THE END OF THE US EMPIRE

MOCTEZUMA'S REVENGE
FROM IMMIGRANT RIGHTS TO NATIONAL LIBERATION
The empire is falling because its ruling class, seeking to increase profits, has inflicted on itself a mortal blow. Domestic production has been visibly reduced because of the transfer of capital and technology to other countries. The external US debt has been transferred into the hands of the new international powers that now pack the shelves of all its stores, as it does in every country of the world. This is why, historically, we see the former 4-star general of the world, with its mighty military forces and superiority in its wars for the last decade in the Middle East with no workable exit strategy in sight. The hands of the USA are tied limiting its intervention in the uprisings of the masses in North Africa. Even its capability to intervene in its own backyard is questioned by the ability displayed by Brazil’s leadership of the UN forces, including US troops, in Haiti. We can see that its military and technological power is insufficient for fighting asymmetrical wars and no longer accumulate the material gains of wars, such as oil.

The US Empire has an increasing difficulty making its voice heard and getting its proposals implemented in international organizations like the G8 or the G20. At each conference of these and similar groups it becomes more difficult for the US to push forward, in a unilateral manner, its political and economic priorities, such as the regulation of international prices or the establishment of commercial trade treaties. This is the case in South America, where the power and influence of Brazil has up to this point not allowed the extension of trade deals like NAFTA or the Free Trade of the Americas Act to countries in the region. The US is currently led by a president who is incapable of solving these problems, because he is beholden to the country and who is continuing the politics of Bush and the Republicans before him. Until now, the steps Obama has taken to control the crisis have been timid, insignificant and have had little impact. His policies are very different from those implemented during the 30s New Deal in terms of the development of industrial and agricultural production, investment in employment, trade deals and distribution of social benefits. For decades the US has been fundamentally focused on enlarging the gains of financial capital. Without achieving this, the unity and support of the ruling class cannot be certain.

At the same time the sectors of society that carried Obama to the presidency have become disillusioned by his delivery. The “hope” and enthusiastic support have disappeared. We can see how the previous illusions in the promises Obama made, within the sectors of the masses that carried him to the presidency, have been lost, constantly lowering his credibility and enthusiastic support.

An increasingly frustrated, unhappy and noisy petite bourgeoisie is organizing to recover the “large imperialist power” through ultra-right organizations like the Tea Party. The previous bipartisan solutions are insufficient to solve the current problems of this empire.

**WHY IS IT FALLING?**

The empire is falling because its ruling class, seeking to increase profits, has inflicted on itself a mortal blow. It is falling, because during the past four decades the country lost millions of jobs as businesses relocated their centers of production to other interior geographical areas and countries with lower costs of production and more relaxed environmental standards. At the same time the United States has experienced serious economic and political crises in the past; however, today things are different. The relocation of its production centers has triggered the rapid development of those countries that are rising today as the main competitors to the US: China, India and Brazil. Today, nations that not too long ago were orbiting around US and European imperialism have begun to revolve around the new giants, developing new relationships of economic interdependence and political and cultural subordination. The accrued initial World War II when the US invested in Germany and Japan to ensure US influence over the markets of these two countries. The US did this under the guise of reconstruction and in just three decades both countries became US competitors.

That is to say: the natural drive of the bourgeoisie in its search for supremacy and maximum profits is what leads it to its destruction. This historic premise has been understood perfectly since the origin of the Communist Manifesto, but today this premise will determine the fate of the largest bourgeoisie empire that the world has ever known. The displacement of the centers of production produced greater profits for the bourgeoisie, but at the same time caused the loss of jobs and of productivity within the empire. Its domestic market is collapsing under the burden of its debt and the destruction of the planet has been hastened by relocating factories to areas with less stringent environmental regulations.

We have seen many empires throughout history go through stages of creation, development, decline and decay all in correspondence with predetermined historical laws. The specter of imperial disintegration has devastated various geographical, political and economic formations such as multinational, colonial and imperial structures throughout history. It has been economic crisis, political fragmentation, monumental historical events and above all acute class struggle, which has finished the process. The fall of the US Empire places us today in the context of a world capitalist system that is in mortal agony. It is a global system of exploitation that is historically exhausted and cannot guarantee our survival or the survival of the planet and must use all of its strength chaotically struggling not to disappear. These forces create brutal super exploitation in the new key areas of the world economy and restrict the existing gains of workers in order to prepare for increasingly undemocratic controlling regimes.

Despite the situation we have described and the underlining reasons as to why we believe in the future we will see the death of US imperialism, accumulated wealth in this country over its many years of domination is vast. It will take some time for the existing infrastructure to reach the level of deterioration seen in “third world” countries or former colonies. Yet in a short time it will reach the level of its European counterparts. The same infrastructure in the hands of the workers would shake the world. However, since the 1990’s we have not seen large mobilizations of large sectors of the labor movement. The struggles we have seen have been defensive, isolated and rarely combined with political analysis and action. The percentage of labor that is unionized has been falling for years. The existing worker’s organizations are completely useless, especially because of their reliance on the state through their relationship with the Democratic Party. No independent labor unions currently exist.

Since the crisis of 2008, all labor contract negotiations have resulted only in the reduction of employee benefits because of the fear of more layoffs. The response of workers and the US masses that are still benefiting from the privileges of living in the empire have been minimal (with notable and promising exceptions like the workers in Wisconsin recently). Workers have been brainwashed into accepting the blows inflicted by their employers and the loss of their benefits, one after another, all in the interest of job preservation.

Latinos, especially Mexicans, in the United States will definitely play an important role in the direction of the future. In fact, it has been these workers who have been most receptive to unionization and the unions with the highest membership of these workers have for several decades been the most militant. However the decisive struggles of Latino workers, as seen in their continued protests, especially in the impressive national strike of 2006, are most successful outside of these unions, through collective organizations in the community or through the potential creation of alternative trade unions that are independent and truly combative.

In historical terms, these workers, who number in the millions, could be one of the weapons that inflict fatal blows on US imperialism. This is because, despite the relative narrowness of its economy and lack of human rights, imperialism is unable in this time of total decay and crisis to absorb or conceder to their demands. This situation may leave them no other options than reclaiming the stolen Mexican territories and building a national liberation movement.

The deeply imbedded ideology of US imperialism, of fierce individualism, has taken root in the American people, and a relentless struggle will be necessary to get rid of this ideology in order to enable full participation and solidarity among workers. The possibilities for workers in this country are enormous, while simultaneously, the consequences of not acting and waiting for everything to fall will be fatal.

Fate, because if workers don’t take up the struggle, the frustration of the petit bourgeoisie and other sectors outside of the production process will increase and promote movements of a fascist character. Groups like the Tea Party are growing and gaining threatening power in national politics. They have the potential to create crises like that produced by domestic terrorist attacks associated with right-wing groups such as the 1995 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City.

There are huge possibilities precisely because of the vast infrastructure of this country, in terms of technology, industry and natural resources, would give US workers an unprecedented basis for social transformation that could nourish a revolutionary process towards socialism. For this to happen, a relentless ideological struggle is necessary for workers to gain control of this infrastructure and not drown in the whirlpool created by the current owners of this empire.
When empires arise throughout history, people who succumb to their ruling classes are “stuck,” “colonized,” “civilized” and “protected” from themselves and their own “weaknesses” by the tyrants of the time. There is one law, to which all of us in this world are subject, which is that we cannot be dominated if we are not subjugated by force. A ruling class must seize our countries, our markets, our labor power as their property and force us to spill our blood and that of other workers and the oppressed during wars of conquest in order to maximize the extraction of all possible wealth.

