THE ORGANIZER

For a Labor Party, For a Workers' International

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THE US MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The 2026 midterm elections raise a critical question for the U.S. working class and the oppressed – the question of who governs society and in whose interests.



Photos by Dyan Bone via Wikimedia. Edited by S. Young

For the past two years, the Trump regime has faced increasing resistance from the U.S. working-class. Its most violent attacks domestically have been pushed back city after city by workers – notably in Minneapolis where the local working class mobilized a massive work stoppage demanding the withdrawal of federal troops and an end to the kidnapping of immigrant workers. From Los Angeles to Chicago, ICE has been chased out by a widening popular resistance that found its highest expression in Minneapolis where labor and its organizations set the groundwork for a general strike.

This popular resistance has coincided with rising prices and continued devaluation of U.S. wages as a result of the ever-expanding global war (Iran, Ukraine, Cuba, Venezuela, Palestine - which continues under the thumb of Israeli apartheid and U.S. militarism). The fascist solution, represented by the Trump regime, has been unable to crush workers' resistance. This is not to say that Trump has stopped filling his pockets, the pockets of war profiteers, and the billionaire class more generally. Nor does this mean he has stopped the attacks against immigrant workers or stopped the political prosecutions of activists – all of which continues. What's critical is that the fascist solution to crush workers, the poor and oppressed and their organizations has not materialized either.

It is in this context that the midterm elections are taking place – social crises characterized by working-class resistance amidst growing poverty, debt, inflation, the devaluation of real wages, and the generalization of austerity measures against public and social services to fund the military industrial complex and war.

For the upcoming midterm elections, resistance to Trump finds its political expression in a growing socialist reform movement within one of the two ruling class parties, which is an incredible contradiction, to say the least. The Mamdani victory in New York City and the Abdu El-Sayed campaign for Senate in Michigan are the latest iterations of this phenomenon.

This socialist movement within the Democratic Party – with all its distorted and limited forms notwithstanding – represents a wing of the working-class and oppressed seeking to provide an alternative to a system wherein state and political power remains with the ruling class and its party duopoly. Such social reform – even while openly socialist – is not unique to this time period in the United States or internationally.

Anyone engaged in this fight must ask themselves: can we defeat the forces behind fascism and deliver workers' pressing needs by reforming the Democratic Party? Or should we aim to create a working-class party to challenge the ruling class and its duopoly system, and not just settle for the so-called lesser of evils within that duopoly system?

History teaches that working-class resistance can cause the ruling class to retreat within the oppressive machinery

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of the U.S. state, even if temporarily, to demobilize the growing discontent and resistance. However, this is never a stable solution. To the contrary, in the death agony of U.S. imperialism, no matter if the Republicans or Democrats hold the reigns of the state apparatus, imperialist war and profiteering at the expense of the many – domestically and internationally – must march on at a compound rate of growth lest the whole house of cards come crumbling down in open crisis, explosions, and the most desperate and violent reactions.

For these midterm elections, the ruling class is pursuing a dual strategy of crushing and co-opting what the social reform movements represent: a growing working-class resistance against both ruling class parties. We must be clear. During these midterm elections, for example, candidates like El-Sayed face not only opposition from the Republican Party, but also opposition from the Democratic Party itself. The Democratic Party, its donors and funders, wish to crush this reform movement within its midst. In fact, the Democratic Party (not the Republican Party) is responsible for ousting Jamaal Bowman and Cori Bush from Congress. It is the Democratic Party that is responsible for, most recently, defeating Democratic Socialist Francesca Hong in Wisconsin; and it was the Democratic Party that opposed El-Sayed with millions of dollars against him.

It is these same forces in the Democratic Party that El-Sayed and reform socialists across the country face during these midterm elections.

Perhaps an even more important question follows. What happens when these candidates do manage electoral victories within the Democratic Party. How do such reform candidates govern? Do these electoral victories result in working-class power?

The experience of the Squad, Sanders, and Mamdani provide illustrative examples. On the one hand, to function as a representative of the Democratic Party, these reform candidates must appease the violent apparatuses of the state, such as the police, endorse and fund war and genocide, and "balance the budget." AOC, Sanders, and Mamdani have all done this – watering down and going back on their most important campaign promises. This is not and should not be acceptable to the "constituents" who put these candidates in office!



