

The Palestinian

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In millions, and billions, we are all Palestinians !

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Hi folks, Do you want to see a new leaflet every week? If so--then **I need your help!** Seriously. Help me out! Email me with your questions, criticisms and comments!

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The Truth Will Out !

Palestinians are using the weapon of
transparency in our century of information war

"Imperialism is the epoch of finance capital and of monopolies, which introduce everywhere ... reaction and an extreme intensification of ... national oppression" -- Lenin (1916)

The **modern era** of imperialism, as the **final stage** of **capitalism**, began around 1900 (see back page) and ushered in a century of **world wars** and **fascism** as well as modern technologies such as nuclear weapons, computers and the internet. This century, like the last one, looks like it will also be a century of **fascism**, **war**, and murder on an industrial scale, but it also promises to be a century of **liberation** as humanity and the working class make use of modern technology to raise their consciousness, **organize** themselves, **overthrow** the

system of imperialism and **create a world of peace, abundance and genuine community** for everyone.

The **mass slaughter** in Gaza has killed **23,000** (mainly civilians) with another **7,000** missing and likely buried under rubble. Schools, hospitals, shops, residential buildings and refugee camps have been leveled with 2,000 pound bombs. **Journalists** are being especially targeted. 85% of Gaza's 2.3 million people are now displaced and **homeless**. Experts say **deaths from disease** will eventually **exceed deaths from bombs** due to a severe lack of clean **drinking water, food, fuel and sanitation**.

The days in which **imperialism** can commit these crimes **away from the eyes** of most of the world, however, are gone. The **carnage in Gaza** is being watched by **millions** on social media, in spite of *manipulative algorithms* and *censorship*. More than this, **millions are now able to see for themselves inspiring scenes of resistance**. For example, I went to the YouTube channel for *The Electronic Intifada* and saw videos of **heroic Palestinian fighters** emerge from tunnels and **destroy** Israeli tanks. This helps us *understand our future* in which a **universal and democratic** social media platform (that cannot be censored) will bring **light and consciousness** to the working class and oppressed and knowledge of their **historic mission and destiny**. ■

Letter from a Reader:

Imperialism, Socialism and the language of our self-deceit

Jason replied to Leaflet # 4, which outlined Lenin's analysis of imperialism as the final stage of capitalism, and also explained the problem with words such as "socialism". (Edited for concision and clarity)

You did a good job, Ben, in summarizing Lenin's pamphlet "*Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*", but you should have advertized the title, as it ought to be more widely read.

Many get bogged down in details, instead of grasping the essence of the matter: modern imperialism is the *inherent result of modern capitalism*, rather than a relic of the past, or a result of bad thinking or malign will. We must be explicit that *getting rid of imperialism necessarily involves getting rid of capitalism*, and vice versa. And we must be explicit that *imperialism is a form of competition between capitalist states*.

The working class can only bring an end to war and imperialism by *overthrowing capitalist rule and building a new economic system based on co-operation and sharing*. That is what we mean by "socialism".

Ben replies

You make a good point, Jason, that many lose sight of the **central idea** in Lenin's pamphlet, written in the middle of the first world war--that is **key** to understanding **modern war** and **modern politics**.

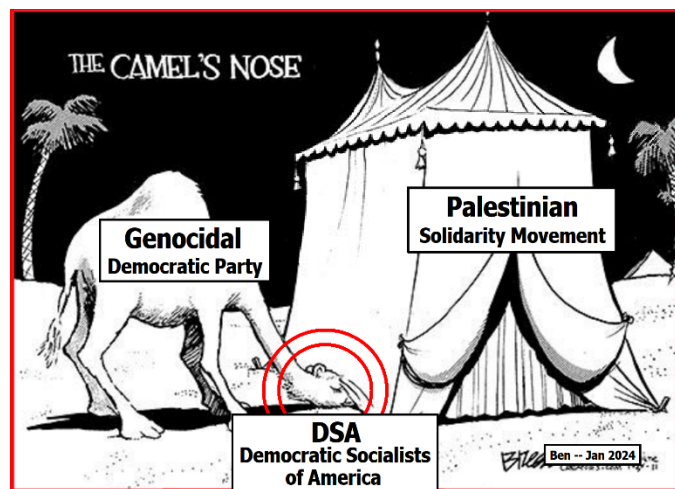
Lenin's point is **simple**: he shows through charts and statistics how **capital** grew and **concentrated** into **monopoly**--and a close network of dependent relationships--until it essentially **took over everything**. By 1900, in the major imperialist countries, capital **owned** the politicians, **owned** the mass media, and **owned** essentially all the modern **institutions** of society. And since the growth of the major powers is **uneven**, and capital is organized and regulated on a **national** basis--war becomes **inevitable** as the necessary **redivision** of the world can **only** take place on the basis of **strength**.

In this way, we can see that capital functions as a **non-human force**, like something out of **science fiction**. The humans in our ruling class are only in

the **loop** to the extent that they obey the will of **capital**. And capital only wants to **grow** (like a **cancer**). This simple idea cuts through the **mountains of bullshit** we are **fed** every day.



The major decisions of **war and peace** --and everything else--are based on **the need for capital to expand**.



In contrast to the **clarity** and **power** of this idea, we can note the **reformist illusions** promoted not only by our media and schools--but from within the **Palestinian Solidarity Movement** itself by groups like the *Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)* -- which urges activists to join their **noble crusade** to "**oust the pro-corporate, pro-war politicians**" and "**dismantle the US war machine**". How will the DSA accomplish these **miracles**? By **channeling** activist **energy** into the **black hole** of *bankrupt electoral politics* and promoting the **influence** and **ideology** of the **imperialist Democratic Party**.

As far as defining "socialism", there is a **problem** with your proposal: it is **impossible** to have clear **ideas** without clear **language**--without words that are **real**. The word "socialism" -- as it is **used today** by the people with the **big megaphones** -- and **actually understood by most people** -- refers to an **imaginary** kinder, gentler (and less imperialistic) form of capitalism. So you or I might use this word to mean **one thing**--but **objectively**--what people would **hear** from us--would be **something else** entirely. We might **think** we are telling people to **overthrow** capitalist rule--but we would **end up** telling them to make it **less bad**. ■