between the United States and Russia. There are clear signs that meaning differences over economic policies are leading to a resurgence of the old antagonisms between the US and Germany and other European countries. Within its “own” hemisphere, relations between Washington and Latin American states are deteriorating.

15. The determination of American imperialist to maintain its dominant position in the global capitalist system creates innumerable scenarios, involving many different states, which lead to military conflict. One or another of these scenarios, or some unforeseen variation, will ultimately be played out in reality. This, in fact, is the expectation of the American military. The official 2010 analysis of the Joint Operating Environment (JOE), published by the United States Joint Forces Command, bluntly declares in its introduction: “War has been a principal driver of change over the course of history, and there is no reason to believe that the future will differ in this respect.” There is only one way that another catastrophic world war can be prevented, and that is through the international political mobilization of the working class in the struggle for socialism. The American working class must and will play a central role in this global struggle.

16. The Obama administration’s failure to take any significant measures to alleviate the economic distress of tens of millions of working class Americans testifies to the supreme reality of political life in the United States: the total control maintained by the multi-billion-dollar corporations and the super-rich over all branches of government and the two-party system. The executive branch, Congress, the judiciary and state and local governments are subservient to corporate interests. No legislation can be enacted and no measure can be taken that is perceived by the capitalist class as a threat to its interests and wealth. American democracy is no more rationally a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The growth and concentration of personal wealth during the past 30 years, which has produced a degree of social inequality higher than any other advanced capitalist country, is the outcome of tax cuts and the deepening of laws and regulations that once placed restraints on the exploitative activities of the corporations.

17. The concentration of staggering sums of money in the hands of a small fraction of the population, the consequence of private ownership of the means of production, is not only socially obscene. It is, more signficantly, economically destructive and incompatible with the critical needs of society, within the United States and internationally. This is the age of inordinate alienation and society. Approximately seven billion people inhabit our planet. Three hundred million people are living in absolute poverty and many of these have no access to such great social problems that confront modern society—the provision of food and other basic necessities, education, medical care, housing, social infrastructures, the development of natural resources—require solutions that are collective, not individual. In their character, there is a desperate need for the rational development of global economic resources and their utilization in the interests of the people’s wealth. Moreover, the technological advances and economic growth that are required to abolish poverty and meet the ever-rising social and cultural needs of people cannot be achieved without an scientifically grounded awareness of the connectedness of the social problems confronting the ecology of our planet.

18. None of these problems can be addressed in a country and a world where all important economic decisions are made by privately owned corporations. The grand speculation in sub-prime and high-interest loans that precipitated the worldwide financial crash of 2008 demonstrated how the world economy is at the mercy of the rapacious and socially criminal pursuit of personal wealth. And, if that lesson was not sufficient, the ecological catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico—polluted by hundreds of millions of gallons of crude oil—is a historic exposure of the socially carceral character of privately owned corporations. It has already been established that BP either ignored or consciously violated even the most basic safety procedures in its pursuit of profit. BP’s criminal behavior was abetted by successive US administrations, Republic and Democratic. The Obama administration’s response to the economic and social disaster in the Gulf of Mexico has been spreading poverty and acute suffering through industrial and agricultural areas alike. No one yet knows when the present economic disaster will be brought to an end. The illusive years have given way to fearful economic insecurities and to widespread despair. These eighteen months have revealed the hypocrisy of the President’s pledge of cooperation toward the attainment of economic recovery. The Administration’s efforts to attain economic security have consisted of attempts to minimize the seriousness of the depressive factors that assure that millions of people would restore prosperity were about to be taken, and of a woefully unsuccessful program to stimulate private agencies to undertake tasks which the Administration was determined to shirk.

21. These words, written in 1931, were an indictment of the policies of the Hoover administration. They serve just as well as a description of the Obama administration’s response to the economic and social disaster. The failure is not merely that of a president, but of an entire political system and the capitalist economic order that it defends. There remains no small number of liberal Democrats who hope against hope that the administration will suddenly change course and promise with appropriate fanfare the second coming of Roosevelt’s “New Deal.” Their dreams are in vain. The corporate and financial oligarchy that dictates policies to the Democrats and Republicans is demanding the application of ever more savage doses of austerity.

22. When American capitalism was approaching the pinnacle of its expansionary period in the 1920s, its leaders acknowledged that the political rights enunciated in the US Constitution were, by themselves, insufficient to ensure economic survival and financial viability of BP. Just as the Wall Street financiers were never held criminally liable for the economic devastation caused by their speculation, BP too has been sheltered from the consequences of its actions. More important than the fate of BP and its executives are the deeper economic roots of this catastrophe. The basic source of not only the catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, but of all the ominous forms taken by the expanding economic crisis, lies in the ruthless subordination of the economic and social interests of the masses of working people to the pursuit of ever-progressive capital and capitalist organizations that own and control the means of production.

The Bankruptcy of Liberalism and the Democratic Party

The economic crisis that exploded in the autumn of 2008 continues, with no end in sight. America has been saved from global collapse by a hitherto unknown power that has sought to cover up the ineffectiveness of its pathetic half-measures with hollow rhetoric. More significant, its response to the crisis reveals that of Herbert Hoover after the 1929 crash. In that earlier period of economic crisis, a liberal journal commented: “For eighteen months unemployment has been spreading poverty and acute suffering through industrial and agricultural areas alike. No one yet knows when the present economic disaster will be brought to an end. The illusive years have given way to fearful economic insecurities and to widespread despair. These eighteen months have revealed the hypocrisy of the President’s pledge of cooperation toward the attainment of economic recovery. The Administration’s efforts to attain economic security have consisted of attempts to minimize the seriousness of the depressive factors that assure that millions of people would restore prosperity were about to be taken, and of a woefully unsuccessful program to stimulate private agencies to undertake tasks which the Administration was determined to shirk.”

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