

DECARCERATE LOUISIANA

Amplifying the Voices of the Oppressed!

America is still plagued by racist bigotry, plantation-like work conditions for masses of its citizens, declining manufacturing and the flight of factories to other countries, an economic system in which corporate profit comes before human need, corporate domination over the lives of people, classes of extreme wealth and extreme poverty, two parties that monopolize the money and the media, bloated military budgets, U.S. military intervention for the promotion of capitalist enterprise abroad, the historic forced labor of blacks and poor people under new and conniving definitions of slavery.

"When the president declares happily that 'our economy is sound', he will not acknowledge that it is not at all sound for 40 or 50 million people who are struggling to survive, although it may be moderately sound for many in the middle class and extremely sound for the richest 1 percent of the nation who owns 40 percent of the nation's wealth."

- Howard Zinn

The crime rate among blacks and poor people - instead of being seen as a crying demand for the elimination of poverty and the reconstruction of our economy for producing in a cooperative way what people need most - is used by politicians to call for the building of more prisons and expansion of the surveillance state. All of these conditions and practices amount to government repression and violate the freedom and rights of the People.

We, the People, must create opportunities via organizing to wrest back control of our political and economic systems from corporate greed and take billions of dollars from the military and use it for human needs. New values of cooperation and freedom might then show up in the relations of people and in the upbringing of children.

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Let's connect the historic abolitionist movements and labor struggles to today's challenges, asking people to answer the call to action by building powerful, anti-capitalist movements like Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain and Jóvenes ante la Emergencia in Mexico; by wrestling back our political system captured by corporate money and domination; by organizing and pressuring those in power to implement serious campaign finance reform; by organizing and lobbying state and federal public officials to amend the states' and federal constitutions to abolish slavery in prisons; by organizing and lobbying public officials to pass laws providing for the reconstruction of our economy and finally implement the 1946 Full Employment Act which committed the federal government to creating "useful employment opportunities" for all people able and willing to work; by organizing to demand what the Declaration of Independence promised: a government that protected the equal right of everyone to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"Movements in Latin America and European countries like Greece and Spain understand we're engaged in a global fight against corporate capitalism. It's not a consciousness we always have. This is one of my problems with the Bernie Sanders Left. We can't be worried about political expediency, we have to unite with all of the world's oppressed. We can't especially those of us who are Americans - decide who among the oppressed is going to be convenient, politically, to support. We have to stand with all those who are being victimized and exploited. It is the same fight. And we will only win it when we fight together."

- Chris Hedges

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