



SOCIALIST PARTY OF MICHIGAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2024 Workers of Michigan Unite!

A Crisis of Fascism on the Border

Reactionary States Rally Around the Right to Harm Immigrants

Over the course of 2023 Texas governor Greg Abbot made headlines for installing particularly draconian and violent infrastructure at the border to deter migrants. This included miles of razor-wire along the border and- in a visceral escalation of inhumanity- circular saws attached to buoys that in practice chop and maim people swimming across the river into the U.S.

This situation escalated on January 12th when Texas national guard members were pitted directly against the U.S. Border Patrol- a sickening event where human beings were left to die after National Guard deterred the border patrol from pulling them out of the water. According to the Texas Tribune:

"National Guard members at the park blocked a Border Patrol agent from accessing the river after three migrants drowned while crossing the Rio Grande and two other migrants were still struggling in the water."

There followed a Supreme Court ruling where the justices declared 5-4 that federal agents can remove the razor wire Texas has placed at the border- we remind our readers that this is from one of the most reactionary Supreme Courts in recent history.

Not only has Texas refused to remove their barbaric border infrastructure, but 25 states have vowed to support Texas and some have even pledged to send national guard units to the border to protect Texas' right to maim migrants.

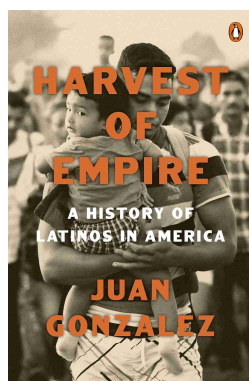
One cannot ignore the historical parallels between this situation and the Civil War of the 19th Century, both of which center around a state's right- to be violently racist. As Socialists it is critical to understand how we got here, and how the capitalist class has lead us to this point.

It is important to understand that border fascism and the scapegoating of immigrants has been a bipartisan project. Some of the most oppressive immigration reform occurred under the Clinton administration, Obama normalized mass deportation, and President Biden is currently trying to push a bipartisan immigration bill that is essentially a wish list for the anti-immigrant far-right (in fact the only reason it has not passed yet is due to political calculations from their likely presidential candidate, who wants to kick immigration reform to his potential tenure).

It should also be worth noting to all workers that the influx of migrants in to the U.S. is a direct result of decades of imperialist, neocolonialist policy that have strip-mined much of South and Central America using every tool at their disposal- from the C.I.A. overthrowing governments at the behest of corporations, to trade deals like NAFTA that left many Mexican farmers impoverished with few other options than to look northward.

As the far-right pushes ludicrous fantasies about armies of "bad guys" crossing the border en masse to justify their barbarism as national security, it is more important than ever for workers to understand both the neocolonialist logic that created the migrant crisis in the first place and the solidarity necessary that grows from the essential creed "workers of the WORLD unite!" Only when workers in the U.S. empire and workers from South and Central America unite, and demand what is owed to us as the working class, can we truly solve the crisis at the border.

Radical Recommendations



0 *Harvest of Empire* by Juan Gonzalez

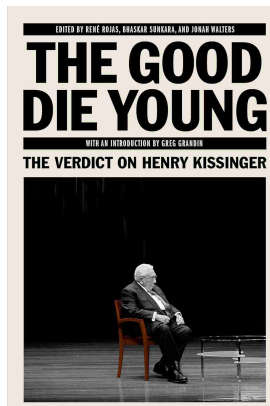
While charting the history of Latinos in America, Gonzalez' book is also an indispensable primer on the relationship between U.S. Empire and the central and South American diaspora in the U.S.

U.S. industry with co-operation from the state has systematically impoverished, overthrown, and meddled with Latin American governments for profit- and the economic despair and the authoritarian regimes America charged in its wake became a driver for immigration northward. At a time when the forces of reaction are spinning wild stories about invading hordes, it is all the more important to push books like this into the public consciousness that squarely explain and demystify the “migrant crisis” by exposing U.S. capitalism and imperialism. Also available in documentary format for free on YouTube.

The Good Die Young
The Verdict on Henry Kissinger

Following the death of Kissinger late last November “The Good Die Young” was released, a series of essays and analysis from some of today's most critical historians. The book sketches out the rap sheet of one of the 21st century's most infamous war criminals, and whose legacy is still felt today in the U.S.'s perpetuation of endless wars and unapologetic imperialism.

From the illegal bombing of Cambodia to his mentoring of today's most prominent warmongers, we are living in the world Kissinger created. To build a better future for the working class around the world, it is essential to study one of the ruling class' most ruthless tacticians. From Verso Books.



From the River to the Great Lakes Gaza Solidarity in Michigan Bears Fruit

-Organizers in SW Michigan successfully pressed for the passage of ceasefire resolutions at the Kalamazoo City Commission and Kalamazoo Township Board of Trustees.

-Organizers in Detroit were among the first in the nation to press their city council to pass a ceasefire resolution.

-The Ann Arbor Public School District passed a ceasefire resolution in mid- January.

-The University of Michigan Faculty Senate Assembly passed a resolution to demand the school divest from any company profiting from Israel's War on Gaza. (Democracy Now, Jan 30th)

Events and Announcements

-Statewide Ceasefire NOW rally in Lansing Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb. 19th

A State-wide Rally to Demand Michigan Politicians Call for a Ceasefire in Gaza
1:00PM-3:00PM @ The Capitol Building

-The Socialist Party USA is hosting a series of webinars this month, “End the Prison Industrial Complex and Abolish the Carceral State.”

On February 11th there will be a presentation and discussion with James Cui, “Abolition: Intro & Next Steps” at 4:00PM.

The Socialist Party of New Jersey is also co-sponsoring prison abolition workshops. The next will be February 27th at 6:00PM- “Cop Cities and the State.”

You can find more information at socialistpartyusa.net/epic

-Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War are holding weekly vigils in Kalamazoo in front of the Federal Building at the corner of Park St. and W Michigan Ave Sundays at 11:30AM. Recent and current vigils are focusing on the genocide in Gaza.