

AT THE BASIS OF IMPERIALISM
AND SETTLER-COLONIALISM
LIES CAPITALISM

CAPITALISM CREATES A CONSTANT NEED for increased profits, forcing open new markets, taking new land and resources, and further exploiting labour. Temporary social victories over working conditions, health care and education, housing, and other needs can always be lost.

Austerity is a way for the ruling class to grind down the working class. Speculation and gentrification drive up rent, forcing us onto the streets and into distant parts of the city. We lose parts of our lives travelling long distances on inadequate transit.

Capitalism in Toronto threatens us constantly with the spectre of homelessness. Recent proposals from liberals and the right for a universal basic income are a trap laid by the ruling class. In our neoliberal society, a basic payment would only replace existing social services, rather than augment them.

Victories against settler-colonialism and imperialism will bring us closer to victory over capitalism, the global system of oppression that exploits and consumes all of us for the profit of a few. And at the same time, victories against the ruling class weaken their grasp on colonized people at home and abroad.

If we want to win, we must unite!

Today, on
International
Workers' Day,
we reaffirm our
determination to
unite against
settler-colonialism,
imperialism, and
capitalism.

MAY
DAY
2018

*UNITE AGAINST
SETTLER-COLONIALISM,
IMPERIALISM, AND
CAPITALISM!*

TORONTO

#May1TO
#May1st2018

MAY DAY BELONGS TO THE WORKERS

FROM THE HAYMARKET MARTYRS, executed during the struggle for the eight-hour working day, to our own struggles today, it has become a day for all working people. This year, May 5th is the two hundredth birthday of the philosopher and revolutionary, Karl Marx. His investigation of capitalism helped provide us with tools for understanding and resisting our oppression under this system. When we talk about “accumulation by dispossession” as a process of colonialism, or how capitalists must increase their rate of profit through imperialism, we are building upon the foundations he set in place.

SETTLER-COLONIALISM IS AT THE HEART OF RULING-CLASS POWER

CANADA'S RULING CLASS only survives by exploitation and theft from indigenous nations. Major pipeline projects are taking place across Turtle Island, including the nearby Enbridge Line 9.

Trudeau's government has repeatedly stated that pipeline projects will continue even if they must bring in the army. They claim to treat with indigenous peoples on a “nation to nation” basis, but these projects erode indigenous sovereignty.

While pipelines threaten clean water, close to one hundred reserves lack safe drinking water.

Despite this, companies like Nestle extract millions of litres of groundwater for private profit. We can see how the settler-state takes land and resources, while leaving poison and oppression.

Camps of settler pipeline workers, “man camps”, represent a constant threat to indigenous women and girls. The thousands of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and recent acquittals for the killers of indigenous people like Tina Fontaine and Colten Boushie show that the settler legal system offers no justice for the national oppression of indigenous peoples.

All workers have a side to take in the struggle of indigenous peoples against settler-colonialism. Exploitation and plunder enriches the ruling class, and environmental destruction threatens all of our lives. Indigenous struggles are workers' struggles!

CANADA IS AN IMPERIALIST NATION

CANADIAN FINANCE CAPITALISM needs to expand beyond its borders in order to consume and extract resources and labour. Canada is the financial centre of the global mining industry.

Mining injustice is Canada's foreign policy. Barrick Gold, the largest gold mining corporation in the world, was founded by Toronto-based millionaire Peter Munk, and is known across the world for its human rights abuses, land theft, and pollution.

Canada also plays an imperialist military and political role in the world. Our government supported a military coup against the democratically-elected government of Haiti in 2004 and in Honduras in 2009.

Canada has sanctioned independent states in the global south, particularly Venezuela, and supported violent assaults on the Bolivarian process. In Ukraine Canada supports neo-Nazi militias, and in Syria the destruction of one of the few states to support Palestinian struggle. In Libya, Canadian pilots joked that they were “Al-Qaeda's air force.”

Tools of oppression used against indigenous and other oppressed peoples in Canada are also used against the subjects of Canadian imperialism, but the defeat of our ruling class elsewhere brings us closer to victory at home.

The Canadian war machine is intensifying its drive against Venezuela, Syria, the DPRK, and other independent countries of the global south. As workers in an imperialist centre, we must unite with oppressed peoples and nations against Canadian war and imperialism!