

# THE LEAGUE

## OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

### **Election 2020 Educational 2.0**

This educational package is a resource for you. The study questions, excerpts, readings, videos and links below are meant to enhance and deepen the political discussion we are planning with the first of a series of League-sponsored events entitled "Election 2020." You may want to use some of them as you prepare for this event or as you work to develop your own propaganda and study-action work in the coming five to six months as America works to "Dump Trump" and prepare for what emerges out of the elections.

### **Discussion Question points: (Suggested readings/materials/video essays)**

**1) What is the significance of the social fascism that Trump and his administration is promoting and unleashing in America and the world in 2020.**

\* **Defeat Trump: Demand that Government Meet Basic Needs:**

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/08/defeat-trump-demand-that-government-meet-basic-needs/>

"The massive, spontaneous uprising of 2020, in response to the police murder of George Floyd, was possibly the largest and broadest mass movement in American history. According to one poll, some 26 million people participated in the movement against police terror that came to be called Black Lives Matter, a diverse outpouring of people of all colors and walks of life, a majority of whom were white. The scale and power of the uprising expresses a total transformation of the relationship between the historic African American freedom movement, on the one hand, and the burgeoning class movement against poverty and exploitation on the other.

Defeating Trump is not just about rejecting the man who personifies the social face of the fascist movement. The fight to defeat Trump is also identical to the fight to protect democracy, and the right to vote in particular. It will require a massive campaign to exercise the vote, including registration, vote-by-mail, poll-watching, and political mobilization. Sixteen million people have already been purged from the voter rolls, at a time when re-registration is many times more difficult due to the pandemic... Trump may

issue executive orders banning people from congregating at polling places, and use the federal agents he is deploying to Democratic cities to enforce them, or to seize ballot boxes. Already the administration is openly recruiting some 50,000 ex-military and retired police officers to “patrol” voting locations in working-class areas to intimidate and discourage potential voters from casting their ballots.

**\*Trump Has A Path To Victory. It's Voter Suppression.** • Aug 5, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teR8n--vI2Q>

**\* The Truth About Kenosha:** <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/09/the-truth-about-kenosha/> **September 28, 2020** “Trump’s visit to Kenosha was a dangerous escalation of a fascist offensive, a tactic intended to divert attention from housing, unemployment, and COVID-19. Trump’s actions, and the police support for right-wing vigilante attacks, are trying to drive a wedge into this unified social force to separate the issue of racial oppression from the fight for basic needs and puts the workers on the defensive...That ploy will not work the way it used to. Robotic production has created a new class that was already barely subsisting on low wage jobs and unemployment before the pandemic. It does not see its future in this system.”

“In this period of end-stage capitalism and corporate dictatorship, the only way for the ruling class to preserve its private property is to destroy democracy. The methods used historically to suppress the vote of African

Americans are now being used against the whole country, especially in the swing states of the Rust Belt because of the crucial role they play in the election...Everything now is a battle about which way the working class is going to go. On the streets, at every level of the electoral arena, we are engaging in a fight for democracy itself. Voting against Trump, and for Biden – and defeating any Trump plot to steal the election or refuse to leave office – is essential to resisting the formation of an openly fascist regime that depends politically on white supremacy, because it has nothing else to offer. This is a tactic and not at all an endorsement of either Biden or the Democrats. No revolutionary could take that position. It is about using the electoral arena to fight for what we need, and the key to everything we need right now is to get rid of Trump.”

DHS [US Department of Homeland Security] to label white supremacists as the 'most persistent and lethal threat' to the US : [Tal Axelrod](https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/515244-dhs-to-label-white-supremacists-as-the-most-persistent-and-lethal) 09/04/20 11:02 PM EDT;  
<https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/515244-dhs-to-label-white-supremacists-as-the-most-persistent-and-lethal>

**\*Red State Army:** [https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/how-trump-amassed-a-red-state-army-in-the-nations-capital--and-could-do-so-again/2020/10/01/2f10e17c-f9d6-11ea-a275-1a2c2d36e1f1\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/how-trump-amassed-a-red-state-army-in-the-nations-capital--and-could-do-so-again/2020/10/01/2f10e17c-f9d6-11ea-a275-1a2c2d36e1f1_story.html)

**\* Destruction of the Planet** <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/28/world-leaders-pledge-to-halt-earth-destruction-un-summit>

