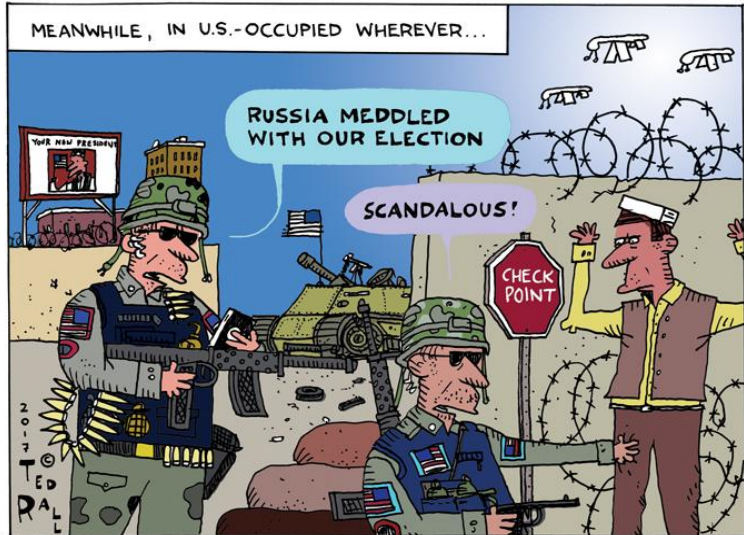


## **Military Resistance 15G6**



**75% Of Americans Think  
Wealthiest Have Too Much  
Power:**

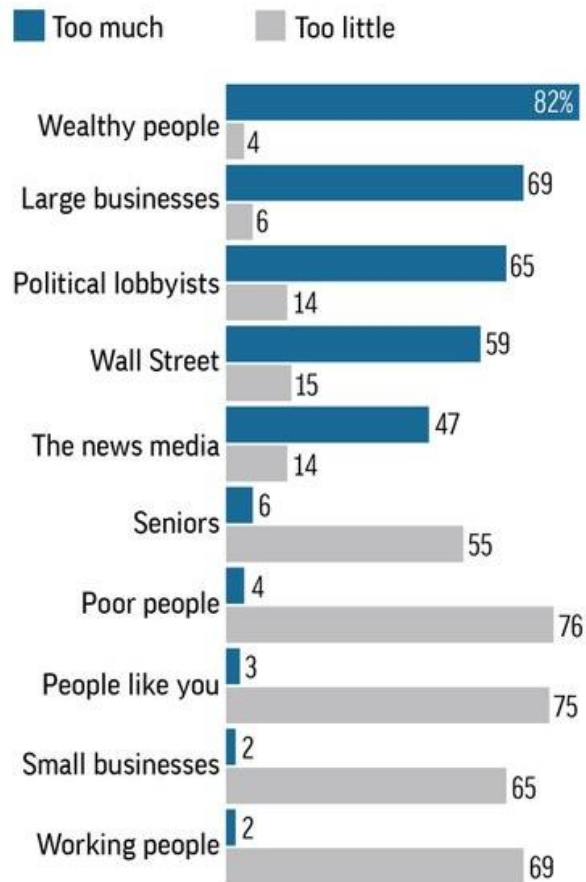
**“Rare Unanimity Across Political,  
Economic, Racial And  
Geographical Lines And Including  
Both Those Who Approve And  
Disapprove Of President Donald  
Trump”**

**“When A Majority Of Citizens  
Disagrees With Economic Elites**

# And/Or With Organized Interests, They Generally Lose” “When Fairly Large Majorities Of Americans Favor Policy Change, They Generally Do Not Get It”

## AP poll: Washington influence

Percentage saying the following groups have too much or too little power and influence in Washington:



Results based on interviews with 1,068 U.S. adults conducted June 8-11. Margin of error is  $\pm 4.1$  percentage points for the full sample.

July 13, 2017

Giving new credence to a provocative 2014 study showing the United States is controlled by powerful elite interests, as opposed to the desire of its citizens, a new poll released Thursday shows that three-quarters of Americans feel voiceless and largely powerless in the nation that heralds itself as the world's preeminent democracy.

The results of the new survey by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research reveals that 75 percent of Americans—including “rare unanimity across political, economic, racial and geographical lines and including both those who approve and disapprove of President Donald Trump”—agree they have too little influence or say over the decisions made by the nation's elected officials.

According to Linda Bell, a low-income beekeeper and farmer from Texas who took part in the poll, lawmakers in Washington, D.C. “don't care about people like me.”

While 82 percent of respondents said that “wealthy people” have “too much” influence, there was strong agreement that regular people have “too little.”

Alongside the very rich, it was large businesses (69%), political lobbyists (65%), Wall Street (59%), and the news media (47%) who are all widely perceived as too powerful, while the near total inverse was true of seniors (6%), poor people (4%), small businesses (2%), and “people like you” (4%).

As AP notes, “The results are notable because Trump won his presidency with a populist call-to-arms to make 'forgotten Americans' his priority and to restore jobs to people still struggling amid the economy's recovery.”

Also telling about the polls results, is how they bolster the findings of groundbreaking 2014 study by Princeton University's Martin Gilens and Northwestern University's Benjamin Page which offered a scientific analysis detailing how, in the United States, the “economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence.”

Demonstrating its conclusions, the study offered broad empirical evidence including data that showed how “a proposed policy change with low support among economically elite Americans (one-out-of-five in favor) is adopted only about 18% of the time, while a proposed change with high support (four-out-of-five in favor) is adopted about 45% of the time.”

