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EDITORIAL

Polycrisis Drives the Masses to Resist Capitalism!

Polycrisis has become a buzz-word in 2023. It refers to multiple overlapping crises and has become popular in policy making circles. It is not, however, a new phenomenon. Crisis in debt, climate, inflation, jobs, poverty, food and war did not emerge in a vacuum. They have always been ills of the capitalist system that emerged from the destruction of feudalism hundreds of years ago.

The world economy is at the brink of recession. Major economies such as those of the US, China and European Union are experiencing slow growth. The colonies and semi-colonies in the peripheries, burdened as they

are by neocolonialism and settler-colonialism, are facing tremendous debt burdens. In 2021, the accumulated debt of these countries reached \$400 billion, more than double the money they received in aid.

There is no post-pandemic recovery. Only the big businesses experienced any sort of recovery, reaping higher profits compared to last year. The world's richest 1% now controls two-thirds of all the new wealth since 2020, nevermind already existing wealth. However, while millions still face food insecurity and rising energy costs, food and energy companies have doubled their profits in 2022.

The world's working class are facing oppression by the capitalist class, facing widening inequalities day by day. The wages of billions of workers lag behind worsening inflation. Wages have cheapened throughout the years, meaning many workers have to work more for the same or even lower wages. Despite certain

increases in wages that were wrought due to the resistance and protest of many millions of people all across the United States, these still are limited due to rising costs and interest rates. The national minimum wage is still at \$7.25 however. Since the 1980s, labor has received less and less from their countries' total incomes due to the neoliberal economic policy which has liberalized the economy to allow more export of US capital abroad. Alongside this neoliberal policy is the privatization of social services and deregulation of private businesses.

While the US is far off from the 23 million unemployed in April 2020 during the pandemic, the 6 million unemployed still poses a problem. Capitalism forces the people to be unemployed because the more unemployed people there are, the more people compete for the same number of jobs thus cheapening wages and allowing the capitalists to reap further profits.

The US still dominates world military spending. Sanctions

on Russia in the context of the war in Ukraine have disrupted gas and food supplies in the EU, Africa and West Asia. The US is now involved in a multitude of wars all across the world.

Mutual logistics, Cross-Servicing and Acquisition, visiting Forces and Enhanced Defense Cooperation puts the US in battlefields in the Philippines and India where the world's most powerful proletarian armed revolutions are destroying their puppet armies in these countries unit by unit, squad by squad.

It has been supplying Israel in their war against a resisting Palestinian people who have launched an armed offensive called the Al-Aqsa Flood. It pitted Ukraine against Russia to increase its domination over Eastern Europe.

Militarism is rising in a world of crisis. Global military spending rose to over \$2.2 trillion. The US, China and Russia as the world's top imperialist powers lead in this global military spending. Military spending is funneled into fascist regimes in the third world as well as expanding military capabilities in the first world. More US military bases are being built all over the world in the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan.

Democratic rights are eroding. As people protest and take to the streets to defend the resistance of the people, advance popular and progressive demands and advocate for systematic revolutionary change, the US has cracked down on activists of all red ideological flavors such as those charged with terrorism in the Stop Cop City protests.

The tasks of the people and the proletariat are then clear. We should expose and oppose US imperialism, fight back against the repression and call for the end of its military intervention in the national affairs of other people. We should call to end the war in Ukraine by ceasefire and pull back all US troops from other countries. We should also call to strengthen the labor movement and demand economic aid in the times of crisis.

But most importantly, the proletariat must unite with all progressive forces in the US, build up a united front of all the anti-imperialist classes, groups and organizations in order to strengthen solidarity with the people all around the world and finally overthrow the corrupt capitalist-imperialist system of the U.S.

NEWS

Workers Strike, Protest at Macy's and Amazon

Amazon and Macy's workers went on strike beginning on Black Friday to protest unsafe working conditions, unfair

labor practices, and low wages. Workers at Amazon facilities in over 30 countries participated in an international industrial action coordinated by the UNI

Global Union. 400 Macy's workers launched a strike in Washington against the retail giant to protest overtime working hours along with the

corporation's refusal to renew the union's bargaining contract.

“We need increased security to better protect workers and customers in our stores. We also want Macy’s to share some of the \$1 billion/year in profits by raising our wages so we can care for our families,” said Azia Domingo, a worker who joined in the protests against Macy’s.