Photo by 4kbw9DJ3Tw, StockSnap via Pixabay and zimmytws via Getty images. Edited by S.Young

Of course, there is no appeasing the ruling class, which must maximize profits at all costs or perish, and must murder and pillage natural resources around the globe in a search for more exploitable markets – no matter what these candidates do, no matter how many meetings with billionaires, no matter how many concessions to the police and military-industrial complex, or austerity measures they adopt, or how many compromises they reach. Just look at Jamaal Bowman and Cori Bush who, despite their willingness to appease and compromise – including by funding Israeli apartheid and the U.S. war machine abroad – were ousted from office by a primary election challenge from their own party.

Over one 100 years of reform movements in the United States show us that such candidates seeking to reform the Democratic Party cannot remain in power and resolve the crisis facing the working-class and the oppressed so long as these candidates remain within the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, and so long as the working class and oppressed, and their organizations, fail to build an independent working-class party that truly belongs and is accountable to workers and the oppressed and their organizations.

Without such a break with the ruling class parties, the forces of fascism will only be delayed and strengthened. The Trump and MAGA movement are the direct consequence of the working-class movement falling in line behind Obama

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WE MUST PROTECT OUR BLACK BROTHERS AND SISTERS

(PART 2 OF 2 SERIES)

by Connie White

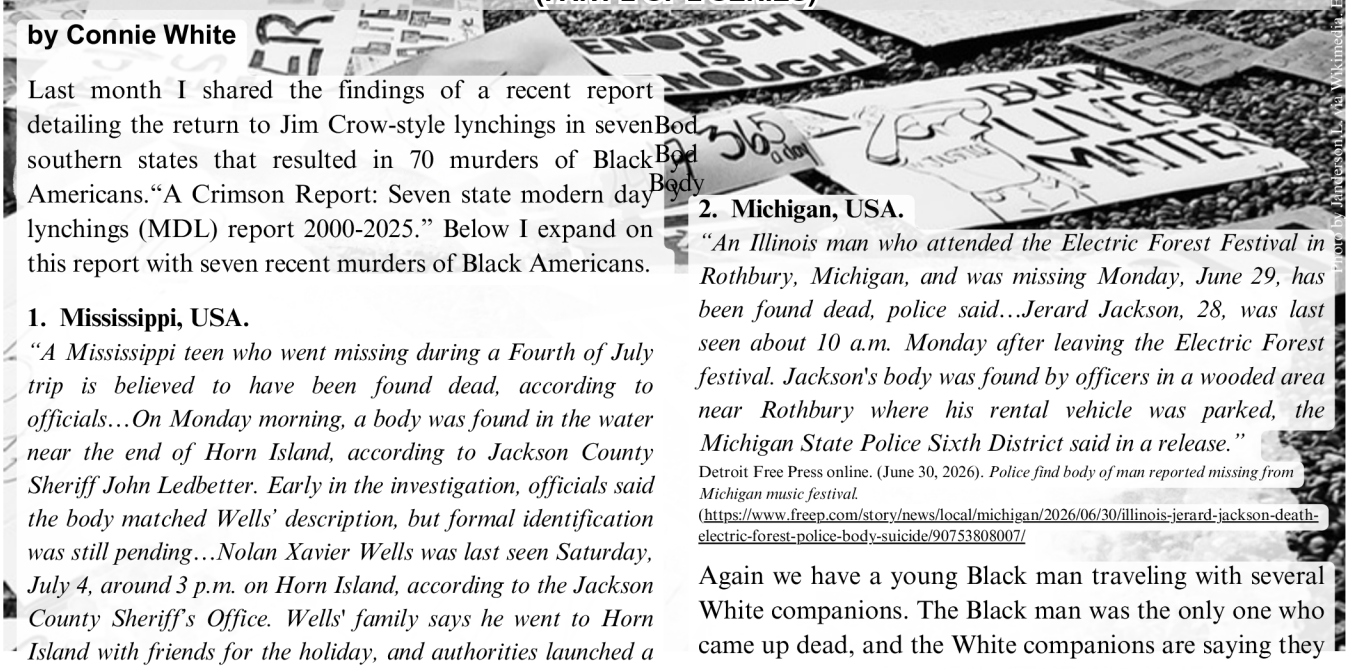


Photo by Jaredsan L. via Wikimedia Commons CC BY-SA 3.0

Last month I shared the findings of a recent report detailing the return to Jim Crow-style lynchings in seven southern states that resulted in 70 murders of Black Americans."A Crimson Report: Seven state modern day lynchings (MDL) report 2000-2025." Below I expand on this report with seven recent murders of Black Americans.