In the United States, the progression of rebellions probably begin, and with the outing of rulers the oppressed can reclaim and rebuild their own land. The prisons and jails are opened, people flow into the streets and become the hysterics that until then were invisible. They ignite the fires of liberation in order to be rulers in their own land; reviving their culture and take pride in who they are.

There are 50 million Latinos in the United States. A huge majority of them are Mexicanos and their brothers and sisters in history, the Central Americans, and their cousins, the South Americans. They are the sons, heirs and hostages of “Manifest Destiny,” the plan for the USA to be a homogenized amalgamation of inexperienced, weak and semi-populated nations and peoples of Old Mexico and everywhere south of the USA. The American empire swept from the Atlantic to the Pacific, killing native people along the way, burying them “alive” on reservations, stealing land from Mexico, buying land from France (Louisiana Purchase) and negotiating other agreements with Spain. “Manifest Destiny” was a policy of bloody conquest and was justified through an ideology where the “inferiority” of the conquered was not limited to the color of their skin, but also to the origin of their culture.

“Remember the Alamo!” was the slogan (a commemorative slogan of the conquest’s “martyrs” in Texas) used during several invasions and land grabs in order to disguise those acts of piracy and murder as moments of revenge. With this phrase the conquerors guided by “Manifest Destiny” alleged “self-determination” in order to disguise their invasion of foreign lands, which they claimed Texas and other western territory which eventually become southwestern states. It was also the lips of the hundreds of thousands of people who came west in search of gold and stole California. The United States grew from a colony to a country, then into a colonial empire and later into a hegemonic imperial one. There have been a hundred and fifty years of Marines desencarnar “the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli.” They have propped up puppet dictatorships throughout the South American continent that they considered their “back porch.” It has been a similar story in the neighborhoods, cities, and countries of Europe, North Africa, Asia and the Middle East after the First and Second World Wars. With wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the USA is now once again on the shores of Tripoli, or in the air over the shores.

For the last one hundred and fifty years, the subjugated Mexicanos, their children, their descendants, their relatives in the rest of the Americas and other indigenous people have generously shared their territory while they lost rebellion after rebellion, fighting against the unstoppable rise of US imperialism. Then when they tried to associate into society to achieve a sense of equality that would allow them to live, work, and survive, they have always been rejected, though sometimes given minimal concessions.

This is a recorded history of one hundred and fifty years of being suppressed, discriminated against, buried in the worst jobs ignored by La Migra (once the USA now ICE), with their existence denied in statistics, dying in wars that were not theirs, being hunted as “green invaders” and finally being slaughtered as “pachucos” in Los Angeles during World War II, being chased by helicopters in the desert and raided when working in factories. As for going to the Middle East that is all Arabia or Afghanistan in order to get a laminated document of citizenship … nothing reeks more strongly of oppression.

Meanwhile wave after wave of immigrants from Europe have been slowly, progressively incorporated, assimilated and semi-accepted, increasingly so when they participated in the oppression of later generations of immigrants, White immigrants with blue, brown and green eyes, were shipped from so far away that they had nothing on their arrival to claim, nothing to recover. They could adapt and if possible submit passively to oppression. However their experience in Europe with anarchism, socialism, trade unions and other social struggles influenced their participation in similar movements which arose on this continent. They soon faced anti-Semitism, internment during US wars against their countries of origin, anti-communist raids, deportations and eventually McCarthyism. The cost of this immigrant assimilation was paid to a government which systematically picked off the rebels and nonconformists.

White immigrants came to the USA to face their only feasible option. They became pawns in the forcible colonization of America. Sometimes they were compensated with a piece of land, a male and a place among the oppressors. Most but not all disappeared into the crowds that later marched West. Many of the earliest immigrants came here as “indurated servants,” essentially temporary white slaves. Their situation was different from that of the black slaves brought to the US in the same time period. If they managed to survive and work their way out of indenture, they were set free, which did not happen to all black slaves.

The people of Africa, “engillados,” were brought to several parts of the Americas including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and in the largest numbers to Brazil and the USA.

For them, there was no justice in the USA until the great struggles of the US Civil War and the later Civil Rights Movement were won. Even today, apart from a small black bourgeoisie and middle class, most working class and poor black people live in ghettos and will not realize their full potential. There has never been any compensation for the forced labor, humiliation and dispossession of everything, everything but the color of their skin. The promises and campaigns made since the North’s victory in the US Civil War, by which the freed slave were to be compensated for the tremendous wealth they had created for the rulers of this country, were never fulfilled. All the freed slaves got was segregation and the Ku Klux Klan.

All the same, one day the past will be far away. Many former slaves wanted to return to Africa and some did. They founded Liberia and soon encountered centuries of imperialist exploitation on the African continent by the Europeans and Americans.

The Mexicanos, the Central Americans and the South Americans are different. They are here but they are also there, only one step away, across porous borders, with a memory of lands that were once theirs, that their ancestors walked on. Scratch a little on the conscience of any Latino, especially a Mexicano and the question will arise: if it is our land, why can we not govern here? Why is it not still ours?

No one can say that Latinos, particularly Mexicanos and Central Americans, have not tried to integrate themselves into US society. They have demanded, year after year, more democratic rights as immigrants: amnesty for undocumented immigrants, participation in trade unions, the right to protest on the border; the right to vote in local elections, etc. They were the focus in 2006 of the new May Day demonstrations, waving US flags, with hundreds of thousands gathering on the border; the right to vote in local elections, etc. They were the focus of 2006 and the new May Day demonstrations, waving US flags, with hundreds of thousands marching throughout the country. With each subsequent May Day, the conservatives strongly and the liberals timidly, have denied every need, every grito – every call for justice.

Again and again they have been driven out, pushed into new ghettos or granted meager concessions that in the next breath were taken back. The ruling class, using their well-oiled bourgeois media machine, has used each new incident of economic crisis to scapegoat Latinos. The media machine said it was not the large banks that burst the speculation bubble; it was the “illegal workers who are an unbearable burden for the state.” It was not the real estate scams and irresponsibility of the bourgeoisie that caused the financial collapse of the construction and sale of property, it was “those who take advantage of the rights and services that are not theirs.” The media did not mention that it was the state, government and political system of the Democratic and Republican parties which pushed for the transfer of production to other countries, seeking poverty wages and greater profits, that caused rising unemployment, but rather “those who come to the USA to steal jobs from real Americans.”

The media lies and lies and lies some more, saying it is not the policies of the state and its ruling parties which has enabled and ruined Social Security but rather, “Illegal immigrants who use our healthcare and social services, preventing them from being available for citizens and legal residents.” Numbers are distorted, statistics manipulated and the news is hidden that 75% of undocumented immigrants...
pay taxes that are not returned to them in services or goods. The fact that false "Social Security Numbers" are a conduit for contributions used to subsidize the system for the benefit of those in power is on display. In this way the media vilifies the massive immigrant community, which constitutes the majority of people in dozens of large cities, medium-size towns and states. These immigrants have created an economy of consumption, jobs, investment and culture through which moves an estimated hundreds of billions of dollars.

