

A Strategy for the Movement

A Statement by the Utopian Tendency



Build the Movement

- We support the actions of all those fighting against President-elect Donald Trump and everything he and his administration stand for.
- Behind his rhetoric, Trump is preparing attacks on a broad array of people—Blacks, Latinos, Asians, First Americans, and other oppressed ethnic groups; Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, Hindus, and other religious minorities; immigrants both legal and undocumented; women; the LGBT community; the environmental movement and other progressive moments. Trump’s tweets create a climate of fear and hate. His Cabinet nominees will widen inequality, eliminate what exists to protect the environment and lead to unrestrained looting of the population by the big banks and corporations.

Broaden the Movement

- We seek to expand the movement by reaching out to working people and oppressed members of our society, in workplaces, communities, schools, hospitals, churches, and other economic and social institutions.
- We seek to build a movement that is militant and uses tactics of direct action—picket lines, strikes, sit-ins, occupations, blockades, marches, and mass demonstrations. We encourage coordination of struggles into one powerful movement.
- Under Trump, violence by the state — harassment, beatings and murders by cops; raids and detention by ICE; surveillance and detention by the FBI and Homeland Security — will almost surely increase. We should not look to the state for defense. While the best defense is the building of a militant mass movement, we also urge the organization of community and workplace defense groups to protect people and institutions from attacks by right wing thugs or the state. An injury to one is an injury to all!

- Our allies are the millions of people who are suffering from the crisis-ridden economic system we live under (and which Trump, Obama, Clinton, and the entire class of politicians defend). Many have been left behind by globalization, and have seen their communities devastated by automation, pro-corporate trade deals, the drive to slash wages to boost profits, and similar economic policies.
- Many people support the Sanders/Warren wing of the Democratic Party because they sincerely believe significant change can be achieved this way. We need to reach out to them to support our direct action, independent focus.
- While core Trump supporters are racist, misogynist, xenophobic, anti-gay, and authoritarian, many people who voted for him are not. This includes millions who backed him out of opposition to Hillary Clinton and the arrogant and greedy liberal elite of which she is a part. We need to reach out to these people as well.

Build an Independent Movement

- The movement must be independent of the *entire* ruling class and the political elite—Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives--that serve it.
- We advocate direct action in the streets, in the factories, in other workplaces and in our communities, rather than mobilizing people to passively vote for pro-capitalist candidates. This strategy led to the successes of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the recent victory at Standing Rock. Direct action leads to far greater change than 'lesser evil' voting ever will.
- While we fight to make clear the overtly reactionary politics of the Republican Party, it is important to expose the two-faced policy of the liberal politicians, the Democratic Party, liberal organizations who promise to fight for people oppressed by the system but whose underlying goal is to defend that system. This includes left-liberals like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Both claim to be champions of the working class and other oppressed people, but both defend capitalism, which is the underlying cause of that oppression.

Build a movement for revolutionary democratic socialism

- Our goal is to transform the growing movement from one of protest against Donald Trump into one consciously committed to overthrowing the brutal, unjust, and corrupt system we live under—capitalism. Capitalism is based on a tiny group controlling society's productivity and power, including the state, in order to exploit people for profit.
- In contrast, we favor a very different social system—one without economic classes, and based on the direct, democratic, cooperative management of the economy and society by the vast majority of people.

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