\* Second Trump Term “Game Over” for Climate. <https://portside.org/2020-10-03/top-us-scientist-second-trump-term-would-be-game-over-climate>

## **2) How does social fascism today relate to the economic or objective corporate fascism underlying the class program of private property in this era of global, digital, investment capitalism? Discuss its origins in Slavery in the US.**

**\*The Rise of Fascism and Social Revolution in America: July/August 2013**  
<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2013/07/the-rise-of-fascism-and-social-revolution-in-america/>

“What is Fascism? The fundamental characteristic of fascism is corporate economic power merged with the political power of the State. Politically, fascism is the substitution of one form of class domination – bourgeois democracy – by another. Fascism is State intervention in every aspect of the economy and society to protect private property.

In an earlier era, fascism arose during periods of great instability in the State and society. In Germany, for example, a political transition was taking place from a feudal State form to bourgeois democracy. The country was in enormous turmoil as a result of the Versailles Treaty signed in 1919, which forced Germany to pay billions in World War I reparations. To pay it off, they had to inflate their currency. The inflation was so great people couldn’t buy food. People were starving. Communist uprisings spread. At that historic moment, Germany had a choice: fascism or communism. The German capitalists won out. They instituted fascism to guarantee their imperial expansion and to crush the rising communist movement.

Although there are basic similarities, fascism is arising objectively today, not as a choice, as in Germany. Today as a result of qualitatively new conditions, no further stages of growth in capitalism are possible. New labor-replacing tools – computers and robots – are destroying the foundation of capitalism, which is the buying and selling of labor power. One result is the amassing of an unprecedented amount of wealth into a few hands. Given this new reality, there is no way for the giant corporations to manage and secure their property except through the constant merging of the corporations and the State. This process was witnessed in 2008 when the U.S. government came to the rescue of the banks deemed “too big to fail.” Without State intervention, the banking system could have collapsed. Within this progression, fascism seeks to guarantee the transition to a whole new world while preserving private property.

On the other hand, for the first time, an objective communist movement is arising. It is communist because those displaced by electronics can no longer exist within a system of private ownership of socially necessary means of production. Communism seeks to facilitate a whole new world based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the new world of plenty according to need. Yet these new relations will not develop spontaneously. They must be consciously fought for.”

\* The Coming Crash: <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2019/05/the-coming-crash/> May/ June 2019.

"In his 2019 State of the Union message, President Donald J. Trump boasted, "We have the hottest economy in the world." Careful what you wish for. This was exactly the same outlook in 2007, on the precipice of what came to be known as the Great Recession...

What is behind all of this? Why are we in this situation? We are living in a time that is marked by instability, disruption, and crisis. Every day we are becoming more aware of the way electronics is impacting human society. It is actually a qualitatively new technology that has world-historical significance and is at the root of the developing revolutionary transition period that we are currently experiencing. We are in the middle of an epochal shift, in which the old is being destroyed, and something altogether new is being born....Science "discovered" electronics and introduced it into capitalist production. Capitalism is based upon the exploitation and expropriation of human labor- power, but electronics does not enhance human labor-power, as have all previous tools of production. Robotic, computerized, digital electronics replaces human labor. This means the end of wage-labor; it means the end of capitalism. Thus begins a new epoch of social revolution. The destruction of the old is underway. The sequence of one financial crisis after another is how the destruction of the old and the leap to something new is expressing itself...

A ruling class, which has relied upon capitalist production for its wealth and dominance, is seeing that system destroyed, and they are prepared to give it up so long as they can preserve their ownership of private property. In their defense of private property at all costs, they are prepared to transition to some new form of private property without capital, while maintaining their status as a ruling class...

The level of speculative debt today is a disaster waiting to happen. It takes the form of a cyclical crisis; there have always been cyclical crises of overproduction within capitalism, but the underlying cause of the crises we are experiencing today is the electronic revolution that is generating laborless production, resulting in financial crisis...

With each ensuing crisis, millions more workers are thrown out of the system, many having to obtain low-wage, part-time and contingent employment, while others end up homeless and destitute. They compose a new class of workers, created by the laborless technology of the electronic revolution, and their numbers increase exponentially with each crisis.