**On the other hand, the study continued, “When a majority of citizens disagrees with economic elites and/or with organized interests, they generally lose.**

**“Moreover, because of the strong status quo bias built into the US political system, even when fairly large majorities of Americans favor policy change, they generally do not get it.”**

**This dynamic has helped explain that even as increasing numbers of Americans say they support programs like universal healthcare coverage or tuition-free higher education, the possibility of such changes to the system is treated as impractical because of the elite interests that oppose them.**

Though neither Gilens and Page nor the new AP/NORC poll employ the term “oligarchy” in their language, many outside observers say that is exactly what the United States—with elections dominated by corporate and private wealth and a media industry dominated the economic elite—has become.

Merriam-Webster defines the word as, “government by the few.”

Though many still deny it, Common Dreams contributor John Atcheson explains on Thursday why the reality of an American oligarchy—one that bends to the will of the wealthy and powerful while denying equity and progress to the large majority—is not just the proverbial elephant in the room, but rather “a huge honking beast squatting squarely on our ottoman.”

## **MORE**

# **“Let Us Now Picture To Ourselves, By Way Of Change, A Community Of Free Individuals, Carrying On Their Work With The Means Of Production In Common”**

Excerpt from Karl Marx. Capital Volume One; Chapter One: Commodities; Section 4 - The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof

Let us now picture to ourselves, by way of change, a community of free individuals, carrying on their work with the means of production in common, in which the labour power of all the different individuals is consciously applied as the combined labour power of the community.

The total product of our community is a social product.

One portion serves as fresh means of production and remains social.

But another portion is consumed by the members as means of subsistence. A distribution of this portion amongst them is consequently necessary. The mode of this distribution will vary with the productive organisation of the community, and the degree of historical development attained by the producers.

We will assume, but merely for the sake of a parallel with the production of commodities, that the share of each individual producer in the means of subsistence is determined by his labour time.

Labour time would, in that case, play a double part. Its apportionment in accordance with a definite social plan maintains the proper proportion between the different kinds of work to be done and the various wants of the community.

On the other hand, it also serves as a measure of the portion of the common labour borne by each individual, and of his share in the part of the total product destined for individual consumption.

The social relations of the individual producers, with regard both to their labour and to its products, are in this case perfectly simple and intelligible, and that with regard not only to production but also to distribution.

The life-process of society, which is based on the process of material production, does not strip off its mystical veil until it is treated as production by freely associated men, and is consciously regulated by them in accordance with a settled plan.

This, however, demands for society a certain material ground-work or set of conditions of existence which in their turn are the spontaneous product of a long and painful process of development.

**MORE**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RouB8iUQzTA>**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **PFC Hansen Kirkpatrick: Barely Old Enough To Vote, And He Is Gone**

July 6, 2017 by Suzanne Downing, Suzanne Downing

Somewhere in Wasilla, Alaska, there are a mom and dad whose brave son went off to war in January and will return in a flag-draped casket in July. Tonight, their hearts are broken as they leave Alaska to be present when their son's remains return to the U.S.

PFC Hansen Kirkpatrick was the seventh U.S. soldier killed in Afghanistan this year, in the war against terrorism that seems to never end. U.S. troops have rotated through the war-torn country for the past 15 years and nearly 1,000 Americans and British military personnel have died in this region.

Kirkpatrick was killed late Monday while fighting the Taliban alongside Afghanistan forces in Helmand Province, Pentagon officials said. Helmand is a particularly restive area of Southern Afghanistan.

Kirkpatrick appears to be the first American soldier to die in the province this year. He was hit by indirect mortar attack; typically that involves exploding shells or rocket rounds.

Two other soldiers were injured in the attack during the operation, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, who said the injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

Kirkpatrick was with the Fort Bliss-based 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. He was a mortarman who joined in June, 2016, according to Army Maj. James C. Bithorn, an officer with the 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade. He described Kirkpatrick as "a caring, disciplined, and intelligent young soldier."

One person he served with wrote on Facebook that Kirkpatrick was a great storyteller who used to regale his fellow soldiers with tales from Alaska. Kirkpatrick had attended a high school named for a master storyteller: Robert Service High School in Anchorage.

After graduation, Kirkpatrick enlisted, and he and 1,500 other soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in January to serve in nine-month rotations. The brigade's soldiers embed in various regions, some working alongside U.S. Marines and Afghan forces fighting the Taliban and its most strident wing, ISIS, or the Islamic State.

The area has seen heavy fighting in recent weeks as Taliban forces have pushed for control of an area of intense opium poppy production, which is a major source of funding for the Taliban and is a primary supply of opium for the global trade.

"We will keep (Kirkpatrick's) family in our thoughts and prayers as we reflect on the sacrifice he and others have made to secure our freedoms and help make Afghanistan a better place," Army Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said in a prepared statement.

For the parents and siblings of PFC Hansen Kirkpatrick, the Fourth of July will not be the same next year or the years that follow. This family became a Gold Star family on July 3, 2017, a sad designation, a somber honor that reminds us of their sacrifice for our nation.

Our hearts go out to the family, friends, and fellow soldiers of PFC Hansen Kirkpatrick.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE  
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WAR**

# **Taliban Launch Coordinated Car Bombing In Helmand Using U.S. Army Humvee Vehicles**

Jul 20 2017 By Khaama Press

The Taliban insurgents launched a coordinated attack on the security posts in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan, carrying out at least two car bombings using the Humvee armored vehicles.

According to the local government officials, the attack was launched earlier today in Gereshk district and a standoff is underway between the insurgents and the security forces.

