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Mutiny

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Labour Day 2026 - The Class Must Fight Back



2026—another year marked by repression against workers, strike bans, union sabotage, and terrorization of migrant workers. These attacks waged by the capitalist class are not limited to the US and Canada, but are a response to an international crisis of insufficient profits. The issue is not one malicious boss or politician, but the global capitalist system, for which the working class pays with its blood, sweat, and tears—but around the world, it can only definitively fight back as a united class!

Repression against Workers

Globally, the capitalists are increasing their brutal repression against our class siblings. The DHS' funding has been substantially augmented by billions of dollars, and its authority has been significantly expanded. Surveillance overhauls and access to private data, and greater latitude to proscribe domestic terrorism under the guise of protecting their respective nation against domestic threats have substantially empowered the institution. During Trump's second administration, ICE, Border Patrol, and the DHS have carried out brutal raids arresting workers to fulfill quotas across major cities, while the National Guards and US marines have been activated as added security for federal departments, all the while the much hated local police arrest those protesting deportations against workers. So far 4 have been murdered on the streets, thousands injured and no less than 52 have died at ICE and DHS concentration camps. In Canada, the Carney administration is showing that this is not limited to below the 48th or Donald Trump, by boosting RCMP funding as part of a hiring blitz, overhauling the judiciary system, and granting agencies far more expansive authority. It is not a random sequence of tragedies that have spun the movement against migrants, with global regimes marching into the death cult of nationalism, the "blame-game" is one of the most useful tactics for agents of the bourgeois state to stay in power and provide an illusion of problem solving for the contradictions of capitalism. This is, in part, due to the lack of options for those in power to solve any of the economic and social ailments of capitalism, while still maintaining levels of profitability for national capital. In just Los Angeles alone, over 10,000 people have been abducted by immigration enforcement agents. With the entire staff of small businesses being taken into custody in some cases, it is apparent that the focus is not to maintain the economic standing of individual petty bourgeoisie, but to meet the agenda of those in power and to divide the working class further through rhetoric that drives division and builds nationalist sentiment. The great, apparent contradiction lies within the need for cheap labor to be exploited, while also keeping the proletariat divided, and seeking to turn the dial of incoming migrants at a whim. As democratic illusions crumble, the bourgeois class and their tactics grow increasingly brutal, and the threat to remove hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people is promised in places such as the US and Europe. In this current period, much of the rhetoric of mass deportation, sometimes referred to as "remigration", comes from the Right. History points, however, to social democratic and liberal governments alike adopting extreme policies of deportation once in power. We should not expect that deportations will decrease, even if Republican leadership ends in 2028. If anything, they're likely to continue less overtly, taking on a mundane administrative style while still managing to maintain brutal levels of deportation that do not make headlines. Both the Biden and Obama administrations conducted a number of deportations that rivals the Trump administration, with the first year of Trump's second term having over 900,000 deportations. Ultimately, both camps of the American bourgeois state have deported and uprooted the lives of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, with no end in sight.

Outlawing Strikes

Of the 19 times Congress has intervened in railway labor negotiations since the establishment of the RLA, every time was to prevent a strike. The most recent example in 2022, forced workers to accept terms previously rejected by members. This was signed by the "most pro-worker president in American history", along with the self-anointed "socialist" politicians in Congress. One of the reasons for the potential strike was the lack of safety due to an aggressive on-call policy. Two months after the terms were forced on rail workers, the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio occurred resulting in a major toxic spill. Recent strikes in Canada highlight how the ruling class has unravelled legal weaponry against the working class. Canada Post and Air Canada demonstrated that if a strike becomes too inconvenient for the bourgeoisie to handle, then they will not hesitate in administering back to work orders. In spite of what union leadership may say in defying such orders, the unions in charge of these strikes have been all too keen to return to the courts and knock the wind out of the sails of the workers struggling on the picket line. This, paired with provincial level developments in Quebec aiming to ban strikes 'against the public good', demonstrates a unified tactic in beating the working class back into submission. In the face of these conditions the working class must struggle outside of unions legal confines and against the unions control. This is easier said than done but the history of our class is filled with rich lessons which point in that direction. From the wave of wildcat strikes in America during World War 2 to the strike committees in Quebec in the 70's, the working class has shown that it is at its most successful and its most combative when it directly confronts the state and its various appendages. Even small examples such as workers deciding their own strike tactics on the picket line against union authorization is a step in taking the reins of our own struggle. Without such actions our doom will be determined by lawyers behind closed doors.