As electronic, laborless production expels more and more of these new class workers from the economy, they are drawn into a fight for their very survival. They constitute a powerful force capable of putting humanity on course to construct that something new that is coming - a new society that is compatible with the new tools of production, and that is capable of creating an abundance that can be distributed to all those in need."

\*Andrew Yang "Coming For Your Job"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/10/opinion/sunday/gig-economy-unemployment-automation.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

\*Peter Brown <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jTWnkyHYwI> (40 minutes shorter version)

## [Effects of Automation - "The Digital Disruption - Technology & Economics for the 99%," - YouTube](#)

Peter Brown, is a journeyman machinist who has taught Machine Technology at Laney College in Oakland since 2006. He is involved in the struggle for a new world where people's needs are met, both ... (full length 1 hour)

**\* What the uprising reveals about fascism and the military:**

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/07/what-uprising-reveals-about-fascism-military/>

**July/August 2020; “Most Americans still think of fascism as being some form of Nazism. The crisis addressed by today’s fascism is that as electronic technology replaces millions of workers in every industry, it demolishes the very foundation of capitalism. Without jobs, workers cannot buy the mountain of goods that robotics can produce, nor provide payroll deductions for the taxes and health care that are crucial to the functioning of the system. The ruling class realizes they cannot reverse technology and are beginning to realize that even fascism cannot save the capitalist system. They are merging the biggest corporations and the government, to secure enormous private concentrations of wealth as the current system breaks down.”**

**\*Illuminating the Path to a New America: September/October 2018**

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2018/09/illuminating-the-path-to-a-new-america/> “Today fascism – the merger of the corporations and the State – is an objective reflection of an economic revolution that is destroying the foundation of private property itself. While there are subjective aspects to the development of fascism – things that are consciously engineered by the ruling class – the fascism we are experiencing in the U.S. and elsewhere today is not a subjective choice of the ruling class, but is an objective reflection of economic development. As the economic base of society is transformed, the social and political superstructure that rests on and reflects the base must also be transformed. Fascism today seeks to facilitate a whole new world based on private property without capitalism.

This process has distinct, yet interrelated, aspects. The objective foundation of fascism developed first. These economic aspects of fascism are evidenced in the merger of the corporations and the State, and are now in place. Laws have been and are being passed to eliminate the economic rights of the workers and to further erode their standard of living. Laws have been and are being passed to contain the upsurges of the masses. These laws are transforming the legal structure to protect the interests of the corporations and the ruling class to the exclusion of the American people.

The growth of a new class of proletarians threatens private property. The ruling class cannot allow them to have a say in society's direction. Even the limited bourgeois democracy we have had is being forced to give way to the dictatorship of the corporations...

This offensive - what we call the social face of fascism - is an admission by the ruling class of their weakness, not evidence of their strength. It shows us that the ruling class is so weak that it has to turn to naked and open violence in order to enforce some element of social cohesion.

The workers' fight for survival, their fight for basic necessities of life, can defeat any lies and tricks of the ruling class. Revolutionaries rely on the objectivity of that fight to introduce new ideas.

The qualitatively new technology confronts society with either the continuation of private property with a fascist State, or the possibility of a cooperative society based on the public ownership of socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product based on need. The modern fascist movement is arising on the foundation of this antagonism, and in response to it. The real target is the political system - the substitution of one State form for another, that will allow the full scope of private property interests to operate without restriction...

The growing economic crisis is bound to bring on political crisis - the clash of two antagonistic processes, with one forced to destroy the other to survive. The developing crisis is the impossibility of maintaining the bourgeois democratic superstructure with the qualitatively new economic foundation that is being created. To succeed in this effort, the ruling class is building a mass base for fascism.

U.S. history is rooted in genocide of indigenous peoples, slavery, the concept of a "white man's country," and the conquest and exploitation of other peoples. Today, a whole culture of fascist violence, hatred and disregard for human life has taken hold. It is the ideological foundation for the outlook that the individual has no rights and for a government and society that has no economic or moral responsibility for the well-being of its people."

