

Green and Red Podcast

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The Podcast

According to the “About” section of their podcast [website](#): Welcome to our scrappy podcast. Bob Buzzanco and Scott Parkin co-host a regular podcast to discuss radical environmental and anti-capitalist politics with organizers, academics, artists and more.

The Hosts

Bob Buzzanco is a professor of history at the University of Houston. He specializes in, writes about and talks on the Vietnam War era, foreign policy, Vietnam, radical social movements, economics, and other stuff.

Sourced from [Wikipedia](#): Buzzanco is a scholar of 20th century U.S. history and diplomatic history. He is also one of America's leading authorities on the Vietnam War and the dynamics that encompassed this time period. Buzzanco received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and currently teaches at the University of Houston. Buzzanco has lectured at national conferences on the Second Gulf War, globalization and the influence of the industrial military complex. Among his many other professional activities, he has served as the Chair of the Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize Committee for Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. Buzzanco has also contributed to national newspapers and magazines such as the *Baltimore Sun*, *Houston Chronicle* and *Newsday* magazine. He has been interviewed or cited by various international media such as the BBC, NPR, the *Financial Times*, Al-Jazeera and the Islamic News Network.

Buzzanco is the author or editor of three books, and he has written more than twenty articles that have appeared in scholarly publications and major newspapers. His current works include a manuscript on culture and politics for Oxford's VSI series, as well as his continuing work on the political economy of the 1960s and the impact of the Vietnam War on the U.S. economy.

According to [Rainforest Action Network](#), Scott Parkin is a trainer, coordinator and organizer in social justice and environmental movements. He has worked with anti-corporate global justice, anti-war, labor, environmental and climate movements in North America, Europe and Australia.

Currently Parkin is Rainforest Action Network's Organizing Director. He has organized campaigns against Wall Street banks, mountaintop removal coal mining and the Keystone XL pipeline.

Class Struggle

Capitalism vs. socialism: The pandemic and the global class struggle

([Source](#))

The struggle to contain the pandemic would develop into a class struggle, as it became increasingly clear that the major classes in society—the capitalist class and the working class—have irreconcilably opposed interests. These antagonistic positions find expression in the conflict between the capitalist and socialist programs.

The positions of the ruling class proceed from the defense of capitalist property: the private ownership of the means of production and the geostrategic interests of the nation state. The positions of the working class strive objectively toward socialism: the ending of the profit system and exploitation of labor, and its replacement with the scientifically planned reorganization of economic life on the basis of human needs and the global unification of mankind through the abolition of the nation-state system.

1. The capitalist program insists that the response to the pandemic must prioritize saving the financial markets over saving lives.

The socialist program insists that the response to the pandemic must prioritize saving lives over saving the financial markets.

2. The capitalist program asserts that pandemic policy must be driven by profit interests.

The socialist program advocates that medical policy must be guided by science.

3. The capitalist program advocates a program of “herd immunity,” allowing the virus to spread with as few restrictions as possible while vaccinations are produced and distributed.

The socialist program calls for all measures to impede virus transmission until the necessary number of people to stop community spread of the virus have been inoculated.

4. The capitalist program insists, in accordance with its “herd immunity” strategy, that factories and other workplaces be kept open for business.

The socialist program insists that all nonessential workplaces be closed down until inoculated workers can safely return to their jobs.

5. The capitalist program demands that schools be reopened, claiming falsely that there is little risk to students and teachers.

The socialist program, based on scientific evidence that schools are a major source of virus transmission, demands that schools remain closed until the pandemic has been brought under control.

6. The capitalist program seeks to restrict social expenditures aimed at counteracting the economic impact of the pandemic on the great mass of the people, while demanding that central banks provide unlimited support for the financial markets and large corporations.

The socialist program demands full income compensation to workers and small businesses for the duration of the crisis. The resources for this critical social rescue plan will be obtained through the immediate restitution of the trillions of dollars extended to the large corporations

under the provisions of the CARES Act, and the expropriation of the pandemic profiteers who have made tens of millions and even billions of dollars as a result of unlimited Federal Reserve support for the financial markets.

7. The capitalist program promotes a policy of vaccination nationalism, restricting and opposing equitable distribution of vaccines throughout the world.

The socialist program, recognizing that the coronavirus can be eradicated only through a scientifically directed international strategy, calls for a globally coordinated inoculation program.

