

# On American Crisis-2

– Com. Basanta

An American national of African origin, George Floyd, was brutally killed in Minneapolis city, the USA on May 25, 2020, when he was in police custody. Accompanied by three accomplices on the side, a policeman killed him in broad daylight by kneeling his neck for about nine minutes in the wide streets of Minneapolis. The revolt that erupted after this video went viral from the Social Media has now spread all across the US. Besides, the black people who reside in the UK, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc. have shown strong solidarity to this revolt. Not in the US only, the non-whites have occupied streets in all the developed imperialist countries based on the slogan: Black Lives Matter. This movement has not only spread but also has created a wave of revolt in the colonial countries of the past. This short article will centre on this question.

The black people, who live in the US, are not indigenous people. They are bought from Africa as slaves. On or around the first decade of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, they were brought to America, the colony of the UK, to work in tobacco and cotton plantation in Virginia. This process continued for decades and many slaves were brought to different parts of America, to work in different fields. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the number of people of African origin in America had reached millions. Although, about 4 million slaves were freed after the Civil War in America (1861-1865) ended, the white racist supremacy, which is deep-rooted in the minds of white-coloured ruling classes, has not yet gone away. Rather it is getting deeper. Even those white people, who come from the working class, think that they are the ruling race in America and treat the black people as their slaves.

Black people live in many other developed capitalist countries also. They are not indigenous people of those countries. The people of African origin who live in France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, etc. were brought as workers or bought as slaves from Africa. The black people who live in Australia and New Zealand, the colonies of the UK, and in Canada, the colony of France, were the slaves bought or brought by the colonial rulers from Africa. The black people, who live in those countries, are also oppressed by white racist supremacy. The memories of barbarous repression in the slave era and the oppression of the colonial period have played an important role in building this solidarity among black people in many countries of the world.

The kinds of brutal, inhuman, and illegitimate killing seen at Minneapolis on May 25 used to take place before as well. But they used to disappear over time. After the video of the brutal murder of George Floyd reached among the people, it ignited a flame of revolt among the black people. This murder made many ruling class people of the world tight-lipped. Not this much only, the Democratic Party leaders in the US collectively knelt in support of the movement. Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, showed sympathy to the movement by kneeling along with protesters in the street of Ottawa. These types of scenes could be seen in many countries in Europe. To the extent that even Donald Trump, the president of America, could not turn a deaf ear to the incident. He was compelled to indirectly accept that one per cent of policemen in America are bad by saying 99 per cent of them are good. It is not new on the part of people's enemies to try to pour down cold water on the fire of revolt by supporting people's agenda but the way the reactionaries have knelt along with protesters in the streets now shows the moral victory of the protesters. It justifies that this movement is just and how the reactionaries are terrified of this movement.

Another important aspect of this movement is the exposition of brutality and atrocity the American police perpetrate upon the black people. It has revealed the brutal, cruel, and inhuman nature of the US police force before the world. Given this backdrop, the protesters have demanded that the police force be defunded, the police structure be dismantled, the fund spent on police force be used for public benefits and people's security teams be formed among the people. People's support is growing in it. It is to the extent that, the protesters in Seattle have declared autonomous zone to the six blocks around Capitol Hill

of the city and the armed local youths have guarded it. Till this line is being penned, the situation is very tense there. The Democratic Party in the US has prepared a bill for reforming police when a debate on extensive reform in the police administration is being talked in America.

Another notable issue in this movement is the protesters' anger expressed against the slave traders of the past slave era. This kind of rage has been rampant in many other countries as well. The protesters have destroyed in London the statue of Robert Milligan, who was a slave trader in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the same manner, the protesters have toppled the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol UK and hurled it into a river. The statues of American federal army generals that were erected in various cities of America have been laid down. Christopher Columbus's statue placed in the Saint Paul City of America has been toppled because his exploration of America caused to colonise it. Different newspapers have publicised news that 60 statues of notorious slave traders and colonial rulers are placed in the black-list. The protesters have set on fire the statue of King Leopold II placed in Antwerp, Belgium, because he had colonised Congo.