There are Spanish-speaking radio and television stations (vast networks of them) having the largest audiences in the country, newspapers that are read in greater numbers than many of their English counterparts, factories, workshops, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, sports centers, civic associations, non-profits, cultural centers, writers, playwrights, actors and actresses ... all of which shows that within the belly of US imperialism has been created a virtual Latino republic, about which the CIA continues to write documents alleging that "after terrorism, illegal immigration is the biggest internal safety problem.

Now the empire is falling; its end is in sight. The Anglo ruling classes have lost their industrial, commercial and financial hegemony and will soon lose the military conquests of "Manifest Destiny" as well. The Republic of Latin Americans is emerging, more so every day, as a real possibility. Does this mean renouncing the fight for civil and democratic rights for all? That’s not the solution. A different perspective is necessary. We must work for a national liberation revolution of the Latin American people that wants to build a movement for national liberation.

For decades, community leaders have urged people to think of the people's movement as one that has already arisen and will continue to grow, not so much because of what we do but because of how much they want our submission. All we can do is face them when and where they line up and shoot where they don't. Who should lead? The people who work and produce, the workers in the fields and cities, those who have the power to exploit or control the workplaces, towns, cities, states and organize the rest of the people.

Are there no potential allies? Of course there are. There are White, Asian and Black workers who can decide to fight against and get rid of the union bureaucrats. There are those who oppose capitulation to the political parties of the empire, the Democrats and Republicans. Those that take those stands and more are our potential allies. Those that remain on the side of the ruling class are our enemies, although we know that they will only stay in this category temporarily. There is nothing to gain by the permanence of our oppression.

A republic of equals, of workers and oppressed peoples, on this side of the border can erase that border. It can join a vast continent wide movement to break the chains of oppression and cause them to fall, along with imperialism, into the abyss. It is this international class struggle that is our only reason to live.

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The United States is at the end of its cycle as the world’s hegemonic power and one step away from its collapse as an imperialist power. Its future will be determined to a certain degree by its ability to delay the collapse of major branches of its industry, now heavily subsidized and under overwhelming pressure from competition abroad. This is not, however, due solely to foreign enemies and competitors as much as it is of its own making.

People in the United States are used to enjoying the benefits of being in the largest economy in the world, based on a huge industrial and financial base and supported by the most powerful domestic market in history. These benefits have been eroding and the material base which made them possible are disappearing as the US is losing ground to a number of fast-developing economies, many of which – if not all – were nurtured and initially developed by US capital.

Germany and Japan, reconstructed by the US in the post World War II period, became its strongest competitors. Europe as a whole followed suit. Now China, India, Brazil and a number of other countries are undercutting the US economy from all sides. Well before the recent earthquake and tsunami, China had advanced past Japan to become the world’s number two economy.

While its overall size still favors the US, a close look would reveal a scenario in which critical US industries are surrendering to the international momentum of their Chinese counterparts in textiles, machinery, tools, light weapons, steel, home appliances and more. In terms of economic power, China offers a tremendous challenge to US hegemony.

China’s is not the only economy making gains on the US. While China is taking over much of the manufacturing that used to be done in the US, India is taking over many of the service sector jobs. Initially restricted to lower-skilled service jobs like those in call centers, recent work moving to India now includes more skilled white-collar jobs. Tax returns, financial services and analysis, and engineering are increasingly being handled in India. And in the Western hemisphere, Brazil is making solid gains in economic and political power.

With loss of economic power comes a related loss in political power. The US used to hold a lot of political sway due to its capability as the buyer of last resort. Historically, the US was able to support the economies of allies by propping up the value of the dollar relative to foreign currencies and granting access to the most powerful consumer base in the world. That’s no longer the case. The decline in the value of the dollar will continue in lock step with the over printing of paper money by the US Federal Reserve Bank.

Between shipping much of the country’s job base to other countries and the 2009 economic crash, US unemployment has increased, consumer confidence and spending have decreased, ergo the domestic market has taken a big hit. Increased spending on wars and decreased spending on education have further weakened the US economy.

Since the political future of the country is tied to the unemployment rate, the remaining industries which provide jobs are highly valued both politically and economically. These industries (textiles, auto) are heavily subsidized by the US government. Otherwise they could not withstand global competition. Now China is preparing to become a major automobile exporter. Millions of cars, and more every month, are sold in China’s domestic market every year.

The economic crisis and the bailouts of financial institutions and the automakers – policies shared by both Democrats and Republicans to save them from bankruptcy and foreign competition from China - is endangering the life expectancy of major branches of US industry. Money for subsidies has limits. Subsidies cannot be sustained over long periods.

If China overtakes the US in auto exports, that will mean the collapse of the already threatened captial of the automakers in Detroit and dozens other cities based on auto production in the US. Manufacturing growth in China, Brazil and other countries is threatening other critical US industries are surrendering to the world. That’s no longer the case. The decline in the value of the dollar relative to foreign currencies and granting access to the most powerful consumer base in the world. The decline has been slower over the years. What is happening in Wisconsin and now spreading throughout the country is an indication of the rapidly deteriorating status it is in.

The disappearance of industrial branches of the economy will come the collapse of public administration. After attempting to push for short-term gains and profits over sustainable growth, US business interests are now reaping what they have sown. The recent nationwide campaign against public sector unions, highlighted by the battle in Wisconsin, is making this push, and the results, more apparent. Now that the private sector has been reduced to less than 7% unionized, the public sector, at 36% unionized is the next target.

The plan is to extract as much surplus value from a declining workforce with the least resistance possible while the US bourgeoisie shifts its interests more rapidly into preserving their investments abroad. They are looking for a dominant worldwide finance structure to supply them with the profits of declining domestic industry and manufacturing – with bad results so far – and to try to dismantle every attempt at worker organization domestically to avoid the inevitable social explosion that a collapse would most likely cause.

To put an end to this situation, the tactics of “Buy American” and simple demonstrations and protests are as useless as fighting a lion with a fork. The US union bureaucracy can not be reformed and will not move a finger. Therefore workers need to throw them out of the existing unions or to create new unions and confederations that take up the fights with methods not seen since the 1930s like occupations, militant strikes and electoral action independent and in opposition to the Democrats and Republicans.
Europe is not transiting smoothly through what appears to be its final decline. The BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and China) are acting as its official gravediggers. Germany and France are benefiting in the short run while the rest of Europe is hurting and sinking deeper into crisis. The past centuries of environmental destruction in Europe, as well as globally, are taking their toll on the environment and natural resources. Workers and the population at large are watching the degradation of their living standard before their eyes, as they lose the global position of privilege that they historically held as a product of semi-colonial exploitation in other parts of the world.

After World War II and the creation of the European Union, the European bourgeoisie thought that they would be reborn as a global empire, overcoming past defeats; however, the barbarians are already at the gates. The fascist of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco in the 20th century foreshadowed this decline, and had shown the barbaric extent to which the ruling class, terrified by the ghosts of Marx and Engels, would go to try to save itself.

Europe and the United States are two empires, both in historical retreat, both have passed their peak and now both are in precipitous decline. However, they will not necessarily disappear quickly of their own accord or in a linear way. The outstanding feature of Europe is that it is the home of all the original capitalist powers, each having run its full course from dominance to descent, succeeding each other in history as the most prominent at a regional or global scale (this includes Austria, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, Holland, Spain, France, Germany, England, and Belgium).

