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The dual nature of AI: A tool shaped by human hands

By Rossana Cambron

The following was presented by CPUSA co-chair Rossana Cambron at the Global Civilization Dialog Ministerial Meeting during the Parallel Forum on Inter-Civilization Exchanges and Mutual Learning: Innovative Development of Science and Technology.

Greetings to all. Thank you for the opportunity to learn from the collective wisdom of this forum. While my technical understanding of AI is limited, I want to share one thought that comes to mind. I recognize both the fears and hopes it inspires. AI's impact — whether positive or negative — is not inherent to the technology itself but determined by those who wield it and the systems that guide its use.

Profit vs. people: The deciding factor

Will AI accelerate life-saving medical diagnoses, or will it be manipulated to prolong illnesses for pharmaceutical profit? The answer depends on a nation's economic priorities. Under capitalism, AI risks becoming a tool for exploitation, prioritizing corporate gains over public good. In contrast, socialist systems could harness AI for collective benefit — improving education, healthcare, and equity — if guided by humanistic principles.

Dispelling fear, embracing agency

We're told to fear AI as an autonomous force, but this narrative obscures the real issue: who controls it? Like past innovations — computers or social media, for example — AI is a mirror of human intent. Its dangers stem from unchecked capitalism, not the technology itself.

For instance:

- In the area of education, AI could offset austerity-driven cuts by offering personalized learning, as seen in China's classrooms. Yet in profit-driven systems, it may deepen inequities. A better-informed working class is less likely to fall prey to propaganda that does not represent its interest. The ability of AI to create personalized learning is essential in capitalist countries, where education is not a valued investment, but the population needs to be educated enough to see who is not representing their best interest.
- In the field of healthcare: I am reminded of how useful it would have been for my brother-in-law, who was first diagnosed with bronchitis, then pneumonia, and finally cancer, when it was too late to save him. AI could prevent such tragedies by scanning medical images with exceptional accuracy — but only if prioritized over hospital profits.
- The predictive analytics that AI has can allow governments to track disease outbreaks and develop preventive strategies. It can also be used in disaster management to predict natural calamities, enabling faster and more effective response times. I have wondered how this would have prevented the over 100 people who are currently missing from the recent flood in the state of Texas.



- We have witnessed how AI-powered robots can be deployed to navigate and conduct search-and-rescue operations that are too dangerous for humans.
- Job displacement is inevitable under capitalism, where automation serves shareholders. Under capitalism, there is no retraining or sustainable provisions when a worker loses their job to AI. I personally refuse to use self-check-out machines in my country, because I know they will eliminate jobs.
- Socialist models could retrain workers without sacrificing livelihoods as their priority is people before profits.

Resistance and responsibility

The European Union's ethics guidelines (lawful, ethical, robust AI) are a start, but bias persists when algorithms reflect corporate interests.

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To counter this:

1. Worker-led oversight is key. Unions and scientists must shape AI's development, ensuring it serves communities, not elites.
2. AI also opens new pathways for entrepreneurship by providing tools for small businesses to compete with larger corporations.
3. Global solidarity is essential. As the AFL-CIO warns, fascism thrives when technology empowers the few. Our movements — from protests to strikes — must demand democratic control of AI.
4. Cross-border collaboration requires that progressive nations must share AI advances to counter capitalist exploitation, as seen in China's public-sector innovations. Its participation in contributing to AI is essential to ensuring that accurate information is used to drive the algorithm.

AI as evolution, not revolution

While artificial intelligence offers immense potential for social impact, it also introduces certain risks that need to be managed carefully. Ensuring that AI is used responsibly requires a focus on mitigating unintended consequences, such as algorithmic bias, privacy concerns, and the potential for exacerbating inequality.

Also, AI can be used to spread wrong information that can cause chaos and manipulate thinking, resulting in working people supporting something that is against their own interest.

This requires organizations to prioritize fairness in their AI systems by developing algorithms that account for diverse populations and by continuously auditing models to detect and address biases. We are counting on socialist-minded countries and their scientists to ensure this development.

It should also be able to develop critical thinking which is essential in forming objective conclusions of a given situation.

Tools have always driven human progress — from plows to washing machines. AI is no different. The question isn't whether to embrace it, but how. Under socialism, AI could uplift humanity; under capitalism, it entrenches inequality.

As we can see more clearly each day, AI and society are now intertwined. Our task is clear: unite workers, scientists, and activists to ensure this tool becomes a force for liberation — not another weapon for the ruling class. The future isn't about machines "taking over." It's about "who" takes over AI.

Contact Congress today: No to nuclear weapons!

By People's World

Call and write or visit your U.S. Representative and Senators to demand Congress oppose the escalation of nuclear weapons within the Billionaire Budget Betrayal that robs working class communities of health, nutrition, and education and threatens the future of the planet. Nuclear weapons, bombs for Israel, and mass deportations do not make us safer.

Tell them to co-sponsor Senate Resolution 323 and House Resolution 317, introduced on the 80th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan, urging that the U.S. join efforts to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race through diplomacy and disarmament with a just economic transition for affected communities.

Call 202-225-3121 today and ask for your Senators!

Then, [fill in your info to send a short letter](#) to your elected officials. And please share with your coworkers, friends, family, and neighbors.



Labor, African Americans, Latinos descend on Texas capitol to challenge racist redistricting

By Stu Becker

AUSTIN, Texas—Texas State House Democrats left the state Sunday to block the vote of a Trump-ordered Republican redistricting plan designed to steal five U.S. House seats in Texas for Republicans and drown out the voices of predominantly Black and brown voters.

