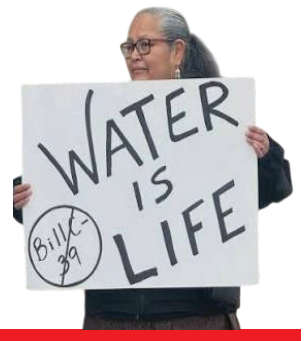
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Join the Global Revolt



The planet is shaking with revolt. Millions are on the streets calling for a better world.

These aren't just GenZ "riots" as depicted in the media. These are mass movements for change. Students are certainly at the forefront in many places, but they have been joined by workers, pensioners and political leaders who share the view that another world is not only possible but necessary.

The capitalist system offers us only more war, poverty and environmental breakdown and the protests reflect a deep understanding of the connections between these crises.

The same corporate interests that are funding war and genocide are also raising the cost of living for working people. They can be defeated but only through a mass movement.

There is no time to spare. The far-right are working to misdirect the anger at the system against immigrants and refugees rather than the perpetrators of the crisis — the billionaire class that turns the screws.

Workers hold the key. If they down tools the capitalists lose the wealth production that they use to keep the people down.

In Canada we are far behind the movements we see globally but that can change quickly. The Carney government is attacking workers, Indigenous rights and the environment through his bill C-39.

We have seen the first examples of a unified response from all these affected groups. We have also seen movements against the provincial premiers' attacks on public services. Education workers and students are mobilizing in many locations across the country to end the assault on education.

We need to bring the spirit of the global struggle to our streets.

Voices from the fight against Carney's C-39

Mark Carney's bill C-39 rewrites laws governing everything from Indigenous sovereignty and the right to consultation to the right to strike. Environmental protections are also being gutted to speed up corporate extraction projects. The bill is a gift to big business and the billionaires but it will be a disaster for working people.

Resistance is building across the country. A wave of demonstrations calling to unite the fights has started the process of building the kind of coalitions that can challenge Carney.

We cannot let the Liberal government divide the movement between workers and the environment and Indigenous groups. The old jobs versus the natural world dichotomy has to be resisted.

Here we reprint excerpts from events that are challenging this division with labour and Indigenous leaders together against C-39.

Crystal Sinclair, Idle No More, Toronto

"Welcome to Idle no More 2.0! Let's do this. We condemn the federal government's agenda of fast tracking legislation and accelerating project approval at the expense of Indigenous peoples' rights. The government is messing with Indigenous rights but they are non-negotiable and neither are workers rights."

Chris Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation.

"When Indigenous people are being attacked, what do you do? Stand up, fight back! This is the rally cry today. Our rights must come before corporate profits and political agendas. Consultation without meaningful consent is not reconciliation."

Andrea Babbington, Toronto and York Region Labour Council

"They continue to pretend that they are our protector but at the end of the day they are no better than Trump. You are not going to weaken us at the bargaining table any more. You are not going to weaken Indigenous people anymore."



Crystal Sinclair at the October 28 rally in Toronto

Carolyn Egan, Steelworkers Toronto Area council.

"It's clear to everyone standing here and I think hopefully we're going to have to make it clear to so many people across this country that Carney is not defending Indigenous peoples of this country, he is not defending their interests. He is not defending the workers of this country, he is NOT defending their interest. He says he cares about the climate but he is not defending that either. He's going exactly against our interests.

We have to ally ourselves in solidarity with Indigenous peoples across this land, because the same enemy that is fighting us is fighting you and we have to be clear that it is unity, it is our collective strength coming together. That is what is going to be able to win this battle. We are not going to win it in Parliament because he's got the majority. But we can win it on the streets. We have to go out and build alliances, which are so critical. We can't allow ourselves to be divided. We can't simply say we don't like this part of Bill C-39. And maybe we don't like this Part of Bill C-39 frankly we don't want anything, that has to do with Bill C-39. We have to kill the bill and we have to, as a workers movement, stand solidly behind the Indigenous leadership in this country.

We have the capacity to shut this country down. We have to stand shoulder to shoulder with you. That is our mission, it is our job. We have to go out and speak to every other union in this country and say, this is what we have to do. We have to kill Bill C-39."

Alberta referendum, the far-right and the tasks ahead

The Alberta referendum was always based on a series of myths touted by far-right forces in the province. The leaders of the separatist movement spoke of the absurd idea that Albertans are oppressed within the Canadian state.

This myth exists despite the fact that numbered Treaties 6, 7 and 8 were concluded with the Canadian state prior to the creation of the province of Alberta in 1905, and the First Nations that uphold these treaties have denounced the referendum as a violation of their treaty rights and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Treaty 8 territory explained before the referendum was called. "Our law and protocol demand that if you are considering changes like this, that you come to our leadership first, before opening the question to the public . . . changes to the Treaty relationship without solemn dialogue in the spirit of reconciliation would be a profound breach of Dené law."

The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta changed their name this summer to the Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations to express their opposition to the referendum.

In response, the social media of the separatists escalated anti-Indigenous racism, repeating old slurs and threatening violence against Indigenous leaders.

The vote, championed by the same right wing forces — mainly oil industry groups and executives — supporters of the convoy movement to Ottawa and the peculiar Alberta yellow vest movement wanted to use it to pressure Ottawa for more environment-killing fossil fuel projects.

They needn't have feared. Mark Carney has shown he is absolutely on side with more planet killing projects. He announced the West Coast pipeline as the first project of national interest, expanding fossil fuel infrastructure opposed by Indigenous nations.

Indeed, Carney's push to the right likely undercut the separation vote and his high approval ratings overall in the context of the threats from Trump played a role in curtailing separatist momentum.

Most media attention focuses on question 10 which asks for a possible referendum to separate from Canada. The results there were clear. 75 percent voted in favour of staying in Canada versus 25 percent calling for withdrawal.

A small hard core drove the separation agenda, likely including people justifiably disenchanted with the Canadian state. Separatist leaders have said they are encouraged by the result and that they'll continue working to build a majority.

Unfortunately the results from many of the other questions on the survey will result in an increase in racism and oppression of both immigrants and of Indigenous nations within the province.

The first five questions are all related to immigration. Voters were asked about allowing Alberta to reduce immigration numbers, cut services such as healthcare to recent immigrants, charging fees for services for newcomers and requiring voter ID to vote in elections.

Yet on each of these questions a majority voted in favour meaning that many who voted against separating also voted for these racist, anti-immigrant measures. The results of these combined policies will mean a war against immigrants and will provide fodder for the far-right over the next months and years.

Right wing leaders and provincial parties are already stating that they have a mandate to enact these draconian measures.



Defend migrant rights across the country

Interestingly, Indigenous leaders not only opposed separation but all the referendum questions: for example the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations wrote "These questions do not reflect the spirit of Treaty No. 6, which is about partnership, shared responsibility, and respect for all people within Alberta."

Canada is a settler-colonial nation based on ethnic cleansing and genocide. A campaign that pitted Canadian nationalism against a racist separation movement could only fuel the anti-immigrant racism that has been embraced by mainstream Canada.

