

APRIL 2020

Very short Calendar this month,
beginning on p. 3.

NEWS UPDATES:

Pacifica members reject
undemocratic Bylaws.

LA County voters adopt
Measure R: Reform LA Jails.

LA CAN, Ground Game form
mutual aid network.

D.A. Jackie Lacey falls short,
forced into run-off.

US surpasses all other
countries in COVID-19 cases.

Things Fall Apart

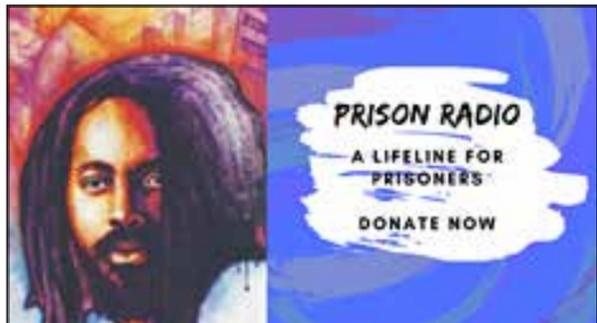
© by Mumia Abu-Jamal March 27, 2020

The great African writer, Chinua Achebe, I believe, wrote a novel of the ravages of colonialism, which bore the title, "Things Fall Apart." He borrowed the title from the famed Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, who wrote:

"Things fall apart.

The center cannot hold.

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."



We see, outside our doors, our windows, a world we did know, that now exists. A silent, unseen disease, gives vent to massive unease, and unleashes unprecedented fear.

Political leaders pose and preen, saying little of substance, and even less of sense. But in every utterance comes a fevered sub-text: "Praise me, praise me, praise me!" while dozens and then hundreds die daily, and thousands, yea tens of thousands, fall ill. Trillions of dollars dry up, like fruit fall from a tree. They fall, rot, unusable -- gone, like the wind.

Politicians fill the air with words, but no solution is in sight.

Several weeks ago, a pandemic came to visit the world's richest country, and things fall apart.

From imprisoned nation, this Mumia Abu-Jamal. [sound of cell door slamming.]

These commentaries are recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of <https://www.prisonradio.org/>

COVID-19 Prison Lockdown By Leonard Peltier- March 18, 2020

We were notified this afternoon, that we are going on a lockdown, the whole institution, and the lockdown will be for at least 30 days. We were told we would be given 500 minutes for the phone, which is 200 minutes more than usual, so it doesn't sound like we will be in our cells. I don't know if we will be able to write letters or receive mail. I will not be visiting anyone if I survive that is for at least 30 days and the virus doesn't get into Coleman I. As far as I know no one has the virus in USP Coleman complex.

I keep getting conflicting info but we were allowed to go outside for the evening, and we are now on the inside flats. Maybe it is just visiting that have been cancelled and there is no contact with outside peoples we or most of us anyway agree this needs to be done, because no one it seems knows if they have contacted the virus or not.

So as long as I can, I will send you updates as long as I can, I want to tell all of you to be safe out there as this virus is not racist and anyone can get it. If all possible please look out for the people in the Native Nations, if you know our history in these sorts of pandemics, Native people are the last to get help and I have babies (grandchildren) out there.

GET CONNECTED! CHANGE THE WORLD!

changeLinks

STOP THE WARS - PEACE, EQUALITY & JUSTICE FOR ALL!

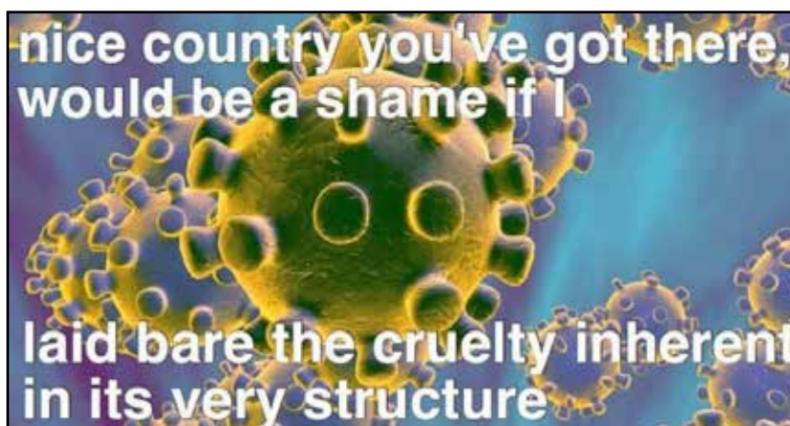
COVID-19:

Capitalism in Crisis!

Capitalist agriculture and Covid-19: A deadly combination

<https://climateandcapitalism.com/2020/03/11/capitalist-agriculture-and-covid-19-a-deadly-combination/>

A socialist biologist explains the tight links between new viruses, industrial food production, and the profitability of multinational corporations. Excerpt here, continues online.



The new coronavirus is keeping the world in a state of shock. But instead of fighting the structural causes of the pandemic, the government is focusing on emergency measures.

Yaak Pabst for the German socialist magazine Marx21 spoke to evolutionary biologist Rob Wallace, author of *Big Farms Make Big Flu* (Monthly Review Press, 2016) about the dangers of Covid-19, the responsibility of agribusiness, and sustainable solutions to combat infectious diseases. Marx21 released the interview in advance of its scheduled March 30 publication date.

Marx21: How dangerous is the new coronavirus?

Rob Wallace: It depends on where you are in the timing of your local outbreak of Covid-19: early, peak level, late? How good is your region's public health response? What are your demographics? How old are you? Are you immunologically compromised? What is your underlying health? To ask an undiagnosable possibility, do your immunogenetics, the genetics underlying your immune response, line up with the virus or not?

Q: So all this fuss about the virus is just scare tactics?

A: No, certainly not. At the population level, Covid-19 was clocking in at between 2 and 4% case fatality ratio or CFR at the start of the outbreak in Wuhan. Outside Wuhan, the CFR appears to drop off to more like 1% and even less, but also appears to spike in spots here and there, including in places in Italy and the United States. Its range doesn't seem much in comparison to, say, SARS at 10%, the influenza of 1918 5-20%, "avian influenza" H5N1 60%, or at some points Ebola 90%. But it certainly exceeds seasonal influenza's 0.1% CFR. The danger isn't just a matter of the death rate, however. We have to grapple with what's called penetrance or community attack rate: how much of the global population is penetrated by the outbreak.

Q: Can you be more specific?

A: The global travel network is at record connectivity. With no vaccines or specific antivirals for coronaviruses, nor at this point any herd immunity to the virus, even a strain at only 1% mortality can present a considerable danger. With an incubation period of up to two weeks and increasing evidence of some transmission before sickness—before we know people are infected—few places would likely be free of infection. If, say, Covid-19 registers 1% fatality in the course of infecting four billion people, that's 40 million dead. A small proportion of a large number can still be a large number. *Read more online!*

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Statement On Discrimination and the Coronavirus Pandemic

We are disappointed and disturbed by the discriminatory sentiment aimed at Asian Americans in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic in Asia. In order to prevent xenophobia, Asian Americans Advancing Justice calls on the media to be conscious of how they frame stories around the coronavirus and for social media platforms to dispel the spread of misinformation. We also urge the public to refrain from targeting Asian Americans. Common sense needs to prevail where people understand and focus on the facts of the virus.

No amount of fear can excuse prejudice and discrimination against Asian Americans. Throughout history, Asian Americans have been wrongly targeted due to mass hysteria, from the use of the racist term "Yellow Peril" to refer to East Asians as a danger to Western civilization to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. Every Asian American has the right to go to school, work, and other public places without being subjected to racial discrimination.

We encourage individuals who have experienced a hate incident or other racist actions tied to the coronavirus outbreak to report it to:

www.StandAgainstHatred.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice is a national affiliation of five leading organizations advocating for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and other underserved communities to promote a fair and equitable society for all. The affiliation's members are: Advancing Justice | AAJC (Washington, DC), Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, Advancing Justice – Atlanta, and Advancing Justice | Chicago.

Movement for Black Lives

Nationwide cities and states continue to enact round-the-clock "shelter-in-place" orders to enforce social distancing and stanch the spread of COVID-19. Historical and present-day systemic racism means the resulting health and economic crisis is worse for Black communities.

M4BL is joining with Color of Change and other partners to demand and fight for what needs to be done right now to stop the spread and lasting harm of COVID-19, while demanding a recovery that benefits everyday people, not just big corporations. Join us – sign our petition.

We demand more from our elected officials. We are calling on local, state, and

national leaders to ensure that future action to address the COVID-19 crisis prioritizes our communities over corporations and does not contribute to militarization and criminalization.