The labor movement is giving the bolting lawmakers its full support, with the Texas AFL-CIO releasing a statement declaring its “full solidarity with this necessary quorum break and Texas House Democrats taking the fight to the rest of the country.”

Rick Levy, president of the state labor federation, said, “We need lawmakers at every level and in every state to fight to protect our rights, no matter what it takes.”



Levy indicated that Texas “may be the beginning of this redistricting battle, but workers across this country will win the war.”

On Friday, Aug. 1, the Texas AFL-CIO and many Black and brown Democratic Party voices descended onto the capitol building in Austin to testify at the special session in the Texas Legislature.

U.S. Reps. Jasmine Crockett, Julie Johnson, and Marc Veasey sponsored buses to transport their constituents to Austin to offer their own opinions on the redistricting plan directly to the assembly. The church of civil rights activist and pastor Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, also sent a bus to Austin.

With the Republicans’ new map, Democratic members of Congress Jasmine Crockett, Marc Veasey, and Julie Johnson no longer live in their districts.

Greg Casar, Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and former labor organizer, was at Friday’s rally, along with Lloyd Doggett of the Progressive Caucus. Both represent Austin. In the new maps, Casar and Doggett will be pitted against one another in the election.

Jasmine Crockett, representative of predominantly African-American District 30 in Dallas, told media personality George Lee, Jr. (@theconsciouslee on Instagram):

“In the state of Texas, the largest ethnic group is Latinos, Latinos are 40% of the state. Anglos are 39% of the state. African Americans are somewhere between 11 and 13% of the state, and Asians are 5% of the state. With this math, somehow 60% of the seats that get to go D.C. belong to the 39%. If you’re Black in the state of Texas, then your vote is worth about one-fifth of what an Anglo’s vote is worth when it comes to these Congressional maps...(for) Latinos, your vote is worth one-third of an Anglo’s vote in Texas.”

This is reminiscent of the Constitution’s “three-fifths compromise,” when enslaved Africans counted as three-fifths of a person when counting the population for representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Added to the Constitution at its beginning in 1787, this maneuver enhanced the political power of the slave-owning Southern states and set the stage for the later Jim Crow era when African Americans couldn’t vote in Southern states but they counted for population.

Crockett and others, like Elie Mystal, have suggested that the Heritage Foundation and the Republican Party are working together on moving towards white minority rule.

Rep. Crockett said that this new redistricted map violates the Voting Rights Act.

Levy of the AFL-CIO said in his testimony:

“Somebody got a call from the president saying do my political bidding so he doesn’t have to face the voters for unpopular actions, like the largest transfer of wealth from working-class people to billionaires in the history of this country. This hearing, with two-days’ notice, one hearing in the middle of the workday, you’ve effectively shut the door on working people to participate.

“Your process shows that you don’t really care what we think. 99% of Texans won’t even know what happened here until they show up to the polls and find out they have a new member of Congress.”

The Texas Republicans’ scheme is sparking a counteroffensive on the Democratic side. On Monday morning, Aug. 4, the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee in Washington issued a call to Democratic lawmakers nationwide to “pursue mid-cycle redistricting opportunities while focusing on winning battleground chambers and new majorities.”

The DLCC said it will not “sit back and allow Republicans to cheat the system to keep themselves in power.” It urged Democrats to keep all options on the table, including using their power to redistrict Congressional maps in states where they currently hold majorities.

Trump plan to end free elections in 2026 and 2028 revealed

By CPUSA Political Action Commission

NEW YORK—The Trump administration and its radical right foot-soldiers in the federal government and in the states are undertaking a comprehensive scheme to undermine future state and federal elections, in effect rigging the rolls to keep themselves in power no matter what the voters decide.

So far, other than the report itself, by the Brennan Center for Law and Justice at New York University, there’s been little—or little-noticed—response.

The comprehensive scheme is detailed in a combination of a Trump executive order on March 25 and the notorious SAVE Act, a GOP voter repression law that would disenfranchise at least 21 million people, most of them women—the voters most likely to oppose the Trump-right-wing-corporate agenda.

Detailed and footnoted protests were aired by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) to the GOP-run House Administration Committee and by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights—whose members include the AFL-CIO—to the GOP-run Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

And states have gone to court to try to block Trump, the Brennan Center adds.



“A president has no right to rewrite the country’s election rules or regulate federal elections on his own,” the center’s report says.

“As a federal court recently put it, ‘The Constitution vests none of these powers in the president.’ In issuing the order, the president claimed extraordinary unilateral authority to regulate federal elections and usurp the powers of Congress, the states, and the (U.S.) Elections Administration Commission, an independent, bipartisan federal agency.”

Protecting U.S. elections, at all levels, from partisan manipulation, is now and has been for more than a century, important to workers, union, and non-union.

One, as AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler often points out, is that the GOP Trump regime views organized labor as a key roadblock to its partisan and repressive agenda. And the best way to crush labor is to crush workers' right to vote.

And, second, and just as important, restricting who can vote, and who cannot, centralizes power in the hands not just of Trump but of the corporate interests that back him and who turn a blind eye—or worse—to repression both at the workplace and at the ballot box.

After all, paraphrasing the late UAW President Walter Reuther, what is won at the bargaining table can be taken away by the stroke of a pen.

The elements in the right wing's coordinated attempt to entrench itself in power go far beyond what Trump tried in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election. Trump lost it to Democratic nominee Joe Biden, and knew it. But he tried to overturn the results in lawsuits and other intimidation in selected swing states—and went 0-for-62 in court cases.

When that failed, he turned to aiding and abetting the Jan. 6, 2021, Trumpite invasion, insurrection, and attempted coup d'état at the U.S. Capitol.