Workers of various industries are raising their voices against

shared workplace issues. The workers are exercising their fierce determination to struggle for better wages, benefits, conditions, and expanding the workers rights.

“We are rallying and picketing today to show Amazon that we are the ones who make this company so valuable and we deserve respect.” said Keith Williams, an Amazon warehouse worker at SWF1.

On Cyber Monday, warehouse workers and drivers in 26 Amazon facilities staged marches, petitions, rallies and strikes to raise awareness about the unfair labor practices of the company.

In 2022, Macy's accumulated a gross profit of \$9.1 billion. The department store had net sales of \$24 billion that year. On the other hand, workers typically receive a \$16 wage amounting at least \$43,680 for one year

Protests Spark in the States against Israeli Genocide, Settler Colonialism

Nationwide protests sparked and intensified after the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7 which launched an offensive against Israel and its illegal occupation of land in Palestine. In the first ten days of the war, the masses of the US held more than 400 protests against the occupation in Palestine.

Jewish protesters launched a sit-in in D.C. to call for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine. 300 people from this protest were arrested. Furthermore, many people have been losing opportunities due to

their opposition to the war, according to Palestine Legal, a non-profit organization for individuals opposed to the war.

“We have spoken to people being fired from their jobs for sharing social media posts or signing statements that support Palestinian human rights,” said their spokesperson.

Approximately 70% of the voting population between 18 and 34 disapproved of Biden’s handling of the war, according to NBC News. Biden’s

popularity and approval rating has dropped to 40% as well.

The opposition to the war only proves that the masses of the United States and especially the proletariat cannot be cowed by the firearms of the bureaucratic state apparatus. It shows their solidarity and faith in the Palestinian masses to undertake a war of national liberation against settler-colonialism and set an example for the whole world in the course of the world proletarian revolution.

National Democratic Front, Government of the Republic of the Philippines Sign Joint Statement to Revive Peace Talks

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) announced in a joint statement last November 28 their intentions to continue and revive peace talks.

This comes as the Marcos regime continues to disintegrate from within where factions have been squabbling over the death threats against Alliance of Concerned Teachers Congressional Representative, France Castro, who exposed the confidential funds of the government and the continued strengthening of the revolutionary forces which has recently conducted tactical offensives in the island regions of Samar-Leyte, Negros, Masbate, Mindanao, Panay, Bicol and other areas of the Philippines.

The Oslo Joint Statement is a first half-step in the long march leading to the resumption of formal peace negotiations, and in the even longer road of achieving the people's aspiration for a just and lasting peace," said the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in a statement released on their website.

The Philippines has gone through more than 50 years of civil war which was led by the CPP and their armed wing the New People's Army (NPA). From January to September 2023, 156 troops of the GRP have become casualties to the CPP-NPA's revolutionary war.

"These agreements must be reaffirmed and serve as foundations for future agreements on socio-economic reforms, as well as political and constitutional reforms."

The peace talks, which aim to address the root conflict of armed struggle, have four agenda in mind. The first agenda, the Comprehensive Agreement for Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) was signed during the Estrada regime of 1998 to 2001.

Alongside his rampant corruption and running of the government as a criminal syndicate based on gambling, the agreement, during his regime, was never respected after it was signed as Estrada's bid to have the NPA surrender - instead, legal democratic forces sympathetic to the revolutionary movement alongside other

forces such as the liberals ousted the president. The current agenda is the Comprehensive Agreement for Socio-Economic Reforms which, on the CPP-NPA-NDFP's side, hopes to provide national industrialization, genuine agrarian reform and free social services like education and housing to the masses.

"The Filipino people have no other recourse but to continue intensifying their mass struggles and revolutionary armed struggle to defend their livelihood, their rights and the people's national freedom, and isolate and fight the puppet, fascist and oppressive Marcos regime."

The NDFP is an umbrella organization which unites all underground groups including the NPA led by the CPP to assert national sovereignty against US imperialism and domestic feudalism. It is composed of 14 underground revolutionary groups other than the CPP-NPA including a youth revolutionary wing, the Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth), and a women's revolutionary arm, the Malayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Liberated Movement of New Women).

THEORETICAL

On the Reactions to the Palestinian Struggle

The current reaction to the armed struggle being waged by the Palestinian people by the west has shown who is our friend and who is not. As we speak, Palestine is decolonizing itself of European settler-colonialists who, under the bourgeois ideology of Zionism, have been waging a genocide against the native Palestinian people since 1948. It is only natural for the Palestinian people to respond to violence with violence because Israel has made it clear that a peaceful resolution is unacceptable. Peace talks between Palestine and Israel will only result in an Israeli sword to the necks of Palestinians. So violent action is the only path Palestinians have left to achieve freedom.