1. Mississippi, USA.

"A Mississippi teen who went missing during a Fourth of July trip is believed to have been found dead, according to officials…On Monday morning, a body was found in the water near the end of Horn Island, according to Jackson County Sheriff John Ledbetter. Early in the investigation, officials said the body matched Wells' description, but formal identification was still pending…Nolan Xavier Wells was last seen Saturday, July 4, around 3 p.m. on Horn Island, according to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Wells' family says he went to Horn Island with friends for the holiday, and authorities launched a search with help from multiple agencies."

ABC News. (July 7, 2026). *Body found believed to be missing Mississippi 18-year-old.* ABCNews.com.(https://abcnews.com/US/body-found-believed-missing-mississippi-18-year-absolutely/story?id=134544120)

Much of what we know about the circumstances surrounding Nolan's death comes from independent media and from social media posts. Nolan Xavier Wells was an 18-year-old young Black man who took a 4th of July (2026) trip to Horn Island (Mississippi) with 3 young White men. Nolan was the only one of his group that did not return from Horn Island; however, Nolan's friends had his cell phone and he was not immediately reported missing by his traveling companions! The fact that Nolan was, by most accounts, the only Black person in the group has caused widespread disbelief in the initial report from law enforcement – especially among the Black community – that Nolan simply went missing, but left his cell phone behind. The disturbing thing about the social media reports is that (1) Nolan was the only one who did not return from the trip; all of his other (White) companions returned from the trip, with Nolan's cell phone; his companions did not immediately report Nolan missing and did not turn the cell phone over to Nolan's family until Nolan's mother tracked its location; (2) reports have surfaced from an alleged video recording from that 4th of July trip when Nolan was arguing with some White males and asking (demanding) his cell phone back; (3) reports that Nolan's body was identified through dental records – spurring reports that Nolan's body was burned or mutilated in some way.

2. Michigan, USA.

"An Illinois man who attended the Electric Forest Festival in Rothbury, Michigan, and was missing Monday, June 29, has been found dead, police said…Jerard Jackson, 28, was last seen about 10 a.m. Monday after leaving the Electric Forest festival. Jackson's body was found by officers in a wooded area near Rothbury where his rental vehicle was parked, the Michigan State Police Sixth District said in a release."

Detroit Free Press online. (June 30, 2026). *Police find body of man reported missing from Michigan music festival.* (https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2026/06/30/illinois-jerard-jackson-death-electric-forest-police-body-suicide/90753808007/

Again we have a young Black man traveling with several White companions. The Black man was the only one who came up dead, and the White companions are saying they know nothing.

3. Georgia, USA.

"Detectives say there are no signs of foul play in the death of a 21-year-old man found at Fair Oaks Park, and investigators are currently treating the case as a suicide…Surveillance video and witness accounts show the man entered the wooded area alone on Feb. 14 [2026]."

Google Search AI

"Kyle Bassinga, a 21-year-old Black man and Georgia State University student reported missing…was discovered hanging in a wooded area of Fair Oaks Park in Cobb County, Georgia, on February 18, 2026. Cobb County police reported that evidence, including surveillance footage and phone records, indicates suicide, with no evidence of foul play."

Social Media report

4. Mississippi, USA.

"Authorities say the body of 21-year old Demartravion 'Trey' Reed was found hanged by a faculty member near the pickleball courts" at Delta State University.

NBC News report (2025) – retrieved from YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d1Q__GS84Q)

The Black and activist community, and independent media in the United States, are declaring this is "hunting" season on Black men, women and children, and that we have been returned to the Jim Crow era. Although no national statistics exist at this time, reports from sources in the Congressional Black Caucus put the count at 10 Black Americans found hanging from trees in 2026 alone – all of which have been said to be suicide.

