

radical anti-popular perspective, but, curiously, managed in such a way that they were approved by the great majority, and happily voted for in free elections within the bourgeois-democratic order.

This climate of generalized advance of the far right includes Javier Milei, Jair Bolsonaro, Georgia Meloni, Viktor Orbán, Marine Le Pen, Vox in Spain, Geert Wilders, AfD in Germany, etc., and the new President of the United States Donald Trump, who assumed his second term on January 20.

Below, elements of fascism are identified that some intellectuals and progressive sectors have pointed out in certain practices or speeches of the current White House officials headed by Donald Trump.

1. Ultra-nationalism and rhetoric of exclusion

Some speeches have exalted extreme nationalism, with phrases such as "America First." Although patriotism is common in politics, ultra-nationalism involves an exclusionary approach that can marginalize immigrant communities or ethnic minorities. At times, senior officials, including the president, have promoted policies that restrict immigration, justifying them with rhetoric that describes certain groups as threats to security or national identity.

2. Cult of personality

Charismatic leadership, one of the central characteristics of fascism, has been observed in the way certain officials, including the president, have centralized his figure as an almost indisputable symbol of authority and success. The absolute loyalty and glorification of Trump has been promoted, even with public statements that call opponents "enemies of the people," a terminology that resonates with authoritarian regimes.

3. Disinformation and propaganda

The manipulation of information and the use of propaganda are classic tools of fascist regimes. Some officials have been accused of spreading disinformation or attacking the media as "fake" or "enemies of the truth." This distrust of independent media institutions can erode transparency and accountability, fundamental pillars of a functioning democracy.

4. Polarization strategies

The intentional division of society, with speeches that confront different sectors of the population, has been a recurrent tactic in fascist regimes. Some White House officials have used divisive language, fomenting antagonisms between "us" and "them," whether in political, racial or economic terms.

Final Thoughts

Trump is not Hitler, although his histrionic and overwhelming styles bring them closer, just like Javier Milei, but he has an air of a neighborhood bully that shows him as a danger to humanity: What other leader refers to other states as "shitty countries"?

Class Struggle

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Contributions appreciated

For "Who We Are," see our first issue at: <https://redstarpublishers.org/ClassStruggle/Vol1/Vol1.pdf>

An Inaugural Speech of Demagoguery

By George Gruenthal

Trump's inaugural speech of January 20 was intended to appeal to "all the people" of the U.S., including African-Americans, Latinos/as ("Hispanic Americans"), and all working people. He specifically praised auto-workers, steel workers, miners and factory workers in general. He promised a new "golden age" that would make the U.S. "greater, stronger, and far more exceptional than ever before."

He correctly denounced previous administrations for being unable to adequately respond to various disasters, including the Los Angeles wildfires, hurricane Helene in North Carolina, and stated that "We have a public health system that does not deliver in times of disaster." Of course, he did not give any indication of how he would respond differently, but this is the mark of a demagogue: tell people what they want to hear without providing any solutions.



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He also stated that “we have an education system that teaches our children to be ashamed of themselves, in many cases to hate our country.” This is a response to a liberal “woke” ideology that blames racism and imperialism on “white people” in general, instead of on the U.S. ruling, capitalist class. Genuine revolutionaries are proud of our great heroes, from Nat Turner to John Brown, William Foster, Malcolm X and many others. (See Lenin’s work “On the National Pride of the Great Russians.”)

Of course, Trump had to place the blame for the crisis of U.S. imperialism. One of his main scapegoats, since the beginning of his campaign, has been “illegal immigrants.” He spoke of “dangerous criminals, many from prisons and mental institutions that have illegally entered our country from all over the world,” and of “the disastrous invasion of our country” in order to connect people’s fear of crime to migrants. He also said “we will also be designating the cartels as foreign terrorist organizations,” presumably giving U.S. cartels free reign.

Trump will also go after any affirmative action programs, stating: “We will forge a society that is colorblind and merit based.” He also said: “bring back free speech to America. Never again will the immense power of the state be weaponized to persecute political opponents. Something I know something about.” But this clearly means he will allow free speech for himself and his wing of the ruling class, not for Marxists and other revolutionaries (and maybe even not for his opponents from other wings of the capitalist class).

