

Violence at Charlottesville:

Growing Fascist Trends in the US

The eruption of violence in Charlottesville, the state of Virginia, USA is yet another instance of growing fascist trends in the US society.

In the history of US, there was a civil war between confederates, who wanted the continuation of slavery and Unionists, who wanted to end slavery. It is well known fact that the captured African people were transported to the US and were forced to toil in the lands owned by the whites as slaves. The civil war fought under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln was resulted in the abolition of slavery. History will remember Lincoln as valiant fighter for the emancipation of black people from slavery.

Yet racism and racial discrimination and oppression continued in various forms and it is utilised by the ruling classes both in disguised and open forms. While the Afro-American people are fighting for their rights and equal place in the society - the greatest leader of them was Martin Luther King - the White supremacist ideology continued to prevail in the American society. And often these white supremacists formed their organisations and resorted to violence.

In this back ground, with growing awareness against racism, the city council for Charlottesville decided to remove the statue of confederate general Robert E. Lee from a city park stating that Lee had nothing to do with Charlottesville town, his statue was installed as someone donated it in 1924 and it invokes memories of racial oppression.

The racists and neo-Nazi groups assembled in the town to protest the proposed removal of the statue. They rampaged through the university town and terrorised students and other residents while smirking policemen stood by and winked their encouragement to the attackers. A 32-year old legal assistant was killed and 19 people have been injured.

Confederate symbols and monuments are seen by many Americans as symbols of hate. Many states, including Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas are planning to remove statues of confederate leaders. Yet, President Donald Trump put both the White supremacists and opponents of racism on equal plane, when he said, “And you had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent. Nobody wants to say that. I will say it right now”.

Many media reports suggest that the White racists who descended on the campus of University of Virginia surprised the community there. This invention of counter-protesters and branding them as, in veiled manner, as left-wing “violent” people enraged many Americans. Trump also criticised the attempts of some states to remove statues of confederate leaders and stated that, “So this week it is Robert Lee. I wonder is it George Washington next week? And is it Thomas Jefferson next week after?”

Everyone in the US political arena condemned the violence at Charlottesville. The Democrats, some of the Republicans and leaders from West Europe expressed their ire on the violence. They all have one thing in common – blaming Trump for the violence while indulging in the acts of encouraging, directly or indirectly, the racists and neo-Nazi forces.

The New York Times, which speaks for the Democratic Party, in its editorial on August 14, criticised Trump for not condemning White supremacist groups as responsible for violence. It declared that Trump “is alone in modern presidential history in his willingness to summon demons of bigotry and intolerance in service to him”. The German government’s spokesman

called upon the Democrats of US to assert themselves to stop the violence, while domestically it is encouraging neo-Nazi forces with anti-immigrant propaganda.

This depiction of “Evil Trump” explains nothing; but only diverts the attention of people from the deep seated intractable crisis that is giving rise to fascist trends in the US.

Many people consider Trump as an ‘evil’ and attribute most of his policy pronouncements to his personal traits. They are unable to see the fact that Trump represents the financial monopolies and he is the outcome of growing fascist trends in American political system. It is well known that fascism is the product of capitalism in extreme crisis.

The Watergate scandal during the Nixon presidency exposed the criminal activities of US imperialism all over the world. Carter launched US war in Afghanistan that led to the creation of Al Qaeda. Reagan initiated attacks on social security plans internally, while unleashing illegal war of subversion in Nicaragua. Bush senior invaded Panama and carried out first invasion of Iraq. Clinton bombed Iraq and imposed sanctions that killed millions of Iraqis and their children. He unleashed war on Serbia. Bush junior initiated wars on Iraq and Libya that killed millions of people and sanctioned torture as an instrument of policy of suppression. Next came the candidate of ‘hope’ and ‘change’, Obama. He sanctified drone assassinations and domestic spying, while hundreds of billions of dollars were squandered to benefit the financial sharks.

The events in Charlottesville and response of Trump and his opponents should be taken as a sign of growing fascist trends in the US society, which is controlled by the financial monopolies and mired in the intractable economic crisis. The history of capitalism teaches us that it resorts to fascist methods and fascisization of society when it faces crisis, in stark contrast to its preachings of democracy, equality and freewill. It is only the concerted class struggle waged by the proletariat of world that could halt the march of fascism as the experience of Second World War showed when it was the valiant Soviet working people under the leadership of Bolshevik Party defeated the fascist Germany.

The violence at Charlottesville and the response of the powers that be at the helm of affairs angered most of the American people. Thousands of anti-racist protestors flooded the streets of Boston dwarfing the White supremacist. Aerial photos showed the demonstrators filling one of Boston’s main streets for several blocks. Officials estimated that the turn to around 40,000 of demonstrators. The so-called “free speech” rally by the far right groups could muster only few dozens and police escorted them away half an hour before their rally started. It is clear that the American working class will fight back the racism and its hate campaigns.
