

A DIALECTICAL LOOK AT THE APPEARANCE AND ESSENCE OF ELECTIONS

Elections are a cheap disguise (although they cost a lot of money) appearing to give workers a voice, but actually they serve only to cover up the fact that the capitalist class monopolizes political power. Elections, and democracy itself, are the sheep's clothing used to hide the wolf of the dictatorship of capital. We need to work for qualitative change that exposes to all workers the bosses' political dictatorship and trashes the myth of democratic elections.

In US elections, there are two parties: the Democrats, who appear to the masses as standing for social programs; and the Republicans, who appear to stand for small government and religious issues. However, if we scratch the surface appearance, we find that there are no serious differences between, for instance, Obama and McCain during the last US presidential election. Both wanted to fund the war in Iraq and escalate the occupation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both agreed that the main focus of foreign policy is the War on Terrorism, and agreed on expanding the military. Both agreed to the Patriot Act, a policy permitting government to monitor people's phone calls and internet usage, to use warrant-less wiretaps, etc. Each had his own stealth form of pushing the military draft. Obama proposed national service; McCain proposed to expand Americorp and ROTC.

The essence of elections is determined by the bosses' class interests. This essence is the inner, hidden nature of what primarily drives elections, and it explains why elections are needed at all. Understanding the nature of elections involves analyzing the needs of the capitalist class and figuring out which policies and politicians serve those needs best, while still appearing to workers that they have a choice.

The appearance and essence of elections to-

gether compose a contradiction; they depend on each other for their existence but are opposites. The phony election process appears to be genuine and tries to hide from the working class the essence of elections: the tyranny of capitalism over workers' lives.

The capitalist-driven essence of elections is commanded by the mechanisms of capitalism: competition, the anarchy of production, inter-imperialist rivalry, etc. The bosses cannot control these mechanisms. As the development of capitalism leads again and again to inter-imperialist world war, the bosses permit only candidates wholeheartedly workers to die for their profits. The bosses only permit candidates who advocate policies that do not disturb the usage of tools that maximize exploitation, such as racism, sexism, nationalism, the wage system, which is wage slavery, and money.

The resolution of contradictions requires a qualitative change, a transition into the opposite. Currently, the appearance of elections is crucial to disguising and maintaining capitalist dictatorship. Workers need to bring about a qualitative change that transitions this situation to one where the essence of elections becomes apparent: expose and abolish the capitalist-driven election process that perpetuates wage slavery.

Considering the limits of both the appearance and essence of elections, voting guarantees the perpetuation of all the tools to maximize exploitation and capitalist power; it maintains the status quo. The qualitative change grows closer as we continue with our quantitative work to organize and strengthen ICWP in all areas. We need to write, read, donate to and distribute *Red Flag* to strengthen our connection to the paper and also to strengthen *Red Flag's* connection to our working class, to cast aside false hopes in voting and

instead turn to actions that hasten communist revolution to abolish capitalism and build a system without exploitation.

Red Flag Editorial Comment:

This article does a good job at explaining that elections hide the dictatorship of capital over the working class. It doesn't make it clear that there is no way that elections can serve the working class. In a communist system, there won't be elections. We won't decide things by voting.

The way the Party works now is a model for the way communism will work in the future. Leaders are and will be chosen by workers and others who have confidence in their comrades' leadership in developing and fighting for our communist ideas and uniting us to mobilize for communism. We do and will make decisions by analyzing, discussing and struggling to advance the fight for communism, to advance the interests of the international working class.

Voting is a passive act that doesn't require our full participation. Communist centralism, however, means that all comrades and friends actively participate in the discussion and the work of understanding, spreading, and developing communist ideas and practice. All will participate in planning and carrying out and evaluating production and distribution in all their social relations.

The bosses' definition of politics is a passive process of electing someone who will do all the leading. That's the opposite of communism, in which masses of workers through their party will lead every aspect of society to guarantee that the needs of the working class are met.

A DIALECTICAL LOOK AT THE APPEARANCE AND ESSENCE OF UNITY IN SPORTS

History shows that soccer originated in China, dating back from the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC followed by England in the 18th Century when they started modernizing it and introduced it to the rest of the world.

Throughout history, soccer was used by ancient empires as political propaganda to divide the countries. Today is no exception. Although often overlooked, sports and politics are intricately intertwined. For example in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, the dictatorship in that country utilized the World Cup as an instrument to show the rest of the world that there was supposed harmony within the country.

The 1930's, 40's and '50's marked a new turn in the sports field when political leaders of fascist regimes created a global political atmosphere. Mussolini and Hitler were architects of promoting fascism, nationalism, and racism in soccer

and other sports. These dictators could see that fostering nationalism in soccer would divert many of the youth and other people away from the main problems in the society. They associated sports with an extension of military training.

In this new era we can clearly see that capitalists haven't stopped following the examples of their old masters with new influential marketing techniques in soccer. The 21st century has witnessed an increase in euphoria that arises every day between the famous classic "Real Madrid vs. Barcelona," a tremendous battle on the field as well as off between fans, particularly in Europe, the USA and Latin America.

The rules that apply in soccer are parallel to those applied similarly by our whole society which are uniform, unbreakable and ultimately non-negotiable. The objective of sports worldwide is a double-edged sword for imperialism as

they strengthen their empire and at the same time exploit and create separation between workers.

We can analyze and conclude that capitalism teaches us to measure the athletes, based on strength, superiority and of course to be defenders of the system. Thus it is that while we continue to let ourselves be manipulated by this system, participating in discussions or attacking our same class, then unwittingly we become complicit with the same system which, seeing it in perspective, does not benefit us in any way whatsoever. On the contrary, it affects us by taking us away from the real issues that occur in our lives.

Soccer is indisputably fascinating. It's the sport that is played the most on our planet. Unfortunately it has been affected and taken to another dimension by the same corruption that this system offers us.

How I imagine sports will be under Communism:

I think that winning medals and titles in competition should be abolished. The athlete as well as the whole working class will be free of all types of exploitation. Sport will be practiced collectively, exclusively as part of the exercise that human beings need to live a healthy life.

No athlete will be seen as superior or inferior to another. Let's say, "Enough!" to division based on nationalism! Help us to fight this capitalist evil and contribute to building a new communist society. Social equality for all! Strength is on our side! It depends on us to make the change happen!

