

# Resisting Trumpism

**W**e have been assaulted with a constant barrage of attacks, attempting shock and awe tactics to frighten and disorient dissent. Every day there are new outrageous policies being pushed forward, too many to even list.

Starting at the inauguration, Elon Musk, the richest man in the world and promoter of the far-right, gave Nazi salutes to the crowd. He was then put in charge of firing government workers and destroying departments from foreign aid, cultural institutions, health, science, environmental efforts, to programs for the poor, and of course the agencies supposed to observe or regulate his many businesses. Since then, we have seen:

**Cruel and highly publicized immigration raids.** Building on Trump's racist campaign scapegoating migrants as "criminals" and "animals," plane loads of people are being flown out of the country, some in defiance of judges' orders. So far, Trump has not passed Biden's record for deportations per day, but arrests are up. While his promise to deport 11 million may be impossible, ICE is creating a climate of widespread fear and normalizing police actions

that could be used against any of his invented enemies.

**Trans people.** On day one, Trump proclaimed that only two (unchangeable) genders would be recognized. He barred trans people from the military and attacked them in sports, hospitals, and schools. Many institutions, and the Democratic Party, have caved in, but trans folk and others are resisting. This is ultimately an attack on any challenge to gender hierarchy. States are already bringing challenges to gay marriage to the Supreme Court.

**Attacks on Civil Rights.** Trump's rhetoric attacking DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion) as "dangerous, demeaning, and immoral" led to closing down enforcement agencies, canceling a slew of civil rights orders, and erasure of inclusive language. Much of DEI was corporate window dressing and did little to combat racism. Nonetheless, it is clear that the attacks aim to give the green light to racist and sexist discrimination.

**Student Protests:** Building on repression of Palestinian protests under Biden, Trump is attempting to criminalize all pro-Palestinian speech using bogus accusations of antisemitism, and the neo-liberal

university complex is largely accommodating him. The arrest of Mahmoud Khalil and deportation of others are test cases for broader repression.

## **Gaza and the Palestinians:**

Biden's backing of Israel's attacks on Gaza led directly to Israel's breaking the ceasefire and extending genocide to the West Bank under the more open support by Trump's Christian Zionist administration. This is all done with the full bipartisan support of the United States Congress which has just approved another \$8.5 billion arms sale.

## **Further Weaponizing the**

**State:** After pardoning the January 6 capital rioters, Trump's MAGA Attorney General and FBI head aim to turn the repressive arms of the government against his personal enemies. The attacks on student protesters should worry everyone that this administration will not allow dissent.

## **DOGE, and Attacks on the**

**Working Class:** Trump's orders and Musk's DOGE have ignored supposed Congressional responsibilities and cut entire agencies, like USAID, with others in line or seeing staff cuts that would make them unworkable. Musk's unconsidered

cuts are not promoting “efficiency,” but enriching himself and his cohorts to the tune of billions of dollars. They aim to privatize some, to be run less efficiently at a profit, but other essential services would be eliminated entirely. They now have their eye on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Now the full scale of Trump’s long threatened tariffs will raise prices and devastate the economy, with costs falling on the working class here and around the world.

Even more perilous for the working class is Trump’s outrageous executive order aiming to end collective bargaining for a million federal workers. This is the first step in attacks on all public-sector unions, and beyond. The response by unions must move beyond the courts to mobilizing the power of the working class.

## **So What Do We Do? STAND UP, FIGHT BACK!**

So far, we have not seen the huge wave of protests that greeted Trump’s first term. But as his policies become real, we are seeing more examples of resistance and mobilization.

Marx21 members have been on militant demonstrations for trans rights, immigrant rights, and union rallies across the country from New York City to Los Angeles. These need to continue, and broaden. This April 5 is one step in uniting struggles and showing the breadth of opposition. We cannot let this be led into waiting for the next mid-term or presidential election, or relying on Democratic politicians – we need to continue to organize to use the power we have.

Trump and his advisors want to re-make government and society in a more authoritarian direction. They also have unprecedented connections with the far-right and violent fascist groups. But it is important to recognize we are not living under a fascist regime, however dictatorial Trump wishes to act. Neither is there a fascist movement big enough to challenge the existing state, smash unions and all working-class power. We can still organize, and defeat moves in that direction.

There are massive contradictions in Trump’s program, and his coalition. How far out of the norm he is going is frightening, but it also could easily lead to overreach, splits at the top, and resistance from below. Trump already backed down on the blanket stop of Federal funding. Forcing more back-downs could revive confidence in the majority who don’t agree with his program.

Trump ran partially on populism. He pledged to bring down prices on day one. His lies were made more convincing by a Harris campaign focused on befriending millionaires. Yet his administration is aimed at helping the transfer of money to the filthy rich, corporate tax cuts, gutting regulations, and limiting unions. He has already functionally shut down the National Labor Relations Board, but that does not limit our ability to strike. As the prices of goods and credit do not fall, the effects of tariffs on working people become apparent, and inequality continues to increase, it will be harder for Trump to keep up the façade of this fake populism.

To stop his support (outside committed rich backers) from

dissipating, Trump will try to emphasize non-class divisions, demonizing imaginary enemies, radicalizing the anti-immigrant and anti-trans actions, and “America First” rhetoric. Despite his running against the “forever wars” and “nation-building,” Trump is now pushing a new imperialism, with outlandish threats to take over Greenland, the Panama Canal, and the Gaza strip, expelling close to 2 million Palestinians.

