



North American Region

DEFEATING TRUMP WORLD, LE PEN AND THATCHERISM

By Frank Goldsmith, Regional Coordinator WFTU North America & Joe Hancock, Labor United in Class Struggle/Labor Today

We, in the US, are paying now for the anti-worker, anti-union policies of the Democratic Party; the party that was supposed to represent workers and unions.

The most glaring examples of betrayal took place in the '90s with the ruthless passage of the job killing NAFTA and the barbaric, racist changes in welfare laws.

Then in the most recent Democratic Party period, came the immediate dumping of the highly touted Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) that would have increased the power of the trade unions. Followed by the "saving" of the auto industry with two tier wages and barbaric cuts to health benefits and pensions. An industry now that operates union-free in large parts of the US and across the world with billions in profits. *The Guardian* recently reported that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is reducing its budget 30% in response to Trump. (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/27/seiu-union-budget-cuts-trump>) Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO has announced their intention to work with the new U.S. President. In an article by Sean Higgins in the Washington Examiner (11/09/16) Trumka said the nation's largest labor federation was willing to try to meet him part way on economic policy issues. *Both of these developments are further evidence of class collaboration that must be resisted by U.S. workers.*

The racist and anti-immigrant edge and appeals to "law and order brutality" are part and parcel to this period.

Trade unions in France are facing similar treatment from "their" Socialist Party. Hollande is forcing changes in labor laws against weeks of major street demonstrations of tens of thousands of workers.

Is there any wonder why there was a revolt? That a demagogue would take advantage of the political and economic situation?

The English working class used the Brexit referendum

In the USA we got Trump; in France, they face le Pen and the National Front in 2017.

to express its anti-Capital rage and then moved their Labour Party in the direction of the working classes.

The Anglo Franco US working classes and trade unions have a lot in common (if not a common language). (The ascendancy of Theresa May Thatcher is already in place, but the trade unions and workers are in a state of mobilization)

So, the answer here in Trump World is not to book a room and gamble at a Casino or wait to see what the defunct Democratic Party will not do. The AFL-CIO and the independent unions of UE and the ILWU are making plans. They each have their own unique responsibilities.

Labor Today is issuing a call to arms!

The first step is to STOP THE TPP; (And their relatives CETA & TTIP).

Take the lead from our Virginia workers and stop all efforts to expand Right to Work;

Join in international Solidarity actions with the English, French, Greek, and Italian workers as they struggle in the streets of their countries. Indian, and all Central and South American trade unions are already in struggle. South Korean auto workers have been striking for weeks. We salute them!

This is the time of incredible consequence and tremendous opportunity. We encourage all trade unionists to participate in Anti-Trump street actions. These protests need the organization and experience of class oriented trade unionists and unions.

Let's roll up our collective sleeves and get to work.

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