The provincial government media office in a statement confirmed the launch of the attack and said two Humvee armored vehicles packed with explosives were detonated as the insurgents launched the attack.

The statement further added that the bombings have not incurred any major loss or destruction to the security posts and the security troops are prepared and are responding to the attack.

At least two army soldiers and three policemen sustained injuries in the attack and the Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices were destroyed before they reach the security posts, the provincial government added, the statement added.

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## **Eight Policemen, One Soldier Killed In Zabul When Taliban Attack Police Check Posts**

07/19/17 ToloNews

At least eight policemen were killed and seven wounded in a clash with the Taliban in Arghandab district of Zabul province, local security officials said Wednesday.

Zabul police confirmed the toll and said the clash started on Tuesday night when Taliban attacked police check posts.

According to police the clash continued until Wednesday morning. Insurgents reportedly seized weapons and a police Ranger.

In addition, an Afghan National Army soldier was also killed in the area. The soldier was killed when the vehicle he was traveling in hit a roadside mine.

Police said the soldiers had been moving in to the area as reinforcements when the incident happened.

Two other soldiers were also wounded in the blast.

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## **“At Least” Four Policemen Killed In Zabul**

July 15, 2017 Tolo News

At least four policemen were killed in a clash with Taliban in Zabul province, local officials said Saturday.

Zabul security officials confirmed the incident and said that Taliban opened fire on police early Saturday morning close to Qalat city.

Security officials said that one other policeman was wounded.

Security officials said the Taliban fled the area with police Rangers and weapons and also took the bodies of the four policemen with them.

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## **U.S. Air Attack Helps Taliban Offensive: Kills 12 Regime Police In Gereshk Who Had “Recaptured Post From The Taliban When The Airstrike Occurred” Taliban Kill 11 More In Badakhshan And Six In Western Farah Province**

Jul 22 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press [Excerpts]. Associated Press writer Robert Burns in Washington and Mir Wais Khan in Kandahar, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

KABUL, Afghanistan



An errant U.S. airstrike confirmed by the Pentagon killed 12 Afghan National Police officers and wounded two others, as another 11 police were killed and six wounded in clashes with the Taliban, Afghan officials said Saturday.

The death toll in Friday's airstrike was determined after a site inspection of the compound in the Gereshk district, said Helmand provincial police chief Abdul Ghafar Safi.

The United States in a statement confirmed that the airstrike on the Security Forces compound occurred during a U.S.-supported operation against Taliban insurgents in the area. In the statement, the U.S. offered its condolences to the families of the security forces who were killed.

Safi told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that the dead were police officers who were operating with the army in the area.

He said they had recaptured the post from the Taliban when the airstrike occurred. On Friday, the Helmand Gov. Hayatullah Hayat said it was believed the police officers were not in uniform, which may have resulted in mistakenly identifying them as Taliban fighters.

**Meanwhile, in northern Badakhshan province Gov. Ahmad Faisal Bigzad said Saturday that 11 police were killed and another six wounded during a roaring battle with Taliban insurgents in the remote Tagab region.**

Bigzad said another 20 members of a local police force were missing following Friday's firefight. It wasn't immediately clear if they had been captured or had escaped.

The area in which the fighting occurred is tucked inside a mountainous region where access is restricted and telephone contact is unsteady.

In western Farah province, a ferocious gun battle between the Afghan army and Taliban insurgents left six Afghan soldiers dead and 12 Taliban killed, said Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The five-hour battle Friday occurred after Taliban insurgents stormed a compound of the Afghan National Security Force in Pusht Rod district, he said.

A Taliban statement meanwhile claimed a victory and said 16 Afghan soldiers were killed.

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## **Oops: U.S. Airstrike Blows Up Kunduz High School; Attack Hit The Wrong High School**

Jul 15, 2017 By Ajmal kakar, Pajhwok

KUNDUZ CITY: A U.S. airstrike destroyed a school and some civilian homes in northern Kunduz province on Saturday, an official said, but the military alliance rejected the claim.

The governor's spokesman, Syed Mahmood Danish, told Pajhwok Afghan News that air forces 'mistakenly' bombed Mashad High School in Kunduz City, the provincial capital, this morning.

He said the target of the airstrike was supposed to be Khawaja Ghaltan School where according to him the Taliban were hiding.

Hashmatullah Sediqui, the Mashad high school principal, said the bombardment took place at around 4:00am, partially damaging the school building.

Kunduz residents also reacted to the airstrike. Amruddin, a resident of Khwaja Mashad, said: "We are seriously concerned about airstrikes on residential areas, it means people are not safe even in their homes."

Haji Rahimullah, another resident of Kunduz city, said the government should ensure security for students so they could continue their education.

Also a number of Wolesi Jirga or lower house members demanded an investigation into the airstrike that hit the school in Kunduz City.

Shukria Payman, a lawmaker from Kunduz, told today's session: "The people of Kunduz sometimes come under attack from militants and sometimes from Afghan and foreign forces, for how long they should suffer."

She said it should be explained why the airstrike was carried out in the city's safest area.

Her colleague Fatima Aziz also called for investigation into the airstrike and said the massacre of Kunduz people should be stopped. She asked the administrative board of the Wolesi Jirga to comprehensively investigate the incident.

Most of those suffered in the incident were civilians, she claimed, asking the perpetrators of the airstrikes to compensate the victims. Many other lawmakers held similar views.

