

The Fight against Remigration, an Important Aspect of the Struggle against Imperialism and Reaction

The phenomenon of migration and its causes

The worsening of the general crisis of the international capitalist system, with the intensification of the struggle between monopoly groups and imperialist powers for sources of raw materials and the territories of other countries, has caused economic and social destabilization in vast areas of the planet.

Entire poor countries and regions have been completely devastated by conflicts, civil wars, aggression, the plundering of millions of hectares of land and mineral resources by multinational corporations and the governments of the richest countries that they control, blackmail by predatory organizations such as the IMF and World Bank, the continuous policies of robbery carried out by global finance capital, and systematic environmental destruction, with tragic consequences that are now plain for all to see.

Poverty and hunger, mass unemployment, wars of plunder, and reactionary regimes are the causes that have led millions of people to seek their fortune by emigrating.

The contradictions of the capitalist-imperialist system have caused the exponential exodus of millions of migrants from the poorest and weakest countries. On the one hand, imperialism pushes the proletariat, the semi-proletariat, and poor peasants to emigrate; on the other, it attracts them to the richest metropolises and “special economic zones” as cheap labor, under humiliating conditions, employing them mainly in jobs rejected by workers of the country, who are driven by reactionary propaganda to compete with immigrant workers.

Mass immigration has thus increased steadily, resulting in a surge in the number of international migrants, which rose from about 150 million at the beginning of the millennium to over 300 million in 2024.

The destination countries were, of course, mostly OECD members, concentrated in North America, the EU and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries, East Asia and Oceania. Russia, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries are other significant destinations.

Lenin on worker migration

The phenomenon of migration caused by the continuous aggression of global imperialism has been extensively analyzed by revolutionary Marxist thought.

In an October 1913 essay entitled “Capitalism and Workers’ Immigration”, Lenin emphasizes that *“Capitalism has given rise to a special form of migration of nations. The rapidly developing industrial countries, introducing machinery on a large scale and ousting the backward countries from the world market, raise wages at home above the average rate and thus attract workers from the backward countries.*

Hundreds of thousands of workers thus wander hundreds and thousands of versts. Advanced capitalism drags them forcibly into its orbit, tears them out of the backwoods in which they live, makes them participants in the world-historical movement and brings them face to face with the powerful, united, international class of factory owners.

There is no doubt that the dire poverty alone compels people to abandon their native land, and that the capitalists exploit the immigrant workers in the most shameless manner.”

Lenin highlights the economic basis of immigration, which is the uneven development of capitalism, pointing out that it is the most advanced capitalism that is tearing millions of workers away from the most backward countries.

Citing statistics on immigration in the United States and Germany, Lenin shows that the development of proletarian migration movements continues to grow, but that its structure changed between 1880 and 1890. Whereas in the previous period European emigration came mainly from the “old civilized countries” (England and Germany), where capitalism had developed more rapidly, now it is the “backward” countries (beginning with Eastern Europe) that are supplying America and other advanced capitalist countries with increasingly unskilled workers.

Thus, Lenin continues, *“the most backward countries in the old world, those that more than any other retain survivals of feudalism in every branch of social life, are, as it were, undergoing compulsory training in civilisation”*.

Moving from the economic to the more strictly political sphere, Lenin notes that while Russian workers are more backward in this respect, they are more advanced in the struggle against the bourgeoisie's attempts at racist division among workers.

In this sense, in *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1916), analyzing the contradictions inherent in the final stage of capitalist development characterized by *“parasitism and decay”*, Lenin highlights the political consequences, characterized by *“the tendency of imperialism to split the workers, to strengthen opportunism among them and to cause temporary decay in the working-class movement”*.

The relevance of Lenin's analysis shows how immigration and the living conditions of immigrant workers must be considered within the framework of the theory of imperialism, outside of which the current forms of this phenomenon would be abstract and incomprehensible.

Migration and the far right in Europe

In today's scenario, characterized by increasingly massive migration of millions of proletarians from the poorest and most devastated areas of the planet, the imperialist countries, faced with the cyclical economic crises of capitalism and the development of the tendency toward war for a new division of the world, have been characterized by an ever-increasing rise in nationalist, neo-fascist, and xenophobic groups and parties.

In recent decades, the feeling of hatred towards “migrants”, fueled by shameful disinformation campaigns in the bourgeois press with the aim of dividing the proletariat by pitting workers against each other, has rapidly transformed into a socio-political process known as “remigration.”