Aside from the economic and political relevance of each individual country, Europe consists of nation-states consolidated by centuries of historical power and cultural dominance, built upon structures of production more advanced than those in other parts of the world. Also important is the strong secular tradition of Europe. The current regional confederation was born and consolidated as a defensive mechanism against both the emergence and the consequences of the fall of the surrounding worker states.

The current precipitous fall of both Europe and the United States is partially due to the emergence of China, India and Brazil. The new emerging empires will not be like the old ones and as a result of their internal contradictions they will be much less stable. It is important to highlight that there has been no quantitative growth in the global productive apparatus as a whole (in terms of means of production and exchange) and what we have seen as a result of the movement of the centers of production from their previous locations in Europe and the US to new areas, including continental Asia and Latin America (in principle).

Europe is a net exporter of capital. Some of the enormous profits obtained by European companies have ended up invested in companies outside of the European Union. Thus some German and French productivity does not return to those countries (at least not as capital assets) while in the rest of Europe this capital simply does not exist. Therefore future productivity will fall irreparably along with this decline in investment. In each country this will manifest itself in a different way.

The issue of regional debt is completely irrational. Italy owes 1.4 trillion US dollars, 115.8% of its Gross Domestic Product, (GDP) to France, which is Italy’s main creditor! Spain’s total debt is 1.1 trillion US dollars, with the following amounts owed to these countries: 238 billion to Germany, 220 billion to France and 171 billion dollars to England.

Germany took a different economic path than its neighbors, responding to stagnation with anti-inflationary measures, which have only deepened its recession. This was done even though the country has a fiscal deficit of only 3% of their GDP and currently a 12% unemployment rate. Germany has raised sales taxes from 16% to 19% and progressively increased the retirement age from 60 to 65 years since 2006.

If we take into account that two thirds of the economic growth of Germany between 2000 and 2008 was due to exports, we can understand why it is the world’s second largest exporter, which allows it to maintain a commercial market surplus. One way this is demonstrated is that 40% of its sales are to other European countries, nine times greater than its sales to China.

The European Union has collectively lowered the price of exports in order to be competitive in the new economic climate, which in turn has stopped the growth of its industrial apparatus of manufacturing and distribution. This has allowed for its control over the centrifugal European markets. The German government utilizes a market strategy that severely limits domestic consumption by freezing salaries in Germany. As a result, the German economy grew very little, only 14%, between 1995 and 2010. It had the smallest and slowest growth rate in Europe for that period except for Italy. It exported the capital of its multinational corporations instead of re-investing it in its domestic economy.

The Greek case is paradigmatic. It had already received a second loan installment of 10.5 billion US dollars, which it used only to build up a currency fund for the purpose of preventing an attack from major global investors in sovereign debt. From those loans, not a single cent was used to address any of the problems of the Greek population. The problems of the Greek economy “are being resolved” by meeting the demands of their creditors, including the lowering of the fiscal deficit from the current 13.6% to 8.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2011. The Greek Parliament approved an initiative to sell the state owned railroad system (OSE) the nickel production company named Larnco, the state gas industry (DEPA), Athens International Airport, 20% of the assets of the telecommunication company of the Balkans (OTE) and all public lands (including several islands). The recipe followed was, mass worker layoffs (private and public), raising the retirement age and privatizations, etc. Sound familiar?

There are other emblematic examples like the country of Romania. Political leaders there propagated for the need to enter the European Union as a mechanism to overcome Romanian backwardness. Notwithstanding that the remittances that workers outside the country send back to Romania are the fourth largest part of its Gross Domestic Product, similar to the situation when Nicolai Ceausescu was in power. Adding injury to insult is the situation that Romanian seasonal migratory workers are defeated, beaten, jailed and deported from their working countries. The surrounding “sister” European Union nations of Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Belgium.

Behind the debacle of the Euro Zone and the massive flight of capital from Greece and Portugal is access to rescue of the European banks that hold the huge debts owed by these three countries and by Italy, which only got its debt down from 120% of GDP to 110% of GDP. When one considers the gross concentration of wealth of many European multinationals, which continue to be global leaders in their lines of industry. Yet, every year 1% of the gross domestic capital inflows is dominated by the finance sector that is largely owned by the American corporations in the world, 22 are European. Ten of these belong to the industrial sector while the remaining 12 belong to the financial, insurance and distribution sectors.

Another crucial issue is that European natural resources are substantially depleted. Asia, Latin America and even the United States have much larger reserves of natural resources than Europe. Without a source of cheap labor and available natural resources the future is inescapably dim, again not necessarily in a linear way. Europe is being confronted by the growing cost of preventing environmental disasters in vulnerable ecosystems after centuries of uncontrolled human destruction such as pollution of potable water, pasture lands made non-arable, and unsafe disposal of solid and liquid waste. Well, the list of disasters in Europe is endless.

All of the current rehabilitation efforts do not even begin to transform the countless processes that created this destruction. The costs would be enormous just to create partial and localized solutions to some of the most pressing issues such as superheating the world, mining, mainly of coal and non-metal minerals, have created a serious degradation of the natural landscape, destroying forests, hills, grasslands, etc.

A sector of the bourgeoisie and some of its political allies have been working, since the middle of the last century, to consolidate a transnational capitalist ruling class throughout Europe. This group believed that the American model was a clear indicator of the effectiveness of this plan. History has shown the flaws in this plan. Europe, unlike the United States, cannot carry out such design due to its different stage of development. The unique characteristics of this period in capitalism do not, in any way, support this desire.

The great European arrogance has led to a situation where only France and Germany can maintain their imperial domination, supported by the oppression of other states. The rest of Europe is being forced to the way to becoming semi-colonies (some clearly already are) of France and Germany or at least are considering that sooner or later they will abandon the European Union. The rest of the countries see an irresistible necessity to break away from the European Union soon, more specifically from France and Germany.

In short, what has the European Union, along with the associated individual governments, done to mitigate the problem? Nothing! All costs have been increased since 2006), increased the layoffs of public employees, outsourced companies to Asia and the Pacific, and...
increased the permanent reserve army of labor by 15% in some countries and by 25% in others. A classic measure used to serve this purpose has been the expansion in every way no permanent lifetime employment: contracting out some activities of the companies or sub-contracting to third parties, reducing hours of work to one third full-time or increasing part time work, paying piecework rates, establishing false legal employment arrangements (like false front companies), pseudo-cooperatives, etc. Today, the main European countries have included on their menu of operations these different measures that were in part copied from the USA and in the past only utilized in semi-colonial countries.

Salary cuts have been applied to public employees in Romania, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and Lithuania. Job security has decreased to unprecedented levels. 45% of workers in Spain between the ages of 25 and 29 have only short-term employment contracts. At the same time, labor conditions have worsened, workplace abuse and workplace accidents have increased, and salaries continue to decrease. From 1980 to the present, the working class share of the wealth that they produced has decreased from 70% to 58%; in Spain it is only 54.5%, while percentages in Italy,Luxembourg, Ireland and Finland are even lower. This decline happened during times of economic growth both globally and in the European Union.