Zionism is the ideological belief that the land of Israel is a land promised by God to the Jewish people. However, this belief is not native to the Jewish religion (in fact, Judaism speaks against a Jewish state) and was actually enacted by policies between the Zionist bourgeoisie and western imperialists like the United States and Britain. Zionist abandoned their fellow Jewish brothers and sisters and started to move to Palestine under the guise of giving a land without a people to a people without a land. The issue is that there was already people living there, the Palestinians. So the Zionist, with the support of imperialist, then proceeded to kill, oppress, and push out the native Palestinian people from their lands.

The Liberal Reaction

The reaction by liberals to the Palestinian movement has shown the true nature of liberal ideology. The most common takes seen are "both sides are doing bad things", "being anti-Zionist is the same as antisemitism", and "violence is not the answer". These are all wrong.

"Both sides are bad" First, no, one side is much worse than the other. Israel is an imperialist country that has been the aggressor against native Palestinians for centuries, and the use of violence

by the Palestinian people against Israel has been one of defense. The actions taken by the Palestinians are ones to end the fascist actions of Israel against them. So no, both sides are not bad; Israel is the bad guy. We are witnessing our 21st century Haitian revolution, where oppressed people are rising against their oppressors for their freedom. One can not be on the fence over national liberation and the ending of genocide. To not pick a side only means you're quietly picking the side of the oppressor.

"Anti-Zionism is the same as Anti-Semitism" is a phrase used by Zionist apologists to dodge the rightful criticism of their settler colonial actions. Apologists try to equate Anti-Zionism to Anti-Semitism by abusing both of these terms and twisting them to mean something they don't. This false equivalence is to be corrected, first, by properly defining these two terms. Anti-Zionism is an opposition to the false history and colonialist reasoning for the invasion of Palestine and an objection to the use of religion as justification for invasion. Secondly, Anti-Semitism is a racist and fascist belief directed towards the Semitic people, which included anyone native to the Middle East as a whole. However, the meaning today has come to mean the specific hatred towards Jewish people. But to criticize Israel is not the same as hating Jewish people, it is like saying to criticize Saudi Arabia's monarchy is to be Islamophobic. This is simply a straw man, criticizing a government is simply pointing out the reactionary nature of a political and governmental organization, not being hostile or antagonistic to the ethnic or religious people said government says it represents.

*"Who planted terrorism in our area?
Some came and took our land,
forced us to leave, forced us to live in
camps. I think this is terrorism.
Using means to resist this terrorism
and stop its effects—this is called
struggle." - Leila Khaled*

"Violence is not the answer!" Well, what the fuck do you want the Palestinian people to do? They can't just sit down with the Israel government and ask them to stop bombing them; this is like asking an enslaved person to sit down with their enslaver and ask kindly for their freedom. This is just ignorant; this line of thinking only emerges for "good-hearted liberals," who just want everyone to get along. Well, guess what? This is the real world, not your lala land. When you are facing genocide, of course you will use violence to make sure you don't die. And yes, Israel has committed and is still committing genocide against the Palestinian people; the government has admitted to doing so for years. It is totally inhuman. So yes, it is right and justified for Palestinians to rise up and use violence.

Imperialist Reaction

The imperialist reaction is that the Palestinian struggle is an expected one. Many western imperialist countries have teamed up politically and ideologically to spread propaganda, misdirect the public, and cause confusion with false history and facts about the genocide unfolding in Gaza. Some countries, like the USA, are even helping out in the genocide by directly sending aid to Israel to further help in this oppression.

Israel's reaction towards Hamas and the wider people of Palestine has been nothing short of fascistic. Israel's endless drive to settle all of Palestine has led the government to openly declare war not just on the soldiers of Hamas but on the wider Palestinian people as a whole. Israel has blocked the Gaza Strip by land, air, and sea and

has cut off all food, water, and electricity in an attempt to demoralize the Palestinian people. This is a recognized war crime by the Geneva Convention known as "collective punishment."