These demands are a product of collective work and reflect demands made by numerous other groups including the National Council, Communities United for Police Reform, Arch City Defenders, St. Louis Action, Prison Policy Initiative, Color of Change, Law for Black Lives, Coleman Advocates, Justice LA, Working Families Party, United We Dream, No Kids in Prison Campaign, and others.



Social Cohesion and Social Solidarity as the Antidote to Social Distancing

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-L.A.

I think we should rename "Social Distancing." People in the U.S. are already far too socially distanced from each other, driving in our steel cocoons, riding the buses and trains in unreceptive, unresponsive isolation, each glued to our own screen, ears filled with our own soundtrack.

Let's call it socially responsible physical distancing, adopting it as a sacrifice, and thereby acknowledging our social connection to, interaction with, and responsibility towards all the others who are likewise consciously sacrificing proximity and interaction for the good of all. Instead of expanding our personal-space bubble, already much greater in the US than in most other countries and cultures, let's use the two-meter distancing to send out psychic and emotional tendrils, recognizing and connecting with the common humanity and vulnerability of all those who are doing the same.

The US is all too often the homeland of anomie. Anomie is, on a personal level, a state or condition of unrest, unease, alienation and uncertainty, resulting from a lack of connection, from the absence of the sense of purpose or ideals that give meaning to life. On a social level, anomie is the breakdown of the capacity of a society or culture to give moral guidance to its individual members. The term was coined by Emile Durkheim in his study of suicide, when he perceived that some suicides resulted from society being unable to provide common understandings and common values to its members, in whom this produced a sense of futility, emotional emptiness and despair.

These psychological states, characterized by a lack of purpose or sense of self-worth within a larger, meaningful whole, led to individual suicides. The US, wedded to a false ideology of white supremacy and supposed American exceptionalism that is completely unmoored from reality, has been committing collective suicide, blindly upholding an American Way Of Life -- AWOL -- in which morality, altruism and collective commitment to the greater good are indeed AWOL - absent without leave.

We are all now collectively paying the price for the anarchy of capitalism, of production for profit. In this holographic, fractal society, the same inherent irreconcilable contradictions are imprinted at every level from the sub-microscopic to the planetary, found in every part as in the whole. The reason there are not enough masks and other protective equipment for medical and care-giving personnel, let alone all the workers who need them -- the grocery clerks, postal carriers, field hands, fast food workers, machinists, janitors, teachers, check-out cashiers or nannies -- is not merely because Trump fucked up in poo-hooing the coronavirus for too many vital weeks, but because as a commodity under capitalism, such emergency products have been outsourced for production to cheap-labor countries, so that the maximum value can be extracted from super-exploited labor.

They are produced within the global supply chain in quantities established by the market for maximum profitability and efficiency on the distribution end as well, according to the principles of just-in-time inventory control -- the same reason the stores ran out of toilet paper when everyone tried to buy some extra at the same time. The cornucopia does not fill itself endlessly and automatically; provisions are provided by collective and coordinated human labor.

So we need to embrace socially-responsible distancing as a discipline, a practice of mindfulness and connectedness

For your singing pleasure, here's one of the greatest songs about solidarity and class struggle ever written:

Solidarity Forever:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCnEAH5wCzo>

When the union's inspiration
Through the workers blood shall run
There can be no power greater
Anywhere beneath the sun
Yet what force on earth is weaker
Than the feeble strength of one
But the union makes us strong

CHORUS: Solidarity forever
Solidarity forever
Solidarity forever
For the union makes us strong

Is there aught we hold in common
with the greedy parasite,
Who would lash us into serfdom
and would crush us with his might?
Is there anything left to us
but to organize and fight?
For the Union makes us strong.
[CHORUS]

It is we who plowed the prairies
Built the cities where they trade
Dug the mines and built the workshops
Endless miles of railroad laid
Now we stand outcast and starving
Midst the wonders we have made
But the union makes us strong

to other humans engaging in a similar socially-beneficial practice for the common good. In so doing, we can use it as an antidote -- not to the coronavirus, but to the far more destructive viral memes that govern our consciousness and behavior under capitalism and colonialism: look out for number one, money talks, America first, nice guys finish last, my way or the highway; you're fired; you snooze, you lose; it's a dog eat dog world; if you're white, you're all right, if you're Black, get back; you're beautiful when you're angry; don't worry your pretty little head about it-- all the sickness of the spirit and the lack of moral guidance that brought us Trump.

Our latest wartime president is learning willy-nilly that bullets and bombs are useless against a virus -- and in fact, in the long run, are useless against the desire for freedom of a united people.

We need social cohesion and social solidarity, to restore the understanding that we ARE our brothers' and our sisters' keepers, to regain the commitment to think always of the needs of the seventh generation coming, that was developed by the indigenous people of this land whom this society tried and failed to exterminate. We need to stand with the prisoners, with the migrants in detention, with the unhoused, with the Gazans. But we also need to regain a sense of our own collective purpose and united power.

This social hiatus, the stay-at-home orders, the sheltering-in-place, have demonstrated in a few days' time that this society runs on the work-a-day people who make and move everything. Their lockout, their enforced absence, has taken big business and Wall Street to their knees in a matter of days. Let this be a lesson to us all about the power of the general strike, the capacity to topple the high and mighty by withholding our labor, refusing to consent, ending our identification with our oppressors and exploiters.

All the power the rulers possess is taken from the people they oppress; all their wealth is stolen from the people and the land, the bountiful products and ecosystems of nature that capitalism is ruining. The modern alchemists who spin gold out of the blood, sweat, toil and tears, the likes, tweets and data of billions, understand very clearly that unless they keep extracting it daily, hourly, their wealth and power can vanish in an instant, like the housing bubble and stock market bubble that inevitably popped; like the banks that could never provide even pennies on the dollar if everyone came for their cash like they do for toilet paper. We need to seize this crisis as a teachable moment, a learning moment when that truth becomes clear, like an epiphany, to the people being exploited and oppressed.

[CHORUS]

They have taken untold millions
That they never toiled to earn
But without our brain and muscle
Not a single wheel can turn
We can break their haughty power
Gain our freedom when we learn
That the union makes us strong
[CHORUS]

All the world that's owned by idle drones
is ours and ours alone.
We have laid the wide foundations;
built it skyward stone by stone.
It is ours, not to slave in,
but to master and to own.
While the Union makes us strong.
[CHORUS]

In our hands is placed a power
Greater than their hoarded gold
Greater than the might of armies
Magnified a thousand-fold
We can bring to birth a new world
From the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong
[CHORUS]

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April 2020, Vol. 26 Number 10

IN MEMORY OF



**Co-founder & Editor John Johnson,
b. July 4, 1944 - d. April 13, 2014**

Editorial Staff: Terrie Brady, Donna Buell, Bella De Soto,
Greg Foisie, Jeff Hirsch, Ray Jones, Rob Macon, Michael
Novick, Dean Ruby, David Troy & others.

**Deadline for articles and ads is the 15th,
deadline for calendar items is the 20th
of the month before publication.**

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AFGJ/Change-Links.

This is an independent collective activity. We welcome your
involvement to keep the paper and website alive. Views
expressed in Change-Links are those of the authors, and
not necessarily those of Change-Links, its volunteers, or
sponsors. Letters of comment are welcome!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**If you can help sell ads, collect items for the
monthly calendar, do print layout, handle a
wordpress website, or do copy editing and
proof-reading -- Change Links needs you!
Please email changelinks2@gmail.com to
volunteer and learn more. We hope you will step
up if you value the paper!**

**On the 3rd Thurs. each month we have a
teleconference call to plan the next issue.
Email us at changelinks2@gmail.com for
details. The last Thursday eve. each month,
we gather at the Peace Center at 7:30pm
for a mailing and bundle-distribution party
and a discussion about the following
month's issue. To get involved, call or email
as below to make sure of the date & time.**

We have poetry in each issue; send submissions to:
changelinks2@gmail.com. Please include a bio & photo.

Submit articles, preferably in .doc format, to:
changelinks2@gmail.com.

Calendar items to same address, (Change-Links calendar
item in subject line); include title of event, day, date, time,
location, fee if any, a short description, contact information
for sponsors, and a small jpg graphic if you have one.
Please spell out all words and capitalize street names, etc.

**A \$5 donation for calendar listings
is appreciated.**

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Southern California Community Calendar

APRIL 2020 Earth in Quarantine

Listings subject to change. Contact sponsor to verify date & time. See www.change-links.org for full late listings, recurring events, & resources.