Unions vs. Workers

Everywhere across the world, the capitalist class is facing a deep crisis of profitability- any gains are hard to come by, and the losses that have to be forced onto the working class multiply. Because unions can only exist so long as there is a capitalist to buy workers, in these times of crisis the role of the union is to enforce losses onto the workers. For the most part, negotiation is no longer about confronting the company with grievances and more about convincing union membership to accept a raw deal. We can only expect the unions to ask more and more of the working class in the incipient global inter-imperialist face-off. The unions in the US and Canada are integrated into the state in a thousand different ways. They are coordinated via government organs like the NLRB, and ensure that disputes are always held in a vacuum, preventing cross-sectoral struggle and criminalizing sympathy strikes. It's therefore no surprise that from the UAW's leadership artificially synchronizing a 2028 "general strike" (Giving the bosses two years to prepare for pageantry! As if it is simply a matter of timing contract expirations and not real working class combativity reaching a boiling point), to the Teamsters' and Longshoremen's union presidents backing Trump's nationalistic policies, unions are loyal to the bourgeoisie. Bringing the working class into the service of different factions of the capitalist class, they are wilfully undermining workers to their own benefit.Even the most "radical" union movements fall into the same pitfalls of unionism. Despite their political rhetoric around capitalism and the need for a fighting working class, these 'radical unions' are still limited to the framework of negotiating the sale of labour. In their success they end up just like traditional unions. This is shown by even the IWW being forced to concede to 'no strike' clauses in recent years. Just like the leftists who want to challenge the establishment without any alternative, 'radical unions' hold the working class to a permanent state of opposition with no direction towards the conquest of power. What's more, they are eventually forced to follow the model of the big unions, because of the thousand legal and political ties unions have to the capitalist state.

The war between Russia and Ukraine stands out as an example where workers are most brazenly turned into pawns of the imperialist state and all its policy aims therein. Vladimir Putin's "tripartite" model of government, business, and organized labor is from the same old playbook of decades of class annihilation by imperialist war. Ukraine has also mobilized its labor organizations into a full scale defense of the fatherland, with the unions defending the war effort by keeping production going as Ukrainian workers are banned from striking and collective bargaining is outlawed. Just as the union folds workers into state channels, and just as the union forces members to accept worse and worse negotiations, so too will it ultimately invite the working class into service for national capital at the imperialist arena. With such a situation of union sabotage of the class struggle, our only solution is to re-affirm the absolute necessity of independent class activity. This means the politics of proletarian power and the communist program firmly against any state-sponsored, legalistic, or apolitical, solely economic channels. Historically, workers have already found truly classwide organs to act as the basis for proletarian political power on our own class terrain, such as the strike council, factory committees, soviets, shuras, worker councils and assemblies. If we retain the lessons learned by militants over the last two centuries, we understand that the proletariat must act as its own class, and reject all solutions proposed by the ruling capitalist class. They offer us the choice of a myriad of parties that are ultimately engaged in an open assault on the working class, and call it "democracy." They propose shuttering borders for us, while finance capital knows no geographic boundaries. Meanwhile, reform solutions only change out the guards. Social democratic organizations such as the DSA merely represent an alternative strategy to thwart real working class power by instilling false hopes of reforming an inherently rotten system. In Canada, the NDP's governments in British Columbia and Manitoba have offered no solution to the massive attack on the working class but on the contrary have managed it, despite their rhetoric. The solution for the global proletariat lies in revolution against the ruling bourgeois order, guided by program and party to effectively combat the forces of capital. The task of revolutionary communists is to engage with struggle alongside members of our class– all members, regardless of national origin, leading to the reformation of the world party on an international scale to guide the revolutionary movement against capitalism, for communism—that is, a stateless and classless society, where all people are freely associated producers, enjoying freedom of movement.

Austerity : Kicking the Can Down The Road

Austerity today is associated with individuals, and with them the ideologies of these figures. Names like Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan are seen as inherently intertwined with "neo-liberalism" or "neo-conservatism". This characterization is made either consciously by the demagogues of social democracy or by "progressives" who, in their criticism of austerity, suggest that they could rule over capital more effectively and somehow stave off austerity; or it is done unconsciously due to a lack of theoretical understanding of capitalism and its economic foundations. By having a sober Marxist theoretical foundation, we can shift the focus of austerity away from the moralistic, social-democratic, or trade union conception of "a few bad apples", to one which centres the economic necessity of austerity during a period of capitalist crisis, one which illuminates that no matter which politician is in power, these crises demands its pound of flesh from the working class.