Another problem for the working force is that people can’t make their mortgage payments because of rising interest rates, layoffs or decreased income, all of which are becoming a reality in Ireland, Hungary, Belgium, Poland and Spain. The anti-crisis formulas always include the increase in the workweek to 60 hours. Great Britain, Hungary, Estonia, and Spain are some of the countries that have already opted for this solution.

The French and German plans have exploded; there will soon no longer be a European Union, only a heterogeneous amalgamation of countries in a state of confrontation, some maintaining their current role as semi-colonies while others are in transition to that status and still others will simply distance themselves from the European Union. Regimes like those in Italy, Poland, Belgium and the Balkans are still frozen in the past, and have not been able to effectively respond in any way to this crisis.

The new Russian bourgeoisie, born simultaneously from North African and Middle Eastern states. It could represent a political challenge to the regime.

In economic terms there will also be consequences. In every European country there are new ultra-right wing political parties emerging and growing. In some cases they already have a strong electoral presence while others may take root. In the November 2010 elections in Austria, the ultra-right Freedom Party (FPO) won 15% of the April, 2010 vote for its candidate for president and 27% of the vote in the 2011 Viennta municipal elections. This probably has to do with the widespread fear within the middle class of Turkish immigrants, who represent 16% of the population and 25% of elementary and high school students. The events taking place in North Africa and the Middle East will also have an immediate impact on Europe, where the large numbers of immigrants from those countries could use the tactics learned from the North African struggles to fight the oppression that they are victims of in Europe. The previous struggles of immigrants in Europe surely had an influence on European uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East. Now the European immigrants may reproduce them in the near future. New contingents of immigrants may also look towards Europe as a place to contribute to creating important political movements.

In economic terms there will also be consequences. In the short run this will result in an increased price of oil, an essential commodity that comes in large quantities from North African and Middle Eastern states. It could be replaced quickly by oil from Russia and the former Soviet bloc countries or even Latin America. In terms of commerce we will see serious challenges to some European imports of industrial and intermediate goods if the changes lead to new international realignments. Europe has many possible future scenarios. We may not be able to exactly view what will happen, but some of the foreseeable options will maintain or strengthen the current European Union. Confrontations will be inevitable and will come with the violence that always occurs with inter-imperialist confrontations that have to do with gaining hegemony over the markets or making others pay for self-created crises.

The new Russian bourgeoisie, born simultaneously from North African and Middle Eastern states. It could represent a political challenge to the regime. A program for such a political challenge in Europe should be based on concepts like:

- Full employment and jobs for all, including immigrants, at living wages
- The right to political and union organization for all unemployed workers and immigrants, including the right of immigrants to vote and run for office
- Compulsory repayment of financial capital from large companies to maintain job producing and environmentally sound investments which have been transferred from manufacturing to financial services or shifted to outsourcing of jobs. Increasing corporate taxes and maintenance of capital to maintain jobs and services and funding for public services
- Massive investment under community and workers control in projects related to the treatment of industrial, hospital, home and radioactive waste and rehabilitation of environmental disaster areas
- Full rights and social benefits to all minorities and immigrant communities including the preservation of their languages and cultures. Eliminate all forms of racism, racial discrimination, gender discrimination and discrimination based on sexual preference and orientation
- Full funding for free education and training for youth from pre-school, for apprenticeships and to graduate school levels
- Immediate repatriation to countries for all military interventions made there in the world
- Drastic reduction of budget allocations for security and military spending
- Support for a Socialist Confederation of Europe, based on national self-determination
The article titled *The Solution: Secular Governments of Workers and the Oppressed* published on the next page of our magazine was written at the beginning of the uprisings in North Africa, particularly those that happened in Tunisia and Egypt and those that had already begun in other countries in early February. A lot has happened since then that is important to report on and analyze.

The Tunisian revolution continues to advance replacing provisional governments one after another and forming “self-management” committees. The Egyptian revolution ousted Mubarak, but the military, filling the governmental vacuum, seems to have made some concessions and temporarily slowed down the momentum of the masses. Still, the protests continue.

Protests began in Bahrain, where the American fleet is stationed, but the Sultan of Bahrain received military support and troops from Saudi Arabia and police contingents from Qatar in order to help control the situation. In Syria, demonstrations have begun against the current Assad regime, that, combined with that of his father, has been in power for decades.

There is virtually no country in the region that has not been affected. The situation that currently exists in Libya also began with protests, against Muammar Muhammad al-Gaddafi, followed by a break with part of the regular army, and is now in a state of civil war.

Imperialist military intervention has also begun in Libya. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization mercilessly bombed regime-controlled military targets to prevent the defeat of rebel forces and to help them prevail. This intervention was a turning point.

The US and Europe, as well as Israel, are in a growing panic about the spread of revolutionary movements against regimes in the region. These regimes have, until now, been bastions of stability and strong protectors of Israel – key elements for US geopolitical strategy and European stability. All of that is in danger. The Libyan revolt allows the imperialist forces to intervene militarily while they try to influence the situation throughout the whole region.

Imperialist military intervention should be strongly rejected. It is intended to ensure the two main components of imperial policy in the area – the interests of the US, France, Britain and Israel, especially in terms of oil (Libya is one of the large oil producing powers), but also geopolitically in terms of protecting Israel against any imbalance.

Imperialism seeks to send a strong message to all the revolutionary and democratic processes in the area: either they are stabilized ensuring imperial interests in the area, or unrestrained military force will be used. It’s a message that essentially works with the remains of the Tunisian regime, the armed forces of Egypt, the Sultan of Bahrain and reflects the goal of imposing a government in Libya that is dependent on imperialism.

This opposition to the imperialist intervention should not in any way come at the expense of relentless struggle against the autocratic, dictatorial and pro-NATO forces in North Africa, especially since the progress of the revolution could otherwise accelerate the efforts of the empires to control them. Not for one second can we give respite to the murderers of the governments of Libya, Bahrain, Syria and Yemen. Doing so would be acquiescing to the replacement of the current regimes by others who would eventually commit the same atrocities, again supporting imperial dominance.

We are well aware there are no easy solutions or positions. In most of these countries there are no revolutionary workers’ organizations, and where they do exist they are small. Such organizations cannot be created overnight. So, rather than issue abstract statements from outside of North Africa, our task is solidarity with the existing organizations, both materially and through propaganda. We support mass opposition to imperial intervention and the fight against the forces that, although in opposition to dictatorial governments, aim to bring these revolutions to the dead end of religious fundamentalism, as has happened in Iran, Afghanistan, and Lebanon, and surely will happen in some other country like Yemen.

In that sense, while the details of the situation may have changed, the essence of our statement several months ago retains its original political validity.
The recent uprisings and massive protests, in some cases with insurrectional characteristics that started in Tunisia, continued in Algeria, Yemen, Morocco, Jordan and caused the overthrow of Mubarak in Egypt, the most important country in the region, do not seem to have an end in sight, geographically or politically. Currently Gadhafi is causing a bloodbath in Libya in his attempt to hold on to power. Different analysts have speculated that these social explosions are a product of the economic crisis in Europe, particularly in France, England, Belgium and Italy. And they are correct in that the intensification of poverty, unemployment and lack of housing in the region have acted as an impetus to the present situation. However their analysis is incomplete. Equally important is the political/ideological and cultural development in the region. The persistence of corrupt dictatorial governments, which have sold out the people and resources of the Middle East to allow for the growth of US, European, and Israeli colonialism coupled with the Western aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Western support for Israeli policy in Gaza and Palestine, have created mass frustration. These are some of the issues that have a deep impact on the consciousness of the masses and are as important as the economic causes. The governments of Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, and many others, have built their regimes on the armed forces and on a continuous struggle against fundamentalist Islamism, which all of them see as an immediate and substantial danger.

