

Imperialist Globalization and Prospects for Class Struggle in the United States

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Abstract

The situation for the world working class in the opening of the twenty first century has been shaped by two fundamental factors. The first was the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe, the material center of the socialist camp. Second was the accelerated scientific-technological revolution carried out under the impetus of the insatiable drive for profits by monopoly capitalism. These two developments have led to a restructuring of world capitalism, a leap in the socialization of the process of production, and the unleashing of world-wide wage competition in a race to the bottom. This is transforming the global working class and paving the way for social upheaval.

It is estimated that in less than 15 years 1.5 billion workers available for super-exploitation by imperialism were added to the world work force – double the previous number. The monopolies used this territorial expansion and the scientific-technological revolution to engineer a world-wide wage competition in which workers in the imperialist countries are in direct competition, job for job, with super-exploited low-wage workers in the oppressed countries. This is creating a new world division of labor. In accordance with Marx's law of wages, national determination of wage levels is giving way to the international determination of wages through the mechanism of competition.

Thus, imperialist investment abroad, combined with the brutal exploitation of immigrant workers, is relentlessly lowering the wages and living standards of the workers in the U.S. The class has more and more oppressed people and thus is more explosive. After three decades of getting poorer the U.S. working class now faces layoffs, a crisis of indebtedness, and endless war and intervention. The era of capitalist stability in the U.S. is coming to an end. The opening for renewed class struggle directed against capitalism is coming onto the historic agenda in the U.S., the stronghold of world imperialism.