Finally, he said that “My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker and unifier.” At the same time, he planned to “expand our territory” from the Panama Canal to Mars, and in previous statements he included Greenland and Canada.

Trump’s First Executive Orders

In the first days of his new administration, Trump began implementing his ultra-reactionary program. He has begun rounding up thousands of undocumented immigrants for deportation. He has even put forth an executive order to remove citizenship from children of undocumented immigrants who were born in the United States (birthright citizenship). This is against the 14th Amendment, passed during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, which provided citizenship to the former slaves. A change to this Amendment can only be done through a

Is there a new Hitler in the White House?

By Julio Disla

The analysis of the ideological and practical tendencies of public officials has always been a delicate and highly relevant topic, especially when it comes to leaders and representatives of a nation as influential as the United States. However, it is important to approach the issue with rigor, historical context, and a clear definition of terms such as “fascism.”

Fascism, as an ideology, is characterized by authoritarianism, ultra-nationalism, suppression of dissent, militarism, cult of personality, and the use of propaganda to consolidate power. Although this term is frequently associated with historical figures such as Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler, in contemporary discourse it is often used to describe practices or discourses perceived as authoritarian or anti-democratic.

The Historical roots of Fascism

In the first decades of the last century, socialist ideals were gaining ground by leaps and bounds. As a corollary to this, in 1917 the first socialist revolution in history took place in Tsarist Russia. A year later, in 1918, a similar revolutionary movement took place in Germany, which failed to impose itself over time. At the same time, left-wing movements were emerging in various countries, and countless communist parties were being created in the world, following the example of the Bolshevik revolution.

The industrial working class, with powerful and militant trade unions, openly challenged the capitalist and imperialist order. The winds of change spread throughout the planet. In this troubled sea, the Nazi proposals appeared in Germany, with their sick eugenic idea of the “superior race”, basically raised by the figure of Adolf Hitler, and fascists like Benito Mussolini, in Italy. Secondly, following this climate of moves to the right, in Spain the ultraconservative and arch-Catholic Falangist of Francisco Franco triumphed over the attempt at socialist revolution.

Fascism/Nazism tried to discipline the “subversive” proletariat in its own countries, subjugating it, trying to erase all reference to “socialism”, brutally crushing any attempt at social change with blood and fire. In the unique case of Germany, the economic elites of that time sought this, through the singular character of Adolf Hitler, a psychopath. He tried to regain the territory ceded in the First World War, going out to conquer the world after the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles, in which the country lost 13% of its territory and a tenth of its population.

In Italy and Spain, almost similar political proposals were made. The visceral fear of socialism among the European bourgeoisies and their desire to destroy the “bad example” of the Bolshevik Revolution, led to these ultra-right movements. Today, almost a century later, we are witnessing a rebirth of ultra-conservative and anti-communist policies reminiscent of those monstrosities.

An ultra-right, Nazi fascist spirit (with groups that even adopt its symbolism) began to travel the world, with ultra-conservative projects always based on a

factors also arise, such as the intensification of the trade war with the arrival of Donald Trump to the White House. According to the consultant firm Capital Economics, a trade war – which could take many forms – "in extreme cases could lead to a decrease of between 2 and 3% of global GDP", which would offset the economic growth forecast for this year.

When we talk about these issues, we are not referring exclusively to bare statistics or accounting figures of the economy, but also to the social effects that these entail in terms of employment and unemployment, poverty and extreme poverty, wages, migration, social policies, among other aspects.

This is the case with workers' wages. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), in 2024, these decreased or stagnated due to the negative effect of inflation. In many parts of the world, real wages are below their pre-COVID 19 levels.

The rates of poverty and extreme poverty on the planet are alarming. In the summary of the 2024 World Bank Report, there is talk of a slowdown in the reduction of global extreme poverty, until it almost completely stagnates. If this trend is not reversed, it says, 2020-2030 will be a lost decade.