The military regime in Algeria and the dictatorship of Mubarak in Egypt have been able to survive, until recently, Muslim uprisings and in the case of Algeria, a civil war. In the case of Egypt, Mubarak was the vice-president of Anwar El Sadat when Sadat was assassinated in 1981 by radical Islamists for his role in the peace treaty with Israel and for his repression of Islamist fundamentalists. Since then Mubarak has survived various Islamist political rebellions that were suppressed by force and many assassination attempts. These were not isolated exceptions; this has been the general tendency of events in all Middle Eastern and African countries in the last decades. The secular leadership of a dozen Arab and African countries, with nationalist bourgeoisie governments since World War II, which considered themselves independent, were confronted by the full weight of imperialism and Israel, and each one was destroyed. These governments were then transformed into repressive regimes.

The overthrow of Ben Bella in Algeria, the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, the downfall of Nasser and the United Arab Republic are only a few of the historic overthrows of governments and nationalistic bourgeoisie projects that have followed after anti-colonial revolutions on the continent. As part of their imperialist strategy, Israel and the United States supported the strengthening of fundamentalist groups in order to undermine the post-colonial secular regimes and governments of the region. These regimes and governments of the region have been the base of imperialism’s policy in the Middle East, which also, ironically, legitimates their existence.

However, this secularism sometimes had to be implemented by force because, having been modeled on the values and culture of imperialist countries and societies, it was often rejected by Arab culture. This is the moment in history where new rebellions are taking place. In addition, Islamic fundamentalism dominates in Iran, Lebanon (Hezbollah), large parts of Palestine (Hamas), and has influence within the masses and paramilitary organizations in Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, Sudan, entire regions of African countries like Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and other countries. It is important to notice, in the same vein as those groups, the “Muslim Brotherhood” that today is struggling for the leadership of the revolutionary process of Egypt and other countries.

This accelerated expansion of Islamic fundamentalism in the region and the world responds to the lack of clear revolutionary leadership for the masses confronted with decades of misery, imperialist attacks and dictatorial regimes. This is how we discern an apparent “alley without an exit”, a struggle between secular, corrupt, dictatorial governments, that include the Palestinian Authority of the PLO on one side and the Islamic reaction on the other. This can only be resolved through a decisive intervention by the working class movement that has had important developments in countries like Egypt and Tunisia, and from the left that is developing in Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

These two forces are necessary to complete the struggle for democratic and social transformations in the context of secular and worker run governments. These transformations would include: employment for all, housing, nationalization of big business, transportation, exports, etc. under the workers control.

These changes will also include the urgent resolution of the environmental demands in the face of the devastating exploitation of minerals and agricultural resources, destruction of the jungles, pollution, etc. Changes must also include the provision of clean water (a critical necessity of the North and Central region of Africa and also in the whole Arab world) and sanitation services for everyone. For this it is necessary that the secular revolutionary forces are the vanguard of the overthrow of these dictatorial governments. They must appeal to the masses by fighting for a program that takes back from Islamic fundamentalism, the flags of the struggle for the improvement of life conditions for workers and the people, the defeat of imperialism and its regional ally, the Zionist government of Israel.

In the course of these struggles the unity of action in the protests and strikes is necessary and obligatory against the governments in the regions. This unity of action must be permanent, with all of the social forces, organizations, and with the secular and democratic leaders necessary in order to struggle against class and sectarian separation of church and state. Additionally, it is crucial that the movement of workers, peasants and soldiers who oppose these governments and regimes, organized through their own democratic and anti-imperialist forms of struggle, will take over the government.

The formation of a front of the workers and the left is a strategic objective in order to achieve this end and to stand as a real alternative to the imperialist forces or fundamentalist Islamism, who will compete for power.

This front would call for the centrality of the working class and the workers in the process of transformation, in direct alliance with the peasant and popular masses, the dissolution of the armed forces in these countries, and the preparation for all of the possible and necessary forms of struggle.

From all of the countries of the world, the working class, the left and the democratic and secular sectors must support those organizations that struggle on the only path that guarantees the true economy and social liberation of the Arab people, of North Africa and of the Middle East: that of secular, socialist, democratic and working class governments, based on new institutions created by the masses in the struggle against the old order.

The SOLUTION: SECULAR GOVERNMENTS OF WORKERS AND THE OPPRESSED

UPRISING OF THE MASSES IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE ARABIC PEOPLE

OF WORKERS AND THE OPPRESSED

The Solution: Secular Governments
In the hands of capitalists: Japan and the World as we know it approaches its end. Under capitalism, nuclear energy is collective suicide. The disaster at the Fukushima nuclear complex is currently demonstrating this: six reactors are seriously damaged and emitting clouds of radiation and leaking radioactive water that threatens the lives of millions. Fukushima is the active reminder of Chernobyl (Pripyat, Ukraine), Three Mile Island (Pennsylvania, USA) and dozens of other “nuclear accidents.”

Fukushima is an obsolete nuclear plant dating from the 1960s. Built like a giant Russian roulette wheel on known earthquake fault lines, it is just a short distance from the ocean with its potential for tsunamis and in the midst of millions of people.

Now, in the wake of this disaster, the facts are emerging that the Japanese government, along with domestic and foreign companies, have not reported previous accidents at this plant and have been negligent about necessary maintenance. They built and expanded the plant exclusively for the potential profits of its capitalist owners.

Nature, in her powerful manner, exposed in one day what we are built and operated the nuclear power plants. Everything else is subservient to this profit margin, including lives, homes, jobs and safety for all the inhabitants of the planet. In order to guarantee the profits regulations are weakened, loopholes are found, accidents are hidden, inferior materials are used, maintenance costs are cut, and workers salaries are curtailed.

The plant operators economize on technological research related to handling disasters, plants are kept operating beyond their initial life expectancy, and nuclear waste disposal is left to chance and political maneuvering. It has been undeniably demonstrated, most recently in Japan, that the specific areas where these plants are built and operated are under constant risk of nuclear genocide.

Governments collaborate with business to expand profits by turning a deaf ear to the complaints of scientists and researchers, by not implementing existing laws or watering them down, and by extending permits to keep plants open beyond their original life expectancy. Companies have reached the point where they do not even inform their governments, loopholes are much less the public, when disasters occur. This is how we arrived at the situation where the Japanese Prime Minister heard about the latest explosion in the reactors at Fukushima through the public media. Such is the impunity felt by these businesses.

Like during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans or the devastating tsunami in Asia in 2004 that left more than 300,000 people dead in a dozen countries, the coastal defenses, advanced warnings of the path of the disasters, evacuation plans and immediate assistance to victims simply did not exist or evaporated in the early stages. Governments were missing beforehand in prevention efforts. As a result they were overwhelmed and inadequate in their relief efforts and other assistance.