Mark Carney, speaking to reporters after the results were announced, stated that he would be open to discussion on these ideas. He went on to list his own government's recent record in attacking immigrants saying that he has reduced the numbers of asylum seekers, temporary foreign workers and international students by 60 percent or more. He used the same rhetoric of "taking control of immigration" that the far-right has used for years.

The racist far-right will feel emboldened by this result. Groups like the Dominion Society have argued the same anti-immigrant positions to scapegoat immigrants for the cost of living crisis and the deterioration of public services.

We have debunked these claims before — high immigration numbers are actually a boost to the Canadian economy — but the right has no need of such facts. They are appealing to a general state of anger against the system and deliberately misdirecting it.

It is billionaires and complicit governments that have created the cost of living crisis by raising food prices and treating housing as an investment in profit making rather than a human need. The international students coming to Canada brought in more cash to the economy than the entire fossil fuel sector, cash which subsidized the post-secondary education system and helped Canadian born students.

The deterioration of public services is being conducted by the same provincial and federal forces that are attacking immigrants. It is the cuts from Smith and Carney and Ford that are killing healthcare and education. They are simply scapegoating to cover for their own policies.

Fight-backs against privatization, however, did impact the referendum results. Question 8 asked if people supported a constitutional amendment "to allow provinces to opt out of federal programs … such as health care, education, and social services." A majority voted "No".

The Canadian state is an illegitimate entity based on genocide and exploitation. We didn't oppose the referendum on the basis of supporting Canadian nationalism but rather because it was, from the beginning, a tool for the growth of the far-right.

Inside and outside of Alberta the tasks remain the same after the referendum result. We need to build the largest possible movement against the far-right. We have to fight back against immigration controls and support the struggles of migrant workers. We have to fight back against cuts to public services and jobs. We have to fight back against attacks on the right to strike and in support of Indigenous sovereignty.

As we see in struggles that are exploding in France, Spain, Italy, India and elsewhere around the world, the only path forward is building and connecting these movements to challenge the system across borders.

BC NDP paved the way for Conservative election

by: **Bradley Hughes**

At the end of September, BC NDP Premier David Eby called a snap election two years into his government's four-year mandate. The opposition Conservative party had ripped itself apart over the previous two years. They ousted the leader that took them within three seats of forming government. Then, through a combination of defections and expulsions, his replacement managed to reduce their seat count by 19 MLAs, who between them created three new political parties.

It is likely that the premier was gambling that the chaos on the right would continue and allow the NDP to increase their slim majority. Instead the weekend before the Premier called the election the Conservative leader quit and was replaced within hours by Lorne Doerkson and most of the wayward MLAs quickly returned to the party.

Polls immediately moved, showing increasing support for the Conservatives and decreasing support for the NDP. On election day the preliminary results were 64 seats for the Conservatives, 27 seats for the NDP (a decline of 20 seats) and the Greens maintaining their two seats.

The vote tallies show a remarkable picture. Voter turnout declined from nearly 60% in 2024 to less than 50% this time. If the outstanding votes (mostly mail-in ballots) decline the same way and if the votes split more or less the same way, the victorious Conservatives will have won less votes in 2024 to gain 64 seats than the NDP did in 2020 to win 47. It is likely that the Conservatives will win with less votes this time than they got when they lost in 2024.

The big decline is in the turn out for the NDP, depending how the outstanding votes were cast, it is likely the NDP will get 200,000 less votes than last time. The Greens might be ahead by 40,000 votes, so the election results are mostly due to NDP voters staying home. There has been no movement by voters to the right. Even when you include the 60,000 votes for the two parties that split from the conservatives, their combined total is still about the same as the votes the Conservatives got last time.



COPE victory in Vancouver shows the appeal of a left program

The NDP attacks on Indigenous rights, their commitment to involuntary treatment for mental health and addictions, the abandonment of drug decriminalization and the opposition to providing a safer supply as well as their dedication to fracked gas and abandoning any chance of meeting their own climate goals did not move Tory voters to them. It did move provincial politics to the right and led to 200,000 abandoning the NDP.

The Tories are still the same band of BC Liberals and convoy conservatives that tore themselves apart a few months ago. Unlike after the last election, they now have all the rewards that go along with being in government and in cabinet to hold them together. This time it's up to the rest of us to provide the pressure to pull them apart and bring down the government.

The Tories have promised tax cuts and reduced spending, this means they will try to cut public sector jobs and funding to education and healthcare. They have promised to repeal the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity programs in schools. They have a "tough on crime" approach to mental health and addictions. They will repeal the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. There will be resistance especially from Indigenous Nations. We must all build the solidarity needed for all of these fights.

How do we resist?

In May, 1983 the BC Social Credit government was re-elected and proceeded to implement a wide ranging right wing agenda including slashing the public sector, removing rent controls, and dismantling the human rights act. By November, a mass movement — Operation Solidarity — saw more than 85,000 workers on strike as the first wave of a planned general strike that would have directly involved one in three workers in the province. That amazing movement was sold out by the trade union leadership but showed the power of mass action.

In 1995 in Ontario the Tories defeated the one term NDP government. They also proceeded with massive cuts to education and healthcare. Welfare rates were cut, and the minimum wage was frozen. Protests began quickly after the election and built into city-wide general strikes, culminating in the Toronto general strike which shut down the city. Instead of building to a province wide strike the Ontario Federation Of Labour moved to smaller city strikes and then wound up the movement.

In 2001 the BC Liberals won 77 of 79 seats in the legislature and proceeded to attack the public sector, close hospitals and slash public spending. Protests quickly followed and again they drew organized labour into action. In this case massive one day demonstrations in several cities were wound down by the BC Federation of Labour before they reached the level of all out strikes.

In all of these cases pushing the movement further and placing concrete demands on the government could have won.

The week before the provincial election municipalities held elections across BC. Results were far from uniform across the province but the Vancouver results show what the possibilities are. The incumbent right wing mayor and council lost all but one seat on council. The bold anti-capitalist vision of COPE won council seats for all of their candidates and the Green candidate they backed up for mayor won as well. Socialist Sean Orr won the most votes on council with more that 83,000 - nearly 5,000 more than the next most popular councilor. This shows that the left can inspire people and win elections.

Today the BC Tories are vulnerable. Their seat count provides an illusion of a broad mandate, but the vote numbers show that there is no shift to the right. To implement their plans they need to attack segments of society that can and will fight back. If we can unite these fights, we can push back the Tory agenda.

Wab Kinew, the Indian Act and the Carney agenda

by: **Brian Champ**

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew - who is Anishinaabe from Onigaming First Nation - created a furor when he called for the Indian Act to be abolished during the First Ministers meetings with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) leaders on October 26. Mark Carney was quick to reflect that these comments, and the discussions inside the meetings, "gives me hope that we can finally move forward from this."

The Indian Act was created soon after Canadian Confederation as the legal framework for the colonization and subjugation of the original stewards of the lands of so-called Canada.

Although it is deeply problematic legislation and has been used for countless attacks against Indigenous people and their inherent and treaty rights, simply calling for it to be eliminated without an alternative is reckless.

Kinew was quick to add that "it needs to be done with First Nations people and First Nations governments." But as Premier he is a representative of the crown. During the meetings, only a select few AFN leaders were in the main room while most were relegated to side rooms where they could only watch the proceedings on screen.