But now the Trump right-wing playbook to undermine and rig coming elections is much more extensive and much more under the radar, the Brennan Center reports. It includes:

- Attempting to rewrite election rules to burden voters and usurp control of election systems.
- Targeting or threatening to target election officials and others who keep elections free and fair.
- Federal officials, at the Justice Department, had an important role in countering disinformation and combating racial discrimination. This federal protection for fair elections may no longer exist.
- Supporting people who undermine election administration by putting them on state and local elections boards.
- Retreating from the federal role of protecting voters and the election process by defunding agencies Congress established to safeguard the vote and ensuring the Federal Elections Commission, already hobbled by a years-long deadlock, remains toothless.
- Giving a “go” signal to future violence to overturn elections, by Trump's pardons of the January 6 insurrectionists.

Leaves out one key tactic

The Brennan report leaves out one tactic of Trump, the MAGAites and the right-wing: Stacking state and local elections boards. An attempt occurred in Nevada, a swing state in 2020 and 2024. And after the four-member, evenly split Wayne County, Mich. (Detroit) elections board voted 3-1 to certify Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's margin there in 2020, Michigan MAGAites forced the Republican commissioner who voted for certification out of office.

“Why do we conclude this represents a concerted strategy? Among other things, President Trump tried to do this before,” the Brennan Center points out. “He was the first president to try to overturn the results of a presidential election and used federal power to do so.

“Institutions and key officials blocked him. These internal checks, however, are now gone, and many public officials will likely carry out the president's will.

“This campaign to undermine elections runs afoul of the U.S. Constitution. Only Congress and the states can set election rules.

The executive branch, especially the Department of Justice (DOJ), is charged with enforcing federal laws. But neither the president nor the DOJ has the authority to set rules governing elections or to supervise” state elections procedures.

Yet Trump is trying just that. And, as CREW and the Brennan Center point out, the misnamed SAVE Act, a key goal of the House's ruling right-wing Republicans, would aid and abet that campaign. Other specifics include:

- **Attempting to impose a “Show Your Papers” requirement on voters.**

Trump, in a March 25 executive order, and the GOP congressional majority, in the SAVE Act, say doing so would prevent “voter fraud,” which even Trump's last Attorney General in his first term, Bill Barr, called non-existent. But “show your papers” mandates, using a citizenship document to even register to vote, “would undermine voting and disrupt election administration in multiple respects.”

Estimates are that the mandate, the SAVE Act, or both, would disenfranchise at least 21 million voters nationwide. Most of them would be women, whose names on their initial voter registrations are different from the name they now use.

- **Force the states to re-certify all their voting machines, buy new ones, or both.** That would cost billions of dollars. It's also one step removed from Trump's demand for hand counts of all elections. The certification would be done by federally approved firms and methods, and only one has been OK'd by the federal Elections Administration Commission, on July 7, 2025.

There are also bans on unauthorized access to voting machines and equipment. The result of violating them is to toss the machines—and the votes they count—out. Tina Peters, former county clerk in rural “red” Mesa County, Colo., is now serving a 9-year term in prison for allowing Trumpite election deniers access to her county's machines after the 2020 balloting. She was convicted last year.

- **Retaliation against opponents of the right-wing's voter rigging.** The targets include state and local elections officials, non-partisan groups such as the League of Women Voters, civic groups that mobilize voters “and other individuals and entities that protect elections and the rule of law,” the Brennan Center reports.

That kind of retaliation could target both unions and their get-out-the-vote drives and groups such as the Poor People's Campaign, which registers and mobilizes poor and low-wealth people—the very voters least likely to participate, but also the most likely to oppose the Trumpite, right-wing and corporate hegemony.

Reports likely targets

The Brennan Center reports likely targets for “law enforcement” type retaliation would include individual voters, election officials, “perceived political adversaries, and journalists.” The last two groups of targets have been GOP targets before: On Richard Nixon's enemies list. Labor leaders—AFSCME President Jerry Wurf and UAW President Leonard Woodcock—were on it, too.

Trump's FBI Director Kash Patel “stated ‘We're going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens, who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections—we're going to come after you,’” the Brennan Center adds.

The Brennan Center reports three active task forces leading that retaliation:

Trump plan to end free elections in 2026 and 2028 revealed

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The Justice Department's "Weaponization Working Group, the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's Office Election Integrity Task Force, and the Washington, D.C., Attorney's Office Special Unit.

- Letting DOGE—Trump's so-called Department of Government Efficiency—access sensitive private and personal voter registration files, just as it did with other agencies, including the Labor Department and the National Labor Relations Board. And the threat isn't only from DOGE's misuse of the files. The Brennan Center adds that when DOGE grabbed the NLRB's files, its security was so lax that foreign hackers immediately invaded them.

"The administration could abuse voter file access to claim fraud and erode public trust in elections," the Brennan Center warns. "It could also pressure state officials to target groups of voters and carry out unwarranted voter purges. Any disclosure of sensitive personal information puts individuals and groups at risk of being intimidated or doxed. And mishandling voter file data could expose U.S. elections to political and foreign interference."

- **Intimidating election officials.** After what happened in 2020 to the two African-American women in Georgia at the hands of Trump consigliere Rudy Giuliani—one a ballot counter, the other her mother—local elections officials are scared and defecting in droves.

"Criminal investigations and prosecutions would impose a severe personal and financial toll on election officials or nonprofit employees for simply doing their jobs to help keep elections free and fair.

But beyond that, the harms that stem from targeting the officials and civil society groups that make our elections work are manifold," the Brennan Center report says.

