



SOCIALIST PARTY OF MICHIGAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Workers of Michigan Unite!

Hello Michigan socialists!

As June comes to a close, we wrap up the month with a series of rulings from the reactionary Supreme Court that are as repugnant as they are predictable. In a triple play for profiteers and bigots, Republican justices have struck down affirmative action, legalized anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination and ruled the Biden administration's already meager student loan relief plan "unconstitutional."

As this newsletter drops we will be going into the extended July 4th weekend. While any time off for (some) workers to spend with their loved ones is worth celebrating, this is often a curious time of year for Socialists -- and in 2023 a very curious year indeed for the United States more broadly. As parades and explosions implore us to celebrate "America", the legacy of America's past and its increasingly fascistic present leaves very little to cheer about.

Socialists have debated the virtues of embracing American "patriotism" for over a century. In the wake of WWII, many Socialists and Communists hoped a sort of peace had been won between laborers and a more liberal capitalist ruling class. Sadly these hopes were dashed by the ensuing decades of McCarthyism, red-baiting, and economic strip-mining of the working class.

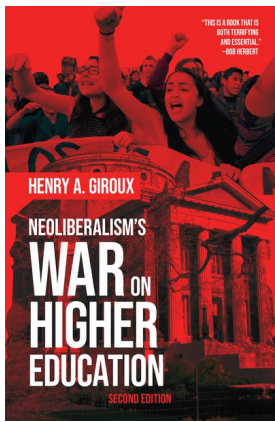
Some Socialists argued then (and some do now) for the strategic value of tying Socialist ideas and our demand for workers' rights to the mythology of the American revolution. While "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are certainly at the core of our Socialist agenda, we cannot traffic in the half-truths and revisionist histories surrounding the 18th century "revolutionaries." Though this topic could fill more pages than this newsletter, suffice to say that among the truths WE hold to be self-evident is the fact that referring to slave owners and colonizers as "revolutionaries" is ridiculous on its face. More workers in 2023, especially younger workers, increasingly regard these narratives with apathy rather than loyalty and are far more concerned with bread and butter issues. Embracing reactionary patriotism was always a dubious strategy for Socialists, even more so in an era when workers are beginning to question the validity of the United States and capitalism.

If we feel the need for patriotism, let us embrace our own history and founding figures -- the courageous slave rebellions of the 18th and 19th centuries; the farm workers in the southwest who fought for their rights in the face of violent anti-union vigilantes; the black sharecroppers who unionized in Alabama under threat of white supremacist terror; the queer radicals at Stonewall who revolted against revolting police harassment and repression; and the long, long, list of other workers who stood up to the bosses and their violent goons, demanding fair pay, better hours, and safer working conditions.

If we celebrate anything as Socialists on the fourth of July, let it be the radical tradition of an American working class standing up for itself and against the U.S. empire.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 30th at 2PM online via Zoom. We will be talking about delegates for the national activities, on-the-ground activities, and more.

Radical Recommendations

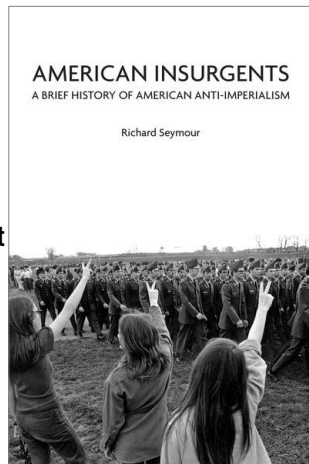


Neoliberalism's War on Higher Education
by Henry A. Giroux

In light of the supreme court decision we recommend this book which exposes the profitization of the university system and how we can defend the university as a site of critical learning and democratic promise. From [Haymarket Books](#).

**American Insurgents
A Brief History of American
Anti-Imperialism**
by Richard Seymour

All empires spin self-serving myths, and in the US the most potent of these is that America is a force for democracy around the world. Yet there is a tradition of American anti-imperialism that exposes this misleading mythology. *American Insurgents* is a surprising, revelatory history of anti-imperialism in the United States since the American Revolution. It charts the movements against empire from the Indian Wars and the expansionism of the slave South to the Anti-Imperialist League of Mark Twain and Jane Addams. Seymour crafts a lively and transparent explanation of why some of these movements succeeded and others failed. The result is a vital perspective for those organizing antiwar resistance today. From [Haymarket Books](#).



It was only a matter of time. The wildfires in Canada that had created apocalyptic looking smoke conditions in places like New York came to Michigan. In the last week of June our state had the worst air quality in the country.

Democracy Now! reported on these events including critical context missing from the corporate media. Check out their coverage below.

Canadian Climate Activist: Big Oil Is Fueling Fires.
https://www.democracynow.org/2023/6/29/climate_berman_guenther
"Climate Silence": Corporate Media Still Failing to Link Wildfires & Extreme Weather to Climate Crisis
https://www.democracynow.org/2023/6/29/climate_silence_guenther

Events and Announcements

Our comrades will be holding a screening and panel on the movie *Reimagining Safety* on *Wednesday, July 12th*. More information will be coming soon; once it's made available, we'll post it on the Socialist Party of Michigan Facebook Page.

We invite you to a discussion with SPUSA Local Organizer Little Hawk of the Mid Willamette Valley Oregon.

Little Hawk is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and was a vocal activist and organizer in defense of the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) and can recap that work as well as current organizing work in the Mid Willamette Valley area.

This is an opportunity to introduce you to a Party member doing work in their community and hopefully a place to share ideas. Discussion on Tuesday, July 4th 2023 at 7PM ET over [Zoom](#).*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85008608879?pwd=clZRSDFGWkZQNWF1SmRlZ3Q5L2JsUT09>

EVERY SUNDAY our friends at Food Not Bombs provide hot meals to unhoused folks in so-called Kalamazoo; you can follow them on Instagram at [foodnotbombskzoo](#).

The People's Forum is holding [Revolutionary Summer School 2023: Revolutionary Summer School @ TPF](#).* This is a hybrid course for organizers, visionaries, and all people advancing resistance to oppression. This year, we invite all who want to join us in a collective study of the histories, constructions, and current projects of Pan-Africanism on the African continent and across the world.

Through seminars, classes, collective discussion, and collaborative work, participants will develop their methodology to analyze the past and present, build capacity for organizing struggle by studying examples of revolutionary processes around the world, and expand their vision of a transformed future. It's a chance to meet new friends and comrades, study, discuss, debate, and then put theory into practice!

This program is based on the methodology of popular and political education and on the politics of working-class internationalism.

*<https://peoplesforum.org/events/revolutionary-summer-school-2023/>