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## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

# **“Al-Shabaab Used Safe Havens And Towns It Reclaimed In 2016 To Refine Its Asymmetric Tactics”**

# **“The Group Continued To Focus On Targeting AMISOM Forces By Launching Large-Scale Raids Against Its Forward Operating Bases”**

Country Reports on Terrorism 2016, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department Of State [Excerpt]

In East Africa, the Somalia-based terrorist group al-Shabaab remained the most potent threat to regional stability, having regained territory in parts of southern and central Somalia.

As the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) limited offensive operation to proactively counter al-Shabaab in southern Somalia, the terrorist group gained the time and space needed to regroup and recruit new fighters.

Similar to 2015, however, there were no successful attacks attributed to al-Shabaab outside of Somalia and northeastern Kenya. Although ISIS claimed responsibility for small-scale attacks in Somalia and Kenya, the group failed to launch a major attack in East Africa.

Al-Shabaab used safe havens and towns it reclaimed in 2016 to refine its asymmetric tactics.

The group continued to focus on targeting AMISOM forces by launching large-scale raids against its forward operating bases.

In January, al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for a raid against Kenyan forces in El Adde, Somalia that was reported to have killed more than 140 soldiers.

In its attempt to disrupt the Federal Government of Somalia’s national electoral process, al-Shabaab increased the use of bombings and ambush attacks against Somali government facilities and select hotels popular with government officials and business people. Al-Shabaab also launched vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) against the Mogadishu International Airport that killed UN, AMISOM, and Somali officials.

Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the targeted assassination of several Somali parliamentarians, security officials, and other government personnel in Mogadishu and elsewhere in Somalia, including Puntland.

**MORE:**

## **The Somali Military “As A Whole, Remained Incapable Of Securing And**

# Retaking Towns From Al-Shabaab Independently

July 22, 2017 by Bill Roggio, Long War Journal. Bill Roggio is a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the Editor of FDD's Long War Journal.

**Additionally, State noted that Somali security forces “remained incapable of securing and retaking towns from al-Shabaab independently,” and while not explicitly stated, hinted that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is failing.**

State's analysis Somalia mirrors that of FDD's Long War Journal, which has warned that Shabaab has maintained its safe havens and retaken ground in the south, forced poorly resourced African Union forces to cede territory after spectacular complex assaults, and continues to plot against the US and the West.

“In 2016, terrorists used under-governed areas in northern, central, and southern Somalia as safe havens from where they conducted, planned, and facilitated operations with little resistance, State noted in its opening paragraph.

State's assessment that counterterrorism operations were insufficient to battle Shabaab explains the March 30 directive by the US Department of Defense that it would intensify operations in Somalia.

The State report said that the Somali military “as a whole, remained incapable of securing and retaking towns from al-Shabaab independently.” The country has “chronically low capacity and human capital” and remains “heavily dependent on regional and international partners.”

**Shabaab now threatens “previously liberated towns in Bakool, Hiiraan, and other regions” in Central Somalia after “Ethiopian forces largely withdrew.” Additionally, the report notes that Kenya forces have been unable to stop Shabaab fighters from raiding across the border.**

**Ethiopian forces weren't the only African Union contingent to withdrawal from areas it previously held. Kenyan forces abandoned several bases in the south after Shabaab launched major assaults and overran the facilities.**

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



**“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.**

**“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.**

**“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”**

**“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”**

**Frederick Douglass, 1852**

**There is no democracy without socialism and no socialism without democracy.  
-- Rosa Luxemburg**

## **Tear G, Rubber B, Pepper Spray**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: Military Resistance Newsletter  
Sent: June 27, 2017  
Subject: Tear G, Rubber B, Pepper Spray

**Demonstration against Trump Rally in Portland, Oregon June 4, 2017**

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net))

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004

**“In The Production Process More  
Labour Is Absorbed Than Is  
Bought”**

**“What Capital As Capital (Hence The Capitalist As Capitalist) Wants To Produce Is Neither An Immediate Use Value For Self-Consumption, Nor A Commodity To Be Turned First Into Money And Then Into A Use Value”**  
**“Its Aim Is The Accumulation, The Expansion Of Value, Its Increase; That Is To Say, The Maintenance Of The Old Value And The Creation Of Surplus Value”**

From Karl Marx, Theories Of Surplus Value; International Publishers; New York, 1952

In the actual production process labour is in reality transformed into capital, but this transformation is made possible by the original exchange between money and labour power.

Through this *direct* transformation of labour into *materialized* labour belonging not to the worker but to the capitalist, the money is first transformed into capital, including that part of it which has taken the form of means of production, of the conditions necessary for labour.

Up to this point the money is only in its nature capital, whether it exists in its own form or in the form of commodities (products of labour) of such a type as can serve as means of production of a commodity.

This definite relation to labour first transforms money and commodities into capital, and that labour is productive labour which, through this, its relation to the means of production — to which corresponds a definite relation in the actual production process — transforms money or commodities into capital; that is to say, maintains and increases in its value the *materialized* labour which confronts labour power as something independent.

Productive labour is only an abbreviated way of expressing the whole relationship and the form and manner in which labour power figures in the capitalist production process. But it is of the greatest importance to distinguish it from other kinds of labour, since this distinction expresses precisely the distinct form of that labour on which is based the whole capitalist mode of production and capital itself.

*Productive labour* is therefore — in the system of capitalist production — that which produces *surplus value* for its employer, or which transforms the objective conditions of labour into capital and their owner into a capitalist; and therefore labour which produces its own product as capital.

When therefore we speak of *productive labour*, we speak of socially determined labour, labour which implies a quite precise relation between the buyer and the seller of the labour.

