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Migrations, employment and work under capitalism

Migrant persons are welcome until capital no longer needs them, and then they become “the problem of immigration”.

It's a well-known “virtue” of capitalism that it turns all it touches into goods. Water, earth, animals, food, cars, everything's treated as merchandise; life and human beings are no exception.

Imperialism uses immigrant workforce in accordance to their greedy necessities to exploit. That is why imperialist countries foster immigration in order to meet their demands for cheap labor. When immigrants are no longer necessary, imperialism uses repression and closes borders to prevent the unemployed of oppressed countries from finding jobs in imperialist countries.

Neither is employment, usually called work, which today's capitalism pretends to make universal in the form of merchandise. Wage employment is its most explicit form.

The current crisis of capitalism is based on the society that capitalism has created, being competitiveness at an economic, social and political level one of its basic premises. This model has turned employment into merchandise and people into mere tools that produce what the system needs, discarding them when it no longer needs them. They've turned work into something scarce and unemployment into something functional for the economy, forcing workers to sell their work force in very poor conditions in order to survive. Even though human beings are naturally social beings, wage employment places great pressure on them and the individual worker, isolated, confronts others negatively because the system only recognizes one type of work, wage employment.

Europe, as well as USA, faces the issue of migrations only from an economic perspective: freedom of movement of persons and workers (nationals as well as persons from EU countries) forces the suppression of internal frontiers, but also forces more strict controls on external frontiers, for all foreigners or non-EU citizens.

Foreign persons are only viewed as workers useful for national economies. That's the reason for the severe restrictions on their entry and movement. And their rights and social integration are simply ignored.

Migrant person “become” a structural factor for the economy in its growth or crisis cycles, especially in those sectors that were progressively abandoned by native workers due to job flexibility, precariousness and deregulation, jobs that are centered in sectors that need a large workforce: personal care services, agriculture, tourism and construction. Usually those are the same sectors that concentrate a large percentage of so-called black economy, this being a third factor that determines the hiring of migrant workers, besides low qualification and high flexibility.

We have to add to that the decentralization of production (subcontractors, service businesses, etc.) and the externalization of basic services (more and more states tend to put on private hands basic rights and services). Migrant persons were and are used under this system than condemns them to integral precariousness (in work and society): forced proletarianization leaves them no alternative but to submit to the rules established by the “labor markets” which they assist.

We must not forget that capitalism, including state capitalism, has exploited humans and earth from its very beginning. Following that route we have run into what some experts call the great threats on the planet, situations that cause much harm to the planet and its population. The United Nations Development Programme-UNDP (which isn't suspicious of subversiveness) warned in its

1999 report that “inequality has increased in many countries since the beginning of the 80’s decade”, and continues thus: “globalization is creating new threats to the safety of humans, both in rich and poor countries”. So if we continue down this path, we’ll have to face threats that include:

- Chronic threats such as hunger, illness and repression
- Sudden and harmful alterations in our daily routines (in the household, the job or the community) for which we aren’t ready
- Growing predation of natural resources (running out of fossil fuels, desertification, exhaustion of fishing reserves, extinction of many animal and plant species, pollution of water...)

Loss of human safety can be a slow and silent process or an abrupt and noisy emergency. If the planet’s destroyed, it will be so for humanity, not just poor people.

What we can say categorically is that classical defects of capitalism such as inequality and extreme poverty are growing every day. The political and economic convulsions which the system is experiencing in these times show that it’s incapable of satisfying the needs of society as a whole.

Everything points to the fact that the neo-Malthusian solution decided by those in power, which leaves out of survival a large portion of humanity, is under way.

What will most of that “excess” population do? They’ll look for the conditions of survival and they’ll look for them anywhere; another issue is whether they succeed or die trying. But also we must not forget history and the relationships that Europe has had with other regions of the world (conquest, slavery, colonization... in short, exploitation of human beings and natural resources), which have profoundly marked the state of affairs in the present, and which is still under way through transnational corporations.

Concretion of dialogue, study and joint action among unions, ecological organizations, feminist organizations, human rights organizations, and those that help migrants and give alternatives to this system is totally necessary in order to build initiatives and strategies which cross national and geographic borders, trying to add everyone’s efforts and thus create a powerful response with the sum of the scarce forces that we have separately.

We must imagine the future which is approaching in order to face it with some probability of solving it.

- Free movement and residence for all people;
- Healthcare, Education and affordable housing are fundamental rights, irrespectively of national status;
- No to outsourcing: jobs, working conditions, the right to unionize and to strike between workers born in and outside each country must be equal;
- Legal rights for all immigrants;
- Stop Xenophobia and discrimination.

Les organisations membres du Réseau syndical international de solidarité et de lutte

Organisations syndicales nationales interprofessionnelles

- Central Sindical e Popular Conlutas (**CSP-Conlutas**) - Brésil.
- Confederación General del Trabajo (**CGT**) - Etat espagnol.
- Union syndicale Solidaires (**Solidaires**) - France.
- Confédération Générale du Travail du Burkina (**CGT-B**) - Burkina.
- Confederation of Indonesia People's Movement (**KPRI**) - Indonésie.
- Confederación Intersindical (**Intersindical**) - Etat espagnol.
- Syndicat National Autonome des Personnels de l'Administration Publique (**SNAPAP**) - Algérie.
- Batay Ouvriye - Haïti.
- Unione Sindacale Italiana (**USI**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs - Solidarité Ouvrière (**CNT SO**) - France.