No one except President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Boris Johnson has strongly opposed the destruction of statues. But on the contrary, Priti Patel, the sitting interior minister, and Lisa Nandy, the foreign secretary of the shadow government, of the UK have said that slave traders must not be honoured by erecting their statues in the cities. In the same manner, Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the lower house in America and one of the prominent leaders of the democratic party has demanded to immediately remove 11 statues of federal generals who represented white racism in America.

A short account of events mentioned above manifests the dimension of the movement named Black Lives Matter, which erupted from America and spread to other countries. The sense of retaliation against the barbaric atrocities of the slave era, the excesses of national oppression in the colonial period, and the racist oppression and class exploitation upon black workers in the developed capitalist countries at present have all mixed up now and are manifested in the on-going protests. But, in essence, the on-going revolt is the obvious result of the contradiction between imperialism and the proletariat.

Nowadays, the United States of America is undergoing a serious crisis. As a consequence of the health crisis brought in by the mishandling of the Covid-19, the unemployment and the economic crisis caused by lockdown, the Black Lives Matter movement created by the white racist supremacy on the part of ruling class, the US now has been trapped in a vicious circle of crisis after crisis. The former defence secretary Collin Powel and the former state secretary of the US James Mattis, who were strong pillars and confidants of Donald Trump, have turned sharp critics due to his mishandling of the on-going movement. President Trump has stopped talking with Dr. Anthony Fauci, the health advisor of the President as their row in the handling of pandemic sharpened. President Donald Trump has now been isolated almost from all quarters. Moreover, the political tussle in the upcoming presidential election is going to divide and polarise the US society further and he seems to get trapped in an awful crisis and further isolation causing insanity. No one can deny that the obstinate president can deploy military to cleanse racial opposition in the name of containing the 'anarchists' and 'terrorists'. The present crisis in the US seems like a wakeup call for a bigger crisis in the days ahead.

I feel to offer a red salute to the declaration of the autonomous region made recently in the Capitol Hill of Seattle, America. However, emotion is not decisive. The autonomous region established within the framework of the reactionary state power provokes the enemy more than it safeguards the liberation of the oppressed people in CHAZ. This kind of tactical move can be supportive if it is made a part of the overall strategy of revolution. The on-going movement seems to be spontaneous, and it does not have any stated destination. Reform in police does not solve the problem the proletariat and the oppressed black people have been confronting in the US. The solution to the on-going crisis in America is scientific socialism guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and led by a party of the proletariat. Worth noting is that, the spontaneous movement cannot bring about any revolutionary change in society but it creates a situation from the womb of which a correct ideological and political line and the leadership gestate. The present situation in the US shows that the objective condition is getting favourable for the success of the

socialist revolution. But as Che Guevara has said the revolution is not like a mango which automatically falls from the mango tree when it is ripe. What is necessary to develop for the American proletariat at present is the armoury of weapons that help make the revolution a success when they act upon the favourably developing situation.

The first weapon for the success of the socialist revolution in the US is the formation of a genuine Communist Party guided by MLM. And the second weapon is a united front led by the party. In the particular situation of America the strong ideological and political unity mainly between the proletariats of white and black colours along with other oppressed people is a must. The reactionary cultural makeup of the US society based on white racist supremacy has made this task more challenging. The third weapon is the fighting force. All of these weapons are unlikely to get realised in a single attempt now in America. Nevertheless, the sharpening of contradictions in the US society and the objective necessity of revolution to solve them is creating an objective condition to realise it.

In the given situation, the communist revolutionaries in the US have to make a conscious effort to build up an ideologically and politically strong communist party and unite in it several groups and individuals scattered all across the US. Once the political party and its ideological and political line are built up, then the others will come on its way. The revolutionaries have to take up this task sooner than later for the emancipation of the entire oppressed people in America, including the blacks.

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