### **3) What challenge does this election present for the working class/dispossessed?**

**"\* Defeat Trump: Demand that Government Meet Basic Needs:**

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/08/defeat-trump-demand-that-government-meet-basic-needs/>

"There has long been some convergence between sections of these movements for equality and for economic justice, dating back to Reconstruction, the CIO, the 1960s Poor Peoples Campaign, and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers of the 1970s. What is happening now is different. These movements have been completely changed by the emergence of an altogether new class in recent decades: the class of workers discarded by the increasingly automated economy. This is an antagonistic contradiction at the very



heart of our economic system. It is steadily expelling millions of people from the formal economy and destroying our society as we know it because when people have no money, the whole system of production and exchange begins to break down...

The New Social Force: The historic advances of the George Floyd Black Lives Matter rebellion, on the one hand, and these fascist attacks on democracy on the other, have set up a titanic battle that will be fought out over the course of the Fall of 2020. Already a large national network of "Election Protectors" has arisen in response to the attack on the right to vote.

Although the leadership of the rebellion is politically diverse, the movement itself is on a collision course with the private property system and the State that supports it. The new class, in particular within the movement, is becoming a social force and is galvanizing the entire country. It has moved from protest to programmatic demands on the government: defund the police, cancel the rent, provide for basic human needs, and save the planet we live in. Victory, in the long run, requires a revolutionary organization to stabilize the movement, keep it on course, and develop and disseminate the vision of the world that we can and must create for our future generations.

The movement is wide open to revolutionary ideas. It will need an organization to create the political education and political direction necessary to address the burning questions of the day: point the way forward from where we are today to the abundant, cooperative society that is possible, when we break the bonds of corporate private property."

**\*Illuminating the Path to a New America: September/October 2018**

<http://rallycomrades.lna.org/2018/09/illuminating-the-path-to-a-new-america/>

**"No matter how the ruling class attempts to divide our class, the reality is that today the workers can take no steps forward apart from the resolution of the problems that confront the new class as a whole. We are dealing with a political question. The new class is already forming along the lines of a unity based on what is practical, real, and possible. Fully conscious of the viability of the race question and how the ruling class uses it politically, our strategic focus is on the question of the political unity of the new class.**

**Consciousness lags behind the objective changes we are observing. Therefore, the intellectual grasp of class unity, the subjective side, must be fought for. Recognition of the necessity for that kind of unity is a result of consciousness. The task will not be easy because we are confronting centuries of national, ethnic, and racial divisions. They can only be overcome through intellectual struggle linked to daily experience. Every struggle of the class must be used to explain the meaning of their activity, to show them a vision of the cooperative society that is possible and a strategy to get there...**

**Electoral activity is an indispensable school for the development of both the organization and consciousness of the working class. The workers will use the electoral process as part of their fight to force the government to guarantee their basic needs are met. Their experience in this process sets the stage for them to begin to see that their problems cannot ultimately be solved at the**

ballot box. It is crucial to influence the consciousness of the revolutionaries involved in the process. Revolutionaries always unite with the workers' impulses toward political independence and use propaganda to raise consciousness and influence political direction.

\* **Next Steps in the Battle of the Ballot:** <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/05/next-steps-in-the-battle-of-the-ballot/>: “Given the rapid consolidation of corporate dictatorship, we cannot, at this time, even know for sure that the Democratic or Republican Conventions or even the November elections will be allowed to proceed...The coronavirus crisis brought to light and sharply aggravated the underlying antagonism that has already been steadily destroying the economy and American society itself for decades. Modern advances in robotics and artificial intelligence have created an unsustainable gulf between wealth and poverty, begetting whole tent cities of houseless people in the richest cities in America. A whole new class of millions of unemployed and underemployed workers was created when they were left behind by labor-replacing technology. They are being driven out of any employment except the most menial, temporary, and part-time service jobs, work that does not pay well enough for them to be able to survive. Clearly, our existing private property system is no longer capable of distributing the means of subsistence to people in the high tech economy....

The process of splitting and fracturing of the Democrats is already underway and will inevitably lead to a complete rupture. The only question is when. It was unmistakable in the bitter debates over the bailout bill. The fight for free treatment for COVID-19 has reignited the demand for Medicare for All.

The destruction of income has prompted calls for rent forgiveness, that will inevitably get louder as soon as the temporary eviction stays are over. These demands are impacting the national elections as well as local, regional, and national battles. They are the foundation for an independent third-party political movement breaking out, both inside and outside the Democratic Party, one that will continue to emerge and coalesce throughout the 2020 election season and on into 2022 and 2024.