"Even if the administration never charges any officials, the threat alone of criminal investigation or prosecution will likely exacerbate the exodus of election officials. In 2024 33% of local election officials knew at least one colleague who resigned at least in part due to fear for their safety, of increased threats, or of intimidation; 21% stated they were unlikely to continue serving in their role for the 2026 midterms. In 2025, 59% of officials reported fear of political interference in their ability to do their jobs. And 46% were very or somewhat concerned about potential politically motivated investigations of themselves and their families."

One solution: Sue for damages. The Brennan Center reports "federal and state law prohibit anyone, including federal officials, from intimidating voters and those, like election officials or civic engagement organizations, who assist or encourage them to vote. And though voters rarely do so, they are able to sue DOJ officials under anti-intimidation law in federal court."

"The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances to ensure free and fair elections. The power to regulate elections lies in the hands of states and Congress. Courts and advocates complement this system to uphold the Constitution and federal law," the Brennan Center declares.

"U.S. election infrastructure leaves no room for the president to insert himself. Yet that is exactly what he purports to do."

Trump fires messenger, BLS Chief McEntarfer, for bad news

By Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON—For Donald Trump, the "bad news" on the economy in July was that few jobs were created, then and in the prior two months. So he lashed out by firing the messenger, the non-partisan labor economist, Dr. Erika McEntarfer, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The firing was the latest in a series of authoritarian moves to control all the information the American public receives including what news they get on television and on line, what reports they get about the progress of epidemics and climate disasters, what information is included in school textbooks, what museums can or cannot say about Trump impeachments and many other issues.

And that, along with accelerating inflation, and raising questions about whether the BLS could be trusted in the future i.e., that Trump won't try to manipulate the numbers, set off jitters among economic forecasters—and the markets—which count on BLS's neutrality

The firing of the BLS commissioner has increased fears across the board now on the part of data collectors and all government employees that any failure on their part to toe Trump's line will result in their careers being crushed.

The actual July data showed private firms claimed to create 83,000 new jobs that month, adjusted for seasonal factors. But governments shed 10,000 jobs, bringing the net figure down to 73,000. Unadjusted, the increase was 44,000 jobs, net.



The federal government alone lost 12,500 jobs last month and 84,000 so far this year, as GOP President Trump's firings began to hit home. But the real crunch will come when the federal workers who took buyouts through September 30 hit the jobless rolls after that, BLS explained. Right now, they're still "employed" but on furlough.

Another jobs "shortage" came as BLS collected more jobs surveys for May and June. The initial reports for those two months showed firms claimed to create 291,000 jobs. The revised figures totaled 33,000 jobs. Trump blew up, accusing McEntarfer of "a lengthy history of inaccuracies and incompetence."

"Under McEntarfer, the Bureau of Labor Statistics consistently published overly optimistic jobs numbers—only for those numbers to be quietly revised later," Trump declared. His statement preceded a long list of what he called errors and leaks.

Heidi Shierholz, the Economic Policy Institute president, spelled out the consequences of Trump's removal of McEntarfer. She also said revisions in monthly job creation numbers, coming from firms, are normal.

Straight from autocratic playbook

"In a move straight out of the autocratic playbook, Trump fired the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) because he didn't like the jobs numbers," said Shierholz, who served as chief economist for the Secretary of Labor during the Obama administration, between stints at EPI.

"BLS is one of the most respected statistical agencies in the world, known for its methodological rigor, independence, and transparency. The president's actions show a complete misunderstanding of how government statistical agencies operate.

"The U.S. looks set to run into the next economic downturn flying blind. The cost of this incompetence will be felt by working people first. And it's "undemocratic and economically dangerous.

Trump's "belief the BLS commissioner personally 'produced' the jobs numbers is preposterous," she continued. The data is "the product of careful work by hundreds of expert economists, statisticians, and civil servants following transparent, well-established methodologies.

"If policymakers and the public can't trust the data—or suspect the data are being manipulated—confidence collapses and reasonable economic decision-making becomes impossible. It's like trying to drive a car blindfolded," said Shierholz.

Jason Walsh, executive director of the BlueGreen Alliance, a coalition of unions, led by the Steelworkers, and green groups, pinned the blame for the low numbers directly on Trump.

"The numbers are in, and the U.S. job market is in a Trump slump. President Trump is harming our country. His policies—attacking clean energy and manufacturing, gutting the federal workforce, and his cruel immigration crackdown—have thrown the job market and the economy into chaos," he said.

McEntarfer, Shierholz explained, is "bound by strict norms of nonpartisanship and statistical integrity," just like her predecessors in the top BLS job.



"To fire her over an official data release—simply because the numbers do not serve a particular political narrative—is a deeply dangerous attack on the foundations of a functioning democracy."

It's also dangerous because businesses use the BLS numbers as a guide to investing and hiring, and the Federal Reserve uses them to set interest rates, driving the cost of borrowing—everything from car loans and home mortgages to the federal deficit—up or down. State and local governments also use them to plan budgets.

BLS reported unemployment edged up by 0.1% in July, to 4.2% and the number of jobless increased by 221,000 to 7.236 million, returning that seasonally adjusted figure to its May level. The jobless rate in July 2024—after Trump had wrapped up the GOP nomination—was also 4.2%, or 7.097 million.

But now there's another problem in the numbers, Shierholz warned: "The firing of the BLS commissioner follows a week of reporting that almost 20% of price inflation data was unable to be collected for July, stemming from severe resource constraints," a polite way of saying there is not enough money—or enough people—to collect all the data.

