjoyment out of “The Magnificent Seven.” “The whole cowboy and Indian narrative, I resent significantly. But I think one of the weird things about westward expansion is nobody realizes that poor whites were being sacrificed for that expansion,” Deal said. “There’s some interesting history there that I think would benefit a lot of Americans if they actually paid attention to it and not got so caught up in the romantic, nationalistic narrative of it — this sort of ‘land of opportunity’ thing. It was a terrible time.”

The second single on “POST AMERICAN,” “Mythical Cowboys,” addresses how many John Wayne and Kevin Costner films romanticize westward expansion and inaccurately or negatively portray Native Americans. “We wrote that song, and we recorded it, and that night, I had a dream that Kevin Costner was really upset with me, and he wanted to give me a talking-to,” Deal laughed.

Later, when BBC Radio 1 DJ Daniel P. Carter (who is close friends with the founders of Hassle Records, Dead Pioneers’ UK-based label) played several Dead Pioneers songs on-air, a producer removed “Mythical Cowboys” from the track list. According to Deal, when Carter asked the producer for an explanation, she said that “she didn’t think it was fair because Kevin Costner wasn’t in a position to respond to the diss.” [TTT editor’s note: When I was a reader for TriStar Pictures, I recommended turning down “Dances With Wolves” because of its absurd ‘white savior’ story line.]

“We’re past the point of non-Native people telling our stories,” Deal asserted. “You either need to invite a Native person to help inform those stories, or you just need to back away and let us tell the stories ourselves.”

Beyond the treasure trove of film references, “POST AMERICAN” covers a lot of lyrical and instrumental ground. “Pit Song” is a pummeling tribute to losing oneself at a punk show, and the self-titled “Dead Pioneers” keeps up the fast-paced energy with a hardcore bass groove and a reversal of the “Ten Little Indians” rhyme. “Love Language” is a takedown of toxic masculinity, backed up by Petrol Girls’ Ren Aldridge, whose English-accented enunciation infuses sarcastic venom into every line.

In “The Caucacity,” Deal recalls being interrupted while speaking at a university by a student who inquired, “Why do you spend so much time complaining and not putting your energy into actually helping your people?” Over a bouncy bassline and scratching, skeletal guitar, Deal answers the question with outrage and a dash of humor, his voice filling with spite that nearly boils over by the end of the five-minute track.

In the moment, Deal asked the student whether he had ever learned about the 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island by Native Americans, or the 1972 sit-in at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. He hadn’t. “As you’re sitting here saying that I’m complaining, I’m teaching you things that you don’t even know, and you’re not asking yourself why you don’t know them,” Deal said. “The omission of information is immediately telling you who’s important, and who isn’t.”

Many of the more somber tracks pull from Deal’s parental perspective. The piano-backed “Bloodletting Carnival” is inspired by the traumatizing pressures put on children in America. “One of the comments I saw during the Palestine protests at colleges was that they couldn’t believe how well these kids could build barricades, without realizing that this is the generation of kids that have been building barricades their entire life in preparation for school shootings,” Deal observed.

“Fire and Ash,” with its walking, synthetic bassline, pensive acoustic guitar and choked-up vocals, stems from Deal’s reaction to the death of non-binary high schooler Nex Benedict in 2024, and his own feelings as the parent of a non-binary child. “White Whine” pulls from Deal’s own childhood as he teasingly clarifies that he doesn’t hate white people. The lyrics are inspired by a friend of a friend’s response to being invited to a Dead Pioneers concert: “I don’t feel like going to your show and feeling bad for being a white guy.” Deal then explains that his intent is not to make people feel guilty for immutable characteristics like their skin color or heritage, but to denounce white supremacy.

Growing up on the receiving end of racial bias from authority figures like his gym teacher, Deal thought that he was, somehow, a problem — a perception he didn’t shake for a long time. “A lot of what I do is trying to write something that I would have wanted to hear when I was a kid,” Deal explained. “I’m not as concerned about white folks’ feelings being hurt as I am about the Indigenous or Black or brown child feeling like they’re a problem.”