FROM SURVEILLANCE TO DETENTION: THE EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT



By R.M. Solano

The Trump administration's maximum immigration enforcement strategy has revealed a new target: visa overstays and noncitizens who are eligible for and applying to legalize their status. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has been pushed to meet aggressive arrest targets nationwide – creating pressure to arrest people regardless of whether they have been deemed a flight risk or a danger to the community, which are the traditional justifications for placing someone in civil immigration detention. Civil detention is supposed to be an exceptional exercise of government authority. No longer.

To meet these arrest targets, ICE has increasingly turned its attention to noncitizens who have already come forward and made their presence known to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This includes people who are complying with ICE supervision, people with pending applications to legalize their status, and people who previously had protection from deportation.

ICE is now detaining and/or arresting noncitizens who appear for supervision check-ins. The very act of appearing for a check-in demonstrates that person's willingness to comply with government requirements and appear for appointments. Despite appearing at a check-in and proving that they are not a flight risk, noncitizens are being detained. Visa overstays have been arrested at airports even when they have pending applications to regularize their status. At the same time, the administration has moved to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for numerous countries, threatening to transform people who previously had lawful immigration status into people vulnerable to immigration enforcement. The result is an enormous expansion of the population potentially exposed to arrest and detention. But arresting people on this scale requires more than additional ICE agents and detention beds. It requires the government to know where people are, whom they associate with, and how to find them. That is why the administration's expansion of immigration surveillance deserves just as much attention as its expansion of immigration detention.

ICE has released plans to contract intelligence analysts as part of ERO ONE (Enforcement and Removal Operations Overwatch and National Security Enforcement) – this would give ICE analysts access to the administration's expanding surveillance and identification infrastructure, including tools such as the Mobile Fortify application, data collected by government surveillance. Analysts could be tasked with identifying networks, relationships, patterns, and potential threat indicators, and providing analytical support for immigration enforcement operations.

This infrastructure does not exist in isolation. ICE could gain access to information collected by state and local governments and private surveillance systems. For example, Flock automated license plate readers collect enormous amounts of data about vehicles moving through communities. Investigations have already documented local law enforcement agencies searching Flock data on behalf of ICE.

The concern is not simply that ICE is hiring more agents. The government is simultaneously expanding the universe of people vulnerable to immigration enforcement and building a more sophisticated infrastructure for identifying, locating, and analyzing them. Reports have also raised concerns about errors in some of the data and identification systems being used for immigration enforcement. Combining enormous quantities of government data with analysts tasked with identifying "networks," "relationships," and "patterns" raises serious questions about whether immigration enforceThe concern is not simply that ICE is hiring more agents. The government is simultaneously expanding the universe of people vulnerable to immigration enforcement and building a more sophisticated infrastructure for identifying, locating, and analyzing them. Reports have also raised concerns about errors in some of the data and identification systems being used for

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immigration enforcement. Combining enormous quantities of government data with analysts tasked with identifying "networks," "relationships," and "patterns" raises serious questions about whether immigration enforcement is moving toward forms of predictive policing.

At the same time, the immigration adjudication system is changing in ways that can make the consequences of being swept into this enforcement system even more severe. The Board of Immigration Appeals, which sets precedent for immigration judges, has issued decisions expanding the circumstances in which immigration judges may deny bond and other forms of relief. Other changes have weakened procedural protections surrounding removal proceedings and notice. Once a removal order is entered, ICE has substantially greater authority to locate, detain and deport.

Taken together, these developments are pieces of an enforcement infrastructure: expand the population vulnerable to enforcement, collect more information about that population, increase the government's ability to locate, detain and/or arrest more people, and make it more difficult to obtain release or relief once in the system.

BUT NONE OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE IS INEVITABLE.

Immigrant rights and civil liberties advocates are already organizing against it. Communities are challenging the use of Flock surveillance systems and demanding greater transparency about who can access locally collected data. This organizing matters because surveillance systems can be "leaky": even when one locality prohibits its own agencies from sharing data directly with ICE, interconnected databases and information-sharing can create indirect routes for federal immigration authorities to obtain information.



Photos by Lorie Shaull via Wikimedia. https://www.flickr.com/photos/11020019@N04/55057767123/ with UploadWizard and https://www.flickr.com/photos/11020019@N04/55062920707/. Edited by S. Young.

