



The 2020 presidential election: A revolutionary socialist perspective

t the time of writing, more than 210,000 people in the US have died from coronavirus. Many states, including some of the hardest hit, continue to move forward with reopening despite the rising case numbers. The economic freefall brought on by the pandemic continues to throw millions of people out of work, and the federal government has signaled that any new relief packages will likely be smaller than what was offered in the CARES act, which itself was insufficient (for workers, that is. The ruling class did quite well for themselves).

The criminal mishandling of the pandemic has resulted in significant shifts in the economy that have further disadvantaged the working class in ways that will likely take years to recover from. The rising case numbers, and the inability of states and the federal government to do anything but hand over billions to corporations and Wall Street at the expense of the health and safety of working people, reflect the failure of the capitalist system and its neoliberal managers to do anything near what is required to reduce and prevent the widespread misery being inflicted upon millions. On top of the pandemic, the brutalities of systemic racism

have moved thousands to take to the streets in cities across the country to protest the murders of unarmed black people by police. With the recent shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, WI, the cops have once again proven that police reform won't work.

Like so much that has happened in 2020, the presidential election has taken on a surreal quality that will be challenging to explain to future generations. For many on the left, the potential of Bernie Sanders to capture the nomination over the determined resistance of the establishment offered some hope that electoral politics through the Democratic Party could be a useful vehicle for social change. The ensuing disappointment after Bernie's defeat has again raised longstanding questions about how socialists should relate to the Democrats, and more broadly, the left's role in electoral politics.

Debates around these questions will become more intense as crises

deepen, but the disinterest of the ruling class and its functionaries in government to meet these challenges only heighten the need to advance class struggle. The dialectic of electoral politics, on one hand, elevates the need for the critical analysis from the left as a way out of the cul de sac of liberalism, and on the other, heightens the calls from liberals (and even some leftists) for a more "pragmatic" approach which narrows the range of political possibilities to a binary between evil and lesser evil.

New election, same debates

This is really nothing new, of course. Hal Draper's analysis of the lesser evil debate leading up to the 1968 election has remained disturbingly relevant for every contest since that time, but the parallels between that year and 2020 are especially striking. Like

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2020 Election	p.1
Beating Back Fascism in Portland	p.2
Beating Back Fascism in Greece	p.3
The NBA strikes for Black Lives	p.4
Belarusians Stare Down Dictatorship	p.5

Unity and organizing is key to beating back fascism

Sean Cumming reports on the massive anti-fascist counter-protest that humiliated the Proud Boys rally in Portland Oregon this September

he Nazi street gang, the Proud Boys, found themselves outnumbered and humiliated last weekend in Portland, Oregon. What they had billed as a 10,000-strong orgy of racism and violence went off as a damp squib in the fall rain. A coalition of anti-fascist groups, community groups and labor union members came together to draw over 2,000 Portlanders to a counter-rally and community event. The Proud Boys and assorted hangers-on could only muster 200 racists to their hate fest on the outskirts of town.

Portland has been the target of fascist violence and organizing for a number of years. In the 80's Nazi gangs roamed the streets of Portland leading to the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian student, in 1988. In 2017 Jeremy Christian murdered Ricky Best and Taliesin Namkai-Meche on the MAX public transit system, after the men had confronted him over his racist abuse of two young girls. Christian had been a regular attendee at Patriot Prayer (another far right gang) events and was a supporter of Donald Trump.

The over 100 days of Black Lives Matter protests in Portland have seen a reaction not only from the state, but from the far right. Pipe bombs were thrown at BLM protestors by alleged fascist sympathizers only last month. In a bizarre, and horrifying, turn of events, Patriot Prayer member Aaron Danielson was shot dead downtown on August 29. Less than a week later police and feds killed Michael Reinoehl, Danielson's alleged killer, an antifascist who claimed to act in self defense, outside a friend's home, in contested circumstances.

Trump has stoked these flames.

He called the killing of Reinoehl "appropriate retribution." The city, the governor, and mayor have done nothing to prevent the fascists. Indeed, the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) has been facilitating their demonstrations. PPB officers have been caught on video, and via leaked texts, having friendly conversations with Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson.

This background made Saturday's possible large influx of fascists into the city a worrying proposition for activists, organizers, and the community as a whole. Online chats of the "Patriot Coalition of Oregon," leaked before the rally, showed them recommending arms and ammunition be brought, and warning and promoting violence.

