

Mutiny

The Only Future for Humanity Is Communist Revolution

We are sure humanity is capable of recovering from the many evils that afflict it today, but only if the global economic and social order is completely overthrown. Humanity was already facing a series of problems brought about by a system based only the pursuit of profit. Environmental destruction and climate change, increasing poverty and precarious working conditions, war and forced migration, oppression of this or that group were all in evidence before the pandemic arrived. However the Covid crisis demonstrates yet again, and with extreme clarity, that the problem of **going beyond capitalism** is more urgent than ever.

Marx's prediction that capitalism tends to create obscene wealth at one pole, and extreme poverty at the other, has been confirmed by the pandemic. The world's largest companies have seen their already substantial fortunes increase. Thus the world's 2,200 billionaires increased their fortunes by 27.5% whilst 400 million workers were losing their jobs, and 130 million people were suddenly thrown into permanent poverty. The IMF forecasts that by the end of 2022 the average wage cut for "Western" workers will be a further 10%. It is even worse for the rest of the planet where 2 billion people live hand to mouth in the "informal economy". The World Food Program predicts that around three dozen countries will suffer famines.

The roots of the current crisis go back 50 years. When the US abandoned the Bretton Woods agreement on August 15, 1971, it opened the way to the debt and the production of fictitious capital that we see today. The mass of global public and private debt has continued to grow, increasing in periods of crisis, but never completely paid off in periods of recovery. The mass of circulating financial capital is now more than ten times greater than the real value of the commodities it is supposed to represent. The rate of profit has fallen so low that speculation is more attractive than productive investment.

Covid has plunged us back into the nightmare of an endless recession even before there was a recovery from the 2008 crisis. There would have been a total economic collapse leading to the outbreak of a new world war but for two factors: 1) capitalism's ability to react through its central banks, which promptly supported the economy with an un-

precedented injection of liquidity; 2) the substantial passivity of the working class which, has given the capitalists free rein to worsen working conditions for decades.

The capitalists have learned from their experience of 2008. Thus at the outbreak of the Covid crisis, central banks promptly intervened, with the most colossal injection of monetary credit to banks and large corporations in economic history: the IMF announced in November 2020 that the financial injection by central banks was already \$19.5 trillion, or almost a fifth of world GDP, almost equal to the annual GDP of the USA.

This immense amount of money is being lent at negative interest rates, or at rates close to zero. This has fuelled more speculation in the buying and selling of global financial securities (shares, bonds, derivatives, funds ...), to the point that despite the very heavy economic crisis, the main **financial markets** thanked the central banks and ended 2020 with record rises!

Only a fraction of this enormous credit is entering production. Why? Because the world economy is plagued by such a **low rate of profit** that the development of the means of production, i.e. their increased productivity, has been used to exploit workers to the point where we are today: which is to increasingly throw them on the streets, since the investment required is too expensive. This is especially the case during the Covid lockdowns when the economy is hardly moving and financial speculation offers much easier gains. So the capital that was supposed to be invested in the "real" economy remains in the financial sphere whilst another **speculative bubble** is growing hand in hand with the debt. Credit injections are only creating the conditions for future, even more devastating, economic crises.

Capitalist crisis and imperialist competition go hand in hand. They are leading to bloody conflict across the whole world, from the borders of the ex-USSR to sub-Saharan Africa and down the new Silk Road, from the Middle East to the South China Sea ... The fires of proxy war never go out but flare up in new areas all the time. Unspeakable horrors are committed daily in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Tigray and many other places far from the eyes of the global media circus. Most of these are proxy wars, financed and armed by the major

powers. The USA remains the dominant super power but increasingly faces dangerous new challenges, and a trade war and an arms race with China is already underway. Generalised imperialist war remains the ultimate resort of a decadent capitalism in crisis.

Where the working class stands today

Our class has been on the retreat for decades, slowly losing ground in one way or another. In the old centres of capitalism large concentrations of production were dismantled and relocated to other areas of the planet, where labour costs less. In the traditional heartlands of capitalism the working class has been dispersed, while in the periphery it is concentrated in large units of production where, however, it lacks experience and a tradition of political struggle.

