



# What and why is PDSU?

**People's Democratic Students Unity (PDSU)** is a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist student organization based in Bangladesh fighting for a people's democratic state and education system.

# Bangladesh is a Semi-Colonial Semi-Feudal State.

In this land, the aggression and exploitation of imperialist-expansionist nations coexist with feudal exploitation and the ruthless oppression and plundering by domestic bureaucratic-comprador capitalists.

Historically, students have always played a crucial role in the people's struggle for liberation against this oppressive and exploitative state and social system. Due to their access to institutional education, technical knowledge, and relatively updated information in literature, culture, economics, philosophy, and politics, students have always been politically significant in our country.

A group of students in a classroom setting, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid on the image. The students are looking towards the left, and the text is centered within the box.

However, they have repeatedly adopted incorrect ideological perspectives, leading to political deviations. If students can awaken the consciousness to unite with the workers, peasants, and oppressed masses, they can play their innate revolutionary role. Across the world, including Bangladesh, students have a proud history of participating in the people's struggle for true liberation.

Students can only fulfill this responsibility properly when they grasp the specific mechanisms of social development and realize, in alignment with these laws, that their own liberation is inherently tied to the liberation of the oppressed nations and peoples under the leadership of the working class. No issue can be resolved in isolation from this fundamental struggle.



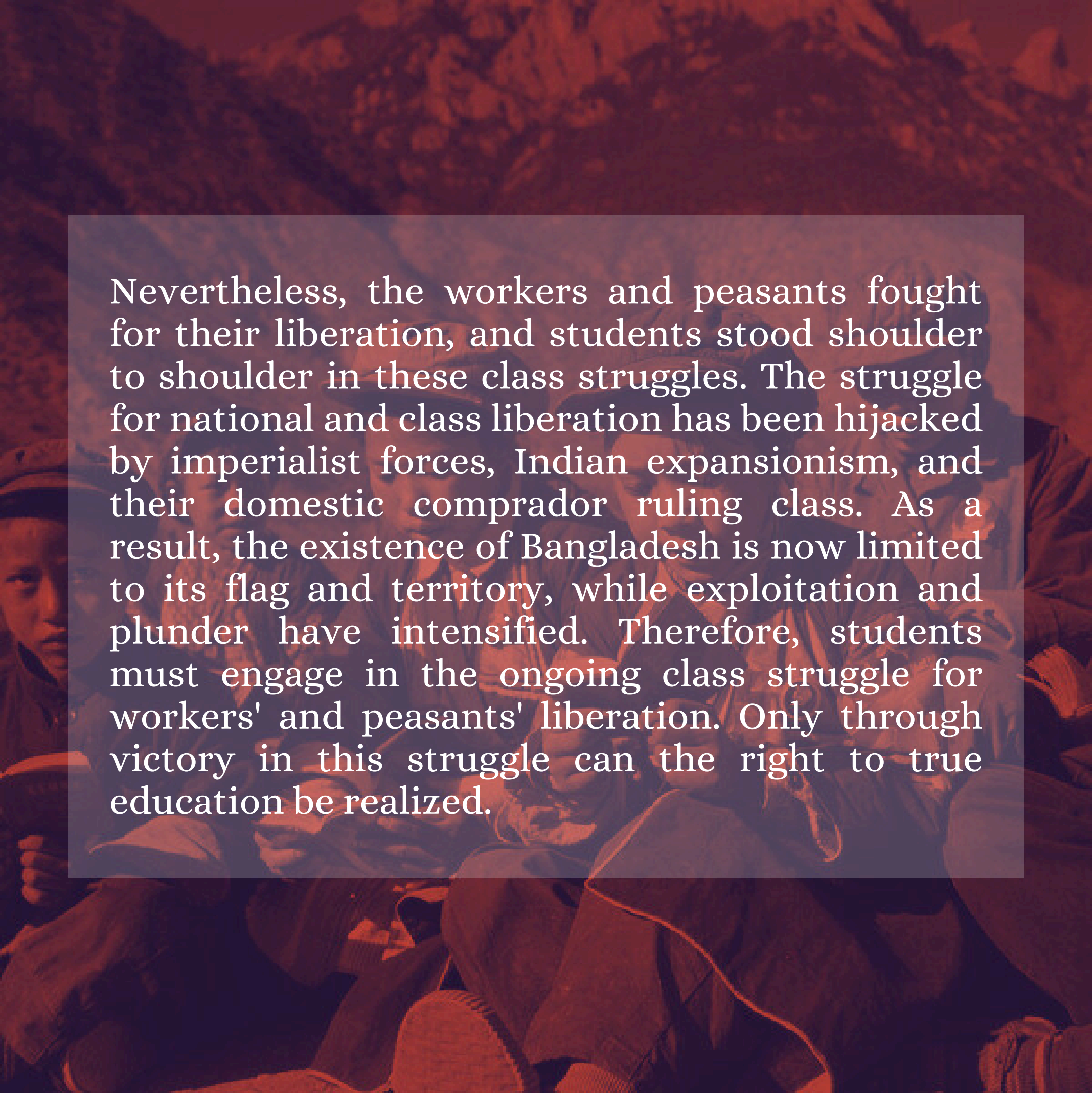
Humans are inherently political beings.