At the anti-fascist rally in Peninsula Park I spoke to Rory Gatto, of the Unemployed Workers' Council:

"With recent events and with the fetishization of people like Kyle Rittenhouse in the news I am a little worried that these people are emboldened. My hope is that we continue to show people that they [the fascists] aren't welcome in our city. Even if they are scary, we are going to be here and do the right thing"

Organizers from Democratic Socialists of America, Pop Mob,
Rose City Antifa, Labor Against
Fascism, and a number of other community groups made the decision together to build a rally in
North Portland rather than confront the Proud Boys across the river, at the more isolated Delta Park. This brought out more people than had attended previous anti-fascist events in the city, despite dire warnings from the press about violence. Many of the attendees made the connection between the fight for

Black lives and the need to oppose fascism.

Emma, in attendance with other volunteers from the United Church of Christ told me why she was there:

"Not enough people are aware how much the hate groups have increased in the last four years. It is the number one domestic terror threat. I can't live with the idea that the Proud Boys are going to come into the city of Portland with people not telling them we don't want them here. One of the wonderful things about Portland is the sense of community. United Church of Christ has this faith community of pastors and rabbis that have been coming out to protests throughout these 110 plus days. It is important for people to see that the community is united against this, this is not a narrow slice of Antifa. That is the narrative that is being promoted. It really is a broad coalition of people saying this system is broken and we need change."

Speakers from the stage made it explicit that the fight against racism and for Black Lives means taking up the struggle against fascism, and that resistance to fascism means fighting for Black lives. Wall of Moms' organizer Demetria Hester led a moment of silence for Breonna Taylor. Civil rights lawyer and activist Juan Chavez told the crowd, "racism fuels the Nazis." Musician and activist Mic Crenshaw drew the connections between the state, racism and fascist violence calling the PPB "the stormtroopers of empire" and noted that, "Every time we came out to confront them [the fascists] the police would be there proLaura Wadlin, one of the organizers of a new group, Labor for Black Lives/Labor Against Fascism, spoke of the need to remove police unions from the labor movement, and of the need for antifascist organizing within unions,:

"Labor unions are a serious threat to white nationalism because they promote class solidarity across lines of race, gender, religion, and nationality...labor unions should be the first line of defense against fascists because we are organized where we are most powerful against the ruling class, which is the workplace."

The number of union banners and union members at the rally is an important step forward in the anti-fascist struggle here in Portland. The Pacific Northwest Carpenters Union were the first to put out a statement opposing the fascists coming here. This led some union organizers to get together and form Labor for Black Lives/Labor Against Fascism. Many were long term anti-fascists, but some were brought to the movement by the

demonstrations for Black lives. I spoke to Jamie Partridge from Labor for Black Lives/Labor Against Fascism about the need to build working class resistance in our workplaces,

"Trump's rhetoric is more openly white supremacist and authoritarian so I expect the fascist movement will continue to grow, but it also seems that the resistance is also growing. That can't help but spill over into the labor movement. People are coming to our table who are members of all different unions and even though their leadership is not there yet, they are. If we do what we need to do in organizing the rank and file they (the leadership) will be."

During the first Presidential Debate on Tuesday night Trump refused to condemn far right violence. Instead he offered a message of support to the fascists gangs intent on terrorizing communities across the country. When asked directly about the Proud Boys the President told them to "stand down

and stand by." This unveiled encouragement has emboldened the fascists despite their poor display at the weekend. While they clearly have no base in Portland, the presidents' words may make them more palatable to those alienated by the current triple crisis.

Saturday's successful rally shows that the key to building resistance, not only to fascism but to the racism of the Trump administration, is through unified action and building organizations capable of pulling large numbers onto the streets. The solution is not to look to the state for protection or for legalistic solutions—which can often backfire on us-but through connecting the movement for Black lives to the power of the organized working class. Saturday here in Portland was a forward step in that process. We cannot let Trump's support for the far right be a step back. The hope for anti-fascists now is that we can deepen these connections and start to grow antifascist roots in our workplaces and communities.

Greek Fascist Golden Dawn Jailed after 5 Year Trial

fter five and a half years, in the biggest trial of fascists since Nuremberg, the court in Greece not only found several Golden Dawn members guilty for murders and attempted murders, but found that the party itself was a criminal organization.

KEERFA, an anti-fascist and anti-racist campaign set up in 2009, led a broad, militant and determined movement that finally kicked Golden Dawn out of Parliament last summer, after which the party started to split. The movement continues and contributed to the tone of the trial. There were strikes the day of the verdict to allow workers to attend the anti-fascist rally of 30,000 outside the courthouse.