\* **What If Trump Refuses to Accept a Biden Victory? A Look at How Electoral Chaos Could Divide Nation** •Aug 3, 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd9OhtIAAhc>

#### **4) Given the above: What is the role of revolutionaries in this election?**

##### **The fight for democracy:**

**Democracy:** (definition from League Education in Oakland, 2020) The American people have a long history of fighting for the ideal of democracy, of rule by “we the people.” Democracy is more than the right to vote. Economic democracy is the guarantee of a



decent life for everyone: a quality home, education, and health care, plus more. There can't be political democracy without economic democracy. In a society based on slavery, (ancient Greece) only the slaveowners have democracy. In a society based on an economy of wage-slavery only those who own the means of subsistence have access to democratic rights. Whoever controls your bread and butter controls you.

"Bourgeois democracy" allowed for certain rights and an illusion of fairness. Housing, food, medical care were always sold for profit; however, a majority of workers were able - through selling their labor - to buy these basic things. This kept the system going and ensured a measure of social peace.

Today, electronic production is eliminating workers, and the rulers can't allow the poor to assemble or express any semblance of independent demands. History has shown that if voting or free speech stands in the way of the corporations' property and profits, they will eliminate it altogether. Today we are seeing the rise of fascism—the takeover of the government by the corporations. The Supreme Court and the Citizens United decisions have given the rights of citizens to corporations—'corporate personhood.' Militarized police forces act as occupying troops in poor neighborhoods, where they kill at will. The criminalization of the poor and dispossessed - from the various laws against homeless people's acts of survival, to the rise of the privatized prison industry that profits on slave labor - all represent this move toward a fascist police state.

True and universal democracy can only exist in a society where people have full economic and political rights, based on public ownership of production and distribution— "to each according to need" — not for the private profit of the few. Democracy, in the final analysis is rule by the people. Only with an economic system that no longer depends on exploitation can we fulfill the promise of democracy—a cooperative society based on distribution 'according to need,' collective control over the necessities of life. The struggle for reform and for democracy is now in reality a revolutionary one — to remake society along cooperative and truly democratic lines.

**\* Next Steps in the Battle of the Ballot:** <http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2020/05/next-steps-in-the-battle-of-the-ballot/>: "The role of revolutionaries is to participate in and elucidate this motion through each of its stages as it confronts the capitalist class. Within the Democratic Party, the stage we are in right now is the fight to throw the blow at the pro-corporate politicians controlling it and break the workers free from the capitalists' grip. We do this when we fight uncompromisingly for the basic demands of the working class. We cannot get to a real workers' party and a new society without making this happen first. The working class, and especially the class of workers discarded by the tech economy, make up the foundation of this movement. However, they cannot win without unity, and revolutionaries have a responsibility to elevate the battle for unity at every step of the way.

This means addressing the "Southern strategy" that was used to defeat Sanders on Super Tuesday and afterward. There is an old saying that, "The South controls the nation, and Wall Street controls the South." Ever since the defeat of Reconstruction, the violent

suppression of Southern workers, especially African Americans, has served as the political base for fascism in America...

What is needed is an economy freed from the restraints of private property, where this abundance can be freely distributed based on need, instead of being hoarded and strangled by private profiteers. The value of the Sanders campaign, and the movement going forward, is that it opens the door to these discussions, and allows revolutionaries to teach while we fight. The threat of an astronomical COVID-19 death toll has clarified that it is human life itself that is at stake."

**\* Illuminating the Path to a New America: September/October 2018**

<http://rallycomrades.lrna.org/2018/09/illuminating-the-path-to-a-new-america/>

"What is important in this entire process is that people are ridding themselves of deeply held ideas that those they elect, and even government itself, are going to represent them. They are seeing that there can be no democracy when private corporations own the economy. This is a necessary stage in the development of the workers as a class and for their political independence from the capitalist class.

It is in the process of the movement's realization that the State will not redress its grievances that demands for new solutions will arise. Revolutionaries work within this process to develop the stages of consciousness along the line of march from scattered economic struggles, to united political struggles against the State. Such a task requires widespread propaganda within this growing movement that offers a vision of what's possible and a strategy of how to get there...

Thus far, events over the past period have shown the correctness of our general line.