"Between illegal firings, starving data agencies of needed resources, and now political intimidation, the U.S. looks set to run into the next economic downturn flying blind. The cost of this incompetence will be felt by working people first," Shierholz predicted.

CPUSA labor activists foster international links in Cyprus

By CPUSA Labor Commission

This report was delivered by Cameron Harrison, a member of the Communist Party USA National Labor Commission and National Committee, at the occasion of a bilateral meeting between the CPUSA and Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) in Nicosia, Cyprus. The same report was given later in the week to the General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, Pambis Kyritsis, and the Executive Committee of the Pancyripan Federation of Labor (PEO).

Our party's Labor Commission believes that addressing the challenges our working class faces involves stimulating new union organizing, implementing our policy of working-class concentration — where we target key workplaces and working-class neighborhoods, reconnecting with organizations such as the World Federation of Trade Unions, and building a strong, militant mass Communist Party in our country.

Historical setbacks

The U.S. labor movement's decline in the second half of the 20th century was driven by anti-communist purges and capitalist offensives.



After World War II, when unions internationally united under WFTU to advance worker solidarity, democracy, and peace, U.S. capitalists and anti-communist forces saw this internationalism as a threat.

The U.S. labor movement was split, and the American Federation of Labor fractured international unity by helping to establish the so-called International Confederation of Free Trade Unions that aligned with imperialist foreign policy, rather than workers' interests.

In the U.S., anti-communist purges removed our most effective labor leaders and unions like the United Electrical Workers and International Longshore and Warehouse Union from our main labor federation. Many remaining labor leaders promoted class collaboration over class struggle. Suppressing the militant unions and trade-union leaders weakened our working class' unity and resistance to the rise of neoliberalism, austerity, and the rapid advances of monopoly capitalism.

Since the 1970s, more than 60 million U.S. workers have been displaced from their jobs due to mass layoffs, plant closures, and the decline of various manufacturing sectors. Following on the anti-labor maneuverings of Democrat Jimmy Carter, Republican Ronald Reagan crushed the Air-Traffic Controllers strike in 1981. Our union density plummeted as corporations continued to send jobs to low-wage, high-exploitation countries.

In the 1990s, Democrat Bill Clinton passed the worker-hated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) bill that further destroyed our union jobs. Although labor has tended to support the Democratic Party in national elections, both Democratic and Republican presidents have harmed labor.

The U.S. labor movement's eventual alignment with imperialism during the Cold War mirrored its domestic retreat and inability to effectively counter reaction and racism. By supporting coups against left-wing governments and red-baiting at home, anti-communism contributed to our labor movement's overall decline.

Today's fightback

Unlike in the Cold War period, recent efforts correctly recognize that workers' struggles in the U.S. are interconnected internationally. The National Labor Network for Ceasefire's call to end U.S. military aid to Israel due to the genocide in Gaza shows labor demonstrating leadership in opposing imperialism. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists are demanding an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba, while unions like Service Employees, Electrical Workers, Sheetmetal Workers, and the Painters Union continue to resist attacks on immigrant workers. Rebuilding our labor movement will involve expanded international solidarity.

Today, the majority of the working class in the U.S. is living paycheck-to-paycheck, facing severe poverty, immiseration, and neglect.

Our labor movement is faced with escalating attacks by big business and the fascistic Trump administration — from dismantling workers' collective bargaining rights to ICE raids targeting immigrant union organizers. Today, with 90% of U.S. workers non-unionized, our labor movements' very survival depends on aggressive new union organizing and increased rank-and-file militancy.

The Trump administration's current assaults on labor — including the largest union-busting campaign in history against federal workers, brutal immigration police raids, and the aggressive rule of finance capital — represents a clear anti-labor offensive to dismantle working-class power and democracy. His executive orders stripping basic trade union rights particularly target Black workers, who comprise almost 19% of public sector employees. Among Post Office employees, the number is closer to 30%. In the U.S., any anti-labor move by the capitalist class is also a racist move against the racially oppressed who are overwhelmingly working-class.

The arrest of Service Employees Union California President during an ICE raid exemplifies their anti-worker strategy of combining union-busting with racist repression. Ultimately, these attacks reflect capitalism's crisis. As worker anger against the capitalist system grows, the capitalist class turns to repression through anti-labor and anti-democratic attacks, mass deportations, and criminalizing our right to organize and protest.

Yet workers are fighting back: through workplace strikes, the growth of rank-and-file workplace committees, community organizations, and the development of May Day demonstrations and massive peoples' rallies on June 14 in opposition to Trump's military parade, which saw millions of workers and our allies take to the streets.

Uniting the struggles for democracy, equality, workers' rights, immigrant justice, and peace will unify our movement toward a broader struggle against capitalist exploitation and imperialism. The ruling class thrives on creating division, but our power lies in unity. The primary task for labor militants in the U.S. is to help organize the unorganized and fight for the leadership of the working class in the struggles against reaction and imperialism. We must continue our efforts to build a mass movement capable of confronting our own ruling class, defending our democratic gains, and forwarding the struggle for socialism.

Our party is organizing, strategizing, and taking concrete steps in our daily work to meet the challenges of our current political moment. We support with great enthusiasm the work being done in Cyprus by our comrades in AKEL and bring solidarity greetings from the U.S. We extend our gratitude and thanks for allowing us to share our thoughts.

Trump revives threat of D.C. takeover and orders restoration of Confederate statue

By Jamal Rich

WASHINGTON—While the U.S. Marines and National Guard begin to transition out of Los Angeles and into other states to assist with President Donald Trump's racist and fascist immigration enforcement plan, the administration is beginning to ramp up its threats against D.C.'s Home Rule and African Americans. Symbolic proof of the president's intentions is his administration's order that a statue of a racist Confederate general and likely founder of the Ku Klux Klan be resurrected in the capital.