Due to Israel's bloodlust, over 15,000 Palestinians have died, 70% of whom are women and children (this does not count the bodies of those still over the rubble). Israel has bombed the Gaza Strip relentlessly and destroyed countless buildings, killed entire family blood lines, and destroyed the future of many of the Strip's young population (nearly 50% under the age of 18). Israel has called the people of Palestine "animals" and "inhuman" and is using every excuse, from falsifying evidence of Hamas bases in schools and hospitals to lying about Hamas' use

of human shields to shoot and kill unarmed Palestinians migrating from Northern Gaza by order of the Israeli government. Israel has also used the excuse of " Hamas rockets " to bomb every building they please, despite having never produced a shred of evidence to back up its claims.

"If you are not careful, the newspaper will have you hating the people who are oppressed and loving the people doing the oppressing." - Malcolm X

The Western media has been in full support of Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people since day one. When the conflict first broke out, the media labeled the Hamas attack on October 7th as a surprise attack, giving off the false idea that Hamas spontaneously attacked for no reason. This narrative failed to take into account the 75 years of Israeli oppression against the Palestinian people and failed to show that the people of the Gaza Strip were living in a concentration camp and being oppressed under a brutal apartheid system. After people started investigating for themselves, many people began to rally for the liberation of Palestine and a ceasefire. These protesters were labeled anti-Semitic and accused of wanting to genocide Israel.

Soon after, the Western media and Israel began pushing forward false histories about the land of Israel and Palestine. Israel claimed that

Israel has even gone on to denounce the death toll released by the Gaza Ministry of Health by claiming that the Ministry is " Hamas-run ," which the Western media eat up without a second thought to try and deny the true toll of their bloodlust.

Palestine didn't actually exist and denied its history as a settler colony on behalf of the British government. At the same time, videos and articles aimed at making Zionism " progressive " began to pop up with a heavy influx of content creators, mostly Israelis themselves, voicing their support for Israel. Afterward, when even this strategy failed to fully work, Israel began to create obviously fake " evidence " of Hamas' involvement in schools and hospitals and created fake planted evidence of Hamas' intent to genocide the Jewish people of Israel. Israel's shenanigans include, but are not limited to: providing photoshopped pictures showing buildings that were " Hamas bases ," using old videos of past conflicts to pass off as Hamas firing rockets, giving out false reports of Hamas " beheading babies ," using actors posing as doctors of Al-Shifa hospital to claim it was " Hamas run ," and creating fake voice recordings of Hamas members. All of this " evidence " was either clearly fake or quickly debunked by Palestinians and fellow allies. The fact that Israel even feels the need to fake this evidence shows their guilt and that they are fully aware of the genocide that they are currently committing.

Communist Reaction

The reaction of Palestinian Communists is one to learn from. It should be known that Hamas itself is a non-communist organization, while the PFLP (People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) are organizations inspired by Marxist teachers like Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Che, and others. Some western " leftists " have criticized this move and called for

the PFLP and DFLP to split from and form an opposition against Hamas and bring about the socialist revolutions themselves. This stance is wrong and promotes a " left " opportunist ideological line.

"The Palestinian cause is not a cause for Palestinians only, but a cause for every revolutionary,

wherever he is, as a cause of the exploited and oppressed masses in our era." - Ghassan Kanafani

So, what is the correct stance to have on the question of Palestinian liberation? Well, it is quite simple, really, to oppose all actions of the Zionist state and its imperialist supporters. Palestinian liberation is a subject that every communist, leftist, or simple progressive must get behind; one cannot claim to be on the right side of history and oppose the Palestinian struggle for liberation. We do not simply call for a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian

Resistance. While Israel stopping its genocide in Gaza is of utmost importance, the struggle for Palestinian liberation must not stop; Palestine must keep putting pressure on the fascist state of Israel and must uphold the banner of national liberation. Palestine must not fall back into the same pit it was in before October 7th. The Palestinian people will keep up their struggle and keep chipping away at the Zionist entity. Palestine must win because that is the only option they have.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!

We firmly support the Palestinian peoples' struggle against imperialism and Zionism!

COLUMNS

Read Theory!

While organizing, one will always encounter leftist at different levels of understanding of theory. Usually most leftist are engaging in some form of self-education or may even be a part of study groups. However, without fail, there is a certain ever present subset of "leftist" who not only disengage with theory but will also actively

The Correct Perspective of the Past

Do you remember how you were taught your history? Were you even taught your actual history at all? Many people, especially those in the western, imperial core are taught an, not only, incomplete history but a heavily distorted and biased one as well. But this not the typical

Voices of the Past: Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes was an African American poet who rose to prominence during the Harlem Renaissance. He, like many other activities of his time, are taught about their contributions to Black History and how they inspired and influenced the culture of the time and, like

insist that theory is not important.

