

MUTUAL AID MONTHLY

A Production of Des Moines Mutual Aid

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Capitalism is Killing the Planet

A system which devours endless resources has no place on our finite world

Comrade Jake

The capitalist ruling class has known since the 1970s that fossil-fuel burning was leading us toward an existential climate crisis. 50 years later, climate-warming emissions are still going up and tens of millions of people are being displaced by catastrophic floods, storms, wildfires, and drought. Meanwhile, President Biden has just approved a massive new oil project in Alaska and auctioned off an Italy-sized chunk of the Gulf of Mexico for deep water oil drilling.

The capitalist state (IE the US government, military, police, etc.) is incapable of solving the crisis. Capitalism's requirement for infinite growth on a finite planet is an irreconcilable contradiction with the living world. The owning class keeps us shackled to jobs that don't pay enough to buy the things we need purposefully. It leaves many of us hungry and houseless while our labor produces masses of food that goes to waste, homes that sit empty, and record-breaking profits for the rich. What insanity!

The good news? We have all the tools and technology to reverse the climate crisis and meet people's needs, we just need to overthrow the capitalist regime to do it. Imagine if all the bullshit jobs that people loathe were transitioned to work that actually benefited people! Imagine if all the technology and incredible production capacity we have was used to meet people's needs instead of making profits!

No One is Coming to Save Us - The Disaster of Electoralism, Part 1

Change will not come from above

Subcomadante Randy

Every four years, our city is flooded by campaign workers harassing us to choose their candidate for the presidential caucus. Tons of money and labor hours are poured into this.

Imagine if all these Bernie Bros™ were at home using these resources to organize in their communities and workplaces? What if the lists of doors to knock on were their neighbor's doors for organizing tenant meetings? What if the lists of priority donors were a list of priority targets?

What is strategically not mentioned by these campaigns is that every "gain" we have gotten back from the capitalist class was never given to us by a favorably staffed state-house, but was seized when we had them up against the wall cowering. In the thirties and seventies and brief moments since, there were strong popular movements that won much of what we consider to be our rights today. These popular movements threatened open, violent revolt, which forced the state to grant concessions.

We don't currently have the mass movement and solidarity structures necessary to gain more ground. Fascists have out-organized us and now these gains are being snatched back rapidly. Current legislation attacking trans youth and reproductive rights are virtue signals to secure votes to maintain their power position.

Even when a community supported candidate gets elected (using obscene amounts of resources and funneling all our hope into a figurehead), they are up against a rancid political structure that will conspire to negate the influence of the "community candidate" within the system. And now this "politician of the people" has to choose between bashing their heads against an unthreatened system or compromising on their promises to the people in order to keep a status symbol job. "Changing the system from within" is an impossibility, proven to us tragically over and over. But it sure entertains the rich to watch us try.

We have played this game for so long that we are now at death's door as the climate collapse created by those in office, and the corporations that own those offices, is likely to happen within our lifetimes. We have compromised ourselves to the end times.

We can't vote for liberation. We know what is necessary; to become ungovernable and snatch the power back.

The Only Good State is a State of Liberation for All

Prison's purpose is to protect property, not people
Subcomandante Jade

The capitalist state's solution to social issues is to dispose of people by means of jails and prisons. It has no interest in addressing issues at their roots. In fact, the persistence of many criminalized acts, from patriarchal violence to desperate means of surviving in poverty, are necessary for the state to maintain power. The threat of prison is a weapon wielded by the state to keep the masses subservient. Therefore, there is a vital need to abolish carceral institutions if we ever hope to create meaningful social change.

Contrary to popular belief, prisons and police do not make communities safer. At best, they displace people who have caused harm. At worst, they propagate a mass genocide and displacement of poor people and people of color, and a false sense of "justice" in which people deemed criminal are forcibly removed from their communities and left to rot in a cage. People who have caused harm need resources and support systems, not further abandonment and abuse. Every person has hurt someone and has been hurt by someone, and a system that defines people by their "guilt" or "innocence" of a single action is itself guilty of being inhumane and unjust.

Stand in solidarity with all incarcerated people. Across Iowa, 18,000 people are facing inexcusable horrors behind the walls of so-called "correctional" facilities. Uplift their demands by signing/ mailing the demand letter below. We are not free until we are all free!

Find the demands and mail the letter at:

<https://linktr.ee/demandsfordoc>



This flyer is a production of Des Moines Mutual Aid, which is a local network of anarchists, communists, and socialists building community autonomy from capitalism and the state. Below are our points of unity - basically, the political and social outlook which binds us together.

o. We believe in working shoulder to shoulder and standing in solidarity with all oppressed communities. We ourselves are oppressed, and our mutual aid work is a fight for our collective liberation. We do not believe in a top-down model of charity. Instead, we contrast our efforts at horizontal mutual aid, the fostering of mutually beneficial relationships and communities, to dehumanizing and colonizing charity.

1. We believe in community autonomy. We believe that the communities we live and organize in have been largely excluded from state social services, but intensely surveilled and policed by the state repressive apparatus. Capitalism is fundamentally unable to meet people's needs. We want to build self-sustaining communities that are independent of the capitalist state, both materially and ideologically, and can resist its repression.

2. We are police and prison abolitionists. Abolition and the mutual aid that we practice are inextricably linked. We don't rely on capitalist institutions or the police to do our work. We believe in building strong and resilient communities which make police obsolete, including community systems of accountability and crisis intervention.

3. We work to raise the political consciousness of our communities. Part of political education is connecting people's lived experiences to a broader political perspective. Another component is working to ensure that people can meet their basic needs. It is difficult to organize for future liberation when someone is entrenched in day-to-day struggle.

4. We have open disagreements with each other about ideas and practices. We believe there is no formula for resolving our ideological differences other than working towards our common aims, engaging with each other in a comradely manner, and respecting one another, whether or not we can hash out disagreements in the process.

If you want to get involved, let a volunteer know. For more information, including how to donate, visit <https://iowamutualaid.org/>.