

Donald Trump is the Symptom of a Malaise

The election of Donald Trump as the 45th president of US imperialism with just 26 per cent of eligible voters caused worldwide consternation. The US witnessed militant mass demonstrations denouncing Trump's racist, anti-feminist and anti-environment pronouncements. A section of the US monopoly capital openly opposed his orders. All this has to be put in a broader perspective of the crisis of monopoly capitalism.

The crisis that broke in 2008 continue to haunt the imperialist system. Despite the tall claims of coming out of it, the crisis continue to devastate the lives of the American people with growing unemployment, poverty and misery. The people are disgusted with the system. This is evident during the Democratic Party's primaries. Bernie Sanders campaign attracted millions. They made small contributions to his election campaign. He directed the ire the people against the Wall Street – the seat of US finance capital- by the Sanders.

The ruling elites of the imperialist countries chose to divert the people's anger by giving national chauvinist slogans. During the Brexit campaign, the problems of unemployment took the central stage. And it is the "others" who stole "our" jobs propaganda that tilted the British people to vote in favour of coming out of European Union. The Neo-Nazi forces in France, Germany and Finland are gaining more political accommodation basing on their national chauvinist and hate campaign against immigrants.

With the all-round crisis, unending wars abroad and the growing discontentment among the people of US, the most reactionary representatives of the US imperialism are trying to sail the US through the troubled seas with Donald Trump.

During the election campaign Trump posed himself as the champion of the unemployed by giving the slogan of "protect our borders and jobs". This pitch reached its crescendo with his hate campaign against Latino immigrants, Muslim religious followers, Afro-American citizens and many more "non-white American" ethnic groups.

Thus with national chauvinism and racist slogans, Trump was elected as the US president. This marks the general tendency towards fascism -as the crisis of finance capital intensifies- from disguised oppression to naked reactionary policies. Donald Trump no doubt is a fascist. Yet he came to power by jumping on the shoulders of every previous president especially from Reagan to Bush I to Clinton to Bush II to Obama. He continues their policies of oppression and exploitation.

The first month of Trump in office unleashed a chaos with a series of executive orders threatening rights of immigrants and women. Trump's executive order barring people of seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States took Obama's list of countries that he had previously selected. The deportation machine set in motion by this previous commander in chief had expelled over 2 million immigrants. It is now being used to block more victims, as Trump's policy target immigrant communities.

Trump could take some modest measures of protectionism, which, moreover, the US administrations have always, without saying so, imposed on the third world countries in contravention to the charter of WTO. Yet the ruling compradors of these countries could never protest; they were made to worry about the loss of so-called opportunities as we are seeing today in India.

Trump's hostility toward the COP 21 environmental agreement is inconsequential since it is clear that in any event the treaty will remain a dead letter as the imperialist do not intend to keep their financial promises as suggested by the past experience in this area.

Even though Trump appears to have been ran against the will of the Wall Street favouring Clinton and faced vociferous protest from the IT sector giants, there is little doubt that accommodation is already underway. The representatives of Microsoft are in constant touch with Trumps political managers to work out a compromise.

None of the candidates of either the Democratic or the Republican Parties opposed the US imperialist wars and occupation in the Middle East, North Africa, in Latin America and elsewhere across the globe. This is the main source of fascism rising its head in the US. The legacy of Obama, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who had bombed seven countries and expanded the Bush era 'War on Terror' continues on with this new president. Obama's signature policy of illegal drone attacks is being employed by Trump to kill the innocent people in Yemen, Pakistan, Syria and other places.

The social system in place in the imperialist countries (the United States, Western Europe, Japan) is based on the exercise of the absolute power of the national finance monopoly bourgeoisie. They alone manage the whole of the national productive systems, having succeeded in reducing almost all small and medium-sized enterprises in agriculture, industry, and services to the status of subcontractors for the exclusive benefit of finance capital. These monopolies alone manage the political systems inherited from bourgeois electoral and representative democracy. These monopolies alone control the propaganda apparatuses, having succeeded in reducing the directors of news organizations including public broadcasters to the status of media parrots in their exclusive service. None of these aspects of the dictatorship of the monopoly capital is challenged by the social and political movements in the United States.

The monopolies extend their exclusive power to the entire planet by imposing neo-liberalist form of globalization. But here they face more resistance than at home. For if the social ravages of neoliberalism are visible in the imperialist countries, they are ten times worse in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Trump said that the protectionist measures he is thinking of are primarily aimed at China. Before him, as reflected in 'pivot to Asia' design, Obama and Hillary had already, by their decision to change the focus of their armed forces from the Middle East to East Asia, designated China as a major adversary. This aggressive economic and military strategy, in violation with the kind of liberalism of which Washington is the champion, could backfire, with China strengthening its internal market and searching for outside markets.

Neither the opinion of those who voted Donald Trump, nor that of those who are demonstrating against him now, obligates him to pursue a path different from that of his predecessors. The debate concerns only some of the problems of society in the United States (anti-feminism and racism in particular). It does not call into question the economic foundations of the system that are the root cause of the degradations of working class. The sacred-ness of private property, including that of monopolies, remains intact; the fact that Trump is himself a billionaire was an asset and not an obstacle to his election. The debate was never about Washington's foreign policy and its military interventions and aggressions abroad.

We call upon the people to condemn the attacks of police on Afro-American people, immigration officials raids on Latino immigrants and anti-Muslim propaganda that are being perpetrated by the US imperialism. We call upon the people to protest the US imperialist wars.
