

Below is my proposal to orient those who consider themselves revolutionaries and Marxist-Leninists for a united front against war and fascism. I don't think this is utopian. A number of groups, mainly either single-issue groups and some unions, have already been calling for a united front (they don't usually say fascism and almost always leave out the question of war). However they, openly or not, want to steer people back into the arms of the Democrats. The justified lack of faith of many people throughout the country in the Democrats led them to vote for Trump (who this time won the popular vote). We have to intervene to provide a third alternative to avoid the ping-pong between the two parties of the capitalists.

If working people look at the proposed program, I think a large majority would be in favor of the basics of the program. We should also make clear that this program could be paid for by putting heavy taxes on the big capitalists, which is why it would not be utopian.

Clearly, we should not expect this program to win through bourgeois-democratic elections. However, the main point would be that it would help organize working people in a progressive direction. Some states (Massachusetts is one) already have a program for a Workers' Party, and a Labor Party would probably be the best vehicle to put out such a program.

Finally, as I said above, the below is simply my proposal to orient MLs for a united front. It would have to be re-written in a more popular way to actually win over working people to such a program. Unfortunately, at this point most workers, certainly all unions, and many who consider themselves Marxists, would not go along with the mention of Stalin at the end. However, that would not be necessary to support the details of this program.

Please send any comments or criticisms to georgeg0626@hotmail.com, or if you think this is worthwhile, please send your own version to your members or contacts.

In solidarity,
George

For a United Front against Fascism and War

As Trump Destroys Democratic Rights, It Is Up to the Working People to Defend Them

Trump and his cronies are attacking one democratic right after another. He is threatening to cut funding for all social programs needed by working people, including public education, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. He has abolished all Federal DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) programs, thus attacking affirmative action for oppressed nationalities (Blacks, Latinos, Native Peoples, etc.), women and LGBT+ people. And he has used ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement') to arrest and deport immigrant workers.

Meanwhile, some 10,000 federal workers have been fired and another 75,000 have taken buyouts offered by Trump and his current crony Elon Musk of the new "Department of Government Efficiency," in Trump's first month in office. Many more layoffs are expected.

While Trump has begun by slashing the Federal workforce, and the services they provide, Private employers are expected to follow suit. Trump made this easier by firing the acting head of the National Labor Relations Board, which provides some (minimal) protections for workers.



At the same time, he is transferring billions of dollars to his billionaire cronies, by manipulating the tax codes and other means. This is putting the lie to the view that Trump's MAGA policies would help workers. Maybe it should be renamed: MABGA (Make American Billionaires Great Again). As opposed to ordinary conservatives who favor a balanced budget over deficit spending, he is calling for raising the debt ceiling.

Trump is proposing “peace” for Ukraine through a deal with Putin. But this is not because he is a peace president, but because he wants to shift the U.S. imperialism’s effort to isolating China, if possible splitting Russia away from its alliance with China. He also wants to empty Palestine of its people and set up a resort in Gaza (and presumably also begin the “Ben Gurion” canal through Gaza from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean).

He is angering allies in Mexico, Canada and the European Union by establishing tariffs on many items, thus abolishing free trade. He is similarly angering the China with tariffs; trade wars are one way to escalate to military wars.

As Trump continues to pursue his agenda, the demagogic promises he made to working people, promises that got him elected, will continue to be shown to be nothing but lies.

We Do Not Want to Go Back to “Democracy” as It Was

The Democratic Party and its followers want to go back to life before Trump. It was working people’s distrust of Biden/Harris that led to Trump’s victory, and most people do not want to return to this. We need a new, people’s democracy that will actually fight for the needs of working people. We need not just a restoration of cuts to social services, but their vast expansion.

We need to abolish all restrictions on unions and strikes, including in the public sector. Abolition of anti-strike provisions of the Taft-Hartley law and the Taylor Law in NYS.

We need increased funding for public education at all levels that will allow for creative learning, particularly for poor and oppressed nationality students and students with disabilities; we need training of many more teachers to decrease class size. This should include a system of free state-run college system throughout the country.

We need a public health care system that will provide free, complete state-run medical care, including mental health, dental, vision and “alternative” medicine (acupuncture, etc.). This would include direct payment to health care professionals, the abolition of all HMOs, and restriction on prices of pharmaceuticals. This is much more than “Medicare for All,” which only covers 80% of the cost of doctor visits after payment of a deductible.

There must be a vast increase in housing construction, both public and private, particularly for low- and middle-income people. This is not just “affordable” housing (affordable for whom? – no one says they are for “unaffordable” housing). We need a law that private developers must build at least 80% new low- and middle-income housing, and they can then charge whatever they want for the remaining 20%.