Currently, 700 million people are recognized as living in extreme poverty, on less than \$2.15 a day, and 3.5 billion live on less than \$6.85 a day. The World Bank itself states that, if drastic and urgent measures are not taken, it would take several decades to eradicate extreme poverty and more than a century to end poverty as defined, for almost half of the world. We must not lose sight of the fact that the definition of poverty cannot be limited to the issue of economic income, but also to the population's ability to access quality health and education, decent housing, social security, public services such as drinking water, electricity, and the internet.

Within the framework of the capitalist system, even that century and more will not be enough to end poverty and even less the exploitation to which workers are subjected. The only "drastic" measure—to use the term mentioned above—that can put an end to these problems is the social revolution of the proletariat. In conditions of economic growth, recession or economic crisis, the workers and peoples always bear the worst living conditions on their shoulders; what varies is the intensity of the problems.

lengthy process involving support from 2/3 of both Houses of Congress and 2/3 of the State Legislatures. But if the order is challenged in the courts, the case can go to the Supreme Court, which is packed with Trump supporters. They can declare the order legal, just as they could declare that $2 + 2 = 5$.

Trump has also retracted all Federal rules dealing with Affirmative Action, a direct attack on Blacks, Latinos/as and women. He pardoned the thousands of those involved in the fascist riot of January 6, 2021. (Though note that Biden pardoned all his family members, most of whom had not even been charged with any crime.) He also put Cuba back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

He also provided a huge gift to the coal, oil and gas companies, retracting all restrictions on their production, with his slogan of "Drill, Baby, Drill." (Though again we should recognize that the Democrats have been pushing electricity as "clean energy." But electricity does not grow on trees. About 60% comes from burning fossil fuels, almost 20% from nuclear energy, and only 20% comes from renewable sources.)

Finally, Trump thinks he can even fight inflation and the law of value through executive orders. He called for delivering "emergency price relief.. to increase the prosperity of the American worker." This is the demagoguery of a megalomaniac, with much more to come in the next years.

All working and progressive people must be prepared for a long fight.



Guernica, Spain, 1937



Gaza, Palestine, 2024

There is a temporary cease fire in Gaza, involving the exchange of thousands of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails for a few Israeli hostages,

Meanwhile, Trump has a new "final solution" for the Palestinians. He wants to move millions of Palestinians out of Gaza into Egypt, and millions from the West Bank into Jordan, a solution that both Egypt and Jordan reject.

Whether he wants to use an emptied-out Gaza for the proposed "Ben Gurion Canal" or to build new housing for wealthy Israelis, it is a solution that the Palestinians will never accept, and the U.S. and Israel will never be able to carry out.

Why Trump Can't "Make America Great Again"

By George Gruenthal

At the end of World War II, the U.S. was by far the strongest imperialist country in the world. Its former enemies, Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and militarist Japan, had been defeated militarily and their economies had been destroyed. Not only that, but its "allies," particularly Britain and France, were much weakened by the war. Under the Marshall Plan they would have a certain economic revival, but as junior partners of the U.S. Most of their colonies would declare their independence over the next two decades, and many became neo-colonies dependent on the U.S. Its only fear was of the socialist Soviet Union and the people's democratic camp that it led.

The U.S. also had the largest capitalist economy in the world. It was the largest producer of steel and automobiles, two major indicators of economic strength. By the end of France's war in Indochina in 1954, the U.S. was already financing 80% of the French war effort. With the formation of Israel in 1948, the U.S. became its main sponsor.

By about 1975, U.S. imperialism was at the peak of its power. This was when U.S. steel production was at its peak. U.S. car production had already peaked in 1965, although U.S. commercial vehicle production (including small trucks, SUVs, etc.) continued to grow. Further, many of the cars produced in the U.S. are by foreign automakers with plants in the U.S., particularly Japanese and German manufacturers. Overall, U.S. manufacturing peaked in 2007. At the same time, much of U.S. companies' manufacturing went to dependent countries overseas, where labor power is cheaper and consequently profit-rates are higher.

1975 was also the year of the historic defeat of the U.S. in Vietnam. It has carried out many invasions since, particularly of Iraq and Afghanistan. However, it has tried as much as possible to limit the number of U.S. troop casualties (of course not being concerned about the civilian casualties in the occupied countries), using drones and other high-tech military equipment as well as contract soldiers.