But although the money which is in the hands of the buyer of labour power — or the supply of means of production and means of subsistence for the worker which he possesses in the form of commodities — first becomes capital through the process of production, it is only in the process transformed into capital, and therefore these things are not capital before they enter into this process, but are only destined to be capital — nevertheless they are *in themselves* capital.

They are in themselves capital because of the independent form in which they confront labour power and labour power confronts them; a relationship which the exchange with labour power and the subsequent process of the actual transformation of labour into capital conditions and consolidates.

They have from the outset the *definite social relationship* to the workers which makes them into capital and gives them command over labour.

They are therefore presupposed to be capital in relation to labour.

*Productive labour*, consequently, can be so described when it is directly exchanged with money as *capital*, or, what is only a shorter way of saying this, labour which is directly exchanged with capital — that is to say, with money which in itself is capital, which is destined to function as capital or confronts labour power as capital.

The expression: labour which is directly exchanged with capital, implies that the labour is exchanged with money as capital, and thereby transforms it into capital.

The significance of the direct exchange will be seen more clearly in a moment.

**Productive labour is therefore labour which reproduces for the worker only the previously determined value of his labour power, but as a value-creating activity increases the value of the capital, or which confronts the worker himself with the values it creates as capital.**

In the exchange between capital and labour, as we saw in examining the production process, two essentially different though interdependent aspects have to be distinguished.

First: The first exchange between capital and labour is a formal process, in which capital figures as money and labour power as commodity.



The sale of the labour power takes place conventionally or legally in this first process, although the labour is paid for only after it has been applied, at the end of the day, the week, etc.

This in no way alters the transaction in which the labour power is sold.

What in this transaction is directly sold is not a commodity in which labour has already been realised, but the use of the labour power itself, and therefore in fact the labour itself, as the use of the labour power is its activity, labour.

It is therefore not an exchange of labour mediated through an exchange of commodities.

When A sells boots to B, both exchange labour, one labour realised in boots, the other labour realised in money.

But in the case we are dealing with, on one side materialized labour in its general social form, that is, as money, is exchanged against labour that as yet exists only as a power, and what is bought and sold is the use of this power, that is, the labour itself; although the value of the commodity sold is not the value of the labour (a meaningless expression) but the value of the labour power.

A direct exchange therefore takes place between materialized labour and labour power, which *de facto* resolves itself into living labour; that is, between materialized labour and actual labour.

The wage — the value of the labour power— appears, as explained above, in the form of direct purchase price, the price of the labour.

**In this first phase the relation between worker and capitalist is that of seller and buyer of a commodity. The capitalist pays the value of the labour power, that is, the value of the commodity which he buys.**

**A the same time, however, the labour power is only bought because the labour which it can perform, and undertakes to perform, is greater than the labour required for the reproduction of the labour power, and therefore expresses itself in a value greater than the value of the labour power.**

Secondly: The second phase of the *exchange* between capital and labour has in fact nothing to do with the first, and strictly speaking is not an exchange at all.

In the first phase there is an exchange of money and commodity — of equivalents — and worker and capitalist confront each other simply as owners of commodities.

Equivalents are exchanged (that is to say, it makes no difference to the transaction when they are exchanged and whether the price of the labour is above or below the value of the labour power or is equal to it. The transaction can therefore take place in accordance with the general law of the exchange of commodities).

In the second phase no exchange at all takes place.

The owner of money has ceased to be a buyer of commodities, and the worker a seller of commodities.

The owner of money functions now as a capitalist. He consumes the commodity which he has bought, and the worker supplies it, since the use of his labour power is his labour itself.

Through the earlier transaction the labour itself has become part of materialized wealth.

The worker performs it, but it belongs to the capital and is only just a function of the latter. It is performed therefore directly under the control and direction of the capital, and the product in which it is materialized is the new form in which the capital appears) or in which rather it realises itself *actu* as capital.

In this process, therefore, the labour materializes itself directly, is transformed directly into capital, after having already been formally incorporated in capital through the first transaction.

**And indeed more labour is here transformed into capital than capital was earlier expended in the purchase of labour power.**

**In this process a part of unpaid labour is appropriated, and only through this is the money transformed into capital.**

But although in this phase no exchange in fact takes place, the result, disregarding the intermediary stages, is that in the process — taking both phases together — a definite quantity of materialized labour has exchanged for a greater quantity of living labour.

This finds expression in the result of the process, in the fact that the labour materialized in its product is greater than the labour materialized in the labour power, and is consequently greater than the materialized labour paid to the worker; or that in the actual process the capitalist receives back not only the part of the capital which he expended in wages, but a surplus value which costs him nothing.

**The *direct* exchange of labour against capital here signifies**

**(1) the direct transformation of the labour into capital, into a material constituent of capital in the production process;**

**(2) the exchange of a definite quantity of materialized labour against the same quantity of living labour plus an additional quantity of living labour which is appropriated without an equivalent in exchange.**

The statement that productive labour is labour which is directly exchanged with capital embraces all these phases, and is only a derivative formula signifying that it is labour which transforms money into capital, which is exchanged with the means of production as capital, and whose relation to them therefore is not at all a relation to simple means of production, nor in its relation to the means of production is it labour in general, without a specific social character.

This statement covers

(1) the relation of money and labour power to each other as commodities, the purchase and sale between the owner of money and the owner of labour power;

(2) the direct subsumption of labour under capital;

(3) the real transformation of labour into capital in the production process, or what is the same thing, the creation of surplus value for capital.

Two kinds of exchange between labour and capital take place.

The first expresses simply the buying of the labour power and hence *actu* of the labour and hence of its product; the second, the direct transformation of living labour into capital, or its materialization as the embodiment of capital.