Kinew's comments distract from the current growing assaults on Indigenous sovereignty that are much more immediate concerns. This sovereignty goes far beyond reserves created by the Indian Act and the band councils whose leaders convene at the AFN. It is based on the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to their traditional territories on which so-called Canada stands, whether covered by historic treaties or not. Indigenous peoples' oral traditions assert, contrary to the settler colonial assumptions, that the treaties did not cede lands but were rather agreements to share the land and guarantee fishing, hunting and access rights.

But there is push back to simply abolishing the Indian Act. Celeste Smith, an Oneida woman, posted on Facebook "As racist as it is, the Act is also where many of the Crown's legal obligations to us are written down." These include that collectively held reserve land can't be sold off; property and income on reserve is protected from certain taxes; status recognition is tied to health and education benefits; First Nations deal with Ottawa as nations, rather than as just another group of citizens. "Rip the Act out without something agreed to in its place, and those protections can disappear with it."

The context of Carney and the Premiers' attacks on Indigenous sovereignty through fast-tracking pipeline and extraction projects on their lands, through funding and legislation, is the worrying backdrop. They want to sow division amongst Indigenous nations through dangled money, loans for ownership in destructive projects and road building while they deny sovereignty and Land Back in any meaningful sense.


Wab Kinew calls to end the Indian Act

In 1969, the government of Pierre Trudeau put forward the "White Paper" - a plan to terminate First Nations in order to assimilate Indigenous peoples into Canadian society. The Red Power movement, led by Indigenous youth, pushed back against this agenda with occupations, blockades and legal battles. This history resulted in real gains for Indigenous people, and continues to inspire Indigenous sovereignty movements to this day.

When Stephen Harper was Prime Minister he attempted to drop Canada's fiduciary and treaty obligations,as well as environmental protections, sparking the Idle No More movement for justice and sovereignty.

And now there is renewed push back against Carney's latest attacks.

There were many Indigenous leaders who attended the meetings who were disappointed in them. Cody Diabo, the Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, left early, and said that they were just about "butterflies and rainbows" and failed to deal with the main issues. Hereditary Chief Na'Moks of the Wet'suwet'en Nation in B.C. said the purpose of the meeting was to find "cheerleaders" for the fast track agenda.

A number of First Nations denounced the meetings and formally announced that the AFN had no right to negotiate on their behalf. These included Onion Lake Cree First Nation from Treaty 6 territory, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation and Carry the Kettle First Nation. Treaty 8 Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi called the meetings "an unacceptable process".

Onion Lake Cree First Nation representatives joined grassroots Indigenous peoples calling for Indigenous sovereignty who were protesting outside.

Jeronimo Kataquapit from Attawapiskat First Nation and a youth organizer with Here We Stand explained why he was there: "These major projects cannot move forward without our free, prior and informed consent, and it's the youth that stand to be the most impacted by the decisions made today by all leadership, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike."

The racist Indian Act can only be defeated by the resolute action of Indigenous peoples fighting for Land Back, supported by workers and communities, against Carney's destructive corporate agenda.

Unite the Fights - Kill Bill C-39.

From Belgrade to Brazil

how to defeat the right at the ballot box and on the street

We are witnessing a wave of revolt across the globe. Millions are marching against the rich and their agenda of war, poverty and environmental destruction. *Ibrahim Alsahary* looks at the fight in Serbia and Brazil and the lessons for movements around the world.

Two historic victories on October 25, in Serbia and Brazil, have opened a breach in the wall of authoritarianism and the far right. On that day the world saw two significant political victories against the right. In Serbia, a student-led popular movement inflicted a historic electoral defeat on Aleksandar Vučić and his right-wing party that dominated for fourteen years. And in Brazil, Lula da Silva secured another presidential term, defeating far-right candidate Flávio Bolsonaro, former president Jair Bolsonaro's son.

This does not mean the far-right political wave sweeping the world has begun to recede. But it reveals that the right's rise is not inevitable, nor its power unbreakable. Above all, it shows that mass movements can overcome fear and disillusionment and rebuild confidence that people can change political possibilities.

The Serbian experience is particularly significant because it did not begin with parliamentary maneuvers or the emergence of a new political leader. It began with a student movement that spread from universities into streets, towns, and villages, drawing in workers, farmers, teachers, and broad sections of society.

From railway station tragedy to the fall of a political regime

On November 1, 2024, a concrete canopy collapsed at a railway station in Novi Sad, killing 16 people. The disaster quickly became more than a tragic accident. It became a symbol of political corruption and the intertwining of state power with corporate interests.

For students, the collapse was not merely an engineering or administrative failure, it was an expression of a system prioritizing business deals, profits, and political connections over human safety.

Protesters demands moved beyond exposing and holding those responsible accountable to challenging the entire regime.

Students occupied campuses, organized open assemblies, blocked roads and bridges, and marched hundreds of kilometres between towns and villages. Universities became centres for organizing resistance, while a new social force emerged in the streets.

The breakthrough came when students broke down the barriers separating universities from wider society. No longer simply a struggle by educated young people, it expressed widespread anger against corruption, authoritarianism, and social injustice.

During the October 25 parliamentary elections, the Students' List was no ordinary electoral challenge: it was the political expression of a popular movement that had developed over nearly two years.

The student-backed list won over 2.3 million votes, compared with 1.7 million for the Vučić camp, securing 140 seats in the 250-member parliament.

The scenes in Belgrade were extraordinary. Chanting crowds poured into the streets to celebrate the defeat of a man who had ruled the country with an authoritarian grip and the end of a political era.

It was not won on election day, but forged through hundreds of days of organizing, confrontation, and determination

The class roots of the crisis

For revolutionary socialists, Vučić's rule cannot be adequately explained by personal authoritarianism or the corruption of individual officials.

These features were rooted in an economic and social structure characterized by close ties between political power and capital, the attraction of investment through cheap labour, government subsidies to corporations, and the weakening of workers' ability to defend their interests.

Since the breakup of Yugoslavia and the transformation that followed the fall of Slobodan Milošević in 2000, large sections of Serbia's working class suffered the consequences of privatization, economic restructuring, and the erosion of social protections.

Vučić benefited from these transformations, deepened aspects of them, and tied the state administration to political and economic loyalty networks .

The class significance of the Novi Sad tragedy is that people's lives are secondary considerations when infrastructure projects are governed by business deals and relationships between the state and capital.

Of course, not every industrial disaster is directly caused by capitalism. But the disaster exposed a broader crisis over who determines investment priorities, who oversees public projects, and who holds powerful interests accountable.

Corruption is more than a moral issue. It is one of the ways class power manifests itself within the state.

Replacing corrupt officials with honest ones, however important, will not by itself end the exploitation of workers and the prioritization of investors' interests over social needs.

Students ignite the spark, workers hold the power

One of the most important lessons of the Serbian experience is the revolutionary potential of student movements.

Because students are concentrated in universities and have the capacity to communicate and organize rapidly, they can move quickly, break through fear, and launch broad political initiatives. Large numbers also face a future marked by precarious employment, rising living costs, difficulties accessing housing, and economic insecurity. They are not as affected by past defeats - unlike older generations - that can hinder taking action.

