

Down with Macron and Neoliberal Capitalism!

Fight for Fundamental Change along Revolutionary Socialist Lines



The Yellow Vest movement has rattled the elites of the world, and inspired working-class and oppressed people all around the world. One demonstrator was quoted in *The New York Times* saying “We don’t agree with the current system anymore. It doesn’t represent us.” Another demonstrator expressed the widespread disgust with the greed of the super-rich who exploit working people and poor people. At the Élysée “they spend 300,000 euros on carpeting, 10,000 a month for the hairdresser” (*New York Times*, 08/12/18).

The Great Recession since 2007/08 has exposed how this system really works: The super-rich are too big to fail. Banks get bailed out. Politicians serve the corporations and the bosses while working-class communities get stuck with the bill.

The Yellow Vest Movement shows that resistance against this system is not futile. Within weeks, Macron caved in and withdrew his gas tax. But this did not pacify the movement. On the contrary, it encouraged ordinary workers and young people to demand even more and return to the battles that they had lost in the past: the reform of the universities, the attacks on labor laws, the privatisation of the railways – all of Macron’s brutal attacks are being revisited. And his presidency itself has been put in question. The movement has the power to bring down this corporate politician.

The character of this movement changed dramatically when students entered the struggle with ongoing protests and strikes and when workers started organizing workplace actions and strikes. We call on the trade unions to fully join the movement. A 24-hour general strike of all workers should be the next step to bring down Macron and demonstrate the power of the working class. However, the right-wing union leaders are advocating the opposite! They want to give Macron time to consolidate his power in the name of “negotiations”. Trade unionists at all levels, from the rank-and-file to militant activists within the structures of the unions, need to take the battle forward and overcome the brake imposed on the movement by these conservative leaders.

We welcome the words of solidarity from Mélenchon and his organization, La France Insoumise. However, much more is needed. Mélenchon is the main reference point for those looking for a left-wing political alternative to the status quo. Therefore, it is vital that he fully throws himself into building this movement. Mélenchon must offer a bold lead, call for a general strike to bring down Macron, and fight for a left-wing government to replace Marcon.

A key task is to offer next steps to get this spontaneous movement organized to avoid it petering out. Unions and left organizations should organize centrally located, democratic meetings like the assemblies in 2011 and 2012 in Greece, where thousands came together in front of the Greek parliament and in inner cities in all the big cities – with open mics – to discuss and debate the urgent needs of the movement and decide the next steps.

We Need a Revolutionary Socialist Alternative

This movement can bring down Macron. However, this poses sharply the question of the need for a political alternative. It’s one thing to get rid of this hated corporate stooge. It’s another task to fight and build a government and a system that serves working-class people, oppressed groups, and the environment.

The experience in Greece shows how heroic struggles (over 40 general strikes) succeeded in bringing down the hated neoliberal governments of PASOK (the Greek equivalent of the Parti Socialiste) and ND (the Greek equivalent of Les Républicains, the conservative party). However, the new force that was elected into power in 2015, Syriza, and its leader Tsipras were not prepared to stand up to the pressures of the capitalist system and the European Union that serves German and French imperialists. Without being prepared to clash with the capitalist system, to offer a government strictly based on the needs of the working class and the oppressed, Syriza ended up completely surrendering. Although they were elected to oppose the neoliberal cuts imposed by the capitalist European Union, Syriza and its leader

Tsipras ended up carrying out the demands of German and French imperialism.

How could a government led by Mélenchon in France, Corbyn in Britain, or a socialist left movement in Germany avoid caving in and offer a real alternative?

We need social movements and struggles of working people and oppressed here and now to win. But in order to achieve lasting change, out of these struggles, a mass political party must be built that has a clear understanding of a few things:

- In the struggle to defend working-class and oppressed people against the crisis of this system, we will face the full weight of the capitalists, their media, their politicians, and their police state against us. No party, union, or government can serve both the capitalists and the workers. We must choose a side.
- We will not be able to carry out any of the necessary tasks facing society in a stable fashion unless we fundamentally break the undemocratic power of the capitalist class economically, politically, and socially. This requires taking the major capitalist corporations into public ownership, along with a through-going democratization of all aspects of society. We must develop new organs of popular power of workers, young people, and all those oppressed by the capitalist system.
- We need a political revolution in our own organizations, the unions, and the existing left formations like France Insoumise, the Left Party in Germany (Die LINKE), and so on. They need to be democratic, bottom up, open for debate, run by activists, not a few men at the top. Every official should be elected and subject to recall at any time. No representative should be paid more than the average income of those they represent. These organizations need to be armed with a political program based on the needs of the working class, linked to revolutionary socialist change.

If you agree with us, join us and get organized!

Who We Are

Working-class and oppressed people have again and again fought hard to overcome inequality, poverty, sexism, and racism. There is no alternative in this capitalist system other than to fight back. A determined struggle is needed to stop the “reforms” of the pro-capitalist governments and to fight for real improvements in the lives of ordinary workers and oppressed people. However, what is most important is that these battles provide an opportunity for working-class people to get organized, and based on their experiences, to begin to draw the necessary conclusion that fundamental, revolutionary change is needed. It is also through mass struggle that the limitations of the moderate reformist leaders becomes apparent and the need for a political party and a leadership that is willing to wage a determined fight

becomes clear. As revolutionary Marxists, we seek to help people link these daily battles to a revolutionary socialist transformation of society.

Just 100 companies have been the source of more than 70% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions since 1988,” reports *The Guardian* (July 10, 2017). Why does Macron not make them pay them rather than the poor and working people? For him – just like all capitalist politicians – the profits of the wealthy are untouchable.

We believe it's time to put people before profits. We are a new Marxist group with activists in Germany, France and the USA which wants to learn from the struggles globally, like the yellow vest movement, while working to build a vibrant new Marxist force that can help the working class put an end to this rotten capitalist system.

The technology and wealth exists on this planet to end poverty, to offer everyone good jobs and a dignified life. We can end the destruction of the planet without making ordinary people pay for the crisis caused by capitalism. This will require nationalizing the big capitalist corporations that dominate the world economy and putting their vast resources under democratic, public control and management. In this way we can rapidly transition to a renewable energy economy and establish a rational plan to provide decent living standards for every human being.

The ruling class maintains its rule oppressing certain sections of the working class more than others and fostering divisions among the working class. Racism and sexism are built into capitalism. We fight here and now against all forms of discrimination. We believe that a united, global movement of working-class people is needed to exercise our power. Workers have the power not only to shut down the economy to express our anger; workers can take over production and reorganize society based on full democracy — a democracy that is not limited to choosing one capitalist politician over another, nor a democracy that ends at the doorstep of the workplace.

Such a revolutionary socialist change has nothing to do with the “socialism” of the Parti Socialiste, nor the Stalinist dictatorships that ruled Eastern Europe till 1989.

Join our effort to build a new, internationalist, revolutionary, socialist organization. We are building workers' power in today's struggles, with a principled Marxist approach, engaging with a new generation of activists from the Bernie Sanders campaign in the U.S. to the activists in trade unions and the Left Party in Germany. Contact us and get involved:

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