The result of the capitalist production process is neither a mere product (use value), nor a commodity, that is, a use value which has a definite exchange value.

Its result, its product, is the creation of surplus value for capital, and hence the actual transformation of money or commodity into capital.

Before the production process they were capital only in intention, in themselves, in their destiny.

**In the production process more labour is absorbed than is bought.**

**This absorption, the appropriation of another's unpaid labour, which is consummated in the production process, is the direct aim of the capitalist production process; for what capital as capital (hence the capitalist as capitalist) wants to produce is neither an immediate use value for self-consumption, nor a commodity to be turned first into money and then into a use value.**

**Its aim is *the accumulation, the expansion of value, its increase*; that is to say, the maintenance of the old value and the creation of surplus value.**

And it achieves this *specific product* of the capitalist production process only in exchange with labour, which is therefore called *productive labour*.

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## VA To Shorten Hold Times By Hanging Up On Callers Automatically

Jul 6, 2017 By Grumpy, The Duffle Blog

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to tackle the problem of long call wait times by automatically disconnecting calls that keep a veteran on hold for 30 minutes, sources confirmed today.

“For too long, we have kept our nation’s veterans in an unending limbo of hold music and meaningless reminders that ‘their call is important to us,’” VA Secretary David Shulkin said. “But starting today, your call is important to us no more.”

“Let’s be honest: if we haven’t gotten to the call after half an hour, you may as well get on with your day.”

Shulkin noted that the Congressional Budget Office said the new program would shorten the average hold time for veterans to 29.9999999 minutes, down from 481.73 in the third quarter of 2014, the last year for which records were not lost when hard drives were mistakenly smashed to bits with pile drivers, then burned and dumped in a disused uranium mine.

“Redialing resets the clock,” Shulkin added repeatedly. “Redialing resets the clock.”

The VA contracted with a consultant who conducted a \$47 million, year-long study of the VA’s phone records. It found more veterans were dying on hold with call centers than in VA Clinic waiting rooms. Shulkin called it “a staggering number, considering our in-person casualty rate.”

“After a \$16 million pilot program in Ottumwa, Iowa, we actually found that hanging up on veterans led to improved health outcomes.”

Rand Corp. analyst John Tyler explained, “We know that sitting is one of the leading indicators of a whole host of diseases — heart problems, impotence, obesity, diabetes.”

“Well, we were forcing veterans to remain sedentary for five, six, even ten hours a day in the very faint hope that their call might be answered — eventually.”

Tyler says that veterans who were hung up on got so angry, their heart rates accelerated, their breathing increased, and their agitation led them to physical activity just to calm down.

“Average cholesterol dropped 43 points in the study group,” Tyler said. “803 guys stopped renewing their Viagra prescriptions.”

“Female vets began laying off the mid-morning Chardonnay.”

Tyler says the only worry for the VA now is that too much improved health “is bad for business.”

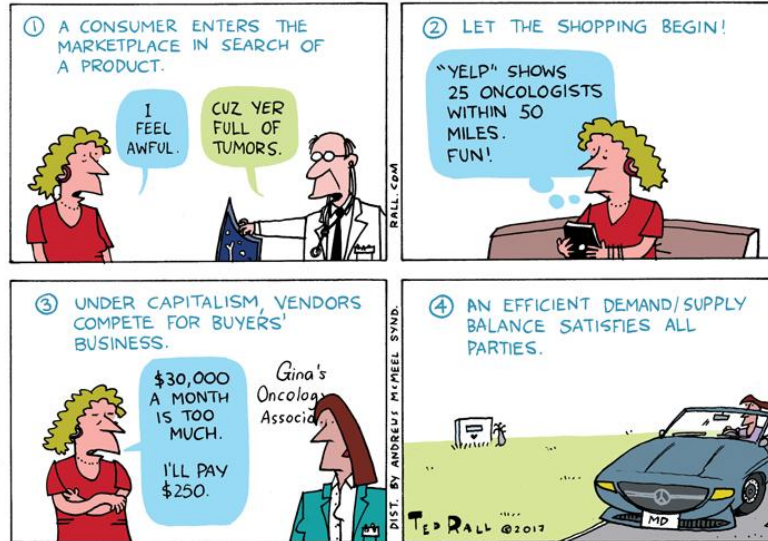
“Gotta keep the appropriations flowing, and healthy veterans don’t buy mama any new paintings.”

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# CLASS WAR REPORTS

## THE REPUBLICAN VIEW OF HEALTHCARE



## Against The Regime In Turkey! “Most Official Estimates Put The Rally At Between 1.5 And 2 Million People”

“Despite A Yearlong State Of Emergency  
Designed To Break Any Resistance To  
The Government, The Fight For  
Democracy And Justice Continues”

July 13, 2017 by John Monroe, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

An immense crowd of as many as 2 million people rallied in Istanbul on July 9 to protest the authoritarian regime of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

It was the latest sign that Turkey's angry discontent cannot be crushed out by the relentless crackdown of Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) government.

The regime has used last July's botched coup attempt as justification for intensifying a campaign of repression that has been developing for several years.

Since last July, Turkish courts have processed more than 168,000 cases of people linked to the takeover attempt--at least 100,000 of them remain in custody, according to the government. More than 103,000 state employees have been fired and some 33,000 suspended. Around 150 media outlets are shut down.

But the signs of struggle are multiplying in Turkey--with last weekend's rally providing confirmation that even more people have gone over into active opposition against the regime.

