

14 international

Resist Trump!

Years of worldwide instability & crisis ahead

The billionaire businessman Donald Trump has entered the White House. Comments expressing the worst prejudices of capitalist society are never far from his lips. He is a racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic reactionary. In a world already full of war, economic crisis, poverty and mass unemployment, years of even greater instability now lie ahead.

Shaun Arendse

Executive Committee

But Trump's presidency is also guaranteed to produce mass movements. The Women's Marches on the day he was sworn into office saw over three million take to the streets of cities across the United States. Hundreds of thousands more marched in solidarity across the world.

His attempt to ban travel to the US from seven majority-Muslim countries saw thousands rushing to the airport in New York to protest against the detention of refugees that resulted. Taxi drivers refused to collect passengers at the airport in solidarity. Trump's plans to build a wall across the Mexican border, to deport millions of Latin Americans, to attack the rights of gay and lesbian couples and the reproductive rights of women, and to scrap laws protecting the environment will meet huge resistance. The emboldening of white supremacist forces, encouraged by Trump's racism, will lead to a new growth of the Black Lives Matter movement.



WASP activists protest at US Consulate in Sandton on Trump's inauguration day

In reality, Trump has a very weak base of support. He lost the popular vote. It was only the undemocratic voting system that allowed him to 'win'. Millions of working class Americans did not even vote.

US imperialism weakened

Trump's election has sent shockwaves through the US ruling class. They fear the social upheaval that he will provoke and worry that it will develop into a challenge to the capitalist system itself. On the global stage Trump threatens to speed-up the collapse of the world order the US ruling class has carefully built over decades.

Already, Trump has raised tensions with China, emboldened the reactionary Israeli regime to push ahead with its colonial dispossession of the Palestinians, and placed a question mark over US imperialism's commitment to the European ruling classes against their rivals. Trump's use of Twitter (limited to 140 letters!) for foreign policy soundbites must have the ruling class terrified!

Thousands of mini-Trump's will be encouraged to take off their masks. Only one month after Trump was elected, the new DA mayor of Johannesburg, Herman Mashaba, launched an attack against "illegal immigrants", describing them as "criminals" and demanding they leave the city.

Racist

Regardless of the rhetoric Trump is fully committed to capitalism. He has filled his cabinet with other billionaires and is committed to tax cuts for the rich. On the basis of capitalism Trump will not be able to satisfy the expectations of those who voted for him.

Trump built his fortune standing on the back of his father's wealth and connections to the political establishment of New York. From the start Trump's capitalist empire was built on racism. In the early 1970s Trump was taken to court by the New York government for racial discrimination. Undercover investigators discovered that black people trying to rent apartments owned by Trump were being told that "none were available". But when they sent white people they were immediately offered apartments!

A former executive at a casino owned by Trump tells how Trump was outraged at the idea of "black guys counting my

money!" after discovering the casino had hired a black accountant, saying "I think that guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is; I believe that. It's not anything they can control."

US society moves left

Trump joined the race for the White House almost as a 'joke' candidate. But a huge backlash against the political establishment allowed him to push aside his rivals in the big business controlled Republican Party. He presented himself as a political 'outsider' who would stand up for the forgotten working class. He promised to bring jobs back to America and "make America great again". Many working class people would have understood this to mean a promise of full employment and higher wages.

In a distorted way the election of Trump shows the growing rejection of the capitalist status quo in the US. This was also reflected on the left in the enormous support of millions of Americans for the unsuccessful campaign of self-proclaimed socialist Bernie Sanders. But unfortunately Sanders was not prepared to run as an independent candidate when the big business controlled Democratic Party blocked his candidacy. This made it far more likely that Trump would win.

Out of the mass movements that will develop against Trump the task of building a socialist mass workers party, to offer a genuine alternative to the right-populism of Trump and the big business parties of the establishment, must be pushed to the top of the agenda.



WASP is the South African affiliate of the Committee for a Workers International which has more than 40 sections worldwide. The CWI website is updated daily with news and Marxist analysis of the latest struggles across the world.

www.socialistworld.net