

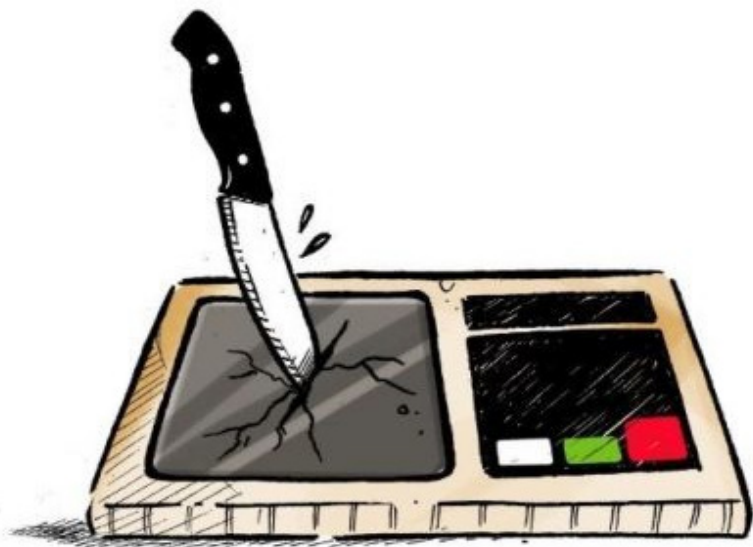
## THE OUTCOME OF 2020 SHAM ELECTIONS

On November 29, the second round of 2020 sham elections took place in many Brazilian municipalities. At the moment, when we have at hands the results of the outcome of the sham elections, it is possible for us to take some conclusions to reaffirm or rethink certain trends of the Brazilian political situation.

The discredit of the masses towards sham elections was a persisting trend. During the entire decade of 2010, the rate of electoral abstentions, null and blank votes, has increased election after election. In the current 2020 elections, especially in its second round, these figures have shown a record: 29,5% of the voters did not show up at the polls, in a country where voting is compulsory. During the first electoral round, 23,1% of the voters did not attend the polls, 2,6% voted blank, and 4,7% have annulled their votes – more than 30% of the voters have abstained, voted blank, or annulled their votes. In São Paulo city, Brazil's largest electoral college, almost 31% of the voters, 2,8 million people, did not attend the polls. Bruno Covas, São Paulo's elected mayor who ran as the candidate of the reactionary "Party of the Brazilian Social-Democracy" (PSDB), has reached 3,1 million valid votes, against 3,7 million abstentions, null and blank votes.

The trend towards militarization of the Brazilian State and intensifying reactionary violence has also persisted during 2020 elections. "Brazilian democracy" is nothing more than a farce to hide the reality of a country ruled by criminals, drug lords, and landowners. Since September 17, 2020, when electoral campaigns have begun, 14 candidates who ran for city councilors and one candidate who ran for mayor were assassinated in twelve Brazilian states. Four progressive candidates, elected under platforms of supporting women, Negroes, and LGBT people, have received death threats in their social medias, besides intimidations and hate messages. Though achieving weak electoral results, the number of Christian fundamentalists and military policemen running for 2020 elections has increased 30%.

Reformists and revisionists have been making wrong appreciations, according to which fascism would be declining, only by basing themselves in the fact that candidates sponsored by president Jair Bolsonaro have had an overwhelming electoral



defeat. Of the 61 candidates sponsored by Bolsonaro, only 15 were elected, and only three were elected mayors of state capitals. However, the defeat of the candidates personally supported by Bolsonaro does not mean the weakening of the trend towards fascism. The parties which most fervently supported Bolsonaro's candidacy during 2018 elections ended up quite strengthened during 2020 elections. The reactionary "Progressive Party" (PP) has had an increase of 36,3% in its number of mayors, ending up running 638 municipalities. The "Social-Democratic Party" (PSD) has increased its number of mayors in 21% (running 655 municipalities); "Democrats" (DEM) has elected 465 mayors (a 74% increase comparing to 2016 elections); "Republicans" (former "Brazilian Republican Party") has elected 211 mayors, more than twice of what it has elected in 2016. Even though "Brazilian Democratic Movement" (MDB) and PSDB have shown certain decline, they remain with the largest number of mayors in Brazil.

Given that reformists and revisionists cannot understand fascism as an extra-electoral phenomenon, they fail in their appreciations; in 2019, the number of agrarian conflicts has reached its peak of more than 1,800 (the largest over the last fifteen years); the murder of Negro people has increased 59% over the last years.