Today, the U.S. is moving towards becoming a second-rate power. While the U.S. still has the highest Gross Domestic Product – GDP (\$25 trillion in 2022), it is closely followed by China with a GDP of \$20 trillion. Its share in the world economy fell from 24.6% in 1980 to 19.5% in 2011. Its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the amount of capital invested in another country: US still way ahead of China: U.S. \$6.58 trillion: versus China: \$147.85 billion.

In 2023, China already had almost three times the amount of manufactured products as the U.S., shown here in terms of share of world production.

En Marcha #2122, January 8 to 14, 2025

Central Organ of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador

Another Year that Does Not Bode Well for the Workers



In the middle of last year, the World Bank reduced its forecast for the growth of the world economy in 2024; Among the general conclusions it reached, it pointed out that "the global outlook remains moderate compared to historical parameters. In 2024-25, growth is projected to be below the average of the 2010 decade in nearly 60% of economies comprising more than 80% of the world's population." Indeed the world economy showed many difficulties in its growth, mainly in the most developed economies on the planet. To get an idea of this, six of the seven largest capitalist economies experienced stagnation or recession.

The outlook is no more encouraging for 2025, it could be worse. The World Bank itself, on the aforementioned date, warned that the global economy would grow by 2.7% this year, and once again the most advanced capitalist economies would have a weak growth, of 1.7% on average. The UNTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) agrees with this forecast (of a 2.7% global growth), warning that "between 2024 and 2026, growth in countries representing more than 80% of the world's population and global gross domestic product will progress even more slowly than in the decade before COVID-19".

Most of the problems that have had an impact on this behavior of the world economy are still present (such as inflation, the war in Ukraine, amount of foreign debt), although some of these have varied in degree; but other risk

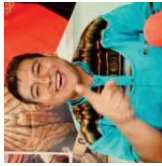
International unity of the working class to defend its gains

Faced with this difficult scenario, the working class and peoples of the world have no other way than to intensify their struggle within each country, to defend their historical gains, such as wages, political and social rights.

But the struggle of the workers within their own countries will not be sufficient, it will be necessary to develop a broad proletarian internationalism, to unite their forces, their capacity for organization and mobilization to confront this new offensive of the pro-Trump financial oligarchy.

Take the example of the recent strikes in the U.S. auto industry, the strike of port workers and transnational chains, to generalize the strike as a form of struggle that allows us to continue to accumulate forces, to resist this brutal anti-worker policy of Trump.

Difficult times are coming; it is time for the working class to begin a new era of combative, unitary, internationalist struggle; only in this way will it be able to illuminate the new paths of our class struggle.



Florentino López Martínez

Collaborator in the AMEXI News Agency, national chair of the Popular Revolutionary Front (FPR), Oaxacan and Mixtec at heart, fighter for the building of a just world, without exploitation, or oppression...

Meanwhile, U.S. total debt (mostly in Treasury bonds) is \$35.34 trillion dollars. China is the second largest foreign country (after Japan) that holds U.S. debt. China recently sold off \$53.3 billion of these bonds, on top of an estimated \$300 billion between 2021 and 2023. This is part of a global trend away from holding reserves in U.S. dollars, weakening the value of the dollar.

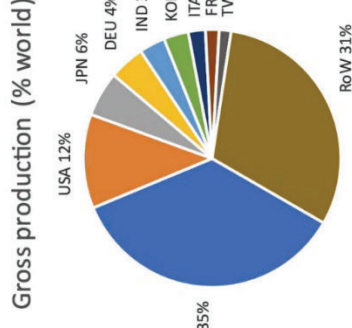
Further, deficit spending, especially on the military, is considered to be the most important reason for the decline of a great power. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan cost as much as \$4.4 trillion as of 2017, and already by 2011 total military spending, as high as the rest of the world combined, was higher than any time since World War II. It is the workers in the U.S. who pay for this, while the corporations rake in the profits.

The ratio of average CEO earnings to average workers' pay in the U.S. went from 24:1 in 1965 to 262:1 in 2005. In 2018, income inequality reached the highest level recorded by the Census Bureau.