Imperialist Epoch

Capitalism today operates in the imperialist epoch, the epoch which Bukharin characterized as finance capital ruling over a global market, where states and capital have become so intertwined so that each state's policy is dictated completely by capital and its search for new profits and the export of capital. The imperialist epoch is the decadent epoch, not decadent in the moralistic, but in the strict economic sense. The capitalist system is no longer progressive. It has triumphed over the globe and stretches its blood-soaked limbs over every continent; no longer can one state stride down a path of "independent" foreign policy or growth but rather each state, and proto-state, is enmeshed in the web of the global capitalist market. The fundamentals of capitalism, private property and profitability, inevitably lead to its own crisis. As each capitalist invests more into the means of production, they get less profit; they attempt to offset this loss of profit by investing in machines which remove workers from the production, but since workers are the ones whose surplus value the capitalist must appropriate, the capitalists end up spending more on means of production and receiving less surplus value to make up for these losses. To find new ways to offset these losses at home, each capitalist state begins exporting capital to regions where there is a lower organic composition of capital (meaning less money being put into the means of production, and therefore more profit); this is due to the fact that in the imperialist core, the organic composition of capital is too high to produce enough profits. This is the tendency of the rate of profit to fall. The center of what causes the capitalist crisis: this same current would lead to both world wars, and is currently marching us into a third. The only way to deal with this crisis, from the capitalists' perspective, is the destruction of fixed capital (means of production, industry) and variable capital (workers, labour power); this can therefore restart the accumulation cycle. The devastated ruins of post-war Europe and Asia became dominated by undisturbed American capital in perhaps the most complete victory ever achieved in the history of economics, starting the cycle of accumulation all over again. This led to states being able to fund a large amount of welfare projects, from hospitals to state-run industries; this was due to there being enough capital to fund these low-profit industries. These industries allowed for almost full employment, class detente, and for a growth of industrial unionism to flourish. This accumulation cycle began to falter by the late 1960s and early 1970s; states began to look towards new ways to claw back some of these welfare projects, to cut back the capital being invested in low-profit industries in order to export capital to regions with a low-organic composition.

The Welfare State

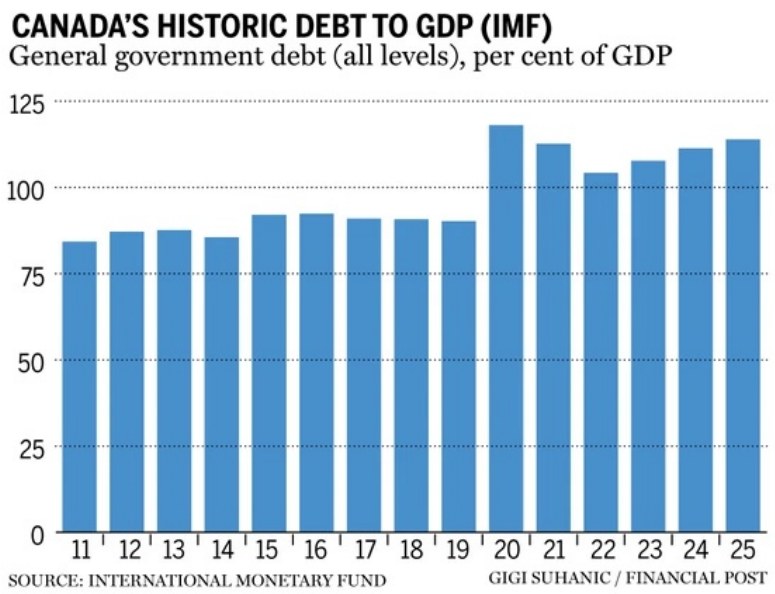
The welfare initiatives that blossomed in the post-war world, of course, found their funding through the state and thus must be tied to either the profitability of the specific state or its willingness to print in excess and inflate the currency. The state, therefore, has its vested interest in the profitability of either its own state-owned enterprises or in its private business sector through taxation. Even under an economy effectively entirely controlled through a democratic state apparatus and thus entirely "socialized" the welfare of the state still depends on the profitability of its commodities upon the market and preceding the extraction of surplus value from its workers. From both extremes, laissez faire or total state ownership, the same realities of capital must come to bear. Boom and bust cycles, the crisis of overproduction, and bailouts which increase inflation while removing the essential pillar of competition. In the reformist view, these systems are divorced from one another and the profitability of corporations does not have an impact on the ability of the state to provide welfare nor does welfare impact the inflation which slowly poisons the banking industry upon which the rest of capital rests. The welfare systems created in Canada, England, etc, were therefore not some victory of the working class wrested from the hands of the capitalist, but merely a concession the capitalists gave, and could only give because of the destruction of capital and the restarting of the accumulation cycle following the Second World War.