The trend towards fascism prevails in 2020 Brazil.





## Brumadinho's disaster and the closed-door agreement of Vale S.A. mining company

Minas Gerais state, located in the Southeastern region of Brazil, is the country's largest producer of iron ore. The Iron Quadrangle, which accounts for 60% of the national production of iron ore, and 40% of the national production of gold, is located in the central-south region of Minas Gerais. Minas Gerais' Iron Quadrangle, therefore, is the very heart of mining and steel production in Brazil. A large industrial proletariat prevails in this area.

One of the largest environmental disasters of Brazilian History and the largest workplace accident of the History of Brazilian labor took place in January 2019. On January 25, 2019, in Brumadinho municipality, Tailings Dam 1 of Córrego do Feijão Pit (an asset of Vale S.A. mining company) has crashed and collapsed. The sea of mud of iron ore waste has immediately destroyed the entire Brumadinho municipality, and has spread for more than a hundred kilometers, causing irreversible environmental damages, contaminating Paraopeba and São Francisco rivers, besides the social and economic damages. More than 300 people died, and eleven are still missing. Of the more than 300 dead, 128 were mine workers employed at Vale S.A.

What took place on January 25, 2019, was not an environmental disaster in the spontaneous sense of the word, but an actual crime committed by Vale S.A.: to cut expenditures so as to raise their profits, the capitalists have saved maintenance and

environmental sustainability expenditures, and intensified the exploitation of their workers. Scientific studies carried on years ago asserted that Tailings Dam 1 of Córrego do Feijão Pit was a "highly risked" one, and was about to collapse. The company, however, took no measure at all. The chronic of an announced disaster.

Almost two years later, the same rapacious conditions of mining prevail in the area. On December 18, 2020, a slope of Córrego do Feijão Pit has collapsed and has left a bulldozer operator worker dead by burial.

Nowadays, Vale S.A. intends to settle a closed-door agreement with Minas Gerais state government to get rid of its environmental, economic, and social responsibilities. During a meeting held with the government of Minas Gerais on December 9, 2020, Vale S.A. representatives have proposed a plan which decreases from R\$ 54 billion (USD 10,48 billion) to R\$ 21 billion (USD 4,07 billion) the amount to be paid by the company as reparations. Although the government has rejected the plan, it has accepted the absurd proposal of turning the negotiations confidential and ruling out the damaged communities from negotiations.

The proposal of R\$ 21 billion payment is the rock bottom for a company whose market value surpasses R\$ 340 billion, and whose net profit reported on the third quarter of 2020 was R\$ 15 billion.





# THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND BOLSONARO'S IDEOLOGY

The last months of 2020 were once more marked by racial tensions in Brazilian society. The main spark was the murder of a Negro man – 40 year-old João Alberto Freitas – by a security guard of Carrefour supermarket with the help of a military policeman. The event has brought about a national unrest, and dozens of demonstrations against racial prejudice have taken place during the following days and weeks.

Questioned by journalists about the arousing of racial problem after these events, Vice-President Hamilton Mourão stated that “there is no racism in Brazil”. He has also said that racial conflicts were being “imported”, whatever it may mean (probably suggesting that “Left-wing” forces would be threatening the wishful social harmony that would prevail in Brazil). The very same Mourão who, two years ago, has stated that the “evil heritage” of the peoples of African ancestry to our country was “trickery”, and the indigenous’ ones, “idleness”. A clear statement that tags these peoples as dishonest and lazy.

President Jair Bolsonaro did not lose the opportunity to spread his usual nonsense. He has ignored the murder of João Alberto and stated in a G-20 meeting that the demonstrations against racism intend to “tear down” an alleged general unity of Brazilian society, and that these conflicts would be “alien” to our History. Besides, these statements employ the same ideological base of Mourão’s declarations: a fantasious society, not ruled by class conflicts, especially by its particular features of racial prejudice.

It is well known that Portuguese colonia-

lism has largely and for centuries based itself on the chattel slavist exploitation of peoples of African ancestry, and in a minor scale, of indigenous peoples – the former ones were not only enslaved, but also largely slaughtered for their lands to be robbed to benefit landlordism. Even after formal abolition of slavery in our country, these exploitative relations remained strong for many years, and the “solution” for them was nothing more than their mere replacement by feudal, semi-feudal, or even by the most brutal forms of capitalist exploitation.