But students come from different social classes, and they don't possess the power to halt production and reorganize the economy - this is the power only the working class possesses.

The Serbian movement revealed the enormous potential of an alliance between students and workers. Teachers took strike action, workers and public employees supported the protests, farmers brought their tractors onto the streets, taxi drivers assisted demonstrators, and numerous professional and social groups joined the mobilizations.

On January 24, 2025, Serbia witnessed a day of civil disobedience and work stoppages in response to calls for a general strike, with participation from trade union, professional, and student groups.

While significant, it did not develop into a sustained general strike capable of shutting down the main sectors of the economy. This is not a minor observation but a strategic question.

The power of the working class comes from its position within the process of production and social reproduction.

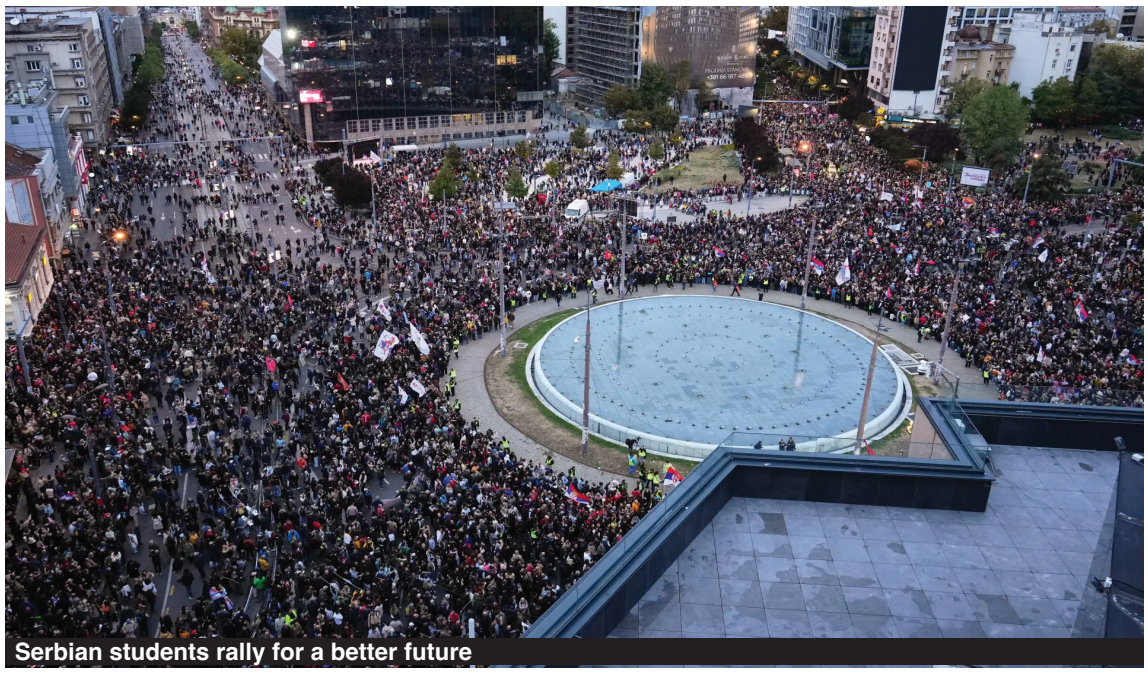
Students can disrupt universities and mobilize hundreds of thousands. But mass strikes in industry, energy, transport, and public services can shut down the sources of profit and economic power on which the system depends.

And workers' power can go beyond this to organize production and services under democratic control.

The challenge for the movement in Serbia is to move beyond student-worker solidarity towards building permanent organizations in workplaces, neighbourhoods, and universities to connect the democratic struggle with economic and social demands.

Democracy from below or a new government from above?

At the heart of the Serbian movement has been the student general assemblies, where decisions are made collectively through discussion and direct voting rather than being imposed by a centralized individual leadership.



Serbian students rally for a better future

This has been one of the movement's greatest strengths.

It made the movement less vulnerable to co-option by traditional opposition parties, and harder for the regime to target or discredit its leaders. Thousands of young people gained direct experience in organization, solidarity, and collective decision-making.

But the transition from the streets to parliament raises a new contradiction.

The student-backed electoral list does not include students among its candidates. Instead, it brings together relatively unknown figures from different professional backgrounds, including academics, doctors, experts, artists, and activists.

This raises a fundamental question: who will lead the new government? The student assemblies and the popular movements? Or MPs, ministers, and experts?

This is not merely a procedural issue.

Parliament operates within the existing state, with its security institutions, judiciary, and bureaucracy, and within an economy in which domestic and international capitalist interests control substantial resources.

Representatives of a popular movement may enter government, only to find themselves under immediate pressure from investors, financial institutions, state bureaucracies, and international commitments.

Without continued mass mobilization, such a government may become little more than a new administrator of the old social order.

Revolutionary socialists do not reject elections or underestimate the importance of electoral victories. But we do distinguish between winning governmental office and transforming the balance of class power within society.

Elections can remove a government, but only independent mass organization can impose profound social change.

Does the students' list offer an alternative class programme?

There is more to the Students' List programme than demands for honesty and an end to corruption.

It contains concrete labour and social reforms, including reducing the maximum duration of temporary employment contracts, strengthening protections for seasonal and agency workers, linking the minimum wage to the actual cost of living, strengthening trade unions and the right to strike, and improving workplace health and safety.

It also opposes Rio Tinto's lithium mining project in the Jadar Valley and calls for the protection of natural resources and local communities.

These important demands could genuinely improve workers' lives.

But it is not yet a socialist project aimed at overcoming capitalism. It combines social reforms with an emphasis on expertise, investment, productivity, and private enterprise.

This presents a challenge for the revolutionary left: how can it support reforms that benefit workers while also fighting to move beyond their limitations?

Socialists should neither stand outside the movement because it is not socialist nor dissolve themselves into it and surrender their political independence.

They must participate in its struggles, defend its gains, and build connections between the demands for democracy, workers' rights, and popular control over wealth and resources.

Without independent working-class organization, even the most progressive reforms can be rolled back when they encounter resistance from employers and capital.

From Serbia to Brazil: is the far-right beginning to retreat?

Vučić's defeat takes on greater significance when viewed in the context of international political developments.

In Brazil, the same day saw Lula da Silva defeat far right candidate Flávio Bolsonaro in the second round of the presidential election, winning 51.79 percent of valid votes against 48.21 percent.

The popular mobilization that swept Brazil between the two election rounds was one of the most important factors behind Lula's victory. After Bolsonaro finished ahead in the first round, a broad wave of mobilization emerged, led by students, young people, trade unions, and social movements, spreading from the streets, universities, and workplaces to social media. It went beyond a conventional electoral campaign. It involved grassroots initiatives that, at times, extended beyond traditional party structures, transforming the fear of a return of Bolsonarism into a collective force of organization and resistance.

The significance of this experience lies in its demonstration, once again, of the power of popular mobilization to shift the political balance of forces. It raises a crucial question, however, about the future of this energy after the elections. Despite its defeat, the far right still commands an electoral base of nearly 60 million voters, and has considerable influence within state institutions and Congress.

More dangerously, Bolsonaro refused to acknowledge his defeat and demanded that the results be annulled.