However, communities have concrete places to intervene. They can organize against new surveillance contracts and automatic license plate reader systems; demand public disclosure and audits of existing surveillance technologies; push local governments to restrict access to locally collected data; investigate whether police and sheriffs are conducting searches on behalf of ICE; challenge agreements that entangle local agencies with federal immigration enforcement; and insist that elected officials under-stand where surveillance data ultimately travels before approving new technol-ogy.

The expansion of ICE surveillance infrastructure should not be understood solely as an immigration issue. Surveillance infrastructure created for federal immigration enforcement may subsequently be used for other law-enforcement purposes. Systems capable of tracking movements, mapping relationships, identifying networks, and combining information from multiple databases do not inherently distinguish between citizens and noncitizens.

Therefore, the response cannot be limited to helping individual immigrants navigate an increasingly punitive enforcement system. Communities can also organize against the infrastructure that makes enforcement at this scale possible: surveillance technology, information-sharing agreements, deten-tion capacity, and local cooperation on which federal immi-gration enforcement depends. Decisions about many of those systems are still being made in city councils, county boards, police departments, sheriff's offices, and other institutions where communities can demand transparency and accountability.

The time to scrutinize and debate those systems is before they become permanent infrastructure, not after their use has expanded beyond the communities they were initially designed to target.



WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

by Connie White
September 12, 2026



Photo by Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office via Wikimedia. https://www.flickr.com/photos/10246637@N04/55077069691/ with UploadWizard. Edited by S. Young.

A friend and comrade recently wrote something that, for me, framed the fight against world war. Not just the fight against World War III, but the fight against each and every war conflict being perpetrated on the working classes today. His point, and my point herein as well, is that today's world wars, as always, raise a critical question for the working classes of the world and for the poor and oppressed. That is, the question of who governs society and in whose interests. Clearly, those who are governing today are not doing so in the interests of the majority – the working classes of the world.

First impressions of the repercussions of today's world wars are how war affects the poor and oppressed populations of the world. The most devastating impact of war in places like the African continent, the Middle East, and the most recent conflict in Europe in the Ukraine, is that millions have died as a result of these world wars!

Since the poor, oppressed and working classes make up the lion's share of the world population, it stands to reason that those who have died because of the world's wars are the poor, oppressed and working classes. The ruling classes perpetrate the wars, send our (working class) sons and daughters to fight their wars. It is our sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mothers and fathers who suffer because of these world conflicts! Additionally, a large number of those who have died are because of the genocidal wars on the people of Sudan (Africa), the Congo (Africa), and in Palestine (Middle East). The effects of war reach far and wide for generations, and affect how people think and survive!

World war literally is killing our people – the world's wars hardly, if at all, affect the ruling classes that perpetrate these wars. In fact, research and analyses tell us that the ruling classes actually benefit from world war – from the murder of our people.

Obviously, world wars are not fought in the interests of the poor, oppressed and working class youth who are tasked with fighting these wars! Let's just be clear: we need to stop fighting the ruling classes' wars! WE – the world's poor, oppressed and working classes – are the ones fighting and dying in and in the wake of world wars and we receive no benefit at all because of them! In every place in the world, inflation is higher, the death toll is surely higher and rising, unemployment is higher, poverty and homelessness are higher, diseases are rampant – just all out devastating conditions even affecting the so-called wealthiest countries.

But, let's not drag out the obvious! The bottom line is we need to revitalize the anti-war movements of the world, and organize general strikes until we end the current wars. However, the long-term solution and goal is to remove the current ruling classes and take state power for the world's poor, oppressed and working classes. Period. If that goal seems impossible or a difficult task, then, join us in the Socialist Organizer and the OCRFI to get it done.



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and Biden administration, which of course not only failed to deliver promises to the working-class, but furthered the attacks against workers domestically and inter-nationally. The working-class resistance to the Bush regime was co-opted by Obama and the Democratic Party, which bailed out the banks, expanded U.S. imperialist war abroad, and increased deportations. The failure of the Democratic Party to deliver meaningful reforms only strengthened the forces of fascism, which resulted in the Trump presidential victories in 2016 and 2024.