They cannot exist outside the broader political sphere. Therefore, they must organize as a political force, correctly analyze social and political issues, and unite workers and peasants in the class struggle for establishing a people's democratic state. This struggle will pave the way for a socialist-communist society.

# The Historical Role of Students in People's Struggles

The abolition of British colonial rule did not establish the desired independent social system for workers, peasants, and students. The people could not build a state that guaranteed land, work, and education. Instead, a new form of exploitation emerged, leaving the state as an apparatus of oppression.

Students rebelled against the then-state of Pakistan. Through years of struggle, the student movement achieved linguistic rights in 1952. They played significant roles in the Education Movement of 1962, the mass uprisings of 1969, and the 1990 anti-autocracy movement. However, true liberation remained elusive. On one side, there was aggressive Bengali nationalism; on the other, opportunism.


A group of students, likely in a school setting, are sitting on the floor. They are wearing traditional attire, including headscarves and long-sleeved shirts. Many of the students are holding and reading books. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, reddish-brown color cast over the entire image. A semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

Nevertheless, the workers and peasants fought for their liberation, and students stood shoulder to shoulder in these class struggles. The struggle for national and class liberation has been hijacked by imperialist forces, Indian expansionism, and their domestic comprador ruling class. As a result, the existence of Bangladesh is now limited to its flag and territory, while exploitation and plunder have intensified. Therefore, students must engage in the ongoing class struggle for workers' and peasants' liberation. Only through victory in this struggle can the right to true education be realized.

# The Colonial Legacy of Bangladesh's Education System

During colonial rule, the system was designed to produce educated agents to serve the exploitative administration. The same system continues today, without question, while the so-called rulers of an "independent country" remain silent.