America is in a class war, not a race war

[\(Source\)](#)

Excerpt: “In class warfare, these people (the so-called silent majority) are not viewed as victims, but as oppressors. And this is the crux of the matter. The mainstream liberal media, academia, Hollywood and many cultural icons and institutions (such as the professional sports world) have declared their kinship with the violent mobs who are pushing America to the brink of an all-out class war.

If you think this could never happen in the United States, think again. The Democratic Party seems to be in cahoots with the launch of this class struggle. By refusing to denounce the appalling looting and violence in the wake of the George Floyd protests (that continue to this day), they are making it clear that they are at least sympathetic to their unrighteous cause.”

“Our society is sick:” The Lancet condemns American capitalism

[\(Source\)](#)

The massive loss of life in the COVID-19 pandemic—centered in the American working class—only accelerated the decline of life expectancy in the United States, and more importantly, the stratification of life expectancy along class lines.

“At the time of Trump’s inauguration in January 2017, the health of the US population was already on a downward trajectory,” writes The Lancet. “Average life expectancy in the US had declined from 78.9 years to 78.7 years between 2014 and 2018, a period that included the first 3-year decline in longevity since World War 1 and the 1918 flu pandemic.”

The report noted that “since the 1980s, the disparity between social and economic classes has widened as high-paid manufacturing jobs disappeared. ... Despite a booming stock market ... many people living in the USA were forced into precarious jobs that offered low pay and insufficient benefits. This widening income inequality has widened inequalities in health.”

“Lagging life expectancy in the USA has coincided with growing income-based and education-based mortality gaps among adults. These inequalities in mortality mirror widening economic inequality, with rising incomes for the wealthiest decile of the population (and huge gains for the very rich), but stagnant real incomes for the bottom 50%. By 2014, the life expectancy of the wealthiest 1% of men was 15 years longer than that of the poorest 1%.

“Between 2000 and 2014, adult life expectancy increased by over 2 years for people in the top half of the income distribution, while the lower half of the income distribution had little or no improvement.”

Additional current articles on class struggle:

1. [Montgomery Bus Boycott, Bessemer, prisons - Class struggle then and now](#)

Left-Wing Perspectives

Donald Trump, Giuliani sued for conspiring to incite Capitol Hill riots, asked to pay damages

[\(Source\)](#)

Democratic congressman, in a lawsuit filed on Tuesday, accused former President Donald Trump, his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and two right-wing groups of conspiring to incite last month's deadly riot at the US Capitol.

The civil lawsuit accuses them of violating the Ku Klux Klan Act, an 1871 law passed to crack down on the white supremacist organization. It is the latest legal attempt to find Trump responsible for the violence on Jan. 6, after he spent months falsely claiming his election defeat in November was the result of widespread fraud.

It also names as defendants the Proud Boys, a far-right organization, and the anti-government militia known as the "Oath Keepers."

"The insurrection was the result of a carefully orchestrated plan by Trump, Giuliani and extremist groups like the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys, all of whom shared a common goal of employing intimidation, harassment and threats to stop the certification of the Electoral College," according to a press release announcing the lawsuit.

The US Senate on Saturday acquitted Trump of inciting the Jan. 6 riot, when 57 senators, including seven Republicans, voted to convict, short of the 67 votes needed.

Anti-Capitalism

‘Woke Capital’ Isn’t Real—but Conservative Fearmongering Is

([Source](#))

According to [Wikipedia](#), In business and marketing. In an article for Time, journalist Alana Semuels detailed the phenomenon of "woke capitalism" in which brands have attempted to include socially aware messages in advertising campaigns. ... The idea has been encapsulated by the expression "go woke, go broke."

- Example of woke capitalism: “A Wall Street Journal editorial ([2/5/21](#)) lamented that ‘many Fortune 500 firms took the Black Lives Matter protests as an opportunity to pivot hard to the left,’ while ‘Amazon [and] Nike donated large sums to progressive activist groups.’ The editors went on to claim that ‘managers started to assign polarizing left-wing political texts to employees and adopted new racial hiring preferences.’”