Fundamental to the League's thinking is that a new motive force (the micro-chip) has allowed for the development of the new means of production that are destroying value as the basis of exchange. Value-less production is marginalizing a new class of proletarians, who cannot exist without distribution according to need. The destruction of value and the emergence of a communist class have shifted the communist party - the subjective expression of the actual movement - from an ideological to a concrete and practical, i.e., political, base. The old ideological communist party is obsolete and must be replaced by a practical, political communist party that represents the motion of an actual communist class. Such a party does not exist. History cannot move forward without it. How is such a party to be built? What kind of an organization of revolutionaries is needed to build such a party? These are some of the questions this growing social motion has thrust upon every revolutionary. Nothing has been done in America except in small groups, but it has been small groups relying on gigantic processes that are underway. If we can grasp that dialectic, we can do something important in history."

**See report below on "Fascism & Class Struggle - the Urgency of the Moment** by Jerome Scott & walda katz-fishman, October 8, 2020. It is the basis for the report to be given by Jerome Scott for this session.

**Fascism & Class Struggle - the Urgency of the Moment**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wi2P4nfmq1xMrlU3U4Sc87b2eEB58KRm/view?usp=sharing>

Jerome Scott & walda katz-fishman

October 8, 2020

### **Living in an extraordinary learning & teaching moment**

Why should we vote in the 2020 presidential election? Are we – as working class people, revolutionaries, activists, and social movement actors of all races, genders, and nationalities – ready for full blown fascism? What’s at stake in this moment is how rapidly the ruling class moves to consolidate fascist rule.

The urgency of now is to slow and to stop this motion. It’s to protect our people who have seized the moment, taken the streets, and are organizing against state violence and white supremacy, and many for abolition of the police, the prisons, and ICE. It’s to protect the workers struggling for survival within the covid 19 crisis within the ongoing economic crisis – “essential” workers, frontline workers in health care and education, immigrant workers, workers temporarily and many permanently unemployed, workers facing eviction, hunger, and no health care, and all our children. It’s to protect the workers facing raging wildfires, destructive hurricanes and derechos, poisoned air, water and soil, and more.

We need time to educate and organize our broad base of multiracial and multigendered working class forces to keep this moment of rebellion and uprising on the path toward working class power within our revolutionary struggle.

### **Voting in 2020 to defeat Trump is a tactic in our collective working class struggle**

We need to be clear – voting in the 2020 presidential election to defeat Trump is a question of tactics, not a question of strategy.

We live in a class society – not a Trump society. Fascism is not a 1-person affair or even the project of a small political and media grouping. Rather, fascism represents a class position within the state and a ruling class political motion about how to rule, how to govern, whose interests the state and the economy serve.

Fascist rule represents the merger of corporations with the state – where the state directly serves corporate interests, and Constitutional rights and legal protections are suspended. The government, police and military exist to protect ruling class wealth, profits, private property and private property relations – abandoning the needs of the working class and oppressed. Fascism challenges our ability to survive and to protect the earth.

We have a long history of fascism based in the US South – from the inception of the nation. The foundation of fascism in the U.S. is and has always been white supremacy in ideology and in practice – from genocide, chattel slavery, slave patrols, and lynching, to Jim Crow and the penetration of white supremacists, militias and vigilantes into rural and urban police forces. Today this violent and divisive history is on full display as a tool for ruling class domination and control. The historic fascist playbook to mobilize and consolidate their social base is lies, myths, and conspiracies that deny truth and science, and politically and ideologically fan the flames of division, disruption, diversion, and

oppression. Their primary purpose is saving the system of capitalism and private property at all costs.

### **Strategically the two political parties are united on where they need society to go - tactically they play different roles**

The strategy and tactics of the ruling class and its two political parties - the Democratic Party and Republican Party - need to be understood in this context. It's worth noting that the Democratic Party was the party of fascism in the period of the defeat of Reconstruction and throughout the Jim Crow era - when they were called the Dixiecrats.

Both political parties - Democrats and Republicans - are united strategically around trying to preserve capitalism, and to protect private property and the wealth and power of the ruling class. Tactically, they play different roles to meet that goal. They appeal to different social bases in elections and policy debates, and in political activism. The Democrats express a "liberal" persona with a slower path to fascist rule. The Republicans take on a "conservative" persona with a more rapid path to fascist rule.

