



Centennial of Vladimir Lenin's death

Lenin's legacy — a global struggle against imperialism

Where: Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center
3940 Broadway & W. 165th St., Washington Heights, NYC

Time: Sun. Jan. 21, 2024 • 11 am – 5 pm • Registration: 10 am (coffee, music, displays)

Program to include: Live stream, plenums, recorded messages, cultural presentations & lunch

Contact: lenincentennial2024@gmail.com for pre-registration, more information

Workers World Party invites you to an International Assembly Against Imperialism on Jan. 21, 2024. The U.S.- and NATO-instigated war in Ukraine and the growing danger of the extension of the war into Asia will be high on the agenda of this anti-imperialist assembly, as well as the global class struggle against capitalist exploitation, racism and fascism, the liberation of Palestine and Puerto Rico, the defense of Cuba, the climate crisis, and the liberation of people with disabilities, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQIA2S+ people.

Crisis of system will only get worse

Capitalism and imperialism are headed in the direction of greater explosions, greater violence, steeper cliffs to fall off of, and bottomless plunges. The world and all forms of life are at the mercy of a dying capitalist system that refuses to go quickly and quietly, instead insisting on torturing society — and threatening its existence until capitalism is forced into the dustbin of history.

When a system is no longer able to take social development further, it starts to go backward. This is the context in which to understand the attack on abortion rights, the white supremacist offensive against voting rights, the assault on LGBTQIA2S+ rights and the threat of fascism.

Ultimately, the working-class movement, as part of its development into a global class aware of its own class interests, must become the dominant social force battling capitalism and imperialism on a world scale.

To some this may seem totally inconceivable, but it is not. It is no less conceivable than the idea, and the necessity, for socialist revolution. Both battles are inextricably linked, and pivotal to the evolution of the global class struggle. Only the working class is capable of defeating war and fascism and making real change — i.e., making revolution.

Central to fixing the problem: the development of the working class

In general, the main problem holding back the working class, particularly in the U.S., is that it has yet to develop a mass movement that is class-conscious, organized, radicalized, oriented to class struggle, and independent of the capitalist political parties. Whatever obstacles stand in the way of such a development, however uneven the process may be, it is the necessary next phase for the working class, the phase that will change history.

The capitalist ruling class has waged war, not only on the living standards of the workers, but also on the prospect of the working class developing into the most potent enemy of the capitalist system, capable of smashing it and opening a new chapter of human history.

In the wake of new technology and the digital economy, the capitalist class has even tried to cast doubt on the existence of the working class, always referring to it as the “middle class.”

The contemporary global working class is without a doubt socially complex, atomized, politically divided, and most importantly, in a state of ever-increasing, constant and rapid transformation. However, the working class is not disappearing or shrinking. On the contrary, it is growing as more and more of society is forced out of what are considered the privileged strata.

In the U.S. the main purpose of the Democratic Party, and to an extent the Republican Party, is to prevent the independent development of the working class and to keep it tethered to capitalism and imperialism.

For too long, much of the leadership of the organized labor movement has been allowed to limit everything that the working class must break free of in order to develop. Once again, in the upcoming 2024 presidential elections, the organized labor movement will curtail whatever class struggles and worker organizing it's involved in to focus on reelecting Democratic

Party politicians.

Workers should not be relying on a capitalist party. It is a dangerous dead-end and must be broken.

Working class is rising up

Indeed, workers are beginning to break away from past restraints and forge a new workers' movement. A global strike wave extends from France to India to the U.S. Militant young workers have begun a rank-and-file struggle to organize Starbucks, and this has spread to other restaurant and store chains.

Amazon workers have made organizing inroads into this global mega-corporation, despite its vows to crush any attempts to unionize. Gig workers and migrant workers are organizing under the most difficult conditions. However, all of this is just the beginning.

How should we commemorate Lenin?

The best way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lenin's death is to review, along with fellow comrades on as wide a basis as possible, what would be required — theoretically, politically, ideologically, organizationally and practically — to move the world towards the goals of Leninism.

The only way that such a lofty objective can be seriously considered is if we proceed on the basis of seeing the state of the anti-imperialist movement, the working-class movement, and other important movements not merely as we'd like them to be, but as they are. Doing this will give us a true sense of how far we have to go, and what it is that can be done now, as opposed to what tasks must wait for changes in conditions.

Let's use this Lenin centennial to analyze, study and determine new ways, better ways to advance and help the struggle to smash imperialism and to aid the revolutionary development of the working class. □