As the trial came to an end, the state prosecutor, appointed by the ruling conservative New Democracy Party, made some appalling statements attempting to divert charges from the leadership, and lessen sentences. But anti-fascist lawyers had presented overwhelming evidence against them. Seven of the former MPs on trial, including party leader Nikos Michaloliakos,

were guilty of leading a criminal organization and sentenced to 13 years in prison. The Golden Dawn member who murdered anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas received life plus 10 years. Even though some of the sentences were not as tough as they could have been, in all 50 people were convicted of taking part in a criminal organization.

"This is a very good day for the anti-fascist movement globally," said Petros Constantinou, a prominent anti-racist activist with KEERFA on the day of the verdict. "The decision will send a very important message to the far right in Europe."

It should also serve as a setback for far-right forces here in the United States, who are also trying to combine anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies from the state with murderous actions on the ground. This is a time for all anti-fascists to celebrate, then continue eliminating the threat of fascism around the world.

For more on the fight against Golden Dawn, and lessons for us, see "From Greece to the US" by lannis Delatolas on-line at marx21us.org

The NBA strike was a testament to the power of strikes

Prithviraj Gandhi looks at the athletes' strike, seeing an example of the actions we need for justice

The Milwaukee Bucks NBA basketball team made history last month by deciding to not play a playoff game in protest of the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Wisconsin. This was the first time any team had decided not to play an NBA playoff game. This seemingly small action drove the entire world into a frenzy.

The move was only the first domino to fall. The rest of the league decided that they would not play that day. Then, the NBA decided to "postpone" every game that day. Other sports leagues followed suit, with the Women's National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, and National Hockey League all not playing games. Major media called the move a "boycott," and avoided calling it what it actually was: a strike.

"Why does it always have to get to the point where we see the guns firing?" LeBron James asked. The night before the strike, LA Clippers coach Doc Rivers, the son of a police officer, held back tears and said, "We keep loving this country, and this country does not love us back."

Rivers spoke to a feeling of hopelessness that a lot of people in the United States share. Again, a Black man was shot by police officers, sparking outrage.

On August 26, the Milwaukee Bucks players decided they needed to take action. They declared they would not play the game scheduled for that day. After a Zoom call with the lieutenant governor of Wisconsin about different methods of reformist action through the existing political system, they knew much more needed to be done. working class to the bargaining table. The players knew this, and it made the ruling class nervous.

Unfortunately, for the time being, it seems that NBA players have decided to resume the season. I was reported that a call from Jared Kushner was scheduled before the announcement, but there is no confirmation on whether this may have prompted to take action. They declared they would not play the game scheduled for that day. After a Zoom call with the lieutenant governor of Wisconsin about different methods of reformist action through the existing political system, they knew much more needed to be done.

From an outsider's perspective, the NBA may seem like a monument to pure capitalism, but it is a league with a history steeped in equity and social justice. Many players have taken advantage of highly competitive feeder leagues where the cream of the crop rises to the top. Scouts at every level are hungry to find the next star and the NBA scouts worldwide for talent. The result is something resembling a pure meritocracy. One of the outcomes is a sports league that is highly in tune with the social, political, and economic issues which face Americans of all social classes.

When the league was first integrated, Black legends like Bill Russell and Will Chamberlain emerged. While they were not initially welcomed with open arms, Black players from all walks of life became mainstays in the NBA.

In the last decade, the NBA has been one of the most politically active sports leagues in America. In 2012, teams in the league wore hoodies to show solidarity with Trayvon Martin, the Florida teen killed by George Zimmerman. In 2014, players protested the

police murder of Eric Garner by wearing "I Can't Breathe" t-shirts. That same year, players threatened to strike if Donald Sterling, an owner who had been caught making racist statements, was not disciplined. The result was that Donald Sterling was banned for life from the NBA and forced to give up his ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers. In 2017, the NBA moved their scheduled All-Star game from North Carolina to protest a controversial anti-trans bathroom bill.

With their protest earlier this month, these athlete workers took matters into their own hands. They knew they had a platform to say something about the shooting of Jacob Blake and police violence against Black and brown people. While the league had previously allowed them to make political statements on their jerseys, the players knew this wasn't enough. The Bucks, and then the rest of the players, decided to strike.

Without the players, there is no NBA. That is a dangerous message to send to the working class because it follows that, without the workers, there are no products or services at all. The players internally discussed how US workers could get together for a general strike and force political and social justice. A general strike brings an economy to its knees. It brings the working class to the bargaining table. The players knew this, and it made the ruling class nervous.