The Istanbul rally was the culmination of a nearly month-long "March for Justice" that began in the capital of Ankara on June 15 and proceeded over 280 miles for the next 25 days under a blistering summer sun. The first 10 days of the march coincided with Ramadan, and many of the protesters marched without food and water during the day.

The march and rally was organized by the main opposition parties in Turkey, the centrist Republican People's Party (CHP) and the left-wing People's Democracy Party (HDP). While the leader of the CHP, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, put himself center stage, the massive show of dissent was only possible because of the participation of grassroots organizing, including 77 LGBTQ and women's organizations fighting to protect their basic rights.

The march was organized after a CHP member of parliament, Enis Berberoğlu, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for allegedly revealing state secrets. Berberoğlu is accused of leaking video footage to an opposition newspaper showing Turkish intelligence agents providing weapons to Islamist militants across the border in Syria.

**Most official estimates put the rally at between 1.5 and 2 million people, but the Istanbul Governor's Office claimed that only 175,000 attended, citing the surface area of the venue as evidence.**

**That led the Istanbul office of the Chamber of Topographical Engineers to release precise estimates based on its calculation of the venue's surface area--which concluded that the rally was indeed between 1.5 and 2 million strong.**

The March for Justice from Ankara to Istanbul and the immense July 9 rally showed the world that the Turkish people will not be silent in the face of brutality. Despite a yearlong state of emergency designed to break any resistance to the government, the fight for democracy and justice continues.

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**DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK**

**Venezuela: “The Capitalist Elite  
Have Maintained Their Wealth  
And Power”**

**“Of Course, The Bourgeoisie Have  
Fared Well”**

**“Chavismo Had Provided Massive  
Opportunities For Corruption And  
Graft, As The State Bureaucracy  
Diverted State Funds Into Private  
Bank Accounts”**

**“They Happily Colluded With The New  
Chavista Elites To Embezzle Public  
Funds, Speculate In The Currency  
Markets, And Invest Their Profits  
Abroad”**

July 8, 2017 by Mike Gonzalez, Jacobin Magazine [Excerpts]

The depth of Venezuela's economic crisis cannot be overstated. Poverty levels, which were still falling just three years ago, now threaten to return to pre-2012 levels.

Inflation has already pushed above 700 percent, and the real value of wages continues to fall.

At the end of last year, the teachers' union estimated that it took 17 minimum-wage jobs to pay for the basket of basic goods and services. The shortage of even the most basic medication, let alone resources for the health-care system, brings that figure even higher in real terms.

The daily appeals on radio and television for medicine say it all.

Those who are bearing the brunt of the crisis are also those who most passionately supported Chávez's Bolivarian project and its promise that the nation's oil wealth would go to social programs in health, education, and housing. Chávez promised to invest the surplus for the future, diversifying the economy and escaping from the trap of oil dependency.

This project has failed.

Today, 95 percent of Venezuela's external income comes from oil, as opposed to 67 percent 20 years ago. Meanwhile, GDP has fallen by 18 percent as industrial and agricultural production has collapsed in many sectors. State reserves have fallen to 40 percent of their 2012 levels.

Almost 90 percent of the population cannot buy enough food, which explains the average weight loss of eight kilos. Milk consumption has dropped by half. No data is yet available on the impact of the medicine shortages.

Last year, Chávez's ex-minister of finance, Jorge Giordani, published a statement showing that \$500 billion had disappeared from the state's coffers.

The news simply confirmed what most people already knew: Chavismo had provided massive opportunities for corruption and graft, as the state bureaucracy diverted state funds into private bank accounts.

The currency exchange system's complexity allowed importers to apply for dollars at an extremely low rate--around twelve bolivars per dollar until very recently--and then sell imported goods at prices based on a market rate hundreds of times higher.

**Many of those goods simply passed through Venezuela on their way to Colombia, where the profit rates rose even higher. The bank bosses, state bureaucrats, the customs service, and the National Guard all took their cut. En route, fortunes were made.**

It came as little surprise that the commercial bourgeoisie hoarded goods and raised prices at will or that the industrial and financial sectors sent their capital abroad to starve the national economy. But it is surprising that those who were responsible for transforming the Venezuelan state--for attacking corruption and for introducing redistribution policies--also took their share.

**Of course, the bourgeoisie have fared well. They happily colluded with the new Chavista elites to embezzle public funds, speculate in the currency markets, and invest their profits abroad.**

**A recent issue of the Spanish magazine Tiempo ran a cover story called "The Venezuelan Invasion."**

**The article did not engage in the expected attack on immigrants, but rather celebrated the wealthy Venezuelan families now investing in Spain. The names are familiar--Capriles, Cohen, Otero Silva, Baute--and their fortunes came from pharmaceuticals, media, retail, restaurants and gold trading.**



**The magazine tells us that the Venezuelan super-rich are safely ensconced in Madrid's wealthiest districts, well protected from their country's social collapse.**

The crisis in Venezuela represents a complete rejection of the Bolivarian revolution: the gains made by the poor and working classes have all but disappeared while the capitalist elite have maintained their wealth and power.