Change Links cannot publish without your support. Send events, articles or poetry to changelinks2@gmail.com or via <http://change-links.org/submit/>. Please subscribe as well. Subscriptions to the print edition are \$12/25/50 a year, low income, regular or sustainer (sliding scale), **Payable to "AFGJ," our fiscal sponsor, with "Change Links" in the memo.** All events announced are encouraged to donate \$5 (per event), payable to AFGJ, mail to Change Links, PO Box 34236, LA 90034. It helps keep this publication solvent. Thanks in advance.

In light of the current COVID-19 global pandemic, and quarantines in California, the Change Links Calendar has also been affected by cancellation of events and closure of venues. Consequently, we will print fewer copies and mail out more until further notice. You'll notice there are empty dates on this calendar. Most have turned to virtual meetings via teleconferencing, etc. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you contact any event listing of interest in this Calendar before you attend, as the ones listed herein were posted prior to actual circumstances reaching a heightened level of awareness..

Please contact the event by phone, email or website for updates.

Change Links urges all our subscribers and readers to administer all necessary precautions, to insure their safety. You will find a number of related articles to COVID-19 in this April print and electronic issue. We will continue to update you going forward. We advise you as well to do your personal research for updates from all available sources to you. We face a difficult time, and wish you and yours good health and tranquility as we weather this together.

Peace vigils: <http://change-links.org/ongoing-peace-vigils-and-community-programs/>

Other Calendars: <http://ocprogressiveevents.info/>,
<http://la.indymedia.org/calendar/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ieprogressivealliance/events/>,
<http://www.activistsandiego.org/event>, <https://vcpjn.org/calendar/>,
<https://echoparkfilmcenter.org>.

On-Going & Continuing Events

3rd Sunday, KPFF Local Station Board meeting, 10:30a-1:30p. Open to the public with 3 opportunities for short public comments. Check www.kpff.org for other meetings, including LSB committees. The last meeting in March was conducted via Zoom conference call. Further info announced over KPFF 90.7 FM air waves and kpff.org

Sundays, RAC-LA Food Program (El Programa Comida) Revolutionary Autonomous Communities, 1-5p, SE corner of Wilshire Bl & Parkview St, LA 90057, free produce distribution. <https://www.facebook.com/raclosangeles/>

Sundays, Serve the People LA, 4-6p, Mariachi Plaza, 1817 E 1st St, LA 90033. STPLA free food & clothing distributions (along with books, shoes, etc). We also engage the community on happenings around the neighborhood and city, learn about grievances and provide legal services with help from the LA Ctr for Community Law & Action. <https://servethepeoplela.wordpress.com/>

3rd Sunday, SoCal350 monthly meeting, 3-5 p, Physical meeting cancelled, virtual "meeting" scheduled. <http://bit.ly/SoCal350Updates>; [facebook.com/SoCal350](https://www.facebook.com/SoCal350) Climate Action.

Mondays, Support Honduran Refugees, 6-8p, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN-LA), 2845 W 7th St, LA. Respond to Trump's zero tolerance policies on Refugees and Asylum and to prepare to receive the Refugee Caravan from Honduras and other immigrants from Central America. Offices are closed, called for details: (213)-385-7800. In the San Fernando Valley: 213-385-7800 ext. 122



D.A. Lacey was forced into a run-off, blocked from re-election the March primary.

Tuesdays, Join Black Lives Matter, Stop LAPD Spying and allies at LA Police Commission meeting at LAPD HQ, 9:30a, 100 W. 1st St to speak out against racist police murders with impunity. Police Commission meetings canceled until further notice: http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission www.stoplapspying.org

Tuesday eves, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition meetings have been changed to teleconference. LA CAN, 838 E. 6th St. LA, CA 90021, is closed to the public. <http://stoplapspying.org> - see website for meeting topics. <https://www.facebook.com/stoplapspying>

Tuesdays, 8:30-10p, Second Draft LA, open mic cold read of writing and acting at Art Share-LA, 801 E 4th Pl, LA 90013. <https://artsharela.org> (213) 687-4278. Website now describes virtual galleries and at-home "concerts" so this has probably been canceled. <https://zoom.us/j/9103444651> Pwd: artshare

Wednesdays, 4-6p, Black Lives Matter-led vigil vs. DA Jackie Lacey with families who have lost loved ones to police & sheriff's deputies succeeded in denying DA Lacey immediate re-election and forced her into a November run-off. Has been converted to an Instagram action. www.blmla.org

Wednesdays, 6-7:30p, LA CAN Legal Clinic, LA CAN, 838 E. 6th St. LA, CA 90021. Suspended until further notice. Call 213.228.0024 for information about how to address needs of unhoused people during the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond.

3rd Wed, 7p, Community Alternatives to 9-1-1 training, Chuco's Justice Center of Youth Justice Coalition. 7625 S. Central Ave, LA 90001. Check for status: 323-235-4243 [action@youth4justice.org/](mailto:action@youth4justice.org)

Last Wed, 7p "Ditch The Two Parties Of Wall Street" Peace & Freedom Party monthly meeting, 2617 S. Hauser Bl., LA, 90016 (Steps South from Adams Ave. (just East of Fairfax Ave.)) ~ Socialism Now! www.Peace & Freedom Party.org-LA Chapter.

1st Thursday, 6-8p, Justice Not Jails, has switched to a virtual meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/529548178> You can also call in by dialing: 301 715 8592 US Meeting ID: 529 548 17. RSVP to Larry Foy at: Lfoy@im4humanintegrity.org.

Fridays, Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace forum, 7-9a, has switched to a virtual meeting. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/975550345> Meeting ID: 975 550 345 Or dial in by phone: 669-900-6833 www.icujp.org.

Fridays, 5-6p, Vigil for Peace & Justice, sponsored by KPFF LSB Outreach Committee & friends. Join us for a fun time outreaching & making noise at Sunset Blvd & Echo Park Ave. Bring your signs.

1st & 3rd Fri, LA Poverty Department Movie Nights, 7p, Skid Row History Museum & Archive, 250 S. Broadway, LA 90012. movie nights@lapovertydept.org. 213-413-1077. Suspended for the duration.

3rd Fri: Lawyers in the Library, 1-4p, www.lalawlibrary.org/classes, 213-785-2516, 301 W. 1st, LA 90012. All libraries in the city and county, as well as Santa Monica and other cities are closed.

Saturdays, Crenshaw Farmers Market, 10a-3p, 3650 Martin Luther King Blvd. offers fresh produce and artisan goods. Ties into the mall's health initiative promoting wellness in the Crenshaw community. Closed until further notice. Contact Sustainable Economic Enterprises: www.seela.org Some other farmer's markets are continuing with social distancing.

Every 1st and 3rd Sat: End Homelessness Now-LA, 2-4pm, a grassroots campaign to pressure LA city and county officials to use vacant public properties for large, permanent, supportive public housing to end the homelessness catastrophe. Solidarity Hall, 2122 W. Jefferson Blvd., LA 90018, w. of Arlington Ave. Free street parking. 323-723-6416 endhomelessnessnowla@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/endhomelessnessnowla/>

Every 2nd Sat. of the month: Welcome Home LA, resources for those returning from jail, prison and juvenile detention, Chuco's Justice Center of Youth Justice Coalition. 7625 S. Central Ave, LA 90001. 323-235-4243 <http://www.youth4justice.org/> Also, 2nd and 4th Saturdays, free Legal Clinic, 10a-noon.

Every 2nd & 4th Sat, SOLA Food Co-Op www.solafoodcoop.com/ Baldwin Hills Farmers Market is closed. SOLA Co-Op has been taking some orders for pick-up.

2nd and 4th Sat, Chuco's Justice Center legal clinic: 10a-12n, 7625 S Central Ave LA 90001, 323-235-4243. Prepare for Court - Build a Participatory Defense Strategy, Petition to Have Your Name Removed from a Gang Database or Gang Injunction, Expunge Your Criminal or Juvenile Record Prepare for the Parole Board / Commutations and Pardons / Get Prop 47 Relief Immigration Law / Deportation Defense. Contact: info@youth4justice.org

Every Sat, JVP - CodePINK Vigil for Palestine & Migrant Rights, 2-4p, 3rd St. Promenade at Arizona Ave., Santa Monica suspended until further notice.

Last Saturday, Move to Amend Local Meeting, 1-3p, Holy Grounds Coffee & Tea, 5371 Alhambra Ave, LA 90032, 323-255-1279. Call to check, venue probably closed.