Doug Ford and Austerity

The welfare state in Canada is, of course, the same, and its decline and dismantling is also bound up with the capitalist system's decline. Austerity is not new to the Canadian working class; Brian Mulroney is generally associated with austerity at the federal level throughout the mid-1980s to 1990s. His government would have to make Canadian workers "competitive" for the global market, this meant ending unemployment benefits, family assistance programs for lower-income workers, and directly laying off federal employees. These were direct attacks on the working class, but it wouldn't end there; the state privatized publicly owned industries and reduced federal assistance to the provinces, whilst also moving the funding of education and medical services onto the provincial level. This effectively paved the way for the provincial leaders to begin their own regional assaults on any state-funded program or business, especially if those programs yielded low profits. These early assaults are blamed, again, on the personality of Mulrooney or the overreaching effects of Regan, but this reduction of economics to the level of personalities obfuscates the fact that every state, globally, had to engage in the destruction of any spending deemed "superfluous", and with every austerity measure, the working class was the first to face the wall. The history of austerity in Ontario today is associated with Doug Ford and conservatives, although it was the NDP under Bob Rae that was also forced by an economic recession to impose austerity measures. The first and only NDP premier imposed measures forcing workers to take unpaid days of leave in order to "achieve significant savings in public sector expenditures in a fair and equitable manner". These "Rae days", as they were known, were seen as a way to effectively combat a deficit. Austerity measures continued under NDP, liberal and conservative governments, with only some token union resistance, which was easily subdued. Today we face the same crisis, as the NDP and governments after were only able to kick the can of crisis further down the road. Doug Ford is engaging in a process of austerity started long before him, what is presented to us today, the privitization of healthcare, dismantling of state funding for low profit industries (as seen with fire fighting in Northern Ontario) are part of capitals assault on the welfare state it can no longer uphold. Ford may seem, due to his conservative and pro-buisness stances, to be enacting these policies out of some pure ideological reason, but as we saw above that cannot be the case. We have examples from New Brunswick, where similar to Ford, post-secondary funding was frozen, the grants that once helped students through university are seen as an easy way to cut on some government spending. From hospitals to universities, it is the working class who is targeted with austerity measures. Whether it be Doug Ford, Liberal or NDP premier, austerity will march on, as long as capitalism descends into barbary it will demand greater sacrifices from the working class, the state must scrape every "unprofitable" expenditure, even if it means cutting health, education, transport, etc.

Will it end?

The Ontario NDP and Liberals are championing every anti-Doug Ford battle. They show up to student rallies, picket lines, and demonstrations against austerity, they loudly proclaim that this singular man is responsible for all the workers suffering. By equating Ford with austerity, and eschewing any conncetion of austerity with the capitalist crisis, they are merely demagogues for their own form of capitalist management, and if they were to come to power these speeches would surely come to a halt and the tone would change to demanding workers "cooperation" in "trying times". The only path to escape the capitalists crisis is the one that marches towards revolution. First the working class needs a party, a party that doesn't strive for seat in government or reform, but one that can show the working class the tactics of struggle and push the struggle out of union domination, and towards workers self-activity. A party that upflifts and attempts to expand the class struggle each step of the way. A party that is guided by the communist programme, that is, the programme towards the dictatorship of the proletariat which will lead to the abolition of class, money and the state. This party is in the distance, and we do not claim to be this party, but only a small part that wants to take part in building this party. Towards an end to austerity and crisis! For a party that will march the class out of capitalism!



What Does Klasbatalo Fight For?

We fight for the political independence of the working class, which means we reject all cross-class alliances with the capitalist class, including its left-wing. We believe the working class must fight on its own terrain: first, to defend itself against the bosses' attacks; and, second, to achieve its ultimate task, that of establishing the world communist future which will rid the planet of exploitation, oppression, and war. It is towards this goal that we fight for the creation of the world communist party, whose purpose is to clarify the confusions among the class and to unify it towards its ultimate end; we believe this party to be the most potent weapon of our class. While we are for the party, we do not believe ourselves to be the party, nor do we believe that our organization alone will become it; rather, we see it as the product of both the wider class struggle, and of the real work of revolutionaries, of which we see ourselves as only one of many elements. We do not see this party as a government-in-waiting, for the emancipation of humanity depends on the active struggle of the whole working class, and this struggle cannot be replaced by the dictates of a minority.

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