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Expropriating the Expropriators: How the Class-for-Itself Restores the Social Character of Labor

Only the political economy of the working class can lead the way out of the crisis of the capitalist system, resolving the irreconcilable contradictions that capitalist economics seeks to perpetuate

In the capitalist socio-economic formation, the fundamental reality of human history—social labour—is violently distorted by the exploitation of man by man. The basic contradiction of capitalism, that between the social character of production and the private-capitalist form of appropriation, creates a profound rupture in human production relations. The property owners reduces the worker's labour-power to a mere commodity, enforcing wage-slavery through the direct economic coercion of hunger, mass unemployment, and the persistent threat of the reserve army of labour. This brutal environment of competition for the basic necessities of survival forces workers to view one another as rivals, replacing relations of comradely cooperation with alienated consciousness and class antagonism.

However, the proletarian struggle for vital rights—specifically the demand for guaranteed employment and a secure livelihood—serves to restore the social cohesion of the working masses. This demand fundamentally rejects bourgeois charity as a solution and asserts the sovereign equality of the producers, insisting that the aggregate social product serve to meet human requirements rather than generate surplus-value for a parasitic minority. In fighting for these material conditions, the proletariat undergoes a qualitative leap, transforming from a passive object of exploitation into a politically conscious "class-for-itself."

Proletarian solidarity acts as the ultimate revolutionary weapon against the state monopoly capital. By breaking the artificial atomization of the masses, the unified working class shatters the repressive superstructure of monopoly capitalism. Ultimately, replacing the anarchy of capitalist production with social property in the means of production opens the way to the communist mode of production. In this new society, the free and all-round development of every individual becomes the condition for the free development of all, and labour ceases to be an extraneous necessity, becoming instead life's prime want.

The International Gendarme in Nigeria: The Struggle Against the U.S. War Machine

The following article is reprinted from the May 15 edition of the Anti-Imperialist Forum (www.anti-imperialist.org).

In May 2026, the United States formalized its expanding occupation of West Africa by inaugurating Defense Institutional Technical Working Groups in Nigeria to integrate over $1.3 billion in newly acquired American Military hardware, including AH-1Z Viper attack helicopters and A-29 Super Tucanos.

This administrative entrenchment directly followed the quite insertion, between February and May 2026, of approximately 200 U.S. military advisors and MQ-9 Reaper drones into existing Nigerian infrastructure at Maiduguri Air Base and the Bauchi airfield. These boots and drones on the ground were, in turn, preceded by sudden kinetic escalation on December 25, 2025, when the U.S. military launched Tomahawk missile strikes in Sokoto State under the guise of targeting local insurgencies like the Islamic-State-Sahel Province (ISSP) and the Lakurawa group.

The strikes reportedly occurred in two waves: an initial missile killed around 30 people, and a second missile struck survivors who had gathered to assess the damage. Nineteen people later succumbed to their injuries. Additionally, approximately 200 people were reported missing, and extensive farmland, cattle, and other instruments of labor and means of production were destroyed in areas like Jabo, Zugurma, and Offa.

This rapid chain of intervention, triggered by the forced closure of the U.S. drone facility at Air Base 201 in

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Nigeria

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neighboring Niger in August 2024, exposes a desperate imperialist pivot to secure a new strategic foothold.

U.A. AFRICOM Commander Gen. Dagvin Anderson justified the military operations as a necessity to "protect Americans and disrupt violent extremist organizations where they are". While acknowledging that targeted groups like the Islamic State-Sahel Province (ISSP) and Lakurawa currently operate locally, AFRICOM decided that if their expansion goes unchecked, they will eventually pose a "direct threat to the U.S. homeland."

U.S. and Western multinational oil companies actively fund state-trained "Supernumerary Police" (SPY) and provide ad hoc payments to the military to protect deepwater oil fields and infrastructure, functionally turning the state security apparatus into a private corporate militia.

The military Joint Task Force (JTF) heavily profits from the very insecurity it is tasked with fighting. Investigations reveal that military officers regularly extract millions of dollars in bribes and "protection fees" from illegal oil bunkering operations and refineries in the Niger Delta, actively colluding with the criminals stealing the nation's resources.

Today U.S. imperialism relies on both its generalized "war on terror" slogans as a broad pretext for massive, state-to-state invasions, employing sweeping "clash of cultures" narratives to justify overthrowing sovereign governments and establishing unipolar global dominance. In addition, to adapt to growing resistance against these large-scale "nation-building" failures, the U.S. mutated its ideological cover toward a hyper-localized "Preemptive Homeland Security" model.

By fomenting tensions and inflating the threat of localized, opportunistic insurgencies - such as the ISSP and Lakurawa groups in Nigeria - and claiming they must be disrupted before they can eventually attack the American mainland, the U.S. authors a flexible justification for a permanent, low-intensity military occupation. This allows the U.S. to freely dispatch troops and conduct counter-insurgency operations against non-state actors anywhere in the world to protect its transnational corporate assets, bypassing the need for formal war declarations against sovereign states while continuously expanding its neo-colonial reach.

For the anti-war movement within the United States, this escalation lays bare a stark reality: the U.S. government is not fighting an abstract "war on terror", but is actively executing a long-term military strategy designed to secure dominance over the region's vast wealth amidst an intense inter-imperialist rivalry. As China solidifies its economic foothold through massive Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure contracts, and Russia expands its military influence across the neighboring Sahel, U.S. deployments increasingly function to physically block rival capitalist powers and maintain Western hegemony over West Africa's strategic hydrocarbons and critical minerals.

Yet, this imperial maneuvering cannot extinguish the anti-colonial resistance of the Nigerian masses - the future remains firmly in the hands of its people. The dismantling of this neo-colonial system and the achievement of true sovereignty will not be dictated by Washington, Beijing, or Moscow or their local partners.

While the dismantling of this neo-colonial system and the achievement of true sovereignty for Nigeria will ultimately be won through the relentless, organized mobilization of the Nigerian working classes and local communities, the primary and indispensable duty for the anti-war movement within the United States is to strike the decisive blow against our own ruling class.

To effectively advance this movement and build a broad popular front, we must zero in on the real target: the U.S. monopoly capitalist class and its Republican and Democratic parties. Only by organizing a mass democratic anti-imperialist front dedicated to the complete defeat of the U.S. imperialist system from within can we eliminate the chief instigator of militarism and secure a lasting victory alongside the Nigerian masses.

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Members, friends and supporters of the Workers Party are invited to take part in our ongoing campaign by delivering the slogan "If you are illegal, then I am Illegal!" to a partner while shaking hands and looking into each other's eyes. The profit comes from doing it with love in your hearts. We can accept remarks about your experiences at WorkerspartyUSAChicagoBranch@gmail.com

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