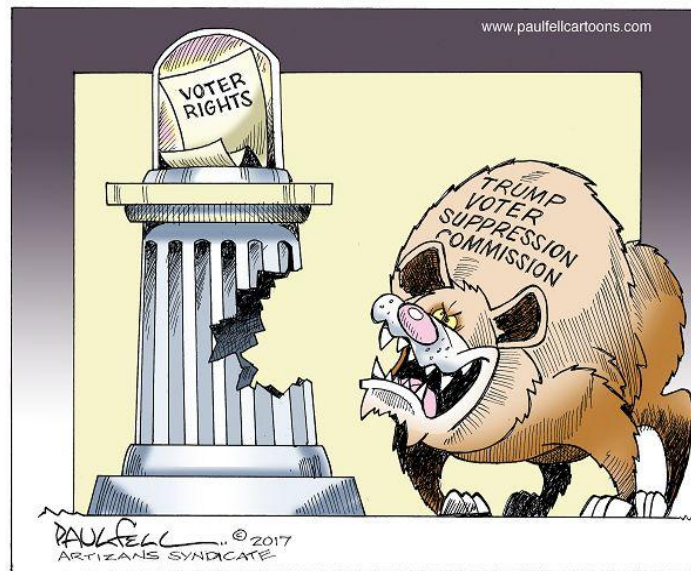
Rather than resisting this worsening crisis, however, the Maduro government has instead mobilized its forces to protect itself.

**The military has become a uniformed sector of the ruling state bourgeoisie, with both political control and a central economic role.**

**Even before the recent changes, over half the cabinet belonged to the military as well as half the state governors.**

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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**“Obamacare Contained Some Important Advances That**

# **Should Be Defended Against The Republicans”**

**“But By Establishing A Framework  
That Leaves Tens Of Millions Of  
People At The Mercy Of Profit-  
Hungry Private Insurers, It Set The  
Stage For Chaos And Crisis”**

**“Its Toxic Core Leaves Insurance  
Companies Free To Prey On Millions  
Of People Who Are Required By Law  
To Buy Their Defective, Overpriced  
Product”**

**“Democrats May See Political Advantage  
In Saying They Support Single-Payer--  
But They Don't Want To Incur The Wrath  
Of The Health Care Industry By Doing  
Something About It”**

July 21, 2017 Editorial. Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

DONALD TRUMP and the Republican Party suffered another setback in their drive to wreck an already ailing health care system and loot the rubble for more tax cuts for the super-rich.

But there's bad news, too: The Republicans' failure to pass a destructive law doesn't change the fact the health care system under the ACA is sinking deeper into crisis.

Obamacare contained some important advances that should be defended against the Republicans.

But by establishing a framework that leaves tens of millions of people at the mercy of profit-hungry private insurers, it set the stage for chaos and crisis among the people who were supposed to be helped by the ACA.

**If the Republicans are in a position to try to saw off the limbs of the health care system, it's because they were able to exploit mass dissatisfaction with the ACA status quo.**

The only way out of the health care hunger games is a radical alternative to both Trumpcare and Obamacare: a single-payer system covering everyone under an expanded and strengthened Medicare-for-all system.

Trump and the Republicans have one thing going for them: The health care system is still a mess for millions of people because of the failures of Obamacare.

The positive measures in the ACA are outweighed by its toxic core, which leaves insurance companies free to prey on millions of people who are required by law to buy their defective, overpriced product.

**Since the ACA passed in 2010, the insurance giants have gotten federal agencies to loosen the new regulations on them, while they figured out how to game the Obamacare system to maximize profits.**

**Premiums are rising, along with out-of-pocket costs passed onto policyholders--and the ACA's "exchanges," where individuals are supposed to purchase insurance, are in danger of breaking down altogether as insurers pull out of different states.**

**That's not Trump lies or Republican propaganda--it's the truth.**

The cure, of course, isn't the GOP's poison that would make the system sicker. It's the radical break that the Obama administration never considered in 2009:

A single-payer system providing universal health care, like exists in almost every industrialized country in the world except the U.S.

The urgent need for that alternative has broken through to a wider number of people than ever before. Despite the slanders of the health care industry, one-third of people told the pollsters from Pew that they support single-payer right now. Fully 60 percent say the federal government should be responsible for ensuring health care coverage for all Americans--which is only possible under a single-payer system.

The time is ripe for supporters of Medicare for all to take the movement to the next level. But that requires a clear understanding of what's in our way: The for-profit health care industry and the Republican reactionaries, obviously--but also the Democratic Party.

THROWN OUT of power in Washington by the 2016 election, leading Democrats are feeling freer to give rhetorical support to single-payer. For the first time, a majority of House Democrats has signed up in support of a Medicare-for-all proposal. Not only Bernie Sanders, but Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand and Kamala Harris have voiced varying degrees of backing.

But when it gets close to actually achieving a single-payer system, the Democrats' enthusiasm grows cold.

**In California this year, health care activists pressed for the state legislature--which is wholly controlled by the Democrats, along with the governor's mansion--to take up a bill that would have begun work on a single-payer system.**

**The popular legislation passed the state Senate easily. But in June, as the bill was due to be taken up by the State Assembly, Speaker Anthony Rendon announced it would remain in committee indefinitely--a legislative death sentence.**

Rendon's excuse? He claimed the postponement was to make fighting Trumpcare in Washington "the top health care priority."

This is laughable, of course. Passing single-payer legislation for the first time--and in the most populous state in the country, no less--would be a stirring challenge to the Republican reactionaries in Washington and galvanize the struggle against Trumpcare across the country.

The real reason Rendon killed the bill is because Democrats may see political advantage in saying they support single-payer--but they don't want to incur the wrath of the health care industry by doing something about it if they don't have to.

By contrast, the health-care activists who mobilized in California and New York state--where similar legislation advanced through one house of the legislature, but was stopped in the other--showed that you can fight Trumpcare and champion single-payer.

In fact, the two battles need to be linked--because protests against the Republican health-care disaster will be much more effective if we have something better than Obamacare to put forward as an alternative.



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