This process, which initially developed in Western Europe, particularly in France and Germany, involves the expulsion, through forced deportation, of masses of first, second or third generation immigrants to their “native” countries. It is a violent response by global capitalism to the systemic inequalities and scourges it has itself created.

The concept of “remigration”, in its contemporary version, appeared in the 1990s in imperialist France, within far-right circles, which also spread it to the working-class suburbs, where native workers and immigrants, mostly second-generation descendants of migrants from the French colonies, had been living together for decades.

The conflict within the proletariat, deliberately created by the French bourgeoisie, had led to violent clashes between workers, culminating in the 2005 riots in the *banlieues*. In this context, growing hatred towards migrants, fueled by furious press campaigns and the rise of xenophobic movements, was quickly channeled into the far-right National Front party, which in 2018 changed its name to Rassemblement National. It found support in the theory of the “Great Replacement,” put forward by writer Renaud Camus, an exponent of white supremacy, consisting of the alleged “mutation” of France following its “colonization” by Islamic migrants from the Middle East and Africa.

The rise of neo-fascism in France has become even more concrete in recent years with the birth of the *Reconquete* [*Reconquest*] political party, which won a seat in the European Parliament.

In recent years, in the wake of growing xenophobia and rising electoral support for the far right, French government policy has been characterized by a crackdown on immigration flows, introducing, on the one hand, so-called “assistance for voluntary return,” which provides economic incentives for those who decide to leave the country, and, on the other hand, increasingly restrictive measures. For example, family reunification now requires 24 months of residence, compared to 18 months prior to the December 2023 reform.

While imperialist France remains one of the preferred destinations for African migrants fleeing despair, day after day we are witnessing the planned demolition of the French “assimilationist” model, which was based on the formal equality of all citizens, native and immigrant, before the law.

In Germany, the tendencies in favor of repatriating migrants are mainly concentrated in two far-right groups: Alice Weidel and Tino Chrupalla's AfD (Alternative for Germany) party and the German Identitarian Movement (IBD), the twin of Martin Sellner's Austrian group of the same name. Both are characterized by

enthusiastic approval of policies of mass expulsion of asylum seekers and “unassimilated” citizens.

Using the slogan “only remigration can save Germany,” the AfD (which won 20.8% of the vote in the last election) has long pursued aggressive political propaganda in large areas of the country, from Potsdam, where a meeting with the IBD and other neo-Nazi groups on the subject of migrants took place in 2024, to Karlsruhe, where, in January 2025, it had flyers depicting “expulsion tickets” delivered to immigrants' mailboxes.

The xenophobic campaign, with the slogan “remigration of uninvited foreigners,” launched in Austria by Herbert Kickl's FPO [Freedom Party of Austria], can also be included in the same manner. Thanks to the 29,2% of the vote it obtained in the last parliamentary elections, Kickl is likely to become the Austrian chancellor in the near future. It is no coincidence that the “international” demonstration of the far right on the theme of remigration and “stopping Islamization” was held last summer in Vienna.

Trump and the hunt for immigrants

In recent decades, faced with the mass arrival of thousands of immigrants from Mexico and other countries of Latin America (as well from Asia, Middle East and West Africa), US immigration policy has been characterized by the construction of a wall (“the wall of shame”) along the border with the Central American country, begun under the George H. W. Bush administration in 1990 and continued by subsequent presidencies (Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama and Trump).

Today, with Trump's second presidency, the US imperialism undoubtedly plays a leading and spearheading role in pursuing increasingly reactionary, aggressive, and warmongering policies.

With words full of chauvinist rhetoric and marked by the most vulgar nationalism, Trump has outlined the so-called “American strategy”. This is a set of provisions and guidelines characterized, on the one hand, by direct or indirect intervention in all international issues where important interests are at stake, masking such aggression, interference, and operations under the guise of humanitarian emergencies, nuclear threats, or the fight against drug trafficking; on the other hand, by the fight against so-called “mass immigration” which, as Trump has expressly stated, represents one of the obstacles to be eradicated in order to guarantee the

defense of the fundamental rights and freedoms of American citizens.

Promoted under the false pretext of “internal security”, remigration has thus become a cornerstone of Donald Trump's policies in his second term, beginning to take concrete shape in 2025.

It is not limited to the deportation of “illegal” immigrants, but aims at large-scale deportation, also involving individuals with legal status, refugees, people with protected status, or those considered “unassimilated”.

In parallel with remigration, the Trump administration has suspended immigration applications from various countries that are considered “high risk”.

The mass deportation of immigrants has thus become a program of gigantic proportions. Trump has promised to expel millions of people from the US (some estimates cite between 10 and 20 million).