Dead Pioneers’ second album, “POST AMERICAN,” releases April 11 through Hassle Records. Music video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EibRILorFTY> Podcast interview with Gregg Deal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKFNpcCDJq0>

As Musk Complains, Tesla Takedown Movement Grows

By Mike Elk, Payday Report

Over last weekend in March, protestors marched outside all 277 Tesla US showrooms. The effort was the first time for many protestors to show up on the picket line. The protests received widespread media coverage from local press while the national media largely ignored the protests. Payday has organized some of this local press coverage so that our readers can get a sense of the size of the movement.

“This is a constitutional crisis,” Lisa Caldwell of Syracuse told Urban CNY. “People from all walks of life—many of whom have never protested before—are stepping up because the checks and balances of our government are under attack.”

At a time when the courts and established law seem unable to stop Musk’s assault on the constitution and federal government, many activists hope that protesting outside Tesla will have an effect. Already, his stock has tanked by 50% in the last three months. Sales were down 13% in the US in the first quarter, and 45% in Germany.

“There’s no way to really get to him unless it’s through his companies. He wasn’t elected, he was

appointed,” Robert Campbell, an organizer of the Tesla Takedown rally in Santa Clara, California told KVTU.

Many activists said that the protests and their effect on Tesla’s stock price have inspired them to keep fighting. “I don’t want to sit back and read the news and say ‘Oh my gosh, this is all so bad,’” Sandra Rhude, a mother of seven, told the *Star Tribune* at a protest in Minneapolis. “Let’s do something. We’ve got to do something.”

Protestors overseas in England and elsewhere showed up to protest Musk at Tesla showrooms. “If we can just put one or two people off buying a Tesla today to help spread the message and get his stock to go down further and further, hopefully that will give Elon and other billionaires like him the pause to think twice about what they’re doing,” Karl Scholz said at a protest in Bristol, England.

The protests appear to be having a real effect and gaining popular momentum. At a series of rallies around the country held by former Democratic vice presidential candidate and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, he read out loud about how much Tesla’s stock has declined.

“There’s this thing on my phone, I know some of you know this, on the iPhone. They’ve got that little stock app. I added Tesla to it to give me a little boost during the day...225 and dropping,” Walz joked.

The quip by the former vice presidential candidate got Elon Musk to cry foul. “I mean, you have Tim Walz, who’s a huge jerk, running around on stage with the Tesla stock price, where the stock price had gone in half, and he was overjoyed,” Musk said during an interview with Fox News on Friday, the day before the protests.

Organizers think that Musk’s comments helped to swell crowds for the Tesla Takedown protests this week. “Everything he says brings more people out to protest against him. What he says about unions, trans people, government employees,” Hank Kennedy told the *Detroit News* at a protest in Troy, Michigan. “I’d like to see him fired and these cuts reversed. I think that’s the end goal and how we’re doing that is we’re aiming to damage his wallet ... so if that means people boycotting Tesla, divesting themselves of stock, if that’s the only way we can fight back peacefully ... that’s what we’re doing.”

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TURNING THE TIDE

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ★ Apr 5 - Hands Off! National Day of Action vs ICE, War, MAGA, Repression
 - ★ Apr 12 - Fight the Oligarchy Tour, Bernie Sanders, AOC in DTLA 1pm
 - ★ Apr 13 - Marcha por Zapata 31st annual - Rally 12n Parque Mexico, ELA
 - ★ Apr 22 - Earth Day - Decolonize, Decarbonize, Stop Ecocide!
 - ★ Apr 27 - White People for Black Lives, 11a-1:30p <https://secure.everaction.com/FedBQ0aTE-KRgdfdaCKQ2>
 - ★ May 1 - International Workers Day - join Community Self-Dense Coalition LA
- Global May Day - One World, One Struggle (see p. 5 inside)
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innocence.



Graphic by Sue Coe from Young Person's Guide to Fascism; see review p. 4

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