In many countries state aid and furlough measures are only temporary measures. Already, before the pandemic is "under control", "fire and rehire" (on more precarious conditions) is already being used to cut wages. Thousands more companies are just waiting to have a free hand to lay off more. Indonesia, and other peripheral countries, are already enacting "more flexible" labour legislation to encourage future investments. In the immediate term the recovery of the capitalist economy has in fact only one option: to cut labour costs. Predictably, in the next few years we will see, if not a collapse, certainly a "non-recovery" of the lost jobs; in short, any "recovery" will be long and heavy, and the weight of it will fall on workers.

Although today the working class appears defeated, isolated and dispersed, there are **some signs that should not be underestimated**. 2019 saw global uprisings from South America to the Middle East to Europe. Even in the pandemic there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of strikes across the world against unsafe working and wage cuts. "Civil un-

rest is surging" (World Food Program). The working class has not gone away. History tells us that this evolving historical crisis will lead to ever larger movements. But it also teaches us that so long as these movements do not find within them **a revolutionary and internationalist focus**, the movement itself will end up ebbing away to another sterile defeat for our class.

Perspectives

Our revolution will have to be:

Proletarian: because the motive force for the change that's required resides in the millions and millions of wage workers (stable, precarious, underemployed or unemployed) who create, produce, transform, transport everything. It is only thanks to their work, and thus to their exploitation as proletarians of the whole world, that capitalism continues to survive its own contradictions

and Communist: where the working class holds political power, through historically discovered councils with their directly elected and revocable delegates creating a society where production is for use not for profit, and in which:

The free development of each is the condition for the free development of all
Each of us gives what we can and is never left in need.

We therefore invite all genuinely revolutionary elements to make contact and discuss with our comrades. We, standing in the tradition of the Communist Left, offer a platform that has emerged from the critical balance of two centuries of inspiring battles and tragic defeats of our class. Many younger workers around the world are beginning to rally to us in order to confront the burning challenges that we face but time is short. Our aim is to contribute to a new international, a revolutionary political leadership rooted



in the working class today, in preparation for the struggles to come.

If you agree, get in touch! **The time is now!**

The Bosses Assault Is the Bosses Recovery!

Frantic are the Ministers, the CEOs and the media personalities to cry out that the Montreal Port workers threaten the economic “recovery”. They claim that everyday, the strike will cost 30 million dollars, which the “recovery” cannot manage. But neither the struggle of the Montreal port workers, nor the so-called “recovery”, should be viewed in isolation. That is, it must not be reduced to merely Montreal, nor the shipping industry or even to Canada. Rather, it is the expression of the long assault of the bosses all over the world against the condition of our class. From meatpackers in Alberta and South Dakota, who were subjected to the decades of degenerating workplace safety (which resulted in early and massive covid outbreaks), to the nurses of Quebec, whose work schedule was being pushed to the breaking point even before the Covid pandemic, the so many Gig delivery workers, and the temp manufacturing workers, forced to pick up “extra” hours with little to no job security in the face of rising rents.

What does this international assault look like for the workers at the port of Montreal? Nineteen working days straight, being switched from the day to afternoon schedule on the boss’s whim, exhaustion and robbing the workers of any semblance of a family life. Is this the economic “recovery” the Ontario and Quebec labour minister were crying about when they said: “for the sake of the economic recovery of Quebec, Ontario and all of Canada,” when begging Minister Tassi for back to work legislation? It was certainly for the desire to maintain the post-2008 economic “recovery” that Trudeau utilized back to work legislation in 2018 against postal workers with former Labour Minister Patty Hajdu, citing business going “bankrupt” without postal workers managing the increase in parcel packages, giving rise to a sharp upsurge in work related injuries. Now with Trudeau and his minister threatening to push back to work legislation against the Montreal port workers, the message is clear. Anything to squeeze a “recovery” out of the working class!

If there is a lesson to take away from the nineteen-day strike in 2020, it is that the strength of our class must be found in the solidarity and collective resolve of the workers themselves. That is to say, not with the folly hope that just maybe, after seven months of a no-strike 'truce' between the union (Canadian Union of Public Employees) and the MEA

(Maritime Employers Association), the bosses will now be interested in negotiating with the union. The bosses have had seven months to prepare state backing for an all-out attack. The dockworkers have remained isolated and trapped in the union cage. The seven months gave the bosses and the government time to draw up contingency plans, mapping ports and rail-ways that could take on extra pressure and even writing up the back to work draft bill in March. And for what endgoal did the CUPE halt workers struggle for that entire time period? A 'deal' that essentially caved entirely to the government and the bosses’ interests. With the CUPEs feet dragging, the bosses are ready to secure their “recovery”! Our strength is between coworkers, not lawyers at negotiating tables. It is after all the workers who go on strike, not the union. It is outrageous that when workers go on strike — i.e., when they sacrifice their pay, protest on picket lines, and risk the possibility of defeat, the unions simply use this as a bargaining chip to reach a 'deal'.