In pursuing these goals, the Trump administration has further strengthened federal control agencies, such as the notorious ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), which has become an armed militia of a racist and fascist nature unleashed in every corner of the country to implement the repressive and discriminatory policies imposed by the federal government, carrying out thousands of arrests every day.

Although already widely active during the Biden presidency, ICE saw its powers and methods of intervention greatly increased under the second Trump administration. This was evident in several federal states, from Oregon to Minnesota, where violent control activities reached levels of ferocity demonstrated in the murder of some US citizens: Keith Porter in Los Angeles on December 2025, Renée Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti in Minneapolis in January 2026, who were shot dead, in a completely unjustified manner, by ICE agents.

At the same time, there has been a drastic increase in detention centers for migrants (from Alligator Alcatraz to Guantanamo), separating the families of deported immigrants. The strategy is aimed at creating a climate of fear that will push immigrants to “deport themselves”.

The US executive power pursues political objectives with its terrorist hunt for immigrants: it seeks to shift the blame for the worsening working and living conditions of workers, for the

impoverishment and precariousness of large segments of the working class, onto migrants. This maneuver aims to distract the working masses from the real problems and safeguard the interests of the financial oligarchy that dominates the declining US imperialism. Trump pursues these objectives directly, aggressively, with no regard for the lives of the population, the fate of millions of migrants, refugees, and proletarians, violating international law, human rights, and even the US Constitution itself.

The mass resistance that developed in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis-Saint Paul) and other cities in the United States against ICE deportations, in solidarity with and protection of migrants, against violence and deportation of immigrants and national minorities, and against the collaboration of local authorities, represented an important moment in the struggle to stop the Trump administration's infamous racist policies. Based on this experience, the workers' and popular movement will be able to march towards successive and higher stages of struggle against capitalist and fascist oppression.

The migration policy in Italy

The “Trump model” has encouraged neo-fascist and chauvinist organizations in Europe, particularly in Italy, which have begun to take up the same approach, in line with the migration policies long pursued by the bourgeoisie.

In recent decades, imperialist Italy, in order to manage the contradictions caused by mass migration, has in fact adopted policies of containment, rejection, and discrimination against asylum seekers, following the example of other imperialist and capitalist states that are members of the “fortress EU”, for example through the strategy of “externalization” of borders. This means moving control of borders and migration flows outside of one's own territory, delegating it to dependent countries.

Mechanisms have therefore been put in place for the progressive relocation of controls, surveillance, and detention. These have been entrusted to the police and militias of reactionary African regimes (like Libya, Tunes, Niger) whose task is to prevent migrants, including many women and children, from reaching Italy, by holding them in an ever-expanding network of concentration and sorting camps, often run by human traffickers.



Imperialist Italy has played a major role in the process of externalizing borders, with the substantial consent of European institutions and the imperialist states that comprise them.

With the advent of the Meloni government, migration policy has taken on even more reactionary connotations, fueled by unbridled, demagogic propaganda about an “invasion”.

Migrants are increasingly becoming the scapegoats for all the social ills that the government itself is exacerbating, through its policies of austerity and war.

Every day these scapegoats are splashed across the front pages, accused of every misdeed. They are said to import crime, drugs, prostitution, disease, etc.; they are portrayed as a grave danger, to be removed by any means necessary.

The strict measures adopted by the Meloni government on immigration include: a blockade using the Navy to stop boats crossing the Mediterranean (result: 600 migrants dead in the first months of this year); a ban on entry into territorial waters; opposition to NGOs accused of encouraging illegal immigration; rapid expulsions and forced repatriations; international agreements with Tunisia, Libya, and detention centers outside the EU (in Albania); and the planning of entries linked to the need to find labor in certain sectors (farm workers, caregivers, etc.).

The fascist plan for remigration in Italy

In recent months, the political debate on immigration and remigration has become even more heated, marked by the “entry

into the fray” of General Roberto Vannacci, a member of the populist and xenophobic right wing with fascist military roots.

Vannacci was initially affiliated with Matteo Salvini's Lega party, of which he became deputy secretary, before leaving to found Futuro Nazionale, an extreme chauvinist political party that is part of the same group as the AfD in the Strasbourg Parliament.

In a reality such as Italy's, already dominated by a right-wing, pro-Zionist government subordinate to the diktats of the US and the EU, Vannacci's arrival on the political scene represents another “lock pick” that the imperialist bourgeoisie utilize to speed up the adoption of new repressive measures directed against mass movements, migrant workers, and the native proletariat.

