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|  The USC4P&J Occasional Papers are a series of ad hoc publications on the themes of peace and justice. The series comprises informal essays, declarations, papers in progress, and talks or contributions to meetings and assemblies. |

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| This Statement, by **Lucas Alden**, was distributed to political activist groups worldwide on 2-8-17. |

**Uniting In The Interest Of Populations Worldwide**

Our goal at this point in human history must be nothing less than striving to create a genuinely new politics. Facing the very real spectre of the worsening effects of anthropogenic climate change, which according to the leading scientific agencies around the world may result in this century being the last of decent human survival as we know it, is of course reason enough to take bolder steps than ever before. Private and state power, enmeshed as never before, have always counted on and are indeed currently counting on the population to be atomized thereby leading us to believe that our problems are to be confronted individually and our fates are entirely of our own making. Translating this sentiment into existing left formations and up and coming left organizations, corporate power and their administrators in governments the world over delight in our ongoing and insistent sectarianism and atomization amongst ourselves. Valid divisions or not, the result of this is always one and the same: the continued unchallenged dominance of corporate and financial power, its stranglehold on governments everywhere, the non-existence of electoral parties working on behalf of the mass of national and local populations. Consequently, the masses increasingly suffer deepening inequality, the future of the planet, ever nearer, is put into ever more serious peril, wars and illegal occupations are perpetuated across the world, banks and multinationals, on the backs of working populations, continue to loot national treasuries while simultaneously having the gall to continue to spout out about the historical fiction of free market economies, privatization of public resources and entities deepens, media is increasingly a propaganda mouthpiece for the corporate state and universities are steadily more corporatized in the service of the rich and powerful.

In turn, substantial sectors of populations either do not participate at any level in the political process, even if it is only electorally, or worse, lash out irrationally in the electoral arena against their own interests by voting for right parties. Populations’ grievances are real and entirely justified – so called center-left parties in the hands of corporations and financial power(the US Democratic Party, the Italian PD, Labor in the UK, Hollande’s Socialist Party in France etc.) have not only failed to present a challenge to the neoliberal attack on working populations, distressed peoples and the planet over the last 40 years, the rich documentary record shows they’ve actively colluded with right formations in carrying out this attack. Much of the public have come to understand that existing so-called left institutions are not a friend of the common person. To a great extent elite institutions – political parties, the media, academia, churches and much else of the liberal elite – have failed to keep up with much of the public, or to keep a lid on their collusion in the rot.

Defeating Trump and his administration’s proto-fascist agenda, as well as other ultra-nationalist, racist, xenophobic, misogynistic right formations who are equally, openly and deeply antagonistic to working populations, cannot be done over the long term by following old strategies. On the one hand, we are making a potentially fatal error at this point if we fail to understand that Trump and his ilk on the right everywhere are symptomatic of the problem, they are not the cause. On the other hand existing formations must realize, if indeed they are interested in actually bringing about real and lasting change, that division and sectarianism is an enormous gift to power. Failing to remind ourselves that we all agree on the basic issues and goals will ensure an outcome in favor of corporate tyranny, a perpetuation of politics as practiced and groups carrying on in their bubbles with no change in consciousness in society.

All left formations working on all the crucial issues such as climate change, inequality, anti-war, resistance to aggression, third world solidarity, poverty, anti-privatization, Palestinian liberation, racism, labor union organization, publicly funded healthcare and higher education, mass incarceration, mass surveillance, and an end to student debt and the debt economy and the formation of workers’ self-directed enterprises will never realize any of these goals if we fail to comprehend the inherent and deeply rooted connections among all of these and create some form of new alliances to empower populations to work for their own interests and end state corporate tyranny. Likely, these alliances will be made outside of existing corporate dominated institutions, such as the Democratic Party in the US as well as their stated counterparts in Europe. All the advances made in the name of human freedom particularly in the last century and a half have been born and propelled forward outside of the halls of power and usually done illegally, whether it was abolition of slavery, the formation of labor unions, women’s rights, civil rights etc. All of these changes, by the way, were deemed unthinkable and unrealistic at their times.

 It is not sentimental to say we all have much to learn from one another, whether new to activism or having long been involved. More concretely, failure to realize that all of these issues have very long and deep roots and a common denominator will prevent us from coming together in solidarity. This will therefore ensure that, as John Dewey pointed out in 1931, politics will remain “the shadow cast over society by big business.” Undoubtedly, we can do much better than we have. Elites do not believe in us and never have. Do we believe in ourselves?

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Rome, Italy 2/8/17