The state within capitalist society, under certain conditions, is a "bourgeois democratic" state. But today, and historically under specific conditions, bourgeois democracy transforms into a fascist state. In this moment the fast track to fascist rule is playing out in plain sight and in real time.

Many in the U.S. know what fascism looks like in terms of power, economy, culture, and ideology. We experienced the open face of fascism in the US South from the period of the defeat of Reconstruction through the hundred years of Jim Crow rule. Just to restate, this era of political rule embodied systemic white supremacy - the Black Codes, prison labor, exclusionary Jim Crow constitutions and laws, state violence, lynching and extra-legal terror, and interpenetration of Ku Klux Klan and white supremacist militia and vigilante groups into local law enforcement. This form of rule also embodied legalized white supremacy throughout every corporation, social structure, and institution. US fascist rule in this period was the model the Nazis examined in forming their laws and methods of rule in Nazi Germany.

### **The struggle within the ruling class about how to save capitalism & private property**

Bourgeois democracy is the preferred form of state rule within capitalism. ***If so, what is driving the ruling class to fascism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?***

Capitalism is in an irreversible systemic crisis. The ruling class is moving toward fascism because of the realities and implications of the technological revolution in the economy and society. This revolution involves fundamental shifts in production, distribution, communication, transport and the service sector. The labor enhancing technology of the industrial machine era is being replaced with labor eliminating technology of robotics and automation.

Capitalism is rapidly losing its ability to create value through commodity production and distribution in the real economy. Production with less and less labor erodes the new value created in production and the surplus value or profit capital can realize through circulation

of commodities. Seventy percent of the market are individual consumers. Workers without jobs and low wage workers shrink the market and the ability of capitalists to sell goods and services and to realize profit. Automation, robots, digital technology and artificial intelligence are disrupting the fundamental economic and social relations between capitalists and workers.

One of the main questions confronting the ruling class today is how to save capitalism and private property and, thus, how to politically consolidate their control over the country's multiracial and multigendered working class that is more and more disposable and dispossessed. The struggle among ruling class forces is about the tactics and speed of these processes - economically, politically, ecologically, and ideologically.

Fascism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the necessary strategy of the ruling class to protect its private property and wealth without any provision for working class labor that is increasingly redundant and superfluous. Fascist rule is moving to control society in the interests of capital through martial law - the prison industrial complex, mass incarceration, criminalizing resistance, and police murder, etc. - while abolishing the public sector, i.e., government services to support the survival and reproduction of labor and the working class, and to protect the planet. Ideologically and subjectively fascist rule polarizes society along lines of class, race, gender, nationality, religion, etc.

### **What does it mean to slow the march toward fascism?**

We are living in a world where the confluence of crises - the systemic crisis of the capitalist economy, the militarized police state, societal disruption, pandemics, and ecological destruction - have become intertwined as a global and planetary catastrophe. This is a qualitatively new revolutionary moment of collective learning, teaching, and acting for transformation in the interests of humanity and the earth. We need time. And, we have to use this time strategically to stop the march toward fascism and to go on the offensive to create the new world we need and want.

This requires time to build class unity - to assess, to organize, and to politically educate our multiracial, multigendered, multigenerational working class struggle. To defeat Trump is to buy time.

### **The urgency of now for working class folks - developing revolutionary class consciousness, vision, and strategy**

We need time to organize to protect our interests - as working class movement forces fighting daily for survival and the necessities of life, fighting to stop police murder and state violence in our cities, towns, and at the border, fighting to end white supremacy and gender oppression, to stop climate change, wildfires, floods, and environmental poisoning.

***But, our revolutionary process is 60% intellectual.*** An essential task for revolutionaries is political education with the broad working class and fighting forces. To collectively vision and create the world we need, we must understand the world we have, how it works, and the dynamics of change. We must mobilize and engage the revolutionary process with the battle of ideas as we struggle in real time in the streets, in work places, and everywhere we are.

It is critical to understand the history and role of white supremacy and its current expression as a strategic tool of the ruling class to divide and control the working class. To intellectually and politically unite working class forces we must expose and defeat white supremacy – ideologically and materially – and all forms of oppression.

We must name the capitalist system and the ruling class as our common enemy. It's imperative to connect and coordinate our struggles into a national fight for the transformation from capitalism toward a cooperative society – from a society of scarcity to a society of abundance.

We can do it. There is no time to wait. The time is now. **Make it happen!**

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