In Japan, this nuclear disaster has exposed these failures of the bourgeois government. An ocean with a record of earthquakes, tsunamis and tsunamis, sent towering 30 foot waves over hundreds of kilometers of land that should not have been inhabited. The tsunami smashed through concrete and steel protective barriers and other infrastructure as if they were made of paper and flooded nuclear and petrochemical plants that should never have been built where they were.

Of course, this situation is not limited to nuclear plants. This happens in all industries. Do you recall Bhopal and the petrochemical disaster of Union Carbide in 1984 in India? Do you remember the oil spill in Alaska and more recently the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as well as hundreds of other catastrophes that have occurred in the last decade alone? The airplanes that crash, the trains that derail, buses and rail vehicles that crash because regulations have been eliminated or maintenance has been cut back, the industrial plants that have been used beyond their lives are everywhere. Every one of these disasters has mobilized all its defenses in order to survive the devastation under way in Japan which is becoming a nuclear genocide.

The growth of consumption, above all in the industrialized world and by the dominant and privileged social classes, is putting excessive pressure on natural resources and creating extreme exploitation that upsets nature’s balance and aggravates her response. Thus, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes and hurricanes strike at human society in ways it has not previously experienced. This destiny could be avoided through global planning around resources and geographical location. It is necessary to eliminate unnecessary consumption and the anarchy of capitalist production.

Capitalism, as a world system, is exhausted. Capitalism is living through a period of its mortal agony and for this reason has become a lot more dangerous. It has mobilized all its defenses in order to survive the inevitable, by reinforcing the strength of its political states, cutting the democratic benefits of the masses, and increasing the devastation of natural resources, both non-renewable and those that are renewable that it does not know how to grow sustainably. It is time to end capitalism or it will put an end to the planet and to human civilization as we know it.

The people of the world see their own reflection in the mirror of Africa (mutilated resources, the violations wrought by wars and invasions, tribal struggles, and illnesses and pandemics that are liquidating national states one after the other). We can also see our reflection in the devastating tragedy under way in Japan which is causing Japan as we know it to disappear and become a ruin of its former self. This is the future of all of us in the hands of the capitalists.
The names Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales and Rafael Correa have become synonymous with controversy. Right wing, conservative and moderate political pundits and political actors from the ruling class and middle class vilify them while leftists, liberals and self-styled leftists have insisted the three of them on altars as highly anticipated messiahs. Despite the differences in the political paths they followed to leadership, their different national circumstances and their own styles of speaking, these three figureheads have many peculiarities and angles in common. Paradoxically, all three proclaim the urgency of promoting “liberation democracies” in Latin America while simultaneously working to increase the strength and centrality of their own power. Even considering their differences Hugo, Rafael and Evo share one major thing in common, their populist politics within the limiting framework of bourgeois nationalism.

In the 90's and was one of the first voices of protest against US imperialism after a decade in which the US declared absolute victory over communism. Chavez’s defiance of the United States quickly enhanced his popularity. Simultaneously, he was able to increase social welfare benefits thanks to an oil boom. New measurable improvements are now rare due to the severe impact of the US and European economic crises which have affected Venezuela directly and harshly.

We see clearly the exact nature of these particular regimes: they are bourgeois nationalist regimes with populist hot sauce, in an era of the global crisis of capitalism and unstable relationships between countries. This is the moment of the leadership of the three presidents Hugo, Rafael and Evo in this period, both Bolivia and Ecuador built bourgeois/petite bourgeois nationalist regimes. They are trying to preserve the capitalist structures of both countries.

The nationalizations in these three countries have only been the state’s small participatory steps in the income stream without touching the interests and the propertied classes. The governments have stopped expropriating. Correa has been playing with fire for years. He wanted to please everyone and eventually he had to take sides, and he chose the side with the most power. Correa made the same kind of choice when he ordered the suppression of demonstrations of indigenous people. Even without the economic stability that Venezuela had for a short period, both Bolivia and Ecuador built bourgeois/petite bourgeois nationalist regimes. They are trying to preserve their independence from imperialism while giving concessions to the impoverished masses, yet without disrupting the capitalist structures of both countries.

The timing is bad for the populist politicians of Hugo, Evo and Rafael in this period of world crisis. Their politics seem silly in a world where a wild and voracious capitalist system does not allow them the room to maneuver that they had until now. Meanwhile the “revolutionary” headlines of these governments are used to promote the personality cults of these leaders and to build more extensive bureaucracies without generating worker’s power. Socialism of the 21st century is fake…a parody, not even of socialism but of populism.
In the next few years the international economic and political context has changed and the government is faced with the difficult task of understanding the current situation. It favors them, and – aside from some minor criticism – they strongly support the Kirchner (CFK) government. The working class along with other oppressed sectors of the masses have staged a number of struggles and raised their demands. However, this has not resulted in a substantial political challenge to the government and regime mostly because within the working class there is no structure and leadership willing to confront them. There are a large number of different groups and they are of varied political and economic organizations (so-called Federal Peronism; PRO, the party of Mauricio Macri). The unprincipled arrangement cementing this coalition formed with the reactionary Peronist union bureaucracy, the same characters who once were, literally, executioners of progressive forces, and with elected Peronist officials, including the quasi-mafioso Mayors of greater Buenos Aires and officials of the so-called Popular Front, which includes all those who seek to maintain the status quo, be it the Kulak oppositional sectors within the government or the Kulak oppositional sectors within the CFK government.

The government has been unable to change. This can be explained in part by the policies of the Kirchners, as they have been unable to create a state of a more or less peaceful normalcy after the social revolt of 2001. To this effect the government counted on the full support of all the right wing political currents in the country, aligned with the Peronist union bureaucracy, and with elected Peronist officials, including the quasi-mafioso Mayors of greater Buenos Aires and officials of the so-called Popular Front, which includes all those who seek to maintain the status quo, be it the Kulak oppositional sectors within the government or the Kulak oppositional sectors within the CFK government.

Many corporations are subsidiaries that send payments to their parent company abroad for credits they received, however many of these or similar transactions are fraudulent maneuvers used to send money out of the country, or to provide misleading information about the strength of their firms and their capacity to repay debts. It won't be a legitimate or a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. It won't be a legitimate or a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. If paid, this would result in a new cycle of negotiations of collective bargaining agreements and wage increases helps to keep the calm, particularly among the privileged sectors of the organized labor movement, those who have salaries above $5000 Argentine pesos. For them, the main demands are tax breaks to avoid their payment of income tax and to continue their access to good consumer credit. From the perspective of other parts of the working class and the oppressed masses, the situation is more complex. There have been a number of important union struggles, such as those involving food processors (Kraft), oil workers, teachers, railroad and subway workers, state employees in Cordoba, together with struggles for land and housing, and prevents agi Luis Alberto De Crescenzo, the Kirchner administration on the basis for the statistics reporting rates of change in the area of social, the government cannot provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

In order to normalize relations in the financial markets, the Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt. It is important to mention that in recent months several reactions of Hugo Moyano**, leader of the CGT, howling at the Kirchner administration’s inability to provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

The Kirchner administration on the basis for the statistics reporting rates of change in the area of social, the government cannot provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

The international economy continues to favor Argentina. The Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt. In order to normalize relations in the financial markets, the Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt for its state issued bonds, which managed to extend the time of repayments. In the process: unpaid interest was capitalized, and capital was reduced. Interest rates, contractual obligations, type of currency for payments and the mass of debt remained about the same. The result is a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. It won’t be a legitimate or a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. If paid, this would result in a new cycle of negotiations of collective bargaining agreements and wage increases helps to keep the calm, particularly among the privileged sectors of the organized labor movement, those who have salaries above $5000 Argentine pesos. For them, the main demands are tax breaks to avoid their payment of income tax and to continue their access to good consumer credit. From the perspective of other parts of the working class and the oppressed masses, the situation is more complex. There have been a number of important union struggles, such as those involving food processors (Kraft), oil workers, teachers, railroad and subway workers, state employees in Cordoba, together with struggles for land and housing, and prevents agi Luis Alberto De Crescenzo, the Kirchner administration on the basis for the statistics reporting rates of change in the area of social, the government cannot provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

In recent years several political changes have been introduced, but most of them have been unsuccessful for the purposes of the Kirchner administration. The first is the over utilization of existing capacity produces inflation. When existing factories, in the absence of expansions projects or al ready existing capacity, are working at the limit of their capacity, the entrepreneurs react to their own decision not to increase investment and production with price increases.