- Sindicato de Comisiones de Base (**CO.BAS**) - Etat espagnol.
- Organisation Générale Indépendante des Travailleurs et Travailleuses d'Haïti (**OGTHI**) - Haïti.
- Sindacato Intercategoriale Cobas (**SI COBAS**) - Italie.
- Confédération Nationale du Travail (**CNT-f**) - France.
- Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya (**IAC**) - Catalogne.
- Union Générale des Travailleurs Sahraouis (**UGTSARIO**) - Sahara occidental.
- Ezker Sindikalaren Konbergentzia (**ESK**) - Pays basque.
- Confédération Nationale de Travailleurs du Sénégal Forces du Changement (**CNTS/FC**) - Sénégal.
- Independent Trade Unions for Egyptian Federation (**EFITU**) - Egypte.
- Sindicato Autorganizzato Lavorator COBAS (**SIAL-COBAS**) - Italie.
- General Federation of Independent Unions (**GFIU**) – Palestine.
- Confederación de la Clase Trabajadora (**CCT**) – Paraguay.
- Red Solidaria de Trabajadores – Perou

Organisations syndicales nationales professionnelles

- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (**RMT/TUC**) - Grande-Bretagne.
- Centrale Nationale des Employés – Confédération Syndicale Chrétienne (**CNE/CSC**) - Belgique.
- Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Sistema Agroalimentario (**SINALTRAINAL/CUT**) - Colombie.
- Fédération Générale des Postes, Telecom et Centres d'appel - Union Générale Tunisienne du Travail (**FGPTT/UGTT**) - Tunisie.
- Trade Union in Ethnodata - Trade Union of Employees in the Outsourcing Companies in the financial sector - Grèce.
- Syndicat national des travailleurs des services de la santé humaine (**SYNTRASEH**) - Bénin
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores da Fiocruz (**ASFOC-SN**) – Brésil.
- Organizzazione Sindacati Autonomi e di Base Ferrovie (**ORSA Ferrovie**) - Italie.
- Union Nationale des Normaliens d'Haïti (**UNNOH**) - Haïti.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Scuola Università Ricerca (**CUB SUR**) - Italie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Immigrazione (**CUB Immigrazione**) - Italie.
- Coordinamento Autorganizzato Trasporti (**CAT**) - Italie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Credito e Assicurazioni (**CUB SALLCA**) - Italie.
- Syndicat des travailleurs du rail - Union Nationale des Travailleurs du Mali (**SYTRAIL/UNTM**) – Mali.
- Gıda Sanayii İşçileri Sendikası - Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (**GIDA-İŞ/DISK**) - Turquie.
- Syndicat National des Travailleurs du Petit Train Bleu/SA (**SNTPTB**) - Sénégal.
- Asociación Nacional de Funcionarios Administrativos de la Caja de Seguro Social (**ANFACSS**) - Panama.
- Conseil des Lycées d'Algérie (**CLA**) – Algérie.
- Confederazione Unitaria di Base Trasporti (**CUB Trasporti**) - Italie.
- Syndicat de l'Enseignement Supérieur Solidaire (**SESS**) – Algérie.
- Palestinian Postal Service Workers Union (**PPSWU**) – Palestine.
- Union Syndicale Etudiante (**USE**) – Belgique.
- Sindicato dos Trabalhadores de Call Center (**STCC**) – Portugal.
- Sindicato Unitario de Trabajadores Petroleros (**Sinutapetrolgas**) – Venezuela.
- Alianza de Trabajadores de la Salud y Empleados Públicos – Mexique.
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers / Syndicat des travailleurs et travailleuses des postes (**CUPW-STTP**) – Canada.

Organisations syndicales locales

- Trades Union Congress, Liverpool (**TUC Liverpool**) - Angleterre.
- Sindacato Territoriale Autorganizzato, Brescia (**ORMA Brescia**) - Italie.
- Fédération syndicale SUD Service public, canton de Vaud (**SUD Vaud**) - Suisse
- Sindicato Unitario de Catalunya (**SU Metro**) - Catalogne.
- Türkiye DERİ-İŞ Sendikası, Tuzla et Izmir (**DERİ-İŞ Tuzla et Izmir**) - Turquie.
- L'autre syndicat, canton de Vaud (**L'autre syndicat**) - Suisse
- Centrale Générale des Services Publics FGTB, Ville de Bruxelles (**CGSP/FGTB Bruxelles**) - Belgique
- Arbeitskreis Internationalismus IG Metall, Berlin (**IG Metall Berlin**) – Allemagne
- Sindicato Unificado de Trabajadores de la Educación de Buenos Aires, Bahía Blanca -(**SUTEBA/CTA de los trabajadores Bahía Blanca**) – Argentine
- Sindicato del Petróleo y Gas Privado del Chubut/CGT – Argentine.

Organisations syndicales internationales

- Industrial Workers of the World - International Solidarity Commission (**IWW**)

Courants, tendances ou réseaux syndicaux

- Transnationals Information Exchange Germany (**TIE Germany**) - Allemagne.
- Emancipation tendance intersyndicale (**Emancipation**) - France.
- Globalization Monitor (**Gmo**) - Hong Kong.
- Courant Syndicaliste Révolutionnaire (**CSR**) - France.
- No Austerity - Coordinamento delle lotte - Italie.
- Solidarité Socialiste avec les Travailleurs en Iran (**SSTI**) - France.
- Basis Initiative Solidarität (**BASO**) - Allemagne.
- LabourNet Germany - Allemagne.
- Resistenza Operaia - operai Fiat-Irisbus - Italie.