Unfortunately, for the time being, it seems that the NBA players have decided to resume the season. It was reported that a call from Jared Kushner was scheduled before the announcement, but there is no confirmation on whether this may have prompted the change of heart. Kushner, in his infinite callousness, had gone onto CNBC earlier in the morning to remind the common workers that they did not have enough money to survive a strike and implying that the NBA players were "privileged" to simply be able to take a day off of work. Clearly, he was sending a message to the rest of the working class that striking is not an option for them. Disappointingly, a call from Barack Obama pushed the NBA players to opt against the strike and decide in favor of electoral initiatives such as turning stadiums into voting locations.

Andre Igoudala, a Miami Heat player, said that he knew that social action would take a long time and could be quite tedious. He is right. The Montgomery Bus Boycott took more than a year. The Civil Rights movement spanned many years. Any progress will not come overnight. It will take a sustained effort.

Nonetheless, the NBA players showed the power of the strike. They are an example to working class people in every walk of life who want to take action for a better world.

Belarusians stare down dictatorship

Clare Lemlich, Marx21 member and summer cultural studies tour guide in Belarus, reports on the pro-democracy movement in the streets, where ordinary Belarusians are rising up to demand the fall of their decades-long dictatorship.

or almost five months now, Belarusians have led daily mass protests against the 26-year dictatorship of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Over 14,000 people have been detained, at least two people have been killed, and the protests still show no signs of slowing down.

Sham elections

The protests were sparked by widespread fraud leading up to the August 9 presidential elections. Lukashenka claims to have democratically won 80% of the vote, a statistical impossibility which is hotly contested on the streets.

His electoral rival is former English teacher Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya. With backing from other exiled and detained opposition candidates, Tsikhanouskaya ran as a liberal candidate against the dictatorship and against closer ties with Russia, which has propped up Lukashenka's regime for many years.

Tsikhanouskaya and several other opposition leaders formed a Coordinating Council to handle the transfer of power from Lukashenka.

From the streets to general strike

In addition to the mass marches in all major cities and many small towns, workers have begun organizing protests, walk-outs, and sporadic work stoppages.

On October 12 the Coordinating Council issued an ultimatum demanding Lukashenka's resignation, the release of political prisoners, and an end to the violent police crackdowns across the country. The opposition said they would lead a general strike if these demands were not met by October 26.

Despite intense police violence and widespread abuse inside detention, Belarusians continue to defy the regime. This past month there have been protests led by different sectors of society: women, pensioners, and grandparents have all had their own days of actions. Teachers, museum workers, doctors, airline workers, musicians, trolleybus drivers, tech workers, miners, and factory workers have joined the demonstrations in Minsk. About 100,000 took to the streets there on the eve of the strike.

On the 26th, key workers brought some major complexes to a standstill. Many businesses closed and some of their workers took a holiday in solidarity with protesters. But strikes were not generalized across workplaces and industries. Most labor unions in Bela-

rus are state-controlled and independent labor activity is extremely difficult to organize. Some strike committee leaders remain in jail. In this context the level of class participation — not only as Belarusian citizens, but as working people — is astonishing.

But workers' action was not spread and sustained enough to have a significant impact on production. Workers resistance failed to take off the way it did spontaneously in August. For now, the fragile balance between Lukashenko and the opposition remains.

What next?

It is unclear how long the current stalemate will last. There is only so long Lukashenka can rule by force alone. Earlier in October he met with political prisoners and announced some possible constitutional reforms. People of course have little trust in anything Lukashenka says, but the fact that he was compelled to respond to prisoners at all shows his political weakness in the face of this rebellion.

The Coordinating Council has met with European leaders, many of whom refuse to recognize Lukashenka's reign any longer. But huge questions remain about what kind of political and economic system could replace the current regime. Although opposition leaders have helped galvanize the rebellion, they are generally pro-Western candidates who would likely carry out neoliberal reforms in Belarus if they take power, as we saw in most post-Soviet states during the 1990s.

More important than meetings between European leaders and the Coordinating Council is international solidarity with the Belarusian people. Many cities in neighboring countries have held protests over the summer in solidarity with the rebellion. German aviation workers recently refused to service Lukashenka's plane. Their flyer stated: "We, the trade union activists of Lufthansa Technik remember the ancient tradition of international solidarity and are standing side-by-side with the Belarusian workers." More international working class solidarity will be needed in the coming months as Belarusians continue to battle the dictatorship. The stronger class consciousness is now, the harder it will be for any future government to get away with attacks on working people in Belarus.