Clearly, over the last decades there has been a change in the strength of the various imperialist powers. At one point, the European Union was created as an offset to the power of the U.S., but now it has become its main ally. However, recently, the strength of China has clearly grown much faster than the EU, once again making these European countries junior partners of the U.S. China, which is much weaker than the U.S. militarily, is allying with Russia, which is basically on a par with the U.S., especially in nuclear weapons.

Lenin pointed out that "any other basis under capitalism for the division of spheres of influence, of interests, of colonies, etc., than a calculation of the *strength* of the participants in the division, their general economic, financial, military strength, etc., is *inconceivable*. And the strength of these participants in the division does not change to an equal degree, for the *even* development of different undertakings, trusts, branches of industry, or countries is impossible under capitalism. Half a century ago Germany was a miserable, insignificant country, as far as her capitalist strength was concerned, compared with the strength of England at that time; Japan was the same compared with Russia. Is it "conceivable" that in ten or twenty years' time the relative strength of the imperialist powers will have remained *unchanged*? Absolutely inconceivable."

Between World War I and World War II, Britain and then Germany were the main imperialist powers. After World War II the U.S. was the main imperialist. Now China and Russia are contending with the U.S. allied with the EU for first place.



There is no question that this rivalry has already led to wars. The U.S. is contending with Russia in a proxy war over Ukraine. Of course, one of the vital questions is whether the contention between the U.S. and its allies and Russia, China and their allies, will lead to a third world (probably nuclear) war. Both the U.S. and Russia have been talking about the possibility of using nuclear weapons.

It is our task to do what we can to undermine “our own” imperialist country, U.S. imperialism. This is the only way we can move to prevent a new world war.

Trump Cannot Reverse This Situation Today

Trump claims that he will bring better-paying manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. Though there was some increase in manufacturing jobs in his first term, these were no more than under Obama before and Biden after. [See above or rearrange.] Besides, under capitalism always goes to where labor power is cheaper and profits are higher. Trump claims he can counter this by raising tariffs on products imported from abroad. But this will only increase the prices of these products in the U.S., which will hurt workers in the U.S. by lowering their real wages.

Trump’s attacks on migrant workers will also not help U.S.-born workers. Today, most new jobs are service jobs, which barely even pay the minimum wage (and often less than that). Yes, it may open up a small number of low-paid service jobs to workers who are U.S. citizens or green-card holders. But it will also push the undocumented immigrants further underground. This will deepen the split between documented and undocumented workers. Only a united working class can lead the fight for better conditions for all workers, and prepare the way in the long run for a socialist revolution in which the workers take power.

Trump to Workers: “You’re Fired!”

Trump is not in favor of any workers, documented or undocumented. He talked with his friend, Elon Musk, whom he recently appointed co-leader of the Department of Government Efficiency, about firing workers who go on strike. Musk, when he took over Twitter (now X), fired half of the work force. This is what they mean by “governmental efficiency.” Trump has also called for large-scale layoffs of federal employees when he gets into office. While firing striking workers is illegal, in his first term Trump appointed union busters to the National Labor Relations Board. If a case goes all the way to the Supreme Court, one can be sure that the three Trump-appointed justices will join with the other reactionary justices to support Trump’s moves, as they did with overturning *Roe vs Wade*.

Further, in his first term, Trump passed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. Among other provisions, it reduced top corporate tax rates from 35% to 21%, as well as reducing tax rates for those in the highest tax brackets. Workers need to see that there is no way billionaires or their agents, from either the Republicans or Democrats, can ever represent them.

A slightly expanded version of this article, with complete reference notes, will be available on the Class Struggle website.

Trump’s Inauguration: A Concert of the Financial Oligarchy

The images and videos that went around the world about Trump’s inauguration at the U.S. Capitol clearly shows, that it is the billionaires who will dictate U.S. policy in the next 4 years.

Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Tesla, and Elon Musk, owner of X, as well as Shou Zi Chew, CEO of TikTok, are the ones in the front row of this inauguration. So it will be the tech giants, the particular sector of the financial oligarchy that will co-govern in the new Trump era, and this oligarchic bloc will be the main benefactor of the “Make America Great Again” plan.