If there is a lesson from so many strikes and struggles in the recent past, it is that isolation is a particular weakness. The bosses have found determination in the face of their crisis, willing to smash workers' action in one industry before moving on to the next. Such can be seen with the General Motors workers in Oshawa. Desperate in the face of the depths of their own economic crisis, GM was willing to shut down their Oshawa factory in order to reopen a year later with 90% of the new jobs at a lower ‘tier’, offering a third less of a wage as before, saving GM millions. What a “recovery”! A sinister tactic becoming all too common across the globe which the unions, quick to make any deal, cannot handle. In contrast to the so many isolated struggles of workers, the bosses know when it is time to join hand in hand, including against the workers at the port of Montreal. Canadian National Railway CEO Jean-Jacques Ruest has said they are preparing to take on extra shipping, a lesson learned by the bosses from the 2020 strike. And in the same year, Pierre Gratton, president of the Mining Association of Canada, was at the forefront, demanding Trudeau take decisive action against the workers. Today, after seven months of union negotiation which ended the 2020 strike, Trudeau and the bosses are prepared to do whatever is necessary for the “recovery”.

What is needed is for struggles to move beyond sectors. To move beyond union confines. What is needed is class wide-solidarity and workers self-organization, and the recognition that the struggle decides, not the bosses and their laws. Lessons can be taken from the South Dakota meatpackers, who last year defied Trump’s executive back to work order in the face of a Covid outbreak. What does “recovery” mean to the boss-



es and the ministers? Longer hours and Less job security! Across the world this “recovery” threatens to hoist more misery upon our class. The pandemic and the crisis has shown the bosses have forfeited their ‘right to rule’! Workers of the World Unite!

Between Crammed Houses and Empty Lots

A year into the pandemic, the varnish of the “we are all in it together” platitude has long peeled. No longer can the state peddle this delusion. We all remember the listing from a month ago for an apartment in Verdun, whose 975\$ price tag attracted a line that spanned blocks of desperate tenants as if running on a bank. If there was any lingering myth of solidarity between the classes, the reality of the pandemic has revealed the utter falsity of this national sentiment.

The housing crisis is not unique to the covid period. Its premises have long been intensifying over decades, with market prices continually increasing every year while real wages stagnate. In the Ontario city of Hamilton, in 2018 alone, there was a 24% increase in the price of housing. This year was a particularly crushing blow to the working-class however, with increases seeing soaring highs. In Montreal, the average price of rent rose up 4.2% from 2019, with working class neighborhoods being the most affected: an alarming increase of 14.4% in Verdun and 9.8% in Hochelaga. Next to developers rapidly

gentrifying to make a quick buck, workers are finding lower paying precarious jobs, leading to cramming themselves into increasingly expensive apartments, a reality that Premier Legault snarkily suggested as a solution to “young people and students” looking for cheaper rent.

The bourgeoisie’s most apt representative in matters of housing, Andrée Laforest, has stated that “we cannot speak of a housing crisis, that is for sure”, in fact, she suggested that she was “worried about the state of housing last year”, but given that “many dwellings were vacated in 2020, the crisis was averted”. How brilliant! Of course, there is no crisis in housing after all, so many apartments are empty! Faced with such absurd statements from our elected officials, our nervous laughter cannot last long. The deepening of this crisis must be met with a class-wide response. As we forewarned on May Day last year and reaffirm today, to believe the state can deal with this crisis is to relegate our class’ political power to sitting on our hands. The struggle of housing must be connected to the struggle against capitalism as a whole. As Engels concluded in 1872: “As long as the capitalist mode of production continues to exist, it is folly to hope for an isolated solution of the housing question or of any other social question affecting the fate of the workers. The solution lies in the abolition of the capitalist mode of production and the appropriation of all the means of life and labor by the working class itself”

What does Klasbatalo Fight For?

Klasbatalo is the Canadian affiliate of the International Communist Tendency (ICT). 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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