Although any break with Lukashenka's authoritarianism would be a crucial victory, true power and the possibility for liberation lie in the workplace actions and self-organization of ordinary Belarusians.

The 2020 Presidential Election (continued from page 1)

Trump, Nixon ran on a "Law and Order" message that weaponized long-standing racial tensions. Vice President Hubert Humphrey was not a particularly inspiring figure, especially due to his continued support for the Vietnam War, but he had the backing of the Democratic establishment and won the nomination despite not participating in any of the primaries. Like Biden, Humphrey's campaign was seen as largely a continuation of the preceding administration.

Still, there are important differences that should not be overlooked. Nixon's victory in 1968 marked the beginning of the end for the New Deal era, but neoliberalism had not yet established itself as the dominant ideology of the ruling class. New Deal dynamics still pushed both parties towards "bureaucratic statification," which Draper described as "increasing state intervention into the control of the economy from above," in their responses to the crises of the moment. This led Nixon to establish the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, actions that would be unthinkable for a Republican president today.

The dynamics under neoliberalism have thoroughly shifted the playing field to the point where the signature domestic policy achievement under Obama was a healthcare reform law that benefitted the largest private health insurance companies, while initial promises of immigration reform ended in more deportations than all previous administrations. Since the Reagan administration, the default position for both parties is finding market solutions, even in cases where markets and the narrow focus on profits are themselves the source of much of the problems, as

has been the case with the Obamacare exchanges.

It is in this context that Biden's candidacy and future presidency must be understood. Even people that seem to understand that Trump's rise is not an aberration, but is in fact an entirely predictable outcome born of material conditions that have devolved over years, seem incapable of offering a serious alternative. They have given their support to a man who is the embodiment of the hollow, faux-woke centrism that has made life more precarious for millions of working people for decades. Biden was a senator from 1973 to 2009, and throughout this period he would play a key role in the neoliberal transformation of the Democratic party. On mass incarceration, climate change, immigration, US imperialism, welfare "reform," civil civil rights, abortion rights, and on and on, Biden stood on the wrong side for years. The sum total of this effort has been a contribution to the maintenance and gradual deterioration of an already unjustifiable status quo that few other national politicians can match.

It is then absurd to think that a Biden victory would do anything more to restore the facade of the "soul of America" that Trump has tarnished over the last few years, whatever that means. The deep contradictions at the heart of the Biden approach to politics have been largely responsible for bringing the country and world to its current state, and he has shown no indication that he would be willing to take the necessary steps to move beyond those contradictions to address the current challenges, as this would require nothing less than a complete repudiation of his entire political legacy.

The Democratic National Con-

vention showed that the party is doubling down on status quo neoliberalism, and is yet again more interested in reaching out to the right than working with progressives. A noted war criminal was given significantly more speaking time than rising democratic socialist congressperson Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who was given 60 seconds (which she made the most of). None of this was surprising, as the selection of Harris as VP confirmed that the party would continue to take its cues from Wall Street, Silicon Valley, and suburban mod-

The recent death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the opening of a Supreme Court seat, and of course the ongoing disaster of the Trump administration's own Covid-19 infection, have taken the Twilight Zone levels of weirdness in 2020 to new heights. Yet despite these explosive news stories, the underlying dynamics of the election, and more importantly, of the rest of society, have not significantly shifted, as millions continue to struggle to adjust to a weak economy with little hope that anyone in government will do anything to address the cri-

Role for the left

And so again the left is in the depressingly familiar situation of wondering what its part is in the coming election. All of the reasons mentioned above of why Biden is such a terrible candidate and is so unsuited for the moment do little to answer some big questions: "Do we sit this one out? If Trump has a chance of winning, don't we have an obligation to do anything in our power to stop him?"

There are no easy answers here. As bad as he might be, Biden is not the same as Trump, and there

would be real differences between his administration and four more years of the current one, which has taken racism and xenophobia to disturbing levels and is threatening to expand the brutal repression tactics used against protestors in Portland to other large cities across the country. Trump's presidency has been truly disastrous on every level.

Most worrying has been his open support for the Proud Boys during the first presidential debate, which follows his endorsement of the fascist thugs that killed Heather Heyer at the anti-fascist counterprotest in Charlottesville in 2017. More recently Trump supporters have driven their cars into Black lives matter protests. Trump is helping to consolidate an organized fascist presence unlike anything in recent US history. Even if Biden wins, the threat posed by the fascists will be ongoing and the left will need to take this threat head on in united fronts across the country.