Trump’s ultranationalism and neocolonialism: an offensive against the peoples

Under the pretext of persecuting criminals and stopping the bloody violence that the oligarchs of the military industry themselves created with the massive planting of weapons throughout U.S. territory., Trump ordered the prosecution and deportation of millions of migrants of all nationalities working in that country.

At the same time, the new occupant of the White House announced his plan to annex vast territories of Greenland that are part of Denmark, put the Panama Canal under his control and intervene militarily in Mexico by declaring that he considers the Mexican cartels as terrorist groups.

These decisions express a neocolonial policy of U.S. imperialism, to annex and intervene in the old way in countries and territories to plunder their natural resources and raw materials, which the tech giants need for the new digital era.

The consequences of Trump’s policy will affect the working class on both sides of the border.

It is totally false that Trump’s plans benefit the working class and the U.S. people; for example, the application of 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico will cause the costs of these products to increase to the same degree, and those who will pay that cost are the consumers of these goods.

The elimination or privatization of various social programs such as public health and education will also seriously affect U.S. workers.

The mass deportation of migrants will maintain terror over the entire U.S. working class, especially the Latino working class and national minorities, including sectors such as the LGTB+, because a ferocious persecution is opened that will not distinguish between the documented and undocumented.

For the Mexican working class and the people, this offensive of the U.S. oligarchy will be especially harsh; because by snatching markets and natural resources that are planned, Trump will seek to force a deepening of Mexico’s dependence on the interests of U.S. imperialism.

https://amexi.com.mx/opinion/senderos/no-solo-es-trump-es-la-oligarquia-financiera-la-que-arremete-contr-la-humanidad/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHHDhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHRRtMLZxZyBg9AbOCuYRm93XM4ILNOUzvzZNNWQ7iRehZFUFq0IIIGeGOaxHw_aem_0EvpL-DHvkRm6KKQ-vaocw

It is not only Trump, it is the financial oligarchy that is attacking humanity

By Florentino López Martínez January 22, 2025



Tech giants in the front row at Donald Trump's inauguration.

AMEXI/Photo/Taken from social networks

As of January 20, 2025, a new offensive against the working class and the peoples of the world began, but is Donald Trump the real mastermind of this attack? There is plenty of evidence that behind the measures that put the whole world on tenterhooks, there is the US financial oligarchy.

In the face of an irreversible loss of world hegemony by US imperialism and the growing control of the markets by Chinese imperialism, the return of Donald Trump to the White House is a desperate response by the U.S. super-rich to contain this decline.

Billionaires have had to show their faces and be directly part of the state apparatus, and invest millions of dollars to impose someone like Trump, who has stood out for being implacable with his racist, xenophobic and fascist policies.

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MLK Day 2025: Organize, Resist, Defend

By Southern Workers Assembly, Jan 15, 2025

January 20, 2025 is the 39th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday. It is also the second inauguration of Donald Trump as president of the United States. There could not be a more ironic crossing of histories from one who spews ridicule, hatred, and division to an honorable and consequential life that was given in sacrifice to end oppression, injustice, and malice.

For the labor movement, this MLK Day is especially important as Donald Trump takes office. We must be prepared to organize the working class to higher levels in this period of uncertainty; to resist all policies, laws, and programs that hurt working people on the job and in the community; and to defend the democratic rights of working people from the right to unionize to the right of affordable living standards and living wages.

In the wake of the East and Gulf Coast longshore workers' contract negotiations with the port employers association, the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), Trump was given credit by the conservative International Longshoremen Association (ILA) President Harold Daggett for the parties reaching a tentative agreement that avoids another major strike. ILA members must now ratify the tentative agreement. It's the power of the workers, not Trump, that won this agreement. We must be clear in this period, as Trump and the far-right section of the capitalist class whose interests he represents, attempts to make these opportunistic appeals to the working class.

The Trump administration will take office with a plan to privatize goods and services including Medicare, education, public lands, and more, alongside building more private prisons, and so on. The administration's plan to

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establish an unofficial government agency to cut government departments will mean the loss of jobs for millions of workers across the federal government.