**There will be more resistance.** The future depends on how long working-class supporters cling to racism and xenophobia against their own interests, and when they turn against Trump and his class. Our job is to support all oppressed people, join and build all resistance, and crucially, to connect this activism with the power of the working class. We need to build lasting, democratic, united fronts of struggle including all of Trump’s targets.

Importantly, organizers from Chicago Teachers Union, with the Federal Union Network and many other unions, immigrant, and community groups are organizing for massive demonstrations this May Day, which will include work stoppages in some locations. This is billed as a buildup to a “general strike” in 2028 floated by the UAW, but will also be an escalation of ground up resistance to Trump now, and a fight for all of us. Get involved!

Out of these struggles we also need to build a socialist force with a clear vision, against the capitalist world system that is increasing inequality, destroying our planet, and fueling authoritarianism.

# First They Came For...

(Fill In the Blank)

**Not This Time! Speak Out! All Out May Day 2025!**

**Marx21 National Zoom Meeting, Sunday 4/6:**

## **Tariffs, Ukraine, and Geo-Politics Under Trump**

From the new massive tariffs to voting with Russia and against NATO on Ukraine, Trump is pushing changes in the alliances of US imperialism. Despite running against “forever wars,” Trump’s “America First” is not isolationist. None of the Democrats or Republicans have an answer to the decline of US hegemony. The tariffs threaten inflation and recession, and trade wars could result in the end of the neoliberal globalization project.

How far will Trump go in using what’s left of US financial and military superiority to wring an advantage out of old friends and foes alike? Do his threats to the Panama Canal, Greenland, and Canada signal a renewed focus on “America’s Backyard?” Is he aiming at a new alliance of authoritarian empires? Does Trump even have a foreign policy behind his hateful bluster? Whatever the aims, it is clear the present administration is responding to and exacerbating an unstable and dangerous period of increasing inter-imperialist rivalry. **Join us on Zoom, Sunday, April 6**, for short presentations on Ukraine and imperialism, and Trump’s use of tariffs, followed by an open discussion of socialists’ views on all these questions. E-mail Marx21 or visit our social media for details. [www.facebook.com/Marx21us](https://www.facebook.com/Marx21us)

## **Check out the Marx21 Website for recent articles:**

“Immigration in Trump’s New World Order” Rosa Soley

“The Day Immigrants Won, An Activist’s Chronicles from 2006”  
Victor Fernandez

“All Out for Mahmoud Khalil” Eric Fretz

“Resist Trump’s plan for the ethnic cleansing of Gaza” Nathaniel H.

More on Palestine, Syria, Immigration fights, Trans rights, Trump and more.



## **Reading and Discussion on “Revolutionary Organization”**

co-sponsored by Marx21, US, and the International Socialists, Canada

Sunday, April 13 (2pm ET, 11am PT)

readings:

***Party and Class***, by Duncan Hallas; and

***“Why we need to build a revolutionary party”*** by Charlie Kimber.

Register for readings and the Zoom Link at <https://www.socialist.ca/node/4978>



**MARX21 (Marxism for the 21st century) is a US revolutionary socialist organization. We stand by the following principles:**

### **Anti-capitalist**

We believe that workers create all the wealth, but capitalism is a system run by a tiny, wealthy elite who exploit that labor. A new society can only be constructed when we the workers collectively take control of that wealth and plan production and distribution according to human need. Exploitation, competition, crisis, war, and environmental destruction can be fought, but are inherent to capitalism.

### **Socialism from below**

We stand in the tradition of socialism from below: the idea that workers can only emancipate themselves through their own struggles. We do not believe that current social democratic and labor governments around the world represent socialism, nor do we believe states that use the language of socialism (like the former Soviet Union, China, Cuba and elsewhere) offer a model for true liberation. Socialism cannot be handed down to us. We need a fundamentally different system in which we actively participate and democratically control.

### **Activist**

We are activists and organizers. We do not stand aside from movements and activity in the streets, we strive to build them and lead them. We read theory, debate ideas, and learn history in order to understand the world and to argue for and implement strategies and tactics that give us the best chance of winning radical change. One function of our

website/bulletin is to intervene in movements and demonstrate through our activity that the politics of revolutionary socialism is the only path to creating the world we know is possible.

### **Revolutionary socialist**

We believe that only a revolutionary break with the current system can deliver us socialism. We believe in fighting for reforms because they are both an essential part of improving people's lives and preparing our side to run society in our own interests. We believe in the need for a mass, working class, revolutionary party in order to lead a future successful socialist revolution.

### **Against all forms of oppression**

The working class is multi-racial and multi-gendered. It benefits capitalism to oppress and divide us because capitalism's greatest enemy is worker solidarity. We need a world free from racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and every kind of oppression. We fight against all these forms of oppression wherever they arise. The only way we can win true equality is with solidarity.

### **Non-sectarian**

We are an outward-looking, non-sectarian organization that seeks to work together in movements and campaigns, and alongside the wider left. We believe in being honest about our political differences with other groups and having comradely disagreements, but we work with all forces that seek left wing change.

### **Internationalist**

Marx21 is anti-imperialist. We recognize that the US is the largest military power in the world, and we have a special duty to combat militarism at home. But the US and its allies are not the only imperialists. We support workers' struggles against government oppression wherever they occur.

Marx21 stands in the international socialist tradition and is connected with other like-minded socialist groups around the world in the International Socialist Tendency. We support the IST's politics and we work alongside the organizations associated with the tendency, but we are an independent organization that makes its own decisions.

### **Democratic**

We are a member organization where every voice matters. Any elected leadership bodies are accountable to and instantly recallable by the membership. We make decisions together in our local branches, caucuses, and national meetings. We are accountable to one another as a group.