In these overall exploitative relations, Negro men and women are always relegated to the worst wages, the most undervalued professions and the most degrading work conditions. 2017 IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) figures show that, by average, Negro people earned 43,2% less than White people with the same scholarity. According to 2018 figures, the income of Negroes was 73,9% less than Whites’. Unemployment is 71% larger among Negroes, and under-employment is twice as large.

Unlike what the racist rulers of the Brazilian bourgeois-landowner State say, the racial issue is a necessary consequence of the historical development of production in our country, and a very important feature of our reality. To solve it necessarily means to organize politically and consciously these peoples and the entire exploited mass of our nation. Therefore, we enthusiastically welcome the demonstrations against racism and the debate which is currently being carried on around this issue in Brazil.



# LET US SALUTE AND WELCOME THE VICTORIOUS CAMPAIGN “ONE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO IN THE HAND OF EACH WORKER!”

With the aim of spreading the scientific ideology of the proletariat among the Brazilian people, Pedro Pomar Studies' Group (GEPP, “Grupo de Estudos Pedro Pomar”), in a partnership with the Studies' Group for the Brazilian People (GEAPB, “Grupo de Estudos ao Povo Brasileiro”), together with the publishing houses People's Expression (“Expressão Popular”), New Culture (“Nova Cultura”), and the organization Communist Reconstruction Union (URC, “União Reconstrução Comunista”), have launched the campaign “One Communist Manifesto in the hand of each worker!”, that intends to spread for the workers, free of charge, hundreds of copies of the famous work of Marx and Engels.

The campaign consists of an online crowdfunding to purchase copies of the Manifesto of the Communist Party. The initial target was to raise R\$ 1200 (USD 233) to acquire 300 copies of the book. The distribution will be made for workers of the places where the comrades of the two studies groups operate, as well as for mass movements, associations and trade unions of the region. The campaign still accepts donations up to the end of December.

As a way to spread the campaign, prize draws of many other important works of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism are taking place in social medias. People's Expression publishing house, which has helped the overall process of conceiving the campaign, has given its contribution by donating a copy of the book

“Mao Zedong on the Chinese Revolution” (a selection of writings of the great Chinese revolutionary) for a prize draw. New Culture publishing house, on its hand, has donated a copy of the Brazilian edition of the book “Basic Principles of Marxism-Leninism: A Primer”, written by the Philippine revolutionary leader José Maria Sison.

The repercussion of the campaign overcame all expectations, by hitting the initial target in less than a day. For this, it has counted on the contribution of supporters and sympathizers of all regions of Brazil, and even of other countries, in a clear demonstration of proletarian internationalism.

With this splendid success, the creators of the campaign have decided to use the surplus of the donations in two ways: 40% to purchase as much copies of the Communist Manifesto as possible, and 60% will be handed in solidarity to the Poor Peasants' League (LCP, “Liga dos Camponeses Pobres”), in a recognition of its important role in the struggle against land monopoly in our country, and the consequent intensifying attacks of the bourgeois-landowner State against this mass movement.

Let us salute this important initiative for the Brazilian people! Let us invite our readers to contribute with the campaign! May this be the first of many and ever broader campaigns of this kind! Let us keep serving the people!

## CAMPANHA POPULAR: UM MANIFESTO NA MÃO DE CADA TRABALHADOR



## outcomes of the electrical crisis in Amapá and rising electricity bills

On November 24, 2020, it was reestablished the system of electrical supply in Amapá state, Northern region of Brazil, after remaining collapsed for 21 days.

The root cause of the blackout which has devastated Amapá for 21 days was the intent of Gemini Energy concessionary company to keep its monopoly profits high. To do so, they have stopped doing maintenance works in their equipments, ending up causing a fire at Macapá Electric Sub-station on November 03, 2020.

The outcome of this situation repeats the root cause of the events. Due to the blackout, Bolsonaro's government has exempted for thirty days the taxpayers of Amapá state from the charge of electricity bill. To compensate the decrease of the revenue, the charge of a national tax – Tax Over Financial Operations (charged over credit operations) – was resumed for 16 days. The criminal concessionary company, however, remained untouched.

On November 30, Bolsonaro's government has announced the national increase of the electricity bill to R\$ 6,24 for every 100 kWh consumed. This measure was taken in a situation when the official rate of unemployment has risen to 14,6% and in the midst of the possible end of the payment of the monthly R\$ 600,00 (USD 116) emergency relief by this month of December.

