



Fight Trump's inhuman "zero tolerance" policy

There will be *Families Belong Together* demonstrations today in every state across the country and also Washington DC against the Trump's administration's "zero tolerance" policy of separating children from families crossing the border. No racist rants from Trump, no invocation of national security, no lying claims that the children are being treated well can stop the growing anger. Not even a ruling against Trump by a federal judge for the Southern District of California last Tuesday, June 26, demanding the reuniting of the families is going to calm the anger, because people see that court rulings come and go, but the state of terror inflicted on the immigrants continue. The recent series of reactionary rulings by the Supreme Court, including approving Trump's bigoted travel ban, show that the lower courts are at most a nuisance to Trump. It is the masses of people who are putting pressure on Trump, the politicians, and the courts to not only really unite the immigrant families, but to stop oppressing the immigrants altogether.

Mass anger and protests force Trump to claim to end kidnapping immigrant children

Nationwide anger and erupting mass protests have forced the master kidnapper Donald Trump to claim to end his separation of immigrant families. Fury spread throughout the country at the spectacle of immigrant children from Central America being separated from their parents and caged like wild animals, with no preparation for reunification with their parents. ICE offices were occupied and masses protested at LaGuardia airport in New York to demonstrate support for the children. The anger at the master kidnapper was so intense and widespread that he claimed to end the separation of the children from their parents. He announced that the children would be held indefinitely, but with their families rather than alone. But even this apparent concession has been undermined by the lack of evidence of any motion to actually locate the children and their families and physically reunite them. So far this has been a verbal victory but nevertheless a setback for the grand capitalist egoist. And the growing surge of demos raises the possibility of building a serious movement in support of Central American immigrants, who are the targets of Trump's slander and suppression.

In the ensuing days, the Great Kidnapper has announced that Central American immigrants will not be given due process but just shipped off ASAP. Not only is an even more vicious attack on migrants, but it also suggests that citizens can be picked up and immediately deported without even an opportunity to prove their citizenship. At the same time the government has begun scouring the records of people who have recently acquired citizenship, looking for places where they did not dot their i's or cross their t's, so that they can be deported as well.

The Great Kidnapper is in a paroxysm of frenzy, attempting to throw out people like roaches or spiders. These are mostly workers who could lend their shoulder to the common struggle against the rich ruling capitalist class whom Trump represents. We should fight against their persecution!

One unintended consequence of Trump's vicious family separation policy has been the kindling of widespread sympathy for undocumented immigrants as human beings, with children who love them and whom they love. Dehumanizing Central Americans has been a big tactic of the orange racist from the first; he has used such terms for them as "rapists," "criminals," "animals" who "infest" this country. The heartless brutality of his approach has partly opened the eyes of many citizens who had lost humanity under the onslaught of the white supremacist propaganda barrage of Trump and his ilk. This will make it harder for them to carry out their anti-immigrant campaign.

Another unintended consequence of this storm has been the revelation that the Democrats since Clinton have also been separating immigrant children from deported adults. This was little-known before, but now the Republicans are advertising it widely, as if the fact that the Democrats are equally brutal excuses their own brutality. In fact, by this point in his presidency Obama had already deported more immigrants than Trump now has, though he had not so widely or blatantly practiced separation of children from parents as Trump has. (Trump tried to ignite anti-immigrant, anti-Latino feeling by just nakedly abusing the children, but this has lit a fire of protest against him.) But the Democrats' culpability is neither an excuse to forgive the Republicans nor a reason to discredit the current mass anger. To say to the masses today, why didn't you rebel

yesterday? is to throw cold water on the present rebellion. It is like telling a worker not to strike because, after all, the capitalists cut his wages before and he did not strike then. No, the present storm of anger is a good thing and should be continued! <>

The half-seen Karl Marx (excerpts)

Last month saw the 200th of the birth of Karl Marx (May 5, 1818-2018). It occurs as inequality, misery, and environmental ruin are increasing throughout the world, and so Marx's views now seem as fresh as ever. Many articles, books, and even a movie, *The Young Marx*, have appeared.

But while there is a flood of material about Marx, many of his views are brushed aside or forgotten or even regarded by the much of the left itself as obsolete. The movie *The Young Marx* showed, among other things, how the *Communist Manifesto* was born in the midst of a struggle against some of the most fashionable left-wing views of the time, such as those of Proudhon, the Left Hegelians, and William Weitling. Today there also has to be a struggle against fashionable views on the left if the Marxist viewpoint is to be remembered. There is much that is useful in the many commemorative articles about Marx that have appeared, but there is much that is generally ignored or misrepresented.

State-ownership is not necessarily socialism

The economists and journalists repeatedly tell us that state-ownership is socialist. The conservative *Detroit News* used to sneer that, due to its state sector, the apartheid regime in South Africa was socialist. On the left, many groups, pointing to the state sector, regard many repressive regimes as socialist or non-capitalist workers regimes. From the Chinese state-capitalist regime to the Assad dictatorship, a number of leftists have apologized for them.

When the identification of socialism with the state sector is falsely attributed to Marx, and workers' control is left out, one sees a revolutionary doctrine turned into its opposite.

Support of democratic struggles from a socialist standpoint

Marx showed that democracy alone does not liberate the working class, but he didn't thereby denigrate the democratic movements and revolutions. He held that the workers might go through decades of preliminary struggles before the socialist revolution, and these struggles would help mold them into a revolutionary class. This might seem like something everyone on the left agrees with. Yet much of the left disagrees in practice.

For years now we have seen much of the left denounce the struggle against the Assad dictatorship in Syria. There isn't a slander known that hasn't been thrown at the Syrian democrats; even the non-armed White Helmets who simply provide medical care for the victims of the conflict have been denounced as alleged imperialist agents. Similar abuse has been thrown at democrats in Hong Kong, in the former republics of the USSR, and elsewhere.

A note on the book *Marx 200*

Marx 200--a review of Marx's economics 200 years after his birth is a new book by Michael Roberts. He is regarded by many as a Marxist economist, and he promises that "This book will look back at Marx's economic ideas and see just how relevant they are for 21st century." Yet it ignores most of the points where Marx is especially needed and relevant.

Roberts, for example, has nothing to say about the nature of the state sector in the present-day economies. In particular, he doesn't speak directly to the nature of the former USSR or of China or Cuba. Are these state-capitalist countries or did they escape capitalism and the law of value? Are these models of what he considers the alternative to capitalism? These are major questions as people don't want the oppressive Stalinist system that eventually was seen in the USSR. If Marx's economics is still relevant, it must shed light on such issues.

When it comes to the environment, Roberts says that Marx and Engels denounced capitalism for devastating it. But he avoids their analysis of the need for planning. He says nothing about the contrast between the market measures championed by bourgeois environmentalists and truly effective regulatory measures. To show the relevance of Marxism for the 21st century, one can't leave out the issues which are becoming more pressing by the day -- the role of planning and regulation with respect to the environment, and what this means about what an alternative to capitalism would be.

What we need is not simply to learn to use Marxist terms like "capitalist accumulation", but to see how Marx's analysis applies to one crucial issue facing us after another. Instead Michaels's book is a toothless version of Marxism, more concerned with debating technicalities with other economists than with dealing with what we need to do today. (Full article at <http://www.comunistvoice.org/DSWV-180531.html>) <>

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