The real challenge, therefore, is not simply to defend the electoral victory but to transform this mobilization into an independent mass movement rooted in the working class, capable of winning meaningful social reforms, confronting austerity and exploitation, and preventing the far right from returning to power.

History teaches us that the real strength of the left lies in its ability to organize workers and the oppressed, rather than simply in winning governmental office.

In April 2026, the far right government of Viktor Orbán was defeated in Hungary after sixteen years in power, not by a socialist movement, but a conservative, pro-European political force.

These victories are therefore not all evidence of a rising left.

They show that some authoritarian right-wing regimes have weakened, alongside a growing popular willingness to resist them.

But the political direction of that resistance remains unresolved.

It could develop into a movement for social democracy, equality, and workers' rights. It could be contained within the limits of moderate liberal reform. Or subsequent disappointment could pave the way for the far right to return in an even more dangerous form.

The far-right is more than an electoral phenomenon

There are differences between the conservative right, right-wing authoritarianism, and fascist movements.

Not every right-wing government is fascist, and the downfall of an authoritarian leader does not mean the destruction of the social and political forces that supported them.

But this does not diminish the danger of far-right movements globally that have used aggressive nationalism, racism, attacks on migrants and minorities, and hostility towards the left and trade unions to reshape politics in the interests of the ruling classes.

For Marxists, this trend cannot be separated from capitalism's recurring crises.

When living standards fall, employment becomes increasingly precarious, the housing crisis deepens, and millions lose confidence in traditional political parties, far-right forces can redirect anger away from employers and capitalist policies and towards migrants, minorities, and the most oppressed sections of society.

This is a key political function of the far right: dividing the working class along national, racial, and religious lines, to weaken its ability to confront capital as a united force.

Not everyone who votes for the far right fully supports its political project. Many may be motivated by anger, frustration, or a sense of marginalization. But the right's ability to exploit such anger grows when the left fails to offer a convincing alternative.

That is why the fight against fascism cannot only consist of the defense of existing democratic institutions.

It also requires struggles for wages, housing, and public services, resistance to racism, and the building of working-class solidarity across national and religious divisions.

Serbia offers an important lesson in this respect: a broad mass movement can overcome fear and unite diverse social groups against an authoritarian regime. But it must also confront conservative nationalist currents within society and the movement itself, including those relating to minority rights and the national question in Kosovo.

Liberation from authoritarianism cannot be complete if it reproduces other forms of national or social oppression.

Independence from imperialist blocs

Vučić attempted to portray the student movement as a foreign-led conspiracy to overthrow his government.

But this ignores the deep social roots of the protests and that the movement emerged from widespread popular anger against corruption and repression.

Meanwhile, European Union leaders welcomed the students' victory and offered support for democratic reforms and closer European integration.

Choosing between these rival camps is a false choice.

Defending the independence of Serbia's popular movement does not mean supporting Vučić because of his ties to Russia. Nor does opposition to authoritarianism mean giving the European Union or the United States a mandate to determine the country's future.

The Serbian working class does not share the same interests as the ruling elites in Moscow, Brussels, or Washington.

The major capitalist powers compete over markets, resources, investment, and geopolitical influence, while workers pay the price for this competition.

A genuine internationalist position begins with solidarity with workers and young people fighting for democracy and social justice, while rejecting the subordination of their struggle to the interests of any imperialist power.

What comes after victory?

The real test of the Serbian movement begins now.

The task is not simply holding those responsible for corruption and repression accountable but transforming the mass energy of the movement into a force capable of defending the interests of the overwhelming majority.

This means maintaining and expanding democratic student assemblies, building independent committees in workplaces and neighborhoods, strengthening trade unions' ability to organize and strike, and connecting democratic demands with struggles over wages, housing, healthcare, education, and environmental protection.

It also means refusing to allow the movement to become merely an electoral base, mobilized every few years to vote while fundamental decisions are left to ministers and experts.

The new government's ability to champion social reforms will depend heavily on continuing student and community mobilizations - and workers' struggles - outside parliament to overcome powerful capitalist resistance.

Lula's challenge is similar, although in a different political context. The electoral win will not be enough if the far right can still exploit social crises and declining living standards.

Confronting this danger requires mobilizing trade unions, social movements, Black and Indigenous movements, young people, and women to defend and expand social reforms against capitalist pressure.

Parliamentary alliances with conservative forces can not be allowed to become a permanent substitute for building independent mass power.

Organizing the power to create the future

Two years ago, few could have imagined that the collapse of a concrete railway station canopy would spark a student movement that would end fourteen years of Vučić's rule in Serbia.

Only weeks ago, a victory for Bolsonaro in Brazil seemed inevitable after the opening round of voting.

What was revealed was that political balances of power are not fixed, and that authoritarian and far-right forces can suffer major defeats.

This is one of the most important truths that the revolutionary left must reclaim today, applicable to struggles exploding across the planet today from India to France and many other places besides.

Capitalism produces not only exploitation, oppression, and crises, but also resistance. Those subjected to its attacks are not simply passive victims. They possess the capacity to organize, build solidarity, and change the course of history.

But there is no guarantee that this resistance will automatically develop in a socialist direction.

The struggle remains open between competing political directions: one that seeks to restore liberal democracy without changing class relations; a right wing attempting to rebuild its influence; and a revolutionary socialist current that understands genuine liberation requires overcoming the system that produces exploitation, inequality, and authoritarianism.

This is why building revolutionary socialist organizations rooted in the working class is so important. Such organizations must be capable of intervening in mass movements and bringing different struggles together into a broader political fight against capitalism.

The greatest achievement of Serbia's students is not simply that they defeated a ruling party. It is that they demonstrated how ordinary people, when they organize collectively, can overcome a power that once appeared unshakable.

The defeat of the far right will become truly historic only when it moves beyond changing governments to transforming the balance of power between classes.



Millions march to defeat Bolsonaro

... *Dockworkers continued from page 8*

Workers were revitalizing the tactics they had used against South African apartheid: transforming political solidarity into collective economic action.

After October 2023, when Israeli unleashed mass killing, destruction, displacement, and starvation on Gaza, this solidarity was given a new urgency.

On October 16, 2023, Palestinian trade unions appealed to workers around the world, asking them to refuse to build or transport weapons destined for Israel and to pressure governments and companies to end their complicity.

It was not simply an appeal for sympathy. It was a call to mobilize the organized economic power of the working class.

The response soon began.

In Barcelona, dockworkers announced their refusal to handle military shipments. In Italy, workers in Genoa mobilized against arms transportation. In June 2025, dockworkers at France's Fos-sur-Mer port refused to load a shipment of military equipment bound for Israel.

But Genoa witnessed one of the most powerful moments of solidarity.

In September 2025, as the Global Sumud Flotilla attempted to breach the Gaza blockade, dockworkers declared they would shut down port operations if there was any loss of contact with the flotilla.

This message was delivered by one worker standing before a large crowd of demonstrators.

His were the words, not of a politician promising something beyond their power to deliver. They came from a worker who knew that he and his colleagues had the capacity to disrupt shipping operations.

From twenty ports to a movement across continents

On February 6, 2026, the first coordinated International Day of Action under the slogan "Dockworkers Do Not Work for War" took place, involving twenty ports across seven countries.

