

A crucial issue for a new proletarian movement

In the last two decades there's not a day goes by that emigrants and immigrants don't get splashed across the front page. Newspapers, TV, social media: all of 'em. A bunch of newsmen, MPs etc. acting as "experts" - though they're either illiterate people or deliberate liars, and often illiterate liars - accusing immigrants all around the clock of every imaginable crime and sin, such as importing crime, drugs, prostitution, diseases, primitive habits and other amenities. The rubbish goes like: "Immigrants are a threat to our cultural identity and values, to our women and elderly people, to our very race. They're unfair competitors on the labour market, always pinching "our" people's jobs. Them lazy scroungers happily living off our generous welfare system! And always breaking our written and unwritten sacred rules. They're a threat, and we all shall combat such deadly menace by any means necessary ..."

Pure war mobilization. Thus, social outcasts, human wrecks and gangs of outright thugs all itching to settle accounts with immigrant people and getting their dirty hands on guns have already shown up all across the country: Macerata, Firenze, Rosarno. Just in case our criminal Libyan mates, those hired by Minniti and Salvini, weren't doing enough, torturing and raping emigrants in Libya, and sinking scores of them deep into the Mediterranean after stripping them of all their little savings. Targeted symbols of evil have varied through time. Recently "illegal" immigrants and asylum seekers have mostly come under fire, especially those from Africa. First came the turn of Albanians. Roma people, Romanians, muslims and Chinese people followed; as for Chinese, M.me Moratti - a foolish woman she was - ended up regretting her attacks. However, it's not just about targeting individual groups. While attacking them separately, the media discriminate, criminalize and demonize "foreign people" as a whole. This applies to exceptions too, since the media point them out only to prove the rule - their rule.

Well, throughout the last decades there's not a day goes by that those very emigrants and immigrants don't make their voices and reasons heard through *a multitude of individual and collective resistance acts*, ranging from protests and uprisings against agribusiness bosses or Cie and Cas detention centres, to demonstrations, trade union activity and the setting up of organisations, through making pleas, releasing interviews, writing books, composing songs and killing themselves. Politically aware and militant immigrant proletarians refuse to be depicted as scapegoats for all social ills affecting native workers, since these very ills of society - over-exploitation, precarity, insecurity, the deprivation of the future - affect them the most.

This varying intensity class war waged by capitalist powers on emigrant and immigrant workers is among the crucial issues of our times, and *we just cannot remain neutral to it*. There's far too much at stake, and it doesn't concern immigrant workers only. This is about the slavery or the emancipation of all people living off their work. Bosses and governments are sparing no overt or covert means to throw native workers against immigrants, building walls of incomprehension and hatred between them, as well as among immigrant national groups and within these very nationalities. This rift is the secret of the stability capitalist power in workplaces and all across the society, together with gender and employed/unemployed divides.

We must unveil the secret, and tear it apart. And we must show that *needs and interests of both native and immigrant working human beings are essentially the same*. This is an urgent matter, for across Italian society, as elsewhere in Europe, the grip of racism on the masses is getting tighter and tighter. This is thanks to the dirty work done by governments and the institutional apparatus over the last decades, by the Lega, old and new right wing forces, as well as - more sneakily, perhaps, but meticulously all the same, by the Five Star Movement. There was no strong class opposition standing up to that. Humanitarian-flavoured anti-racism petitioning for the protection of weak and desperate needy people, as well as liberal anti-racism claiming the defence of freedom to migrate and opposing borders are, indeed, weak shelter against the overwhelming capitalist propaganda and state repression.

The Italian state, the European Union and all capitalist powers have declared a real war against emigrants and immigrants. *À la guerre comme à la guerre!* - then. Which, we believe, means getting *to the roots of international migrations, to their permanent, structural sources*: to the mechanics of capitalist and

imperialist dominion in past and present days, that is to say, to the warmongers. It means striking down the notions of migrant “emergency” and “invasion”; denouncing the anti-worker capitalist use of immigrant labour, which has been forced to emigrate, and the real purpose of aggressive policies, “closing” Fortress Europe’s borders while *de facto* expanding them at Africa’s expenses; Lega-Five Stars government really is an ace at this, although PD’s preceding governments did pave the way. At the same time, counterattacking means pointing out that, in past and present days, immigrant proletarians have often played the role of *fighting vanguards*, thus showing that hostility and hatred against immigrants isn’t but a poison paralyzing native workers’ resistance potential.

We’re not among those ceaselessly looking out for “pure” proletarian subjectivities glorifying them against those fallen into disgrace. Nor we regard immigrant communities as just one thing exclusively made of exploited people craving for the anti-capitalist class fight. We’re well aware of both social stratification processes going on among them and their increasingly absorbing western societies’ decadent individualist “values”. We’ll obviously look into these hurdles. It remains the case, though, that this young new section of wage labour have brought here right from the global South the *ardent expectations for social redemption* of hundreds of millions exploited people, together with their strong need for lifting the secular burden of colonialism from their shoulders - both in their home countries and Europe, for it’s prospered at their expenses throughout the centuries. You may not notice it, but there’s always a fire smouldering beneath the ashes. And, indeed, immigrant workers have started plenty of little fires all around Italy in logistic and agribusiness sectors, and in detention centres.

We dismiss the age’s gloom as we’re confident in the *objective reality of ongoing social processes*. International migrations are reshaping working class composition across agriculture, construction, factories, warehouses and even behind office desks. A multi-national, racial and cultural proletariat is coming into view in Italy and Europe. Despite all artfully spread biases, and discriminations, *this historical process is fatally eating away state borders*. This is a vital process transforming the social landscape in depth. Indeed, it is for fear of its relentless force that more aggressively racist groups have got out in the open launching the immigrant haunt. They’re in a hurry sensing time’s against them. Major capitalist powers and state institutions are pulling the strings, although the pawns in the spotlight usually are petty bourgeois fanatics or pretend fanatics, the muscle being social outcasts.

Again, we dismiss the age’s gloom, we’re confident in the objective reality of ongoing social processes, watching at post-2008 contradictions increasingly leading to chaos, and we say: *the match is still open*. Even though native workers in Italy and Europe have been under attack for decades now, with financial markets, banks, governments and parliaments slaughtering them ... really, can anyone say “illegal” immigrants and asylum seekers are those calling the shots? Distrust and resentment against the establishments are growing among more and more wagedworkers and ordinary citizens non-exploiting others’ work. That’s why a prospect of solidarity and unity between immigrant and native workers is not a quixotic program. Capitalists’ war against wage labour is coordinated, and so can and has to do wagedworkers’ resistance and counterattack. Proletarian internationalism is no relic in the face of this nowadays war; *it’s the vital natural manifestation of a reality that is international already*: in each and every town, and city, and in many workplaces. Such fact will make the bunch of “left-wing sovereignists” come a cropper, and so will their narrative applying a tinge of “social” make-up to typically far-right nationalist and racist themes.

This is just a journal, of course. Albeit dreamers, we’re aware we won’t have scores of readers. Nevertheless, we do hope we’ll have put in our hundreds of readers’ hands a sharp weapon to pursue the fight at mass level. The rest will flow.