WED APR 1 April Fools' Day

THU APR 2

Film Screening: The Historical Legacy of El Movimiento Campesino, 6-8p, Our Lady of Guadalupe-Oxnard, 500 N Juanita Ave, Oxnard, 93030. Film Showing of the historical legacy of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and the United Farm Workers Union: followed by a panel and discussion about the *Lucha* of today! <https://www.facebook.com/events/225670461923986/> **Not cancelled.**

FRI APR 3

Topanga Peace Alliance Film, 7:30p, Topanga County Library, Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd, 90290. Discussion after the film. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53323228710/> **County libraries are closed for the duration-- check.**

SAT APR 4

A conversation about the War on Drugs, 12n-4p, Frente Indigena de Organizaciones Binacionales L.A, 4318 S Main St, LA 90037. The FIOB and Cielo Gallery host a conversation about the impact of the war on drugs on Indigenous people. Conversation with Dawn Paley, Gladys Tzul and John Gibler moderated by Daniel Hernandez. RSVP to ClaudioH@mycielo.org to confirm attendance (limited capacity) <https://www.facebook.com/events/2611577698960362/> **This event has not been cancelled so far...**

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SUN APR 5

Zapata March has been postponed

Committee for Racial Justice presents: Gathering to Uplift, Inform and Inspire During the Pandemic, 6:30-8p

Join CRJ by Zoom. RSVP to committee4racialjustice@gmail.com for Zoom info. Panelists include: Alisa Orduna, former Director of Homelessness Policy of LA, and now Senior Advisor on Homelessness to the City Manager for the City of Santa Monica and Rev. Janet McKeithen, minister of the Church in Ocean Park and member of the steering committee of CRJ.

MON APR 6

TUE APR 7

McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club

Canceled: Laughtears.com is postponing all events. New dates are pending and TBA. Call Gerry Fialka 310-306-7330 for more. "You know we gotta stick together." - Frank Zappa. "World War I a railway war of centralization and encirclement. World War II a radio war of decentralization concluded by the Bomb. World War III a TV guerrilla war with no divisions between civil and military fronts." — Marshall McLuhan, *Take Today: The Executive as Dropout* (1972).

WED APR 8

Laughtears Salon Canceled. See Apr 7.

CopWatch Santa Ana Meeting/Community Forum, 7-10p, Centro Cultural de México, 837 N. Ross St. Santa Ana (new address) Participate in direct-action based barrio organizing against the police state. 2nd Wed. every month at 7p. Professional childcare provided. Agents of the state including Santa Ana PD and ICE are NOT welcome. <http://ocprogressiveevents.info> editor@ocProgressiveEvents.info **The listing website was emailed for an update, but no response...**

THU APR 9

Change Links monthly planning conference call, 7:30p, email changelinks2@gmail.com for details. Get involved in planning the April issue. Note that we are switching to Thursday evenings for this call because of on-going conflicts for several members on the previous Wednesday night call.

FRI APR 10

SAT APR 11

SUN APR 12

MON APR 13

TUE APR 14

WED APR 15

MOM - MEDIA DISCUSSION Canceled, See Apr 7.

THU APR 16

LA County Sheriff's Community Oversight Commission, All physical meetings cancelled, may be turned into a virtual conference meeting. Please check their website for updates. <https://coc.lacounty.gov>, 213-253-5678

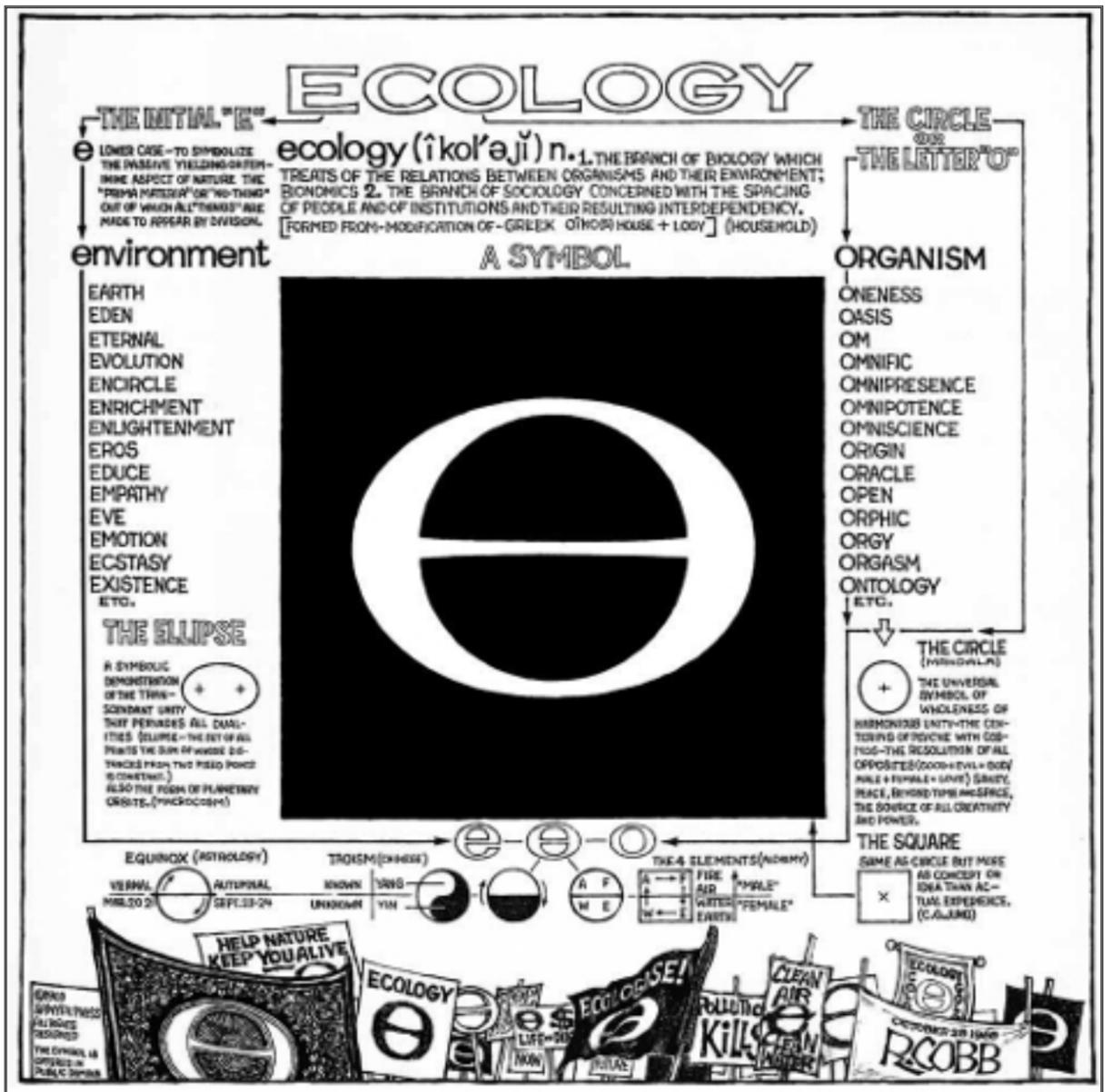
Whittier Peace Film Night, Canceled. Call 562-233-8579

FRI APR 17

Palestinian Prisoners' Day

SAT APR 18

LA Times Festival of Books at USC postponed to Oct 3-4, 2020.



SUN APR 19

KPFK Local Station Board meeting, 10:30a-2p, will be conducted by ZOOM teleconference. Public may watch on-line, muted and given an opportunity for public comment for 1/2 hour. See kpfk.org or kpfkx.org for details on teleconference.

Earth Day Greater LA 2020 in Grand Park has been cancelled. Check EarthDayGreaterLA2020.live for details and information

AGLU: Protecting Your Privacy in the Digital Age, cancelled.

MON APR 20

National High School Walkout (anniversary of the Columbine shooting)

TUE APR 21

WED APR 22

Earth Day https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day **A message to our readers about COVID-19.** With the uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we want to reassure our readers across the globe that our volunteers are working to bring you a trusted source of unbiased information. Throughout these challenging times, knowledge must and will remain open for all.

Youth Climate Strike Earth Day 50th Rally/March, 10:30a, downtown LA, TBD. Notice on their facebook site: "Our events will be moved and or canceled for our future events." But it did not state, this event was cancelled! <https://www.facebook.com/events/528655924727024/> <https://strikewithus.org/>

THU APR 23

42th Annual Labor, Social, and Environmental Justice Fair Sponsored by Labor Studies Dept and Labor and Social Justice Club, CSU Dominguez Hills. Event cancelled, campus closed, converted to Virtual Conference

FRI APR 24

Mumia Abu Jamal's Birthday

March for Justice (Armenian genocide), march from Hollywood Bl. and Western Av to Turkish Consulate General in LA. <https://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/278296/> *No news of event cancellation on this site, as of Sun., 3-22-20.*

SAT APR 25

SUN APR 26
PIANO AS EXPERIMENTAL FILM was canceled.