The government blames the low levels of the reservoirs of the hidro-electrical stations for the increasing electricity bills. However, this pretext only reflects the government stand that the people must pay for its lack of capacity in granting electrical supply.

## Bus crash leaves 42 garment workers dead in São Paulo



A major workplace accident took place in Taguaí municipality, São Paulo state, Southeastern region of Brazil, on November 25, 2020. By 6:30 a.m., at KM 172 of SP-249 state highway, a bus which was carrying about 50 garment workers of Stattus Jeans textile industry ran over a manure truck which was riding in the highway's opposite lane. 42 garment workers died.

Nevertheless, that was not about a mere traffic crash. Inquiries have confirmed that the crushing bus was unlicensed and belonged to the clandestine company "Star Viagem e Turismo". The bus was not registered neither in the Artesp (Transport Agency of São Paulo State) nor at the ANTT (National Agency of Ground Transports). The bus accumulated eleven fines and its licensing, IPVA (Tax over Property of Auto-Vehicles) and DPVAT (Personal Damages Caused By Ground Auto-Vehicles) were unpaid.

Even though the investigations are not yet finished, there are strong suspicions that the garment company was not granting transport to its workers, who ended up having to use their own and already low earnings to hire this transport company which operated under clandestine grounds.

Behind the disdain of these capitalists to ensure good work and transport conditions, we doubtlessly find the anti-Labor evil laws which allow capitalists to rapaciously exploit Brazilian workers.





# cherish and celebrate the 85th anniversary of the 1935 People's Uprising!



The Brazilian people has celebrated, in November 2020, the 85th anniversary of the great 1935 People's Uprising, the first great attempt of Brazilian workers and peasants to "assault the skies", to overthrow the power of local reactionary ruling classes and their imperialist masters, and carry forward the building of a new society.

In Natal – Rio Grande do Norte state capital, located in the Northeastern region of Brazil –, where the masses' support base to the insurrection was most rooted, the revolutionaries have seized power and erected the National People's Revolutionary Government of Natal for four days. It is no coincidence that, up to the present days, the Brazilian reactionary classes nourish a deep hatred over 1935 Uprising, tagging it as a "Communist coup", an "attempt of enslavement of Brazilians by totalitarianism", and so on.

As we know, 1935 was the year when the famous 6th Congress of the 3rd Communist International (Comintern) was gathered. To build up a broad labor and mass unity for the struggle against fascism, which was spreading in the midst of the great world capitalist crisis, the 6th Congress of the Comintern has established the policy of People's Fronts. In semi-colonial and colonial countries, this policy has took the pattern of broad anti-imperialist and national-liberation fronts which gathered workers, peasants, the intelligentsia and the national bourgeoisie.

Influenced by this political directive, already expressed in other Comintern resolutions, the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB) has founded the National Liberation Alliance (ANL) in 1934. Its founding has represented a great step forward in the struggle for arousing the Brazilian masses to fight fascism.

During this period, Brazil has remained severely affected by the world capitalist crisis. The prices

of its main export product, coffee, remained collapsed. Unemployment horsewhipped the working-class households, and Getúlio Vargas' reactionary regime artificially devalued the national currency so as to save the big landlords from bankruptcy, in a situation where low prices of coffee prevailed. Therefore, even though unemployment prevailed, the cost of living skyrocketed. Inflation shrunked the masses' purchasing power. The masses carried on their protest, and Vargas' government, more and more, was acquiring fascist features to intensify suppression.

Though operating under an illegal status, the ANL would sum up to its ranks about 200.000 members. On November 23, 1935, nationalists and anti-fascists military belonging to Natal 21st Hunters' Battalion, influenced by ANL, began the armed uprising. Nationalists and anti-fascists military of Recife and Rio de Janeiro would follow the same path shortly thereafter.

The uprisings of Recife and Rio de Janeiro, however, would be defeated very little time after. Four days after the seizure of power by the revolutionaries, federal troops have crushed the uprising in Natal and dismantled the National People's Revolutionary Government.

Despite how heroic the uprising was, PCB, by leading ANL, has committed severe mistakes: it has failed to arouse for revolutionary struggle the great bulk of the Brazilian people, the peasantry; it has adhered to a purely military conception of the revolution; the PCB has nourished the illusion that it was possible to form up the red army through the "de-puration" of fascist strata from reactionary Brazilian armed forces; it did not understand the necessarily protracted character of armed struggle in Brazil.

The lessons of the defeat of 1935 People's Insurrection are extremely valuable for the current advance of the revolutionary struggle in our country.