It should be said, first and foremost, that reading theory is extremely important. Though reading every single text of every single leader is not necessary there is a reason why certain texts are held to a higher regard than others. How can any leftist seriously help organize and take part in socialist revolution when they don't know the most basic aspects of class struggle? This disregard for theory likely comes from the misunderstanding of the term "theory" itself. Theory should be understood the same as a scientific theory. These writings are to help leftist not only understand the very basis of class struggle but also how to resolve them. Through the great actions of leaders like Stalin, Mao, Lenin, Che, and others, we understand through their experiences the correct lines to take and what to do when encountered with incorrect lines. We also must understand theory as it is to assist in our praxis.

A cautionary warning should also be given to dogmatics who read theory without any praxis or community organization whatsoever, as reading theory for sport undermines the purpose and effectiveness of it. This is similar to taking on the role of Marxist "academics" who study theory as "dead" piece of history and not a ongoing and living science. To be properly educated in theory and engaging in your community with the correct understanding and

distortion that one may think of, such as viewing history from a white supremacist, sexist, racist, etc viewpoint but the "morals" and "lessons" of history that are taught such as "Great Man Theory" or "Horseshoe Theory". These "theories" of history are merely a way of teaching a distorted procapitalist, bourgeois, and individualist perspective of history. The prevalence of "Great Man Theory" in history is the idea that "great men are not made but born". This obviously false idea is made to perpetuate the belief that the rulers of the ruling class of the time, be it kings and queens or CEOs and CFOs, are made for their position and have your and are the sole deciders of history and that the masses are to unwilling or unable to guide themselves. This perspective is obviously ahistorical as even a courtesy glance through history, especially from a materialist perspective, shows that the ruling class and their private ownership and unrelenting need to expand their capital has led to countless wars and genocides, even to this day.

The myth of the Horseshoe Theory also forces a procapitalist perspective on history. It is the belief that everything exists on a spectrum with two extremes, which, at first, may seem like two opposing extremes but are actually one in the same. This myth is most liberally applied to Fascism and Communism. It is made to stop all forms of

many other figures throughout history, his story is incomplete. Langston Hughes was a socialist and wrote many poems about socialism, with a specific fascination with Lenin, in his time. These poems matched well with his others about the life of a black person living in a racist and unequal America. Later in life he wasn't as open about his views but this is ignoring the history of the Red Scare and how Hughes himself was actually under investigation by Senator Joseph McCarthy, the namesake of McCarthyism. Despite his later silence about his views of socialism, Hughes socialist history should not be forgotten and his poems today can still spark inspiration and joy in the hearts of fellow socialists alike. The followed poem is presented: "Ballads of Lenin" by Langston Hughes

Ballads of Lenin

Comrade Lenin of Russia,
High in a marble tomb,
Move over, Comrade Lenin,
And give me room.

I am Ivan, the
peasant,
Boots all muddy
with soil.
I fought with you,
Comrade Lenin.
Now I have
finished my toil.

Comrade Lenin of Russia,
Alive in a marble tomb,
Move over, Comrade Lenin,
And make me room.

analysis to solve problems, raise consciousness, and agitate class struggle is a basic skill that every leftist must not only know, but master.

opposition towards capitalism by making something like Communism seem as genocidal and racist as Fascism while ironically Fascism is the decay of Capitalism and Communism is an opposition to them both. This interpretation of history is designed to dissuade the full abolition of capitalism for more “moderate” solutions like reformism or electoralism. This causes the masses to believe in a false history that mass action could only be achieved through peaceful protest or through “the right channels” as anything more “extreme” is undesirable and unnecessary.

These theories are false and ahistorical and promotes a bourgeois understanding of history. It denies the true materialist, rich, and victorious history of the proletariat.

I am Chico, the
Negro,
Cutting cane in the
sun.
I lived for you,
Comrade Lenin.
Now my work is
done.

Comrade Lenin of Russia,
Honoured in a marble tomb,
Move over, Comrade Lenin,
And leave me room.

I am Chang from
the foundries
On strike in the
streets of
Shanghai.
For the sake of the
Revolution
I fight, I starve, I
die.

Comrade Lenin of Russia
Speaks from the marble:
*On guard with the workers
forever
The world is our room!*