MON APR 27

TUE APR 28

WED APR 29

Anniversary of 1992 LA Uprising over acquittal of cops who beat Rodney King, and slap on the wrist of the grocer who shot and killed Latasha Harlins.

THU APR 30

Change Links monthly distribution meeting, 7:30p, Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City 90230, free parking in rear, dial 22 for entry. Email changelinks2@gmail.com for details.

Top Sulfur-Rich Foods And Why You Need Them

<https://fullscript.com/blog/sulfur-rich-foods>

Sulfur is a mineral that is critical to the human body, but chances are you've never sought out to eat sulfur-rich foods. Sulfur is the third most abundant mineral found in our bodies after calcium and phosphorus.

Sulfur-rich foods have many health benefits and a deficiency may negatively impact your health.

Health benefits of sulfur

Sulfur has a long history of being used for a variety of dermatological disorders, as an ingredient in acne ointments, in anti-dandruff shampoos, and as an antidote for acute exposure to radioactive materials. Sulfur aids in wound healing via keratin and has a history of folk usage as a remedy for skin rashes.

Top 7 sulfur-rich foods

Here is a sulfur-rich foods list:

1. Allium vegetables: onions, garlic, etc.
2. Cruciferous vegetables: cabbage, kale, etc.
3. Eggs
4. Fish, seafood, meat
5. Fruit: peaches, olives (Sulfur dioxide in dried fruit can cause asthma symptoms in those who are predisposed.)
6. Dairy products
7. Nuts and seeds: walnuts, sunflower seeds, etc.

In addition to their sulfur content, nuts also contain sources of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, fiber, protein, magnesium, and vitamin E.

Brazil: fighting coronavirus and capital

This article was originally published on 14 March. The situation in Brazil has developed since, and more updates will be forthcoming, but it shows how the Bolsonaro government's first move was to protect profits and continue attacks on the working class rather than protect public health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared coronavirus (officially, Covid-19) a pandemic last Wednesday (11/3). This is a public health situation in which a disease spreads throughout the world quickly and simultaneously. The first cases of internal contamination have already been diagnosed in Brazil and there are projections of an exponential growth of cases in the coming weeks.

Covid-19 in Brazil

With the arrival of the virus in Brazil, the Bolsonaro government began minimizing the impact of the disease in the country. The intentions of the government were best expressed by Economy Minister, Paulo Guedes, who declared: "I would like to know if the Legislature will approve the regulatory framework of basic sanitation, as well as the privatization of Eletrobras"⁹. Guedes' justification is that the sale of Eletrobras and the openness to private investment in basic sanitation will generate income for the government and thus enable the fight against the new virus. If money is missing, why not stop the payment of foreign debt, instead?

The statement not only makes it clear that the government's only concern is to deepen ongoing attacks, but it also highlights the fissures between the Legislature and the Executive. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Rodrigo Maia (DEM-RJ), countered Guedes, claiming that the proposals of the "anti-coronavirus" package are mediocre. While sectors of the bourgeoisie exchange barbs to see who can be the best servant of imperialism, no effective practical action to contain the coronavirus is taken.

An example of this is the total lack of movement of the Congress last week. The Minister of Health asked for R\$5 billion to finance the activities to combat the virus. The government did not take any measures to facilitate this (for example, an emergency credit request, given the public calamity, which does not need to respect the "cap" on expenditures), and nor did the Congress take any initiative to unlock R\$5 billion from other parts of the budget.

While this is happening, one of the few measures that went towards benefiting the poor, the extension of Continued Benefit – paid to those over 65 who are not entitled to retirement – overturning a veto by Bolsonaro, was then "suspended" by the Court of Auditors union.

In theory, this is an "auxiliary" body of Congress, but in practice it remains "above" the will of the representatives elected by the people.

Parliamentarians are caught up in playing games with the budget instead of approving the necessary money for the health service. Minister Guedes is looking at measures to "support" airlines and tourism companies, which are "suffering" from the crisis. That is, there is no money for the poor. But for the "suffering" companies, there's plenty.

Healthcare in Brazil

The health sector structure in Brazil cannot cope with the expected level of coronavirus cases. Mainly because of investment cuts over the last period, the approval of Constitutional Amendment 95 (which freezes the limit of public services funds for 20 years) and the instruments used by Bolsonaro to apply the amendment, such as the Decree 2,979/2019, which states the new rules that regulate the distribution of investment in the health sector.

The government knows that, with an influx of patients arriving at clinics and hospitals, the risk is that the health system will collapse and these places will turn into environments for easy proliferation of the virus. According to the Ministry of Health, as of March there have been 1,398 cases confirmed nationwide. However,



Albert Einstein Hospital had already recorded 98 cases, only in São Paulo, on the same day, and these people only partially entered the account of the Ministry of Health. The government is not even capable of calculating the right statistic, let alone fighting the virus.

Rio de Janeiro illustrates the situation well. The Maternity Hospital of Acari was designated as a reference for hospitalization and treatment of coronavirus. With no other information, hundreds of people with flu-like symptoms sought treatment there. As a result, newborn babies were more vulnerable to the common flu. On top of that, according to interviews with hospital staff, no one has received information on how to proceed. The beds, which are supposedly available, are in a closed ward that is being urgently renovated. There's no news regarding hiring specific personnel for this service. It is clear that, if the epidemic goes ahead, the situation will become chaotic very quickly.

Repressive measures, such as those taken in China, Iran, Italy, and other countries, will not solve the problem. Neither will the intensification of cuts and privatizations. The measures that the bourgeoisie have been taking prove useless and more dangerous for the majority of the population, which relies on completely gutted public health systems. The crisis is exposing the rot of the capitalist regime and will only intensify popular anger towards their governments and capitalism itself.

The initial measures taken are still timid and inefficient, because serious measures imply a turnaround of the entire economic system. Some Brazilian states are canceling



Millions of Brazilians banged pot and pans in their windows simultaneously against Bolsonaro.

classes and activities that can encourage large groups of people to gather together, but there is no coordinated action nationally. Cancelling basic education classes doesn't help at all – children will stay at home, with parents being forced to work. Who's going to take care of them? In schools, they could receive hygiene instructions, learn to wash their hands properly, continue receiving food, etc. Daily hygiene measures would help much more than dropping children on the streets without any guidance.

Urgent measures to be taken

Hygiene: Any government with a minimum commitment to taking action against contamination should start by requiring all public and private companies to start stocking alcohol gel and to implement daily cleaning services immediately in all workplaces to ensure workers' health. All companies should have services that teach people how to sanitize their hands, how to use alcohol gel, combat "fake news" that hot water and tea will solve the problem etc. In addition, every company should have a temperature test kit to check for symptoms immediately and forward test material for everyone with temperature variation, coughing, sneezing, etc.

There must be mandatory, constant cleaning of all means of transport, stairs and handrails, doors and door handles in all public places (trains, subways, buses, shopping malls, shops, banks etc.)

Economy: All the necessary money must be used to fight the pandemic. To do so, EC 95 must be revoked and the payment of the debt must be suspended immediately. In addition, all private health laboratories, hospitals and clinics should be appropriated by the government and put at the service of the population.

Speculation about alcohol gel has resulted in a further 200 percent increase in the price of this product in some regions of the country. This practice should be combated by appropriating any bank or company that tries to exploit the moment for higher profits. The production of ethanol used as fuel would need to be reversed immediately for the production of alcohol gel and other disinfectant materials.

Payment of salaries for all workers quarantined for

Cuban doctors, nurses fight COVID-19 in 37 countries

<https://cubainsidetheworld.wordpress.com/2020/03/21/cuban-doctors-serve-in-37-countries-with-covid-19/>



Havana, Mar 21 (P L) Cuba is providing medical cooperation today in 37 countries reporting Covid-19, confirmed a high official from the Ministry of Public Health (Minsap).

The Cuban physicians enjoy good health and measures have been taken for prevention and self-care, said Dr. Jorge Juan Delgado Bustillo, director of Minsap Central Unit of Medical Collaboration.

So far, no health professional has been reported to be ill with the new coronavirus in our medical teams abroad,' he told Granma newspaper.

The specialist stated that in all 59 nations are receiving medical assistance from Cuba.

During the last few days, Cuba has sent medical teams to Nicaragua, Venezuela, Surinam and Grenada with the mission of helping fight Covid-19.

This Saturday, 50 Cuban specialist on epidemiology are going to Lombardy, the Italian region most affected by the pandemic.