The trade surplus based on the production of finished commodities has deepened economic dependence by requiring higher imports of intermediate goods (materials that become part of another product) to sustain consumption. Some agricultural necessities are imported. For example in the automotive industry, 60% of parts used on the assembly line are imported. In the auto parts industry, the production of capital goods, machinery is required. The difference obtained by the growth of sectoral productivity of exportable items does not return as physical capital good.

Social training of workers is degraded as successive administrations substitute the devaluation of the peso for the creation of employment. The government has proven to be very useful (but not without disastrous effects) in the area of social policy, especially in the area of housing. In the areas of health and education it has been a failure. The government has proven to be very useful (but not without disastrous effects) in the area of social policy, especially in the area of housing. In the areas of health and education it has been a failure.

The Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt. In order to normalize relations in the financial markets, the Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt. In order to normalize relations in the financial markets, the Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt for its state issued bonds, which managed to extend the time of repayments. In the process: unpaid interest was capitalized, and capital was reduced. Interest rates, contractual obligations, type of currency for payments and the mass of debt remained about the same. The result is a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. It won’t be a legitimate or a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. If paid, this would result in a new cycle of negotiations of collective bargaining agreements and wage increases helps to keep the calm, particularly among the privileged sectors of the organized labor movement, those who have salaries above $5000 Argentine pesos. For them, the main demands are tax breaks to avoid their payment of income tax and to continue their access to good consumer credit. From the perspective of other parts of the working class and the oppressed masses, the situation is more complex. There have been a number of important union struggles, such as those involving food processors (Kraft), oil workers, teachers, railroad and subway workers, state employees in Cordoba, together with struggles for land and housing, and prevents agi Luis Alberto De Crescenzo, the Kirchner administration on the basis for the statistics reporting rates of change in the area of social, the government cannot provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

A fourth aspect of the Argentinean international economy consists of the strong strategic economic presence of transnational corporations; and payment of dividends to their parent companies. The international economy continues to favor Argentina. The Kirchner administration negotiated an exchange of foreign debt for its state issued bonds, which managed to extend the time of repayments. In the process: unpaid interest was capitalized, and capital was reduced. Interest rates, contractual obligations, type of currency for payments and the mass of debt remained about the same. The result is a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. It won’t be a legitimate or a debt that, provided there is a growing economy and no new indebtedness, can be paid. If paid, this would result in a new cycle of negotiations of collective bargaining agreements and wage increases helps to keep the calm, particularly among the privileged sectors of the organized labor movement, those who have salaries above $5000 Argentine pesos. For them, the main demands are tax breaks to avoid their payment of income tax and to continue their access to good consumer credit. From the perspective of other parts of the working class and the oppressed masses, the situation is more complex. There have been a number of important union struggles, such as those involving food processors (Kraft), oil workers, teachers, railroad and subway workers, state employees in Cordoba, together with struggles for land and housing, and prevents agi Luis Alberto De Crescenzo, the Kirchner administration on the basis for the statistics reporting rates of change in the area of social, the government cannot provide the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the situation.

The government has been unable to change. This can be explained in part by the policies of the Kirchners, as they have been unable to create a state of a more or less peaceful normalcy after the social revolt of 2001. To this effect the government counted on the full support of all the right wing political currents in the country, aligned with the Peronist union bureaucracy, the same characters who once were, literally, executioners of progressive forces, and with elected Peronist officials, including the quasi-mafioso Mayors of greater Buenos Aires and officials of the so-called Popular Front, which includes all those who seek to maintain the status quo, be it the Kulak oppositional sectors within the government or the Kulak oppositional sectors within the CFK government.

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By Gino Pepi

Brazil, under Portuguese colonial rule and after its independence had a long tradition of conquests and deals that started in 1494 when Portugal made agreements with Spain to limit Spanish South American expansion and to grant land to Portugal to acquire large parts of what is now southern Brazil.

Starting in 1680, the Portuguese colony of Brazil made military incursions south waging a long series of bloody battles with Spanish colonists and creating a stronghold across the Rio de la Plata from Buenos Aires. In 1777 Brazil traded this stronghold for large areas of what became states in Amazonian northeastern Brazil.

In 1816 the Portuguese monarchy, after it relocated itself to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as a result of being defeated by Napoleon’s French armies in Portugal. A militarily campaign occupied more territory just to the south of Brazil and across from Argentina. In a complicated series of wars and political struggles this territory was transformed into Uruguay, as an “independent” buffer state between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

In 1822 the Brazilian Empire ‘established’ itself independent of Portugal. It launched more bloody wars, invading Uruguay and Paraguay. The “War of the Triple Alliance” (1865-70) with the united action of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay, resulted in Brazil taking over much of Paraguayan territory.

Early 20th Century governments of Brazil faced Brazilian Amazon frontier incursions by Peru and Colombia to extract rubber and other raw materials. Brazil retaliated with armed raids and trade controls. In 1942 Brazil, prompted by the ambitions of its armed forces, declared war on Germany and Italy and sent troops and supplied large amounts of war material to the Allies.

In a 1945 coup, the Brazilian military, while being the ambition of its armed forces, declared war on Germany and Italy and sent troops and supplied large amounts of war material to the Allies. Brazil’s leadership opted for the military coup. By 1944 the forces of the CUT, PT and the MST - (the rural landless movement) - participated in the struggle to overthrow the military dictatorship. None the less they fell for the grand replace of the bourgeoisie policy of the Brazilian military government with a civilian one, which preserved the Armed Forces as the arbiters of the national political arena, a role they still play today.

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Tango & Rock 'n Roll
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supporting player in the invasion and genocide of the Haitian people under the leadership of USA, France and Brazil. We also have to point to the complete alignment of the government with the emerging Brazilian empire, which already, through its businesses, controls two thirds of the Argentinean economy.

We see two warning signals for Argentina in the immediate future: first the Peronist union bureaucracy and secondly the state security apparatus and its mirror in the armed forces. In the first case it is not only about the CTA as the key institution for the future. It is also about the governments, and the ideological heirs of Peron's legacy: my only hope for a good future of the country is to work with the CUT and the PT from the Argentinean economy. As Lula was formally leaving office on August 31, 2010, the historical importance of Lula's government as a catalyst to amplify the struggles. It will explode into the open and rumblings will be heard throughout the world.

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