On Tuesday, Trump went on an unhinged tirade against D.C.'s local government, claiming that there is rampant crime in the nation's capital and threatening a federal takeover in order to prosecute Black youth, as young as the age of 14, as adults.

"Crime in Washington, D.C., is totally out of control," Trump wrote.



"Local 'youths' and gang members ... are randomly attacking, mugging, maiming and shooting innocent citizens," he added, "at the same time knowing that they will be almost immediately released." He said local youths do not fear law enforcement "because they know nothing ever happens to them."

The threat to lock up Black youth is reminiscent of his purchase of a full-page ad calling for the death penalty of the five young Black men who were wrongly convicted in the Central Park Five case in the late 1980s.

Part of the reason the administration is setting its sights on African Americans is due to their power in Washington, D.C. They make up a plurality of the local population, a Black woman sits in the mayor's office, and Black elected officials hold majority of the seats on the D.C. Council. The District is also home to the largest employer of African Americans—the federal government. Neighboring Prince George's County, meanwhile, boasts the largest wealth per capita of African Americans in the country.

Confederate revival

Trump's social media rant against D.C. coincided with an announcement by the National Park Service that it will be resurrecting a Confederate statue in the District that was torn down during the 2020 George Floyd Rebellion. That statue honored Confederate Army leader Albert Pike. NPS claims that putting the statue back in place is part of the president's executive order on the "beautification" of D.C.

Pike was a failed Confederate battlefield general whose soldiers were accused of atrocities against U.S. troops during the Battle of Pea Ridge. He also engaged in egregious acts before his time as a Confederate military officer. In 1858, he joined with other white Southerners to advocate the expulsion of freed former African slaves from Arkansas.

After the Confederate States were defeated, Pike fought hard against equality and suffrage for former slaves and claimed that "the white race, and that race alone should govern this country." He even threatened to leave Freemasonry if it allowed African Americans to join.

According to sources inside the Ku Klux Klan, Pike was a founding member and also the secret society's chief judicial officer. Many scholars have concluded he headed the Klan in Arkansas in the late 1860s. Chapters in Illinois, Kansas City, Oklahoma, Virginia, and New Jersey were even named after him during the Klan's revival in the early 20th century. Some later reports dispute that Pike formally joined.

Given his history, Pike's statue became a target during the 2020 protests against racist police violence. At the time, an irate Trump tweeted: "The DC police are not doing their job as they watched a statue be ripped down and burn. These people should be immediately arrested. A disgrace to our Country!"

D.C.'s lone nonvoting delegate in Congress, Eleanor Holmes Norton, swiftly denounced the decision to restore Pike's statue and is introducing legislation to have the monument permanently removed, joining the anti-racist chorus. The D.C. Council has been urging its removal since 1992 and local activists had protested the only Confederate statue in the District for decades.

The movement to remove Confederate monuments around the country followed the 2017 fascist Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville, Va., during the first Trump presidency. It includes such incidents as Bree Newsome's heroic act in 2015 scaling the flag pole in front of the South Carolina statehouse to remove the Confederate flag in the aftermath of the massacre of Black worshippers at the Emanuel AME Church by Dylann Roof.

This revival of a Confederate statue in D.C. is another aspect the white supremacist MAGA blitzkrieg of assaults on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), Black history, and the Smithsonian museums; attacks on higher education; the forced layoffs of thousands of Black federal workers, leading to a significant increase in Black unemployment; and the destruction of Black Lives Matter Plaza.

Though the Freemasons were responsible for the original statue's erection in 1901, the Daughters of the Confederacy is the primary organization behind the propping up of most Confederate statues around the country. In the past, the Daughters hosted regular ceremonies at the site in D.C. on Pike's birthday to promote the revisionist history of the Civil War and to promote reactionary, backward policies.

Trumped-up "emergency"

On Wednesday, Trump doubled down on his threat and said he is considering federalizing the Metropolitan Police Department, D.C.'s local police—which the president can do using emergency powers—and deploying the National Guard.

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform: "Washington, DC, must be safe, clean, and beautiful for all Americans and, importantly, for the World to see. If DC doesn't get its act together, and quickly, we will have no choice but to take Federal control of the City, and run this City how it should be run, and put criminals on notice that they're not going to get away with it anymore."

This comes as Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) staffer Edward Coristine, the 19-year-old infamously known as "Big Balls," was allegedly beaten by a group of teenagers on Sunday evening (though he was not taken to the hospital), and anti-immigrant Fox News Host Jeanine Pirro was confirmed as U.S. Attorney for D.C. over the weekend.

Billionaire Elon Musk took to X (formerly Twitter) to defend his former anti-federal worker partner and spewed racist lies, saying that Big Balls was defending a woman from being attacked by "a dozen young men," another historic white supremacist dog whistle—claiming Black teens are out to assault white women, similar to the racist attacks on the [Scottsboro Nine in the 1930s](#).

New U.S. Attorney Pirro has joined the fray, calling on the D.C. Council to reconsider some laws related to public safety, including the Second Chance Amendment Act, the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act, and the Youth Rehabilitation Act. The changes she is pushing would surely increase D.C.'s mass incarceration and imprison Black youth at exorbitant numbers.

This is not Trump's first threat to federalize the District, but will he actually follow through this time?

MAGA colonization of local affairs would seek to control African Americans, continuing the long history of denying statehood to the nation's capital and removing Black people from political power.

