

WWP Lesson Plan – Fascism: What It Is & How to Fight It

This template was created to help people planning and teaching Workers World Party classes to make those interactive, interesting and consistent. Some of the classes are part of the curriculum for WWP candidates—and all are posted here online for personal and collective revolutionary communist development. Adapt and enhance the class as needed for your particular location and group!

*Teacher Preparations and	*Consider accessibility and accommodation needs: Everyone will not necessarily have access to a computer. Class leader should print out a few copies of the class materials being used to circulate for read-aloud. Also have some recent copies of WW newspaper on hand for the discussion on organizing.
*Essential Understandings	*Before teaching, identify the most important lessons people should learn on this topic: The capitalist state: What is its purpose? What is the relation of fascism to that state?
Overview of Class	A power point presentation with a series of questions and excerpts to be read aloud and discussed.
Motivating Question	Give an ice-breaker question relevant to this class: For example, “What is an example of state fascism in history? What are the characteristics that made that state a fascist state?”
Readings, Materials, Links	Powerpoint: Fascism: What it is & how to fight It https://www.workers.org/wp-content/uploads/PPT_Fascism_WhatItsHowToFightIt.pdf “Answer to the fascist threat—Working class struggle!” Workers World, Oct. 14, 2020 https://www.workers.org/2020/10/51864/ Conversation on Mumia Abu-Jamal https://www.facebook.com/teddyredder/posts/10164154731810526 <i>Supplemental readings:</i> Engels, <i>On the Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State</i> Lenin, <i>The State and Revolution</i> Trotsky, <i>Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It</i> Marcy, <i>The Klan and the Government: Foes Or Allies?</i> Abu-Jamal, <i>Ignoring History to Our Detriment</i>

Methods of learning: (Should have several methods: people learn in different ways)	Power point slide show Reading together Discussion
Discussion Questions	<p>What are the different forms that a bourgeois state can take? What is the bourgeoisie? What is the proletariat? What is the petty bourgeoisie?</p> <p>What is the difference between "fascism" as the term is commonly used now and a "fascist state"?</p> <p>What changes in capitalism can lead to the growth of fascist organizing? What changes in the working class makes fighting fascism more possible?</p> <p>How do we fight fascism? What is a united front? What is a popular front?</p> <p>Haven't Black and Indigenous people always lived under fascism in the US?</p>
Organizing	Encourage discussion about how topic connects to current and past, local, national or international organizing. For example , how would you talk to someone about the difference between the election of President Trump and his subsequent four years, and the imposition of an actual fascist regime?
Skill Building	Share skills relevant to organizing in relation to topic like slogans, chants, placard making, petitioning, outreach, rally organizing: For example, if your branch is planning a rally you think local far-right militia might try to disrupt, what are the security measures you might set in motion for the rally?
Reflection	<p>Save some time at the end for participants to answer questions about the class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or make less confusing?