Cuba, in its usual demonstration of brotherhood and solidarity, is ready to help and to respond to the requests made to us, added the Minsap director.

He recalled that his country has proven this at different times, both when faced with natural disasters and when confronted Ebola in Africa.

There is a national feeling of wanting to cooperate. We receive messages from volunteers willing to go anywhere to help in this world's health situation, he said.

being carriers or suspected of carrying the coronavirus must be guaranteed, without the bureaucracy of waiting for reports or the "sickness benefit" of the INSS.

Health services: There must be an immediate hiring of physicians, nurses and health assistants and reopening of all hospital beds closed in recent years. There must be urgent transformation of ICUs into isolated units where patients can be hospitalized. The government should purchase as many artificial respiration machines as will be necessary. There must be tests for all who have symptoms (the test kit is produced in Brazil). Teams of nurses and assistants should be sent to visit elderly people who present symptoms in their homes, instead of being infected in health clinics.

Conclusion

The most urgent measures could be implemented quickly, but it is certain that there is no political will on the part of Bolsonaro's government to do so. At the same time, the directions of the working class – CUT, UNE, UBES, PT, PSOL etc. – simply adhere to the call for national unity by canceling the acts of the 14th and 18th, without explaining to the population that the government is responsible for the situation in public health today, and for the spread of contamination in the country.

Let's be blunt: without emergency measures to ensure that transport, cleaning etc., are available in every place, mass gatherings or even going to the cinema can result in the spread of contamination. Fear is not unfounded, it's very real and the government's actions have not been helpful.

All efforts to ensure the protection of the lives of the young and the working class, and the world as a whole, must be made, but surely this is also a time when workers will raise their class consciousness.

Therefore, in order to combat coronavirus, it is necessary to combat those responsible for the destruction of the SUS and Social Security. It is necessary to fight for Bolsonaro's impeachment, for a government of workers without bosses or generals. Outbreaks and epidemics would be tackled efficiently in a society where the economy was planned, as all production efforts would be quickly redirected as needed. As long as the anarchy of production remains, humanity will remain threatened by new viruses and diseases. This is not the first and will not be the last time that the working class pays with its lives for the rotten system, so Marx and Engels' phrase is more relevant than ever: *Workers of the World Unite!* [p. 5]

Pertinent Data Sources about the COVID-19 Pandemic

These virus outbreaks have been predicted by some folks dedicated to thinking outside the box in the U.S., despite inadequate government funding. One noted prognosis was by scientist

Dennis Carroll, formerly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Carroll formed a USAID program called PREDICT, where he guided trailblazing research into viruses hiding, and waiting to emerge, in animals around the world.

Eventually he had to leave, to continue his focused research. He said in one interview that much has been invested in dealing with this current outbreak, but a considerable contraction will happen again once it calms down, while so much is always earmarked for war making, not for peace time!

Here are pertinent resources for in-depth research:

<https://today.tamu.edu/2020/03/16/whats-the-difference-between-a-pandemic-epidemic-and-outbreak/>

<https://health.usnews.com/health-care/patient-advice/articles/when-and-how-to-wash-your-hands>

<http://nautil.us/issue/83/intelligence/the-man-who-saw-the-pandemic-coming>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/health/coronavirus-surfaces-aerosols.html>

<https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

You can reach Bella De Soto at:
bella@bellads.info

How far to the left are the Democrats now?

by Daniel Albert, US citizen and writer living in Norway on Quora

Well, over here in Norway, just for some perspective, the current government is the right-leaning party. The party is called Høyre, which means Right, as in right wing.

To the left of Høyre, you have the Center party, the Labor party, the Green Party, the Liberal party, the Socialist Left party, and the Red party. Labor, the center, and the liberals get most of those votes. The Socialist Left, Greens, and Reds don't get many.

To the right of Høyre, you have the Christian Folk party and the Progress party. Don't confuse them for Progressives, in other countries besides the USA, parties that call themselves Progress mean returning to a golden age of yesteryear. In other words, regression, not progress. They are very right wing.

In any case, the right wing coalition is in power.

They have not dismantled Norway's single payer healthcare system, that is universal to all who live here.

They have not eliminated tuition-free college education.

They have not busted up unions. A much much higher percentage of the workforce here is unionized.

They haven't gotten rid of paid maternity leave and paternity leave for all.

They haven't gotten rid of the state pension system, or the welfare system here, both far more generous than social security or jobless benefits in the USA.

The right wing parties in other countries maintain or enact policies which are to the left of US Democrats.

And, also for context, US Republicans of the 1950s and 1960s had platforms that looked an awful lot like modern US Democrats, including raising the minimum wage, expanding medicare, protecting social security, and paying for the programs they enact, not ballooning the deficit.

So, the current US Democrats are to the right of all of that. Most major parties outside of the USA, and Republicans from the post-FDR era.

US Democrats are a mix of right wing (Joe Manchin

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Donald Trump Minimizing and Sugarcoating Coronavirus Perils!

By Ralph Nader

Donald Trump can't fake his way through the coronavirus. It's spreading and doesn't respond to his delusions. Donald is flailing, failing, fibbing, stumbling, and scapegoating. With the stock market collapsing and the economy shaking, Donald fears defeat in November. Trump is a daily clear and present danger and he is the worst person to handle the COVID-19 crisis.

Last weekend, Trump and Mike Pence met with Brazilian officials at Mar-a-Lago, after which Brazilian President Bolsonaro's press secretary tested positive for COVID-19. Despite his potential exposure, Trump refused to take the test for coronavirus. He should take paid sick leave and let competent, experienced people take the reins to combat the virus.

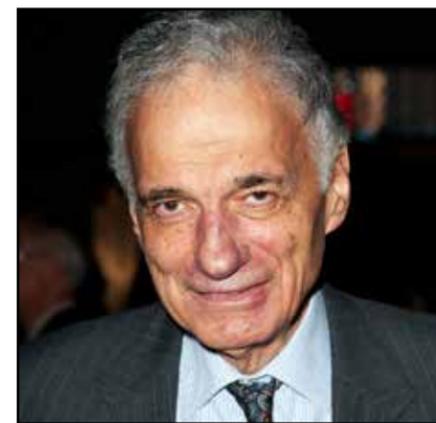
"Be calm," he says, "it will go away." "This is like the flu." On February 26, he falsely said the number of U.S. COVID-19 cases "within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero." The dangerous falsehoods

continue to pour from his fevered mind.

Trump knows that during his tenure, he took innumerable actions that have made the US more defenseless against this pandemic and other threats. He and the evil John Bolton aggressively moved to disable pandemic prevention forces in the US government, boosted by supine, maniacal right-wing talk radio show hosts (Rush Limbaugh said the virus is "just a cold"). In 2018, the head of the pandemic response team, Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer, left the National Security Council amid Bolton's restructuring. Once Ziemer was gone, Bolton dismantled the entire pandemic response team. Trump also pushed to slash the budgets of the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health. Congress stopped the cuts but couldn't repeal the destructive policies of Trump and his henchmen.

Trump insanely decided to cut USAID's Predict program, a critical federal program that tracked infectious diseases. At the same time, he poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the bloated military empire budget with congressional complicity. According to Public Citizen, Trump wanted to cut the CDC's 2021 budget by \$1.3 billion, down 19% from the previous year. The proposed CDC budget cuts included cutting \$25 million in funding for the "preparedness and response programs."

This is sheer madness: Trump has chosen death over life. Draft-dodger Trump is stockpiling mass destruction weapons that can blow up the world many times over. But the determined golfer, right in the midst of this COVID-19 surge, did not stockpile ventilators, face masks, testing



kits and other critical equipment and materials. Hospital capacity is perilously low and the number of reserve medical and nursing personnel is too small. What about readiness here at home?

Failing to head off a pandemic is what can be expected from a regime that sugarcoats and covers up its criminal negligence by not protecting the American people. Trump has blathered about China since day one, but he allowed US drug companies to continue to outsource production of most drugs to China and India. We're utterly dependent on that fragile supply chain because Big Pharma wanted to make even bigger profits—despite the handouts they already get in the form of big tax credits and free research and development of drugs by the National Institutes of Health. The US government doesn't even have price ceilings on drugs, allowing pharmaceutical companies to gouge people. There's a real possibility of drug shortages soon.

Trump is trying to buy himself out of trouble through red ink deficit spending in the tens of billions to cushion businesses. At the same time he balks at eliminating the huge tax cut he gave to big business and the wealthy to provide paid sick leave, paid medical care for the uninsured, and other assistance people will need. Poor people will especially need broader medical coverage, protections from evictions, and food assistance during the crisis. Unemployment compensation funds need to be expanded during this coming recession.