While democracy is under attack in the United States, it is the responsibility of the forces of progress to demand the complete expulsion of Confederate monuments from public space and to promote working-class culture through the expansion of Black Lives Matter murals and street namings (including historic African American leaders and achievements) in addition to regular promotion of African American and working-class history in public schools and higher education.

The forces of progress must struggle toward a Third Reconstruction, which must include statehood for Washington, D.C., and an end to the criminalization of Black youth.

The toppling of the Pike statue in the midst of a Black-led uprising against police violence was an expression of D.C. residents fighting for their sovereignty and control over their local affairs and public spaces.

Trump, the NPS, and Pirro have all given ample reasons for that fight to be stepped up.

A new report shows how local climate activism leads to ‘remarkable’ gains

By Matt Simon

What do an offshore wind farm in New York, a campaign to install 275,000 heat pumps in Maine, and the cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline have in common? They were all the result of “community-based strategies” with involvement or leadership from local grassroots groups. Advocates say this is a powerful and relatively cheap way of driving climate action, especially as the Trump administration rolls back as much progress as it can.

A new [report](#) is the first to put hard numbers to that effectiveness in the United States and Canada. The analysis quantifies how much carbon a given law, protest movement, or clean energy project will keep out of the atmosphere. It also calculates the amount spent on the local efforts advancing each campaign to determine the cost of preventing each metric ton of CO2 equivalent from being released. (CO2 equivalent is a measurement that considers other greenhouse gases like methane.) “The numbers really did show that these had meaningful impacts and a good return on investment,” said Sam Greenberg, a director at Redstone Strategy Group and a coauthor of the report. “The benefits are not limited just to the quantifiable carbon impact — even though that’s what we were focusing on — but also understanding the full picture of all the other co-benefits we saw coming out of this.”

That wind farm in New York, for instance, will keep 7.7 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent out of the atmosphere by 2030, at a philanthropic cost of just 3 cents per ton, the report notes. A solar farm on the Moapa River Indian Reservation in Nevada will avoid 4.2 million metric tons in the same period, costing 12 cents per ton. Both are slowing climate change and reducing the air pollution that usually comes out of coal or natural gas power plants. That, in turn, brings the added benefit of improving human health.

The report considered the supply side of things as well. The Keystone XL pipeline would have ferried crude oil from Canada to refineries in the United States. But after 10 years of legal battles and fearsome opposition by environmentalists, Indigenous groups, and farmers along the route, the developer abandoned the project in 2021. The victory means that between 52 million and 105 million metric tons won’t be released by 2030, the report finds. The local advocacy efforts cost \$2.6 million, or 2 to 5 cents per ton. “You can make a solid argument that both the supply-side efforts and the renewable energy development can both have a meaningful impact,” Greenberg said.

Community activism for state policies, too, are majorly slashing emissions. In 2023, Maine blew past its goal of installing 100,000 heat pumps two years ahead of schedule. Now it wants to install another 175,000 by 2027. Because the devices run on electricity, the state can power them with renewable energy, avoiding 1.2 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent by 2030, according to the report.

Heat pumps are a good example of climate action not necessarily being branded as such. People might want to adopt the appliances because they’re more efficient, or to avoid burning toxic gas in a furnace. Advocates can also pitch renewable energy projects like wind and solar farms as job creators.



“The additional benefits of climate action, those are usually the motivating factors for people,” said Dan Jasper, senior policy advisor at Project Drawdown, a climate solutions group that wasn’t involved in the report. “Things like employment, health, less pollution — these are the things that people most fundamentally agree on, and it helps to move conversations beyond the political deadlock.”

With a lack of sufficient leadership on climate even before Donald Trump took office again, [it’s been up to states to set their own policies](#). In 2019, New York passed the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act after years of organizing and campaigning by the coalition NY Renews. It commits the state to 100 percent clean electricity by 2040. But even before that, the report notes, by 2030 the law will have canceled 58 million to 120 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent. With \$10 million spent on local philanthropic efforts, the cost comes to between 8 and 17 cents per ton.

Cities, too, [are crucibles for climate action](#). The report notes that in 2019, San Jose, California, became the biggest city in the U.S. to mandate that all new single-family homes, duplexes, and multifamily homes of three stories or less be built without natural gas hookups. That means occupants will be running conventional electric or induction stoves and heat pumps, all electrified with ever more renewable power on the grid. The philanthropic support for the effort cost \$1 million, avoiding 887,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent by 2030.

“It’s kind of remarkable how much mitigation you can get from community-based, grassroots-promoted activities,” said Rhea Suh, president and CEO of the Marin Community Foundation, which collaborates with donors and nonprofits. (Redstone prepared the report for them, as well as the MacArthur Foundation and Equation Campaign.) “It is clear that policies that were created from the ground up tend to last longer than the top-down policies.”

That’s due to increased engagement, Suh adds. Whereas the federal government dictates broad policies across the whole country, mayors and governors are more in tune with what their people actually want. By working on a more granular level with communities, organizers and politicians can collaborate with residents, not dictate. “The durability comes from just the equity sweat that is put into these things,” Suh said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Solidarity movement cautiously welcomes Canada's recognition of Palestinian state

By Dave McKee

TORONTO—Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) announced July 31 that it cautiously welcomes Prime Minister Mark Carney's announcement that Canada will recognize a Palestinian state.

However, the solidarity organization expressed its deep concern over the conditional nature of the statement and the domestic context in which it was made, specifically noting new revelations about Canada's complicity in Israel's genocide against Palestinians.