In May, trade unions representing 35 ports met in Istanbul and agreed to expand their coordination, subsequently growing to include more than forty ports across the Mediterranean and Europe. Then the international mobilization expanded further in preparation for October 30.

What is new here is not merely the number of ports involved but the attempt to build an international workers' network capable of challenging shipping companies that can circumvent local boycotts by redirecting cargo to other ports.

The movement also refuses to separate opposition to war from workers' everyday struggles.

Its second slogan, "Ports for Peace—Jobs with Dignity," connects opposition to the militarization of ports with demands for higher wages, shorter working hours, improved health and safety conditions, and resistance to privatization, temporary employment, and subcontracting.

Canada's labor movement takes a stand against arms shipments to Israel

As dockworkers prepared for their international day of action, a significant development emerged within Canada's labor movement.

On October 28, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) announced that its Canadian Council had voted in support of a resolution calling on workers to refuse to handle weapons and military equipment destined for Israel.

The CLC, Canada's largest labor federation, also called on the federal government to end all direct and indirect transfers of arms and military equipment to Israel.

The resolution expresses solidarity with Palestinian workers and their families while emphasizing Canada's responsibility to ensure that weapons and military equipment produced here are not used to harm Palestinian civilians or contribute to violations of international humanitarian law.

It also rejects antisemitism, anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobia, affirming that the labor movement stands for the rights, safety, and dignity of working people everywhere.

This decision comes after years of organizing by Palestine solidarity activists and trade unionists across Canada.

The Toronto and York Region Labour Council had already endorsed calls for workers to refuse to handle arms shipments to Israel. Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector union, supported the Palestinian trade union movement's demand for an arms embargo in 2025. Other provincial labour federations have adopted similar positions.

The latest CLC decision brings that demand to a major national labour body.

Its importance goes beyond the wording of a resolution.

Canadian-produced military equipment and components have been exported to Israel, while companies operating in Canada remain connected to a global arms industry sustained by government contracts, international trade, and military alliances.

This raises a fundamental question for Canada's working class: should the labor that produces our livelihoods also be used to produce and transport the weapons that destroy the lives of Palestinian workers and their families?

The CLC resolution is not the end of the struggle. The challenge now is whether this commitment can be translated into workplace organization, practical solidarity, and collective action.

For workers in ports, transportation, manufacturing, aerospace, and logistics, the international dockworkers' movement offers an example of how political solidarity can become a material force.

Why has Palestine become a cause for everyone fighting for liberation?

At first glance, the distance between a dockworker struggling to pay the rent and a Palestinian family searching for shelter after their home has been destroyed may seem enormous.

But that distance begins to disappear when we examine the economic and political system governing our world.

Wars are not disconnected from capitalist competition over markets, energy, resources, and trade routes. Arms manufacturers, shipping corporations, and powerful business interests benefit from a system in which war generates profits while workers and the poor bear its consequences.

While governments demand that workers accept austerity and declining public services, they spend billions on armaments and preparations for war.

There is no contradiction for dockworkers striking for higher wages and striking against arms shipments. From a working class perspective, they are two sides of the same struggle against a system that places profits and military power above human life.

Anti-Zionism also acquires a deeper emancipatory meaning in this context, extending beyond opposition to the policies of any particular Israeli government. It means opposing a settler-colonial project built on the displacement of Palestinians and the denial of their rights, sustained by the backing of major imperialist powers.

Such opposition is not directed against Jews as a religious or ethnic community. It is directed against colonialism, racism, and systems of oppression and privilege and stands for freedom and equality for everyone.

This is why Palestine has become a meeting point for different struggles.

Indigenous peoples recognize echoes of their own histories of land dispossession. Migrants confronting racism see parallels with discrimination and exclusion. Anti-imperialists see an example of military power being used to subordinate peoples. Organized workers see evidence of their ability to challenge injustice when they act together.

Palestine has become a global cause because it exposes the connections between different forms of exploitation, oppression, and colonialism.

It retains its distinct character as the struggle of a people resisting occupation and displacement. And it gains additional strength as part of a broader movement seeking to liberate humanity from relations of domination and exploitation.

When workers refuse to load death

The October 30 strikes may not succeed in stopping the arms trade or ending the war. But the movement has already accomplished something profoundly important: it has brought together workers separated by continents, languages, and different trade union traditions around the idea that solidarity can become a material force capable of changing reality.

And now, with the Canadian Labour Congress supporting workers' refusal to handle weapons destined for Israel, that message is reaching deeper into Canada's organized labor movement.

The next challenge is to turn resolutions into collective strength, connecting opposition to war with the everyday struggles of workers against exploitation, austerity, and attacks on their rights.

From Jaffa to San Francisco, from Durban to Genoa, and from Tangier to Marseille, there is a long history of workers who have refused to choose between their livelihoods and their consciences.

They are defending an idea that is both remarkably simple and profoundly radical: no human being should have to contribute to killing another human being in order to feed their children.

In a world where governments try to convince people that wars are inevitable and that the decisions of the great powers cannot be challenged, dockworkers offer a different answer.

The war machine depends on millions of people who manufacture weapons, transport them, and operate ports, railways, and factories.

And those people can organize. They can say "No."

The struggle to liberate Palestine is not the responsibility of Palestinians alone, just as the struggle against apartheid was never solely the responsibility of Black South Africans.

It tests the meaning of international solidarity and affirms that the freedom of any people cannot be separated from the freedom of others.

When a worker in Genoa, Marseille, or Tangier refuses to load weapons, they do not stop the war alone. But they demonstrate that the world is not forever condemned to obey the will of generals and corporate bosses.

Ninety years ago, Jaffa's dockworkers stopped working to defend their people and their land. On October 30 fellow workers around the world stopped work in solidarity with Palestine.

Palestinian liberation will be won through solidarity transformed into organization, struggle, and a social force capable of challenging colonialism and imperialism.

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Turtle Island to Palestine



LAND BACK!

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American Socialist

The Life and Legacy of Eugene V Debs by Shawn Gude

by: Pam Johnson

Shawn Gude's comprehensive and accessible biography of Debs on the 100th anniversary of his death is important and timely as socialism returns to mainstream politics in the US. The parallel of the debates and pitfalls for socialists between Debs' time and now is striking.

Gude captures Debs' humility, his commitment to workers and his tireless campaigning for socialism throughout his life. Gude also recovers the history of the flourishing of socialist ideas and the success of the Socialist Party of America (SPA) that Debs founded. He particularly highlights that its strongholds were in the Midwest, in states like Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin, the Trump supporting 'red' states today.

Debs' legacy has survived the attempt to write him out of US history books. He is regularly quoted, including by Zohran Mamdani and Bernie Sanders. Both are part of the largest socialist formation today, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which traces its lineage to Debs' SPA. But the DSA has taken a very different path from Debs' party.

Born in 1855, Debs lived through the period of massive industrial development of US capitalism post-Civil War and the rise of a US working class that would struggle against it.