New York Times columnist Farhad Manjoo wrote that "We're all socialists in a pandemic." That brings us to the daily vindication of the Bernie Sanders campaign. Suddenly, everyone – the banks, Wall Street, the airlines, the hospitality and tourist business, beleaguered small business, and others are expecting government agencies to help in all kinds of ways. The same CEO fat cats who, in the past decade, dumped seven trillion dollars of profits into unproductive stock buy-backs to boost their compensation metrics, are looking to the government to stabilize their debt-ridden companies. [Ed. note: Neither welfare benefits for the poor nor taxpayer subsidies and federal Reserve bail-outs for corporations are "socialism", which is about public and worker control of environmentally-sustainable production for human need, not for profit.]

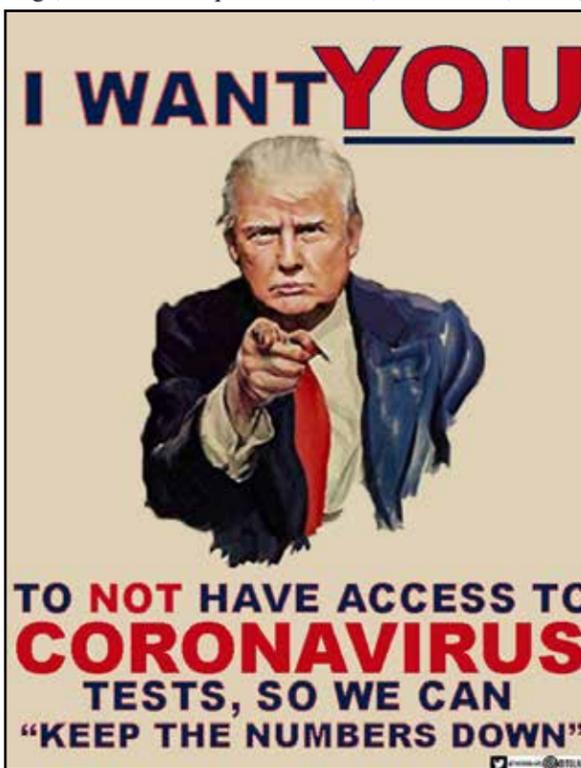
When I was campaigning for president in 2008 during the stock market crash, we hoisted a large banner at an anti-Wall Street rally that read, "Socialism bails out Capitalism." Bernie recognizes our mixed private/public economy. He wants a better balance so that the few/powerful, in their greed, do not disproportionately benefit while the many powerless suffer. Bernie wants what western European democracies have long provided for all their people: Universal health care, tuition-free education (like we have for public high schools), living wages, stronger labor unions and cooperatives, and other social safety net benefits long overdue in the world's biggest economy.

So long deprived of what they've earned, from frozen wages to looted pensions and consumer gouging, the people should shout out, "What's the big deal, we are long overdue!"

Bernie needs to continue his campaign to the Party's convention, just like Jesse Jackson did in 1984 and Ronald Reagan did in 1976. To drop out is to calamitously let down his supporters, including voters yet to vote. He would forfeit going after Trump, with media coverage, in ways faltering and gaffe-prone Joe Biden can't or won't. He would lose his leverage, backed by legions of small donors, to get concessions from Biden and his entrenched Democrats. Besides, Biden could stumble before the convention.

So it's not just about voting margins in primaries; it's about policies for the present and future of the US. Politics is about timing; now Bernie's proposals will receive more attention from everybody affected.

And everybody is affected by the looming coronavirus pandemic. --Ralph Nader



Trump wants YOU!
The Good Liars
Digital Print, 2020
New York, NY
2020

<http://www.politicalgraphics.org/american-icons>

is firmly right wing) and center-right (See W.J. Clinton, H.R. Clinton, Barack Obama, Joe Biden, John Kerry, etc) and centrist (Elizabeth Warren).

Bernie Sanders is center-left. There is much, much further to the left than him. There are minor US. socialist and communist parties. None of them have a platform that looks anything remotely like the Democratic party platform.

You have been lied to, a lot, by the US media. You have no idea where the left even is, by comparison to every other country on Earth.

**M4BL
& COLOR OF CHANGE
NATIONAL DEMANDS FOR
COVID-19**

**Emergency Labor Response
to the COVID-19 Crisis**

To sign on to this document please click here: <https://forms.gle/RP72hrDGUvYFxfkiJ7>

...Continued from p. 1

The people first!

All relief efforts must prioritize Black families and communities over corporations, including both formal and informal workers. We must mold long-term economic solutions that not only address the immediate crisis but pave the way for a just recovery that doesn't prioritize corporations and leave our communities behind.

Free 'em all!

There must be a thorough plan to release people from jails, prisons, and detention centers. In this moment, we must get our people out of cages and ensure they have what they need to be healthy and free.

Housing and Health for All!

All barriers to housing, healthcare, and education must be removed. We must ensure that Black communities have housing, healthcare, and access to education.

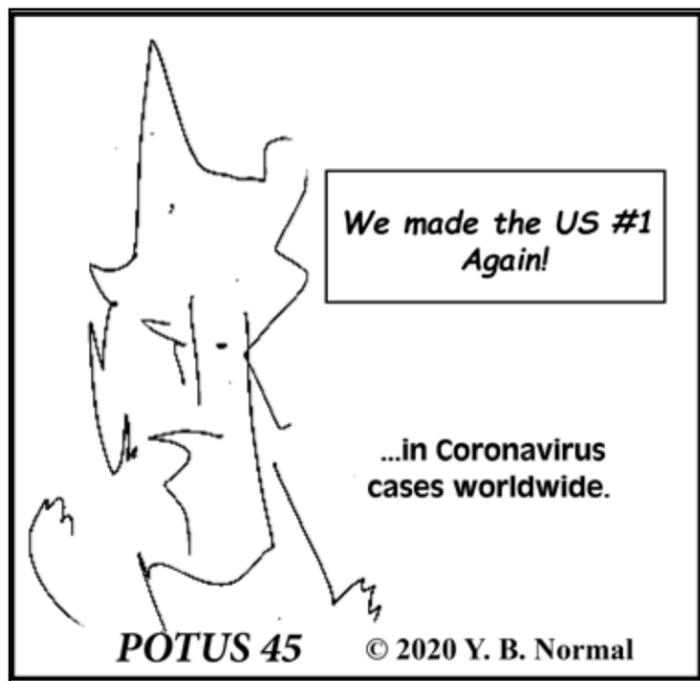
Free the VOTE!

Every person should be able to vote! We must ensure that ALL people have access to the ballot and do not have to risk their health to vote.

Healthcare NOT warfare!

Emergency powers must not be abused and people's health and safety must be a priority. In national disasters, protecting the people and the broader public health and safety is priority. We must ensure that public protection is not abused or militarized.

Visit www.M4BL.org for more details on what we're calling on local, state, and federal officials to do.



Is there aught we have in common with the greedy parasite? NO!

**Dan Kovacevich,
former CEO of Wells Fargo:**

"We'll gradually bring [workers younger than 55] back to work late next month, if the virus is under control, and see what happens. Some of them will get sick, some may even die, I don't know. Do you want to suffer more economically or take some risk of getting flu-like symptoms and a flu-like experience?"

Do you want to take an economic risk or a health risk? You get to choose." [p. 7]

Due to inaction by the federal government and other authorities, the COVID-19 pandemic has passed a tipping point in the United States, particularly in the northeast. This document aims to give voice to the immediate and long term needs of working people. With this document we are seeking to work in collaboration with the Connecticut labor and social justice movements, the unemployed, underemployed, and non-union to fight for a future where workers are not economically and medically devastated.

For this reason, extraordinary measures must be taken to slow the spread of the virus, to protect working people, and to care for everyone in our society. To date, despite numerous emergency declarations, these measures are not being pursued adequately.

As social distancing is an essential measure in slowing the spread of COVID-19, only those workers who absolutely need to be on the job away from home during this crisis in order to fulfill immediate and basic human needs should do so at this time. All others must either work from home or go on an indefinite leave with full pay and benefits for the entire duration of the crisis. Except for extreme circumstances, workers over 55, with compromised immune systems, or with other serious health problems which put them at high risk for serious COVID-19 infections should be given indefinite leave, again, with full pay and benefits for the entire duration of the crisis. Where individual employers do not have the financial means to pay workers on leave (mainly small businesses), state and federal government must step in and pay workers directly. Tipped, precarious, student, and gig workers must be paid for full-time work at union rates. More than ever, obtaining what working people need means fighting for everyone. As the pandemic has reminded us, an injury to one is an injury to all.