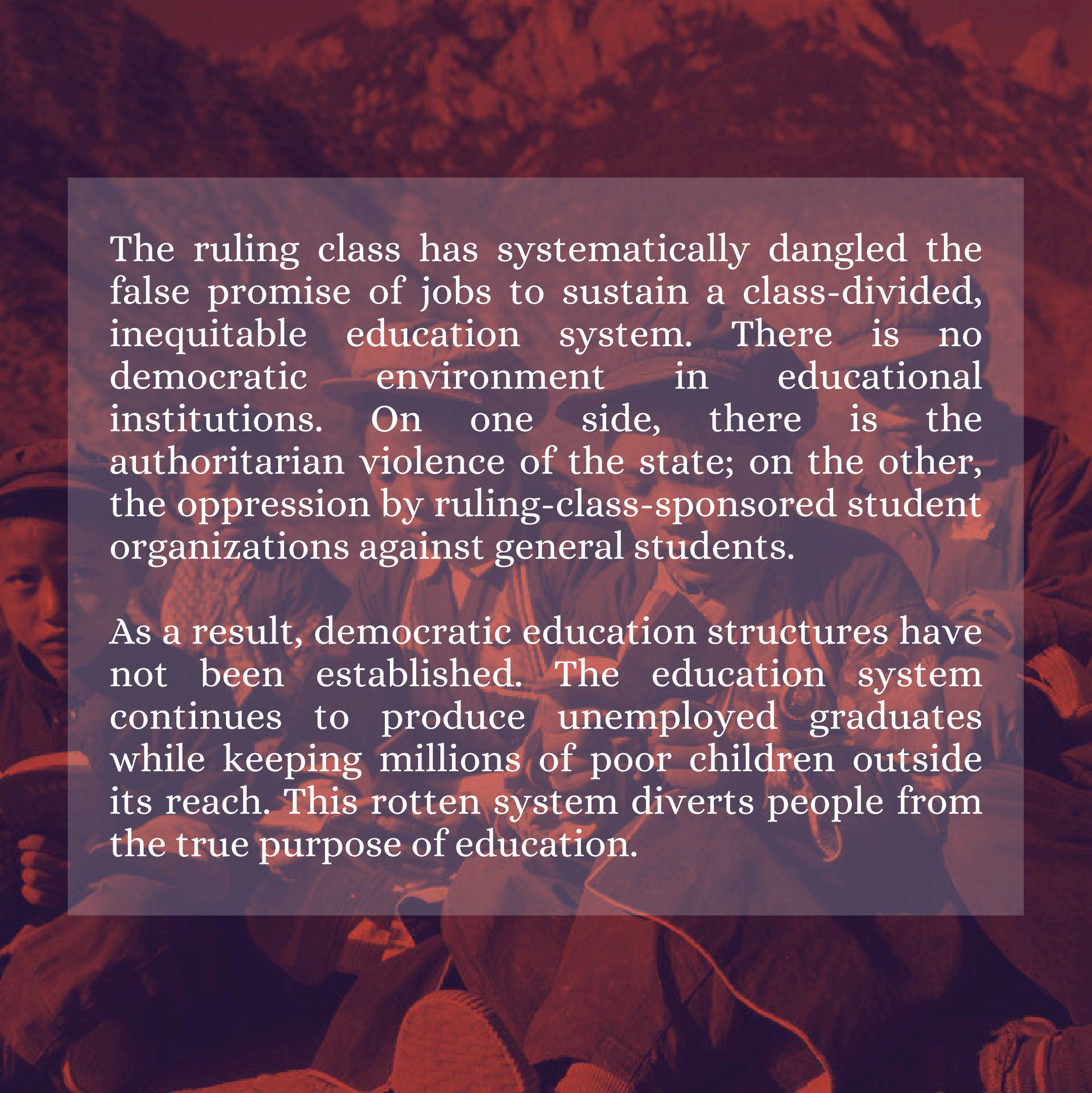
This education system is still designed to sustain the ruling state apparatus. Deliberately, a class of educated people is being created—serving imperialist interests, feudal and communal reactionaries, and unscientific ideologies—who are detached from productive labor, indifferent to workers and peasants, and devoid of creative abilities. This system fosters isolation, selfishness, and disrespect for working people. It also leads to widespread frustration, suicide, and untimely deaths.

A group of children, likely in a classroom, are shown from the chest up. They are wearing traditional headgear, possibly turbans or similar. They are looking down at books or papers they are holding. The background is a textured, reddish-brown color. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark red rectangular area.

As a semi-colonial semi-feudal state, Bangladesh's education system remains dependent on imperialist countries and their agencies. From primary to higher education, curriculum policies are shaped by foreign projects dictated by imperialist interests. Educational content is repeatedly altered to serve their needs.

Simultaneously, the education system is plagued by bureaucratic state administration and backward feudal-religious elements. Workers and peasants are systematically separated from education, ensuring their continued oppression. Ethnic minorities and religious communities are denied the right to their own languages and cultures, forcing them into the mold of aggressive Bengali nationalism.



A group of students in a classroom, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid on the image. The students are wearing traditional Indian attire, including turbans and shawls. They are looking towards the camera with various expressions. The text box is a light blue color and contains two paragraphs of white text.

The ruling class has systematically dangled the false promise of jobs to sustain a class-divided, inequitable education system. There is no democratic environment in educational institutions. On one side, there is the authoritarian violence of the state; on the other, the oppression by ruling-class-sponsored student organizations against general students.

As a result, democratic education structures have not been established. The education system continues to produce unemployed graduates while keeping millions of poor children outside its reach. This rotten system diverts people from the true purpose of education.

Therefore, the struggle to establish a People's Democratic Education Policy is inseparable from the broader struggle to dismantle the imperialist, bureaucratic-comprador capitalist, and feudal education system. Without a People's Democratic State, a People's Democratic Education System cannot be realized.

With the aspiration for a People's Democratic Bangladesh, **People's Democratic Students Unity (PDSU)** was founded on November 18, 2023— a student organization that upholds the ideology of the proletariat— Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.



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