The first mass strike waves by US workers occurred during this period of unbridled capitalist expansion. It was also a period of mass migration. German and Irish workers fleeing political upheaval and famine, Russian and Eastern European Jews fleeing pogroms and the 'Great Migration' of black workers from the south to the burgeoning industries of the North. Some of these immigrants brought and promoted socialist and Marxist ideas that would deeply influence Debs.

Debs was born and would live almost his whole life in Terre Haute, Indiana, a small city that was one of the gateways to western expansion. Debs went to work for the railroad at 14 and was appalled by conditions for workers. By the age of 22, motivated by his Christian values, Debs felt called to trade unionism and to politics.

Strike leader to socialist

Gude tracks Debs' two political journeys. His first journey was a long and somewhat tortured journey from a strike-averse craft union leader preaching collaboration with the boss to a working-class fighter leading strikes against the robber barons. After a stint as an elected Democrat, he condemned both political parties for acting only in the interests of capital and not workers.

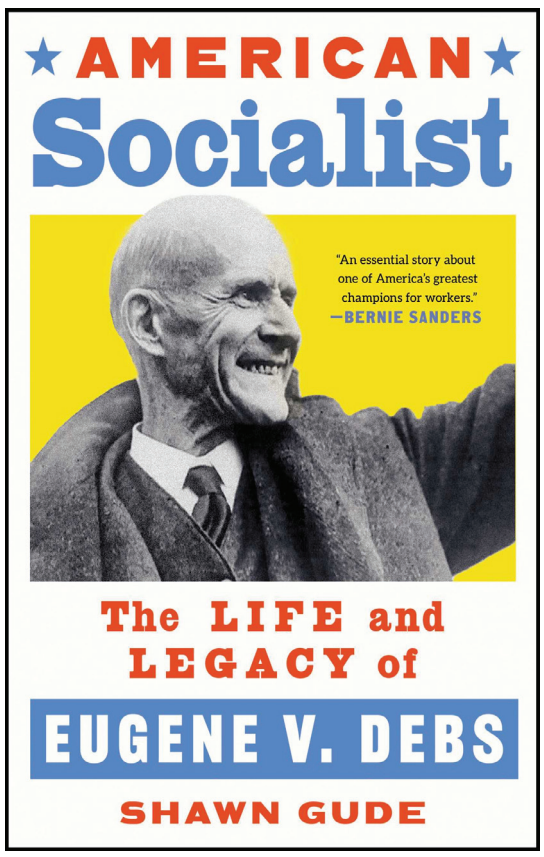
His second journey was from working class consciousness to socialism as he could see no way forward for workers under capitalism. He also recognized the need for a party that could be the political expression of workers 'struggles and founded the Socialist Party of America (SPA).

In 1894 as leader of the American Railway Union, Debs led a national strike against the powerful Pullman Car company. The company tried to break the strike with Pinkerton thugs and government collusion. Debs was thrown in jail for defying an injunction.

Debs' national reputation as a class-conscious fighter was boosted by the Pullman strike. He was visited in jail by many activists and socialists, including Victor Berger, an Austrian immigrant building a socialist stronghold in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Berger would be a founder of the Socialist Party of America with Debs. Berger gave Debs a copy of Marx' Capital. Debs read it and other socialist texts during his jail stint.

Soon after leaving jail, he declared himself a socialist saying, "The issue is socialism vs. capitalism. I am for socialism because I am for humanity."

Gude describes Debs' zeal as a campaigner for socialism across the country even as his own ideas about socialism were developing. He was a passionate and fiery orator and traveled tirelessly to speak to workers: miners in the West, farmers in the prairies and industrial workers in the Midwest. His touchstone for the rest of his political life was workers and their interests.



Socialist Party of America

Debs considered, then discarded, different ideas of socialism: among them Christian socialism (although he remained a Christian) and agrarian socialism. Debs decided to join with the Marxists connected to Berger to form the Socialist Party of America (SPA) In1901. The founding conference was held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The SPA called themselves 'international socialists' and associated ideologically with the Marxist Second International, where the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) and other European socialist parties were on the rise.

The SPA was also anti-imperialist in the face of rising US imperialism. Debs and SPA supported Mexican revolutionaries when Woodrow Wilson sent in US troops to put down rebellion in support of US corporate interests during the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution.

The SPA would be thrust into many crucial debates and struggles in the early decades of the 20th century that would sometimes divide the party: women's suffrage, the rising anti-Black racism of Jim Crow, the syndicalism of the IWW vs. socialism. Gude notes that Debs usually took a left perspective but was not always ready or willing to defend his views in party debates.

The SPA would reach its highest point of influence in the 1912 elections as a third party winning 1000 local elections, 80 mayorships, and one Congressional seat. Socialists led several American Federation of Labor (AFL) unions and state federations of labour. Gude shows how it was a remarkable achievement of local organizing. The socialist press pumped out 2 million copies of English and foreign language papers every week, distributed by thousands of SPA members across the country.

War and Revolution

A defining moment for Debs and the SPA was their condemnation of World War 1, which the US would not join until 1917. When the US joined the war and criminalized dissent, Debs, Berger and others would land in jail. Debs ran for president for the fifth and last time from a jail cell, receiving nearly a million votes.

The other event that rocked the SPA was the 1917 Russian Revolution, the first successful workers' revolution. It was hugely inspiring to socialists around the world. Many socialists would form Communist parties based on the Bolshevik model. Debs declared himself a Bolshevik and supporter of the revolution.

It would also produce a crisis for the SPA. Two Communist parties were formed in the US and many SPA members left to join them. A left faction, mainly of younger members, pushed the SPA to move left. The left faction was expelled by Berger and the right-wing of the party, purging 70,000 members. These faction fights occurred as the heavy repression from bosses and the Wilson government targeted the IWW, socialists and communists and further weakened the SPA.

In jail from 1918, Debs was distant from much of the strife. He was released from jail in 1921 suffering increasing ill health. Although Debs stayed in the SPA the rest of his life, he no longer played a leadership role and died in 1926. The broken SPA would continue in a reformist direction and not play a significant role in US politics.

Gude's book does the wonderful service of restoring the history of Debs and the SPA to a new generation—a generation once again looking to socialism in the face of the multiple crises of capitalism destroying the planet, waging war and immiserating lives. But readers will need to look elsewhere for an analysis of the lessons that Debs and the SPA can offer to socialists today.

Shawn Gude is a former Jacobin editor.

... AI centre continued from page 8

No legislation, no environmental assessment

Like other provinces, Nova Scotia has no rules written for data centres, and they are not on the list of projects that require an environmental impact assessment. Instead, the data centre leans on approvals EverWind already won for hydrogen projects. When the NDP called for legislation setting protection guarantees, Premier Houston refused. EverWind's answer to the protests is a memorandum of understanding promising to protect power rates and limit water use. That leaves out concerns such as noise, the impact on wildlife, rising lake temperatures and heavy metals leaking into the water. Only a full environmental impact assessment can address those concerns. The Nova Scotia government is actually copying what the federal government is doing on a bigger scale with Bill C-5.

Big Tech on both sides of the medicine line

Data centres are sold to us the same way as pipelines and ports — as nation-building projects that protect AI sovereignty from US dominance and the Trump regime.