We need genuine equality of nationalities in the U.S. Currently Black household median income is 1/3 lower than for whites. There are similarly lower figures for education, health care, etc. This could be addressed through reparations that would provide funds to eliminate such inequalities. Similarly for other oppressed nationalities.

Women’s median income is more than 14% below men’s. This is partly due to the fact that most women work in jobs that traditionally pay less than men (such as clerical, teaching, home care, etc.). We should work towards upgrading the pay for such jobs, while working to opening up “non-traditional” jobs for women (such as construction, fire-fighting, etc.). Further, in 1950, only 34% of women worked outside the home, while by 2000 this figure rose to over 60%. This meant that in 1950 about 2/3 of households could live on a single salary. We must work towards that again, so that women, **or men**, could stay home to care for young children or elderly parents.

We must end all discrimination against LGBT people, including in employment, housing, health care, all forms of abuse, etc. Parents should not be allowed to force children out of the house before the age of 18. At the same time, safe youth shelters should be provided for LGBT youth who no longer feel comfortable living at home.

There must be an end to discrimination and deportation of all immigrants, who must be provided with a pathway to citizenship. The discrimination against immigrants, with or without documents, has been one of the main forms of dividing the working class, harming both U.S.-born and foreign-born workers. This is only to the benefit of the capitalist class by hindering a united fight against it.

End all U.S. wars and U.S.-sponsored wars abroad. The U.S. has spent at least \$172 **billion** for the reactionary government in Ukraine between fiscal year 2022 and 2024. It also spent almost \$18 **billion** from October 2023 to October 2024 to finance Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people, particularly in Gaza. Further, the U.S. has some 750 military bases in at least 80 countries around the world, with some 170,000 active-duty troops. These bases should be closed, the troops should be brought home and trained for civilian jobs. The money saved would greatly help in financing the increased social services needed.

The Working Class Must Lead the United Front

First, a true united front is one of working people, not just of the "left." Today in the U.S. there is no genuine vanguard party of the working class, although there are a few groups that are seriously working to build one. But most of the "left" groups are just small sects who do not look beyond their own group. We need a much broader united front. One way that those left groups that are serious can show that they are actually potential vanguards is by taking a leading role in building this united front. A vanguard must be proven in action, not just declared.

The working class must take the lead in building a united front. It is true that most trade union leaders would not support a program such as the one above, mainly due to their ties with the Democratic Party. They would probably consider it utopian. But I think there would be few workers who would not agree with the bulk of this program. Where they have a union, they would need to push their union leaders (or vote out the incorrigible ones) to support this program, or to form caucuses for this program.

There are also many organizations, including non-profits, who are already proposing a fight against aspects of Trump's policies. We need to unite with them as long as they are really prepared to take up this fight, even if their non-profit status is revoked, as Trump has already threatened.

Avoid the twin errors of opportunism and sectarianism

In building a united front, there is a clear danger of opportunism. This would likely show up in terms of conciliating with the Democratic Party (or elements in it), which would claim that they are already the real opposition to Trump, and that there is no need for another organization or party.

In answer to this, one must point out that a real united front must be against fascism **and war**, and in the period leading up to the 2024 elections the Democratic Party showed itself to be the main party of war (remember Harris's statement that the U.S. had to have the **most lethal** armed force in the world).

On the other hand, we must avoid the twin error of sectarianism. This would mean refusing to work with an organization with which we agreed on partial aims, because this organization had historically, or even currently, had ties with the Democrats. We would need to point out that the Democratic Party had consistently sold out these aims.

Exactly how this all played out would have to be determined in practice.

A united front is not socialism, but could be a road to socialism

As Marxist-Leninists, we should be clear that this is not a program for socialism. As one simple example, the program for free, universal health care is not “socialized medicine.” Under socialism, the pharmaceutical companies would not just have their prices restricted, but would be taken over by the workers’ state, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But through the process of building the united front, many advanced workers would learn that the capitalist class is an obstacle to winning their needs, and that in the long run there is no need for them. This would lead to the beginnings of the fight for socialism as the next stage in the process.

Remember the famous statement of Stalin at the 19th Party Congress of the CPSU in 1952: “Formerly, the bourgeoisie could afford to play the liberal, to uphold the bourgeois-democratic liberties, and thus gain popularity with the people. Now not a trace remains of this liberalism. The so-called ‘liberty of the individual’ no longer exists – the rights of the individual are now extended only to those who possess capital, while all other citizens are regarded as human raw material, fit only to be exploited. The principle of equal rights for men and nations has been trampled in the mud; it has been replaced by the principle of full rights for the exploiting minority and no rights for the exploited majority. The banner of bourgeois-democratic liberties has been thrown overboard. I think that it is you, the representatives of the communist and democratic parties, who will have to raise this banner and carry it forward, if you want to gather around you the majority of the people. There is nobody else to raise it.”