If Biden wins, there will be many changes, and some will be viewed as significant, such as reversing Trump's cruel family separation policies. But if his campaign has been any indication of what to expect, the most significant changes under a Biden administration would be more or less a return to the "normal" way of doing politics before Trump, and even the boldest solutions put forward would be little more than band-aids on gaping wounds.

Beyond electoral politics

This does not mean that the election doesn't matter, or that leftists should refrain from offering any commentary. Abysmally low levels of political engagement mean that national elections can be a good opportunity for socialists to engage with a broader audience. Even in defeat, Bernie Sanders proved that social democratic ideas can't just be written off as fringe. Elections are also an important measure of class consciousness in the country. Foul

machinations of the establishment notwithstanding, socialists cannot afford to be in denial about the fact that Biden won millions of votes, even as large majorities express support for Medicare for All. And despite the fears and complaints of the establishment, the majority of Sanders' supporters will vote blue in November, as they did in 2016. The establishment successfully convinced many who supported Sanders' policies that Biden was the more "realistic" candidate, and the left was not politically powerful enough to effectively reach them with a compelling alternative.

This speaks to the urgency of the moment as the crises deepen and threaten more and more people. The need for revolutionary messages and tactics to reach the masses of that "in setups where the choice is the working class with a desperately needed expansion of political possibilities is the only way out of the barbarism of the world in 2020. Failing to address the fundamental contradictions that led to Trump's rise will pave the way for an even more dangerous right-wing figure to take power in the future, and this makes it difficult to overstate the importance of the tasks ahead for socialists.

There are lessons to be learned from the Black lives matter uprisings, which have seen inspiring examples of working-class solidarity and organization that connect the struggles of anti-racism to issues of workplace exploitation. In a matter of weeks, the idea of defunding the police went from being written off as too radical to being a central demand for activists across the coun-

This was not the result of the usual ebb and flow of the election cycle. Instead, it was a sudden explosion of political activity beyond the electoral framework that refused to be bound by its narrow limits. It is in these kinds of movements that the left should direct its focus, as this is where the real potential of building working-class

power lies.

The choice in November is ultimately less significant for the left than the political activity of the movements in the streets fighting for racial justice and against state repression and the movements in workplaces fighting for workers' health and safety during the pandemic. The questions of the 2020 election, in the end, raise bigger questions about what politics can be and what it is actually for. For socialist organizations, that means building working class power independent of the major parties, and working in united fronts against racism, fascism, abortion bans, and more — regardless of which party or person is in office.

Hal Draper understood in 1967 between one capitalist politician and another, the defeat comes in accepting the limitation to this choice."

The Democratic Party is accepted as the only alternative to Trump, but socialists must work harder than ever to help greater numbers of working people understand that the party and Biden do not have their interests at heart.

For socialists then, the work ahead is both relatively simple and immense. Whatever the outcome in November, long-term success will be measured by how much the left can advance the class struggle and build up the movements in the streets and workplaces that will provide the only way forward to a better world.

Sunday, November 8th, Marx21 will be having a national branch meeting with open discussion about the election and prospects going forwards. www.facebook.com/Marx21us for details.



Next Marx21 pubic meeting, Saturday October 31st 2:00 pm ET/11 am PT. Join us for a discussion about how the current crises within capitalism are impacting the working lives, jobs, and economic provisions of workers. With Joseph Choonara, author of *A Reader's Guide to Marx's Capital* (Bookmarks, 2017) and *Unravelling Capitalism: A Guide to Marxist Political Economy* (2nd edition: Bookmarks, 2017), and editor of *International Socialism journal*. On line meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83158991892



Visit MARX21US.ORG for more articles:

Abolition Not Reform: On the Origin and Function of Police **Report from Portland:** The Police, the Feds, and the Movement

Lebanon after the explosion: Social upheaval continues

Lessons from Polish Solidarity: 40 years after

Breaking News: The filthy rich get richer and poor poorer under Covid

f @marx21us for updates, meetings, study groups, etc.

Marx21 is an organization of revolutionary socialists across the United States. We stand in the tradition of socialism from below: the idea that workers can only emancipate themselves through their own struggles. Marx21 is connected to other like-minded socialist groups around the world in the International Socialist Tendency. Visit our website to learn more and get involved.