But EverWind was founded by Trent Vichie, a New York-based billionaire and Trump supporter, and the lease holder is Anthropic, an American tech company. The "elbows up" politicians cannot hide the fact that the ruling classes on both sides of the border want the same thing. In province after province, hosting the infrastructure of the AI boom lets Canadian governments sell wind, water, gas and grid capacity to the biggest tech companies, just as they sell oil and gas through pipelines.

The cost of these hyperscale projects falls on working-class and Indigenous communities. In the US, hundreds of protests have targeted data centres that drain aquifers and raise power bills. Here, the Mi'kmaq consortium led by Membertou is a partner in EverWind's wind farms, but it has no part in the data centre. EverWind is now negotiating an Indigenous stake in the project so that it can advertise the project as built on the first nations' consent.

The AI industry is also deeply tied to militarization. On February 28, the first day of the US-Israeli war on Iran, a US Tomahawk missile killed more than 120 children because of the Palantir's Maven system, which has Anthropic's Claude built into it. Fighting hyperscale data centres means taking on companies that chase trillion-dollar valuations while their technology is reshaping wars with brutal human costs, from Gaza to Iran.

Building the resistance

Within weeks of the announcement, more than 25,000 people signed a petition against AI data centres in Nova Scotia, and protests were called across the province for November 7. That anger has to stay mobilized to stop this project. EverWind is applying for industrial approvals and power contracts, and we can challenge each one and win a moratorium.

The movement against data centres belongs alongside the ongoing struggles against Bill C-39, Bill C-5 fast-tracking, violations of Indigenous sovereignty, militarization and the AI industry's ties to war.

United, we can take back the water, the land and the wind.

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Dockworkers shut down ports in solidarity with Palestine

by: Ibrahim Alsahary

When dockworkers rebel against the war machine, Palestine becomes a banner of liberation worldwide

From the dockworkers of Jaffa who resisted British colonialism in 1936 to the 113 ports who mobilized against war on October 30, 2026, the working class is reviving its traditions of international solidarity. As Canada's largest labor federation endorses workers' refusal to handle weapons destined for Israel, Palestine is becoming a rallying point for struggles against colonialism, racism, exploitation, and imperialism.

There are moments in history when workers do not need lengthy speeches to change the world. Sometimes, all it takes is for a worker to place a hand on a massive crane and decide not to move it.

In one port, a ship waits for its cargo. On the other side of the sea, a Palestinian family waits for the bombing to stop, for their children to return to school, and for a single night of sleep without fear.

They may be thousands of kilometers apart, know each other's names or speak the same language. Yet they are connected by something not appearing on the maps of global trade: the weapons passing through the ports may be the very ones destroying people's lives on the other side of the sea.

Here, a worker's refusal to load weapons has a profoundly human meaning. They refuse to allow the labor that puts food on their children's table to be a link in a chain of death depriving other children of their lives.

"Dockworkers Do Not Work for War."

Under this slogan, dockworkers mobilized internationally on Friday, October 30, against arms shipments and imperialist wars, with solidarity for the Palestinian people at its center.

Workers in 113 ports across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia took action in various forms.

These actions go beyond symbolic solidarity with Palestine. It puts a wrench into the economic machinery sustaining wars: production, transportation, trade and global supply chains.

This is not a new story.

From Jaffa to the world: a history of resistance on the docks

In the spring of 1936, Palestinian dockworkers in Jaffa stood at the heart of the general strike against British colonialism and the Zionist project.



Genoa dockworkers shut it down for Palestine

Jaffa's port was an economic lifeline for Palestine, handling goods and agricultural products, particularly the famous Palestinian oranges. The workers shouldering those crates understood that by stopping work, they could paralyze a significant part of the colonial economy.

They were defending more than their wages. They were fighting for the future of an entire society facing colonial domination and land dispossession.

British Mandate authorities helped create an alternative port in Tel Aviv, to bypass and undermine the Palestinian strike.

Twelve years later during the Nakba of 1948, Jaffa's port, tragically, became a route of mass displacement. Thousands of Palestinians fled, leaving behind homes, markets, workshops, and docks where they had built their lives.

But traditions of working-class solidarity against colonialism were developing in ports elsewhere in the world.

In 1935, when fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia, African dockworkers refused to handle Italian shipments. After the Second World War, dockworkers participated in solidarity campaigns supporting struggles for national liberation, particularly in Indonesia.

In November 1984, the port of San Francisco witnessed one of the most inspiring chapters in this history.

A Dutch ship arrived carrying goods from apartheid South Africa. But workers belonging to ILWU Local 10 refused to unload its cargo, leaving it aboard the ship for ten days.

A leading organizer was Black dockworker and activist Leo Robinson. The workers risked losing wages and legal penalties, yet they refused to contribute to a system denying millions of people their rights because of their skin color.

They did not know the Black workers struggling in South Africa's mines and factories. But they understood that they could strengthen the fight of those oppressed workers on the other side of the world.

Six years later, Nelson Mandela visited Oakland after his release from prison and thanked the dockworkers for their solidarity.

Apartheid was not defeated by a single strike. But that action contributed to an international movement that made the system increasingly difficult to sustain.

The lesson was clear: workers who do not have the power to declare wars or end colonialism can, through collective organization, disrupt some of the mechanisms that allow them to continue.

Palestine revives the power of international solidarity

The labour movement revived this tradition in solidarity with Palestine.

In 2009, dockworkers in Durban, South Africa, refused to handle an Israeli ship in protest against the assault on Gaza. The following year, Swedish dockworkers carried out a week-long boycott of Israeli goods.

In 2014, Oakland became the center of the "Block the Boat" campaign, bringing together Palestine solidarity activists and trade unionists to prevent ships belonging to the Israeli shipping company Zim from being unloaded.

continued on page 6...

Taking on the Point Tupper data centre in Nova Scotia

by: Canan Sahin

Nova Scotia's wind, water and power grid are being sold to Big Tech.

On October 16, Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston and EverWind Fuels CEO Trent Vichie announced a $10 billion AI data centre at Point Tupper in Richmond County, presented as the largest private investment in Nova Scotia's history. Two Halifax Examiner reporters who have followed EverWind for years were asked to leave the announcement event. The company has since scheduled few public consultations, shutting out critical journalists making it clear that they want to push through without questions. Tim Houston's office even tried to intimidate a Toronto Metropolitan University scholar who questioned the project, copying his department chair on its email reply.

EverWind plans a 420-megawatt hyperscale campus, built in two phases by 2028, with the first phase leased for 20 years to the American AI company Anthropic to run its chatbot, Claude. The campus would take up to half a million litres of water a day from Landrie Lake, the drinking water source for Port Hawkesbury. In return, the project promises 2,000 temporary construction jobs and 215 permanent ones.



Protest targets the Point Tupper data centre

Bailing out EverWind

EverWind bought a fossil fuel terminal at Point Tupper in 2022 and announced it would produce green hydrogen and ammonia through wind farms and export them to Germany. The company secured about $166 million in debt financing from Export Development Canada and $22.5 million from the federal Green Shipping Corridor Fund, on top of $240 million from the US asset manager Nuveen. Then the hydrogen plan stalled, and one of its two German buyers pulled out. EverWind owes money to its lenders and has tied its other projects to the data centre, which puts the province under heavy pressure to say yes.

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