Those workers who remain on the job away from home: **Must be tested regularly** once testing capacity meets patient needs, and be given all necessary protections (gloves, masks and other protective gear, especially for healthcare workers)

Must be given hazard pay. No less than triple-pay for those working with the public, (such as healthcare workers and service workers) and double-pay for those working in an environment separated from the general public.

Must be provided with home childcare. Childcare workers must not be in a high risk group, not living with people in a high risk group, and must be given regular testing and safety protections.

Economic protections. As the crisis creates a variety of unforeseeable circumstances and personal emergencies (especially among the presently unemployed who have almost no chance of finding a job at this time), the following protections will be necessary to preserve the economic security of Connecticut residents:

Suspend all medical billing of patients. insurance companies, state and federal government must cover all medical expenses for all patients during the crisis.

Suspend insurance company authorization of treatment to speed up care and free up precious time for medical workers.

No insurance cancellation for unemployment or any other cause during the crisis.

Moratorium on all evictions, foreclosures and utility shutoffs (including: water, electricity, heating, hot water and internet)

Cancellation of rent payments

Suspension of mortgage payments

Suspension of utility payments (water, electricity, heat, hot water, internet) – Federal assistance for payments made after the epidemic

Suspension of all personal debt payments, including but not limited to: medical, home mortgages, student loans, credit cards, vehicles.

Suspension of property tax payments – federal assistance for payments made after the epidemic

Suspension of personal insurance payments, including, but not limited to medical, home, car and rental.

State and federal assistance for persons with financial emergencies unforeseen by this statement

Protection of rights.

No suspension of any collective bargaining agreements or worker protections. From the start of this crisis, workers have had to fight employers to engage in practices that protect themselves and the larger society. Collective bargaining agreements and worker protections are essential safeguards for workers and the society at-large.

Expand safety protections for health-care workers and

other frontline workers.

Enact an Emergency Temporary Standard

No retaliation against workers for using paid leave.

No racist attacks. Viruses do not have nationalities, races or ethnicities. The crisis has been produced by decisions made by people in authority to place private profits over the lives of human beings. Attempts to tie specific national, racial and ethnic groups to the COVID-19 pandemic only allow those in positions of authority to redirect responsibility for the crisis onto vulnerable groups and to divide working people as well. As the pandemic grows more severe, and as growing anger seeks an outlet, the more these attacks threaten to produce tragic consequences.

Preserve and expand bereavement leave to three weeks per family member lost for all workplaces where it is lower.

Unions must organize the unemployed in order to build the broadest possible base for defending our rights.

Protect the right to strike - including the right of emergency workers to strike for pay and equipment

Emergency reorganization and priority measures

Immediate expansion of COVID-19 testing. Use academic labs such as those at UConn for testing purposes now. This includes identifying all possible testing suppliers.

Reopen closed hospitals.

Repurpose all available productive capacity towards production of personal protection equipment, medical equipment and other supplies needed during this crisis, including, but not limited to masks, ventilators and protective gear. Any private business withholding supplies or productive capacity, or otherwise interfering with this transition must be immediately nationalized for the sake of public health and safety.

Train and recruit healthcare workers from related sectors on an emergency basis. Expedite certifications for support staff.

Expand free home delivery of essential goods (through postal service and all other available means): including but not limited to food; medicine; cleaning, bathroom and sanitary items. Suspension of all junk-mail (promotional mail)

Suspension of homeless sweeps

Release all detainees held on civil immigration violations. Suspend ICE raids, arrests and deportations

Prevent deadly, catastrophic viral outbreaks in jails and prisons. **Evacuate prisons and jails.** At minimum: Release all imprisoned people not convicted of a crime (pre-bond-hearing); imprisoned persons up for parole or probation; all people imprisoned for non-violent offenses. If decisive measures are not taken now, an outbreak in prisons and jails could turn the facilities into death traps for all inside, including staff, likely producing a rapid expansion of the epidemic.

Emergency health-care services, protection measures and testing in jails and prisons.

Identify and inform the public about changes in the foster care system and **wellness check services for children** who may be at risk or are in abusive homes

Expand domestic violence hotlines and provide emergency reporting outside of emergency rooms

Appropriate hotels for patients, persons escaping domestic abuse, homeless persons, and the formerly incarcerated who do not yet have a place to live.

Appropriate unused housing for people escaping domestic abuse, homelessness, recently released from incarceration, or facing other emergencies.

Provide free computers or tablets and internet access to families for distance learning.

Establish a centralized online site where residents can find all information relevant to the crisis and assistance.

No use of the crisis to push through reorganization and restructuring of workplaces, contracts, and laws to the detriment of working people.

Working people - especially many of the lowest paid workers - are risking everything to reduce harm caused by COVID-19 and to keep society functioning. They should not also have to pay for the cost of the emergency response. All of the above measures, and all others needed during this crisis can be paid for through the following measures:

Emergency reallocation of funds intended for bond payments (state and federal)

Emergency taxes on the wealthiest, top income earners and corporations (state and federal)

Emergency fund reallocation from the defense budget (federal)

**Surviving the Virus: An Anarchist Guide
Capitalism in Crisis—Rising Totalitarianism—Strategies
of Resistance**

<https://crimethinc.com/2020/03/18/surviving-the-virus-an-anarchist-guide-capitalism-in-crisis-rising-totalitarianism-strategies-of-resistance>

The pandemic is not going to pass in the next few weeks. Even if strict confinement measures succeed in cutting the number of infections down to what it was a month ago, the virus could resume spreading exponentially again as soon as the measures are suspended. The current situation is likely to continue for months—sudden curfews, inconsistent quarantines, increasingly desperate conditions—though it will almost certainly shift form at some point when the tensions within it boil over. To prepare for that moment, let's protect ourselves and each other from the threat posed by the virus, think through the questions about risk and safety that the pandemic poses, and confront the disastrous consequences of a social order that was never designed to preserve our well-being in the first place.

Surviving the Virus

Longstanding anarchist forms of organization and security have a lot to offer when it comes to surviving the pandemic and the panic it is causing.

Form an Affinity Group

The prospect of quarantine tells us a lot about how we were already living. Those who live in close-knit families or joyous collective houses are in a much better situation than those in broken marriages and those who have big empty houses all to themselves. This is a good reminder of what really matters in life. Despite the models of safety that are represented by the bourgeois dream of nuclear family home ownership and the US foreign policy that reflects it, togetherness and care are much more important than the kind of security that depends on fencing out the whole world.



“Social distancing” must not mean total isolation. We won't be safer if our society is reduced to a bunch of atomized individuals. That would neither protect us from the virus nor from the stress of this situation nor from the power grabs that capitalists and state authorities are preparing to carry out. As much as the elderly are at risk from the virus, for example,

older people are already dangerously isolated in this society; cutting them off from all contact with others will not preserve their physical or mental health. All of us need to be embedded in tight-knit groups in a way that maximizes both our safety and our collective capacity to enjoy life and take action.

Choose a group of people you trust—ideally people you share day to day life with, all of whom share similar risk factors and levels of risk tolerance. For the purposes of surviving the virus, this is your affinity group, the basic building block of decentralized anarchist organization. You don't necessarily need to live in the same building with them; the important thing is that you can cut down your risk factors to those you all share and feel comfortable with. If your group is too small, you'll be isolated—and that will especially be a problem if you get sick. If your group is too big, you'll face needless risk of infection.

Talk with each other until you arrive at a set of shared expectations as to how you will engage with the risk of contagion. This could be anything from total physical isolation to remembering to use hand sanitizer after touching surfaces in public. Within your group, as long as no one has the virus, you can still hug, kiss, make food together, touch the same surfaces—as long as you agree about the level of risk you are collectively ready to tolerate and communicate about it when a new risk factor arises.

This is what anarchists call security culture—the practice of establishing a set of shared expectations to minimize risk. When we're dealing with police repression and the surveillance of the state, we protect ourselves by sharing information on a need-to-know basis. When we're dealing with a virus, we protect ourselves by controlling the vectors along which contagions can spread.

It's never possible to avoid risk altogether. The point is to determine how much risk you are comfortable with and conduct yourself in such a way that if something goes wrong, you won't have any regrets, knowing you have taken all the precautions you deemed necessary. Sharing your life with an affinity group, you get the best parts of both caution and conviviality.

Look on-line for the rest of this meaty guide to taking initiative and building resistance and solidarity.

Lots more on the Change Links website:

change-links.org/the-futility-of-capitalist-planning-for-a-global-coronavirus-pandemic/
<http://change-links.org/capitalism-class-struggle-and-the-coronavirus-in-china/>
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