The political dispute on this issue in Italy has seen a further acceleration and polarization following the proposal of a popular initiative law, presented in early 2026, called “Remigration and Reconquest”.

This proposal, which originated from an organizing committee made up of neo-fascists from CasaPound (House of Ezra Pound, a neo-fascist movement – *translator's note*) and three other nationalist and far-right groups (Patriots Network, VFS, and Brescia ai Bresciani (Brescia for the Brescians), consists of 24 articles that, according to the promoters' intentions, aim to combat illegal immigration and the exploitation of foreign workers.

The fascist, xenophobic, and racist nature of these regulations, which lead to aggressive, inhumane acts that are outside any constitutional and international legitimacy, in reality does not aim at security, nor, even less, at combating the exploitation of immigrant workers, for which it would be necessary to target companies that realize high profits with the low cost labor-force of immigrant proletarians.

This proposal contains provisions that affect working-class families, with increasingly severe provisions on family reunification, increasingly restrictive control systems on the lives of migrants, more stringent removal and expulsion procedures, and greater institutionalization of Temporary Stay Centers for Repatriation, veritable concentration camps where migrants' “stay” becomes prolonged detention in the open air.

The true goal of the “sovereignists” who support the national remigration program—backed by the US right wing (as evidenced by Trump's National Security Strategy)—is to replace class

conflict with ethnic conflict, calling for an alliance between Italian workers and bosses against all immigrants, in order to create an even more marginalized workforce subject to blackmail that can be exploited more intensely (in Italy, immigrants make up about 10.5% of the workforce, equal to about 4 million workers).

This political objective, pursued by the most aggressive and chauvinistic fractions of the industrial, agrarian, and financial bourgeoisie, is today seeking mass consensus among the middle classes, crushed and impoverished by capitalist crises and monopolistic policies, which unleash their resentment on immigrants, rather than on the dominant social regime.

The bill has gathered the signatures necessary for its presentation to the Court of Cassation (the highest judicial Court in Italy). Its eventual approval will depend not only on the support it manages to obtain within the bourgeois bloc, but also, and above all, on the mobilization of the proletarian and popular masses called upon to fight against this further authoritarian and racist measure.

The issue of migrants is central to the development of the class struggle

Faced with this dangerous scenario unfolding in imperialist countries, we must loudly proclaim that what is presented as a mere attempt to regulate migration flows, given the “appealing” term “remigration”, is in reality a project of forced mass deportation based on ethnicity, culture, and social status. This project must be fought in all countries with all the weapons available to the proletariat and other workers.

It is a project that aims to divide workers, blackmail them, and increase the exploitation of the workforce, both immigrant and native.

The issue of defending immigrant workers is one of the most important issues of our time, and must be fully integrated into the policies of the proletarian united front and the united anti-fascist and anti-imperialist front.

If the bourgeoisie and governments resort to every means to pit native proletarians against immigrant proletarians, to create barriers of misunderstanding and hatred between them, our task is to highlight the fundamental common interests of native and immigrant workers, to defend the weakest, most blackmailed, and poorest sections of the proletariat.

It is our duty to cooperate in the struggle and unity of migrants, to help their integration with the organizations of struggle of native workers, to participate in the class struggle of the exploited against the exploiters, demanding a policy of dignified and respectful reception of migrants and their rights, regularization and equal pay and rights, the abolition of racist laws and measures against migrants, of deportation centers and “administrative” detention, and other partial demands.

Mass campaigns must be launched to oppose the approval of racist and discriminatory bills (as in Italy), to strongly condemn all forms of repression carried out in imperialist states, starting with Trump's USA, and to organize support networks for immigrant workers.

The demonstrations in Tuscany against the provocations of the “remigration committee”, with slogans like “no space for fascists” and “we can stop them”, were an important example of struggle, in which immigrant workers played a crucial role. It is the fascists and the private fascist and racist militias who should be expelled from our cities, not workers from other countries!

It is necessary develop the denunciation and condemnation of the capitalist and imperialist system that causes the devastation of entire countries, encouraging mass emigration and the flight from poverty of millions of the “wretched of the earth,” who are then exploited, repressed, and deported to shameful detention centers.

The mobilization against anti-migrant policies must take place on a mass scale, as demonstrated by the great struggles that have developed in the United States itself, combining the struggle against remigration with that against the dangers of war and rising fascism in different countries, including both in the more general struggle for a new society without exploitation, racism, and predatory wars.

On the ideological level, it is our task to fight against chauvinism, educating workers and the exploited and oppressed working masses in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, of international solidarity among workers and peoples.

**Organization for the Communist Party
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