



On the 2016 US Presidential Election

After an unprecedented socially divisive campaign of the two major party candidates for the presidency of the United States (with both sides appealing in different ways to extreme prejudices in support of catastrophic policy designs domestically and internationally), the election of Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton does not reduce the threat of continuing US wars of aggression or of the economic and political assault on working people. Trump's election may signify only some temporary shift in US global military aggression strategy and with the focus on curtailing workers' rights.

Both candidates, however, received substantial support from working class voters in hope of alleviating worsening economic conditions or avoiding social and political dangers presented by the other candidate. Although concerned for their numbers, not all voters on either side were moved by domestic bigotries or international hatreds that would intensify internal strife or result in global war. Hillary Clinton had the support of the most reactionary elements of US financial capital interested in exporting their monies to cheap labor markets abroad, and the support of the war seeking neo-con establishment. Donald Trump by contrast appears to represent the interests of domestic US capital. Any president of the United States is restricted by the imperialist nature of the US capitalism and is constrained to serve its needs within very narrow limits.

The election of Donald Trump may signal the withdrawal of US initiated secret multilateral trade agreements that are against the interest of working people in all countries and their self-governing national sovereignty. It may also signal US retrenchment for the time being from immediate military confrontation with Russia. But it does not signal an end to aggressive pursuit of bilateral trade agreements in the interests of Wall Street financiers, as against the interests of the working class, or an end to military action to secure foreign economic relations favorable to the interests of Wall Street.

The PCUSA joins with many other progressive and peace minded forces in the country urging broad unity in active opposition to domestic policy initiatives under a Trump Administration which in any way compromise the interests of working people, immigrants, women, students, or that in any way threaten war anywhere in the world. We are helping to build protests beginning with counter-inaugural demonstrations in Washington, D. C., and in major localities in the country.

Further, the 2016 US presidential election results once again throws into question the bizarre and antiquated anti-democratic constitutional existence of the Electoral College. The US is alone among formally democratic republics in the world without a one-person, one vote system. While the results of the current presidential election may not have been different if conducted on a popular basis nationally, that is no argument against abolishing the Electoral College.

Together with abolition of the Electoral College for the direct election of the president and vice-president, proportionate representation is also needed in the U. S. Senate (if this country that claims to be a great democracy is to have a true one person, one vote system). The interests of working people in the smaller states are best served by their uniting with workers in all other states, not in being divided by states' rights demagoguery.

The PCUSA and the LYCUSA therefore also urge broad unity in the struggle for democracy in this country for amending the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide proportional representation in the U. S. Senate.

The PCUSA and the LYCUSA endorse a united fightback movement against the reactionary forces of the Republican and Democratic Parties.

We recognize that the overall solution to this problem is to create a new economic system with a centralized planned economy with full employment based on scientific socialism. Otherwise, the forces of the right and big business will continue to dominate American politics.

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