We risk this same cyclic fate unless we break with the Democratic Party and lay the foundations to build an independent party of our own – rooted in and accountable to our organizations. It truly is a matter of life or death! Without building such a party, the power of the working class to resolve the question of who governs society – the rich minority or the vast majority of the working-class and dispossessed – will go on until one day fascism finally takes hold and crushes us.

WE HAVE NOT LOST, YET;
BUT THERE IS
NO TIME TO LOSE.

For those interested in this perspective, we encourage you to join Socialist Organizer, and participate in our work, including our work within Labor and Community for Independent Party (LCIP) – a national coalition that seeks to build a labor-based political party rooted in the unions and communities of the oppressed. This is how we do the difficult work of building a long-term solution for the working class beyond the midterm elections.

WHO WE ARE

The Organizer is the publication of Socialist Organizer, the U.S. section of the Organizing Committee for the Reconstitution of the Fourth International (OCRFI), which has sections in over 30 countries. Socialist Organizer is a multi-racial, multi-gender, working-class organization that aims to organize the working-class and all the oppressed to abolish capitalism, a system based on the private ownership of the means of production, which is leading humanity and the planet to destruction.

We fight to end white supremacy, patriarchy, and all forms of bigotry. We fight for a clean break with the capitalists, including the Democratic Party, and promote a Labor Party based on the trade unions and communities of the oppressed and for an Independent Black Working Class Party linked to the struggle for a Labor Party. Our aim is to establish a workers' government and create a worldwide socialist economy run democratically by and for the vast majority of humanity: working people.

JOIN US!

You can contact us at:

WEBSITE
https://socialistorganizer.org/contact/

MAIL
P.O. Box 1782
New York, N.Y. 10025

EMAIL
theorganizer@earthlink.net
Tel. 415 216 5346.



Nepal's floods and capitalism's destruction of the planet



Photo from CCTV 26 August 2026, 10:59:53. Public Domain. Edited by S. Young

by Coral Wheeler

On August 26, the collapse of a Himalayan glacier sent a massive torrent of water, ice, rock and mud through northern Nepal. Like scenes from an apocalyptic movie, video recordings showed people overrun by giant walls of water, and buildings completely destroyed by the awesome power of the flood. By September 9, 1,367 people had been confirmed dead and more than 5,100 remained missing. Roads, schools, power grids, and water systems were totally wiped out.

Human-generated climate change is rapidly warming the Himalayas, melting glaciers and degrading the permafrost that helps stabilize mountain slopes. These changes are making glacier collapses, landslides, and catastrophic floods more frequent and more dangerous. The recent Nepal flood is one of many deadly con-sequences of a warming climate that we have seen in recent years – and that we have the power to prevent. However, under capit-alism, the drive for profit is more important than the need to protect the very planet we live on.

Capitalism is an irrational system. It requires growth at all costs and increased profits at all costs. Anything that dares to get in the way of that drive must be overcome, even if that "thing" is the very Earth needed for all humans to survive. These growing climate-driven disasters reflect the priorities of a capitalist system in which energy production policy is determined by profitability rather than safety or human need.

Despite three decades of international climate negotiations, global fossil-fuel CO2 emissions were estimated to reach another record high in 2026. We cannot rely on capitalist governments to rein in emissions in any meaningful way.

Furthermore, as a direct result of imperialism, the brunt of the consequences falls on the countries least responsible for the problem, at least for now. Nepal contributes only about 0.1% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, while according to the IPCC, developed countries produced roughly 57% of cumulative global CO2 emissions between 1850 and 2019.

At the same time, countries like Nepal also have far fewer resources with which to adapt to the consequences. Rebuilding from this disaster alone is estimat-ed to cost upwards of $4 billion nearly 10% of Nepal's economy.

Under a socialist, worker-controlled government, the energy sector, along with all major industries, would be planned democratically according to social and ecological needs. This would mean public ownership of the major energy companies and a rapid expansion of renewable energy and modernized electrical grids.

It would mean major investment in public transit and energy-efficient housing, and the replacement of fossil fuels as soon as possible – using nuclear power as a temporary stopgap. It would include the dismantling of the US military – one of the largest contributors to greenhouse emissions in the world. It would also mean directing resources toward countries such as Nepal to rebuild, strengthen infrastructure, and prepare for the climate disasters that will continue to occur even as we bring global warming under control.