In fact, Trump's Project 2025 projects plan to eliminate unions in the public sector, making unions even more difficult to organize by making anti-union "right to work" laws national in scope, and eliminating basic protections for workers in general in both the public and private sector.

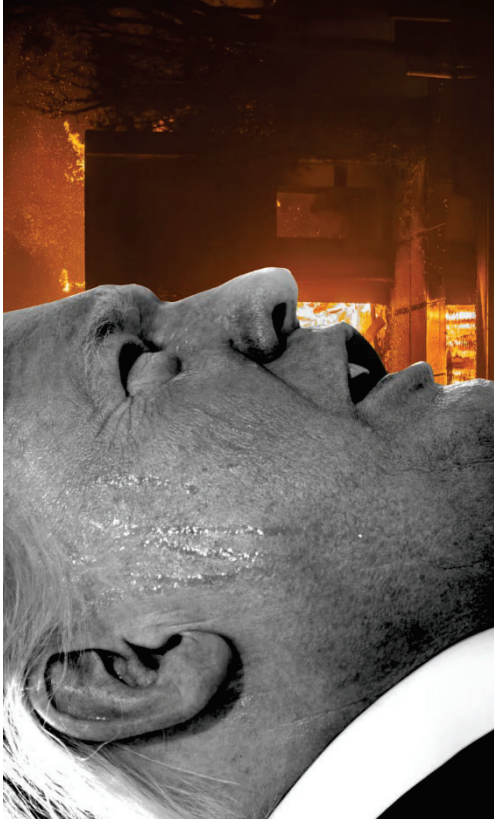
The Southern Workers Assembly (SWA) endorses the call of national trade unions to prepare for and organize a national strike beginning on May Day 2028. We believe such a call must not only unify the national labor movement politically and organizationally but must also deliberately plan to unite with the primarily unorganized workers in the South to effectively strengthen labor nationally. To that end, SWA is calling for a southern regional Worker Action Summit in late May in South Carolina to advance the organization of non-union workers across the South in both the public and private sectors and to link with the plan for a national strike by supporting the development of workplace organizations and workers assemblies.

New investments in industrial sectors, largely in the South, such as in electric vehicles and related branches, will likely continue under Trump, presenting a tough but important opportunity to build socially conscious new trade unions in the South, perhaps leading to a Southern Labor Congress of progressive southern unions.

Finally, Southern organizing and other goals to build and rebuild a national trade union movement must not make the "Operation Dixie" mistake of treating the Black working class as an afterthought to organized labor but must instead see the Black working class, as an organized force — as a potentially central driving force — and ally of the national labor movement.

Excerpted from The Guardian (UK), at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/17/trump-climate-change-la-fires#img-1>

‘It’s going to be rough’: what Trump’s response to LA fires portends for future climate disasters



‘Fossil fuel executives have swooned at the thought of a second Trump term, having pushed tens of millions of dollars to his election campaign after he promised to delete a slew of environmental regulations.’

Big oil executive plans to celebrate Trump’s inauguration as California burns — though experts say climatic conditions are only getting more extreme.

Oliver Milman, Fri 17 Jan 2025

Donald Trump’s response to the catastrophic wildfires in Los Angeles has provided a stark prologue to how his US presidency will probably handle the growing threat of such disasters — through acrimony, brutal dealmaking and dismissal of a climate crisis that is spurring a mounting toll of fires, floods and other calamities.

As of Thursday, four fires, whipped up by wind speeds more typically found in hurricanes, have torched 63 sq miles (163 sq km) of Los Angeles, a burned area roughly three times the size of Manhattan, destroying more than 12,000 homes and businesses and killing at least 25 people. The Palisades and Eaton fires, the largest of the conflagrations that have turned entire neighborhoods to ash, are still to be fully contained.

Fire has always been part of the Californian story but the state is becoming more incandescent — the amount of burned area has increased fivefold since the 1970s as its rainy season shifts later and soils and plants dry out in rising heat. Southern California has barely had any rain since May, on the heels of a “megadrought” worse than any time in the past 1,200 years.