"The timing of the announcement comes just one day after a bombshell report revealed the extent of Canada's deceptive pause on arms transfers and far-reaching military cooperation with Israel during its assault on Gaza," reads the statement.

"CJPME believes this context underscores both the growing power of Palestine solidarity movements and the government's attempt to distract from more substantive accountability."

CJPME believes that recognition of Palestinian statehood can only be made meaningful if Canada immediately enacts a comprehensive, two-way arms embargo with Israel, investigates Canadian companies potentially violating the embargo, and implements broad economic sanctions to hold Israel accountable for its genocide in Gaza and its system of apartheid and illegal occupation.

Jason Toney, Director of Media Advocacy at CJPME, warned that Carney seems to be trying to play the role of "kingmaker" in Palestine.

"Calling for elections while dictating who can participate makes a mockery of democracy. Palestinians, not foreign powers, must decide their future. Canada's role should be to support truly fair and free elections.

"Demanding Palestinian demilitarization as a precondition for recognition while arming Israel is both the epitome of hypocrisy and denies Palestinians the very basic foundation of statehood itself. This is not recognition of a state, it's a demand to capitulate to Israel's dominance of Palestinians forever.

"Recognition is meaningless without sanctions on Israel. Palestine solidarity advocates won't be placated by symbolic gestures."

The declaration that Carney intends to recognize Palestine also came on the same day that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed fresh tariffs on Canada following failed negotiations between the two countries.

¡Solidaridad con la Flotilla de la Libertad y el pueblo de Gaza!

By CPUSA Peace & Solidarity Commission

Desde 2007, la población de Gaza ha vivido en lo que solo puede describirse como una prisión a cielo abierto, rodeada y bloqueada por todos lados por el régimen israelí. Durante casi dos años, el gobierno de Israel ha utilizado este bloqueo para someter sistemáticamente a la población de Gaza a una hambruna. Como declaró el exministro de Defensa israelí Yoav Gallant el 9 de octubre de 2023: «No habrá electricidad, ni comida, ni agua, ni combustible; todo está cerrado».

Hoy, según las Naciones Unidas y expertos humanitarios internacionales, Gaza está entrando en la fase más extrema de la hambruna. Su población se enfrenta a daños irreversibles y a un número creciente de muertes. Mientras Estados Unidos continúa financiando, armando y protegiendo políticamente al gobierno israelí, la mayoría de los gobiernos del mundo han fracasado o se han negado a intervenir de forma significativa para poner fin a esta catástrofe.

Ante esta inacción, cada vez más personas han dado un paso al frente. Recientemente, la Coalición de la Flotilla de la Libertad (FFC) lanzó una misión humanitaria para entregar alimentos y suministros médicos a Gaza. El barco Handala, llamado así en honor a los niños refugiados y al derecho palestino al retorno, fue interceptado ilegalmente en aguas internacionales por la armada israelí. Los activistas a bordo fueron detenidos, y los informes indican que el organizador sindical estadounidense Chris Smalls, la única persona negra a bordo, fue agredido físicamente por las fuerzas israelíes. Toda la ayuda a bordo fue confiscada y negada a la población hambrienta de Gaza.

La Comisión de Paz y Solidaridad del Partido Comunista de Estados Unidos elogia la valentía de la Coalición de la Flotilla de la Libertad y se solidariza plenamente con sus activistas y el pueblo de Gaza. Hacemos un llamamiento a todas las personas progresistas y amantes de la paz del mundo para que hagan todo lo posible para detener los bombardeos, romper el asedio y poner fin al sufrimiento del pueblo palestino. Concienticen, organicen, protesten y presionen a nuestros gobiernos para que detengan este genocidio.

Otra "escasez" de empleos se produjo cuando la BLS recopiló más encuestas de empleo para mayo y junio.

Los informes iniciales de esos dos meses mostraron que las empresas afirmaron haber creado 291.000 empleos. Las cifras revisadas totalizaron 33.000 empleos. Trump estalló en ira, acusando a McEntarfer de "un largo historial de inexactitudes e incompetencia".

"Bajo la dirección de McEntarfer, la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales publicó sistemáticamente cifras de empleo excesivamente optimistas, solo para que posteriormente fueran revisadas discretamente", declaró Trump. Su declaración precedió a una larga lista de lo que él llamó errores y filtraciones.

La terrible conflagración que presenciamos hoy y que envuelve a tantos países de Oriente Medio no es una aberración. Si bien su calor abrasador se centra ahora en destruir la vida de los palestinos en Gaza, continúa la larga y sangrienta historia de esfuerzos coloniales e imperialistas de Estados Unidos y muchas potencias europeas para dominar esa región del mundo, robar sus combustibles fósiles y controlar las rutas comerciales. Esta política continúa hoy en día para maximizar las ganancias de las corporaciones monopolistas, incluidas las grandes petroleras y fabricantes de armas.

Esta brutal guerra y bloqueo son las consecuencias lógicas del imperialismo, primero británico y luego estadounidense, que han utilizado y apoyado el sionismo y el colonialismo de asentamiento durante décadas como método para promover sus intereses en la región. Los habitantes de Gaza y Cisjordania están siendo castigados por atreverse a existir en su propia tierra. Durante años, a los palestinos se les han negado los derechos más básicos, como la libertad de movimiento, el acceso al agua potable y la atención médica, e incluso el derecho a llorar a sus muertos en paz.

Renovamos nuestro llamado a que se garanticen los derechos humanos del pueblo palestino, a que se ponga fin al apartheid israelí, a que se termine la ayuda militar estadounidense a Israel y a que los criminales de guerra israelíes y sus facilitadores internacionales comparezcan ante la justicia.

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