More on woke capitalism:

1. [Welcome to the era of woke capitalism](#)
2. [Cancel Culture and the Problem of Woke Capitalism](#)

Environmentalism

Economic sanctions are triggering environmental damage

[\(Source\)](#)

The impact of economic sanctions on the environment is perhaps most visible in the case of Iran, a nation that has been subject to incessant economic pressure – mainly by the US – for more than 40 years.

Today, Iran is experiencing not only intense social and economic distress but also an ever-worsening environmental crisis – both, at least in part, as a result of US sanctions.

US economic sanctions impeded Iran's ability to pursue sustainable development policies and implement efficient environmental protections for years.

After the signing of the Iran nuclear deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, JCPOA) by the Obama administration in 2015, it was anticipated that the consequent lifting of sanctions would allow Iran to engage in a much-needed exchange of knowledge, capital, and technology. This would have paved the way for the country to develop the necessary capabilities to abandon outdated industrial and agricultural practices that are leading to environmental degradation.

But following Donald Trump's election as president, such prospects gradually became illusory. In 2018, the Trump administration not only withdrew the US from the JCPOA but also embarked on a "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

Ever since, Tehran has been subjected to arguably the most testing economic sanctions since it was first sanctioned by Washington in 1979 in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution.

Although the Trump administration has consistently claimed its “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran was “targeted at the regime, and not the people of Iran”, the reinstatement of sanctions targeted critical sectors of the country’s economy, such as energy, shipping, automotive, aviation and finance, which are all crucial to sustainable development.

Trump’s sanctions also had an impact on the country’s environment. The economic distress triggered by the measures left the Iranian state less able, and willing, to pursue sustainable policies and reform its polluting industries. Moreover, sanctions impeded Iran’s ability to receive grants for environmental efforts from international funding institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a subsidiary of the World Bank.

Though much of the blame for Iran’s current environmental predicament must be attributed to endemic oversight and mismanagement on the part of Iranian policymakers, it is undeniable that sanctions have had damaging secondary consequences on the environment, not only in Iran but also in neighbouring Iraq.

How Social and Environmental Justice are Interconnected

[\(Source\)](#)

- If you look closely into cases where environmental injustices have taken place, you will find that there are always groups where the impacts and consequences do not breakeven. There will always be a group that tends to be more affected than others in society. Impacts can range from mere inconveniences that can be worked around to life-threatening consequences ranging from the stability of livelihoods to having access to resources needed to survive, which are both considered basic human rights.

- It is important to keep in mind that communities are not homogenous, which is to say that even in one community, members can be affected differently based on their income status, gender, sexual orientation and race.
- These differences can be factors in having access to the same opportunities or resources and maybe even put some community members inadvertently in harm's way. This is where social injustice and environmental consequences meet at a crossroads.
- Let's look at the act of illegally dumping chemical waste into the natural environment.

The act of disposing toxins into a nearby river stream may not only affect the biodiversity surrounding the river itself, but also livelihoods that rely on the health of the river itself. Those that depend on the river for drinking, cooking, washing and cleaning are asymmetrically threatened and exposed to higher risks of poisoning and adverse health effects.

 - Whereas, wealthier communities who do not depend on the river for survival may see illegal dumping as a non-issue coming from a position of privilege by having access to purified tap water. Here, the factory is responsible for the action of dumping and the direct consequences not to mention the indirect increase of inequalities and community divisions based on socioeconomic circumstances. Now in the days of social media, a factory or corporation that engages in these types of harmful practices will be held accountable with more and more voices of the oppressed being heard and gaining traction amongst the socially conscious.
- A real life example where environmental injustice took place is in the case of the [Dakota Access Pipeline](#), which remains contested to this day. In the Northern Midwest of the United States, plans for a Dakota Access pipeline were released in 2015 and immediately met with outrage. The 1,722-mile (1,886 km) crude oil pipeline was proposed to cut through the Dakotas and into Illinois, controversially to be built on

semi-autonomous and sacred Native American lands. The construction was seen not only as a threat to the river water and those that rely on it for survival, but also for the historic landmarks and cultural grounds of indigenous communities.

Additional current articles on environmentalism:

1. [A Copernican revolution to shift from 'defensive' environmentalism to propulsive ecological transition](#)

Current Events for Possible Discussion

1. [Death on an unprecedented scale: One year since the first death from COVID-19 in the US](#)
 - a. “The scale of death from the COVID-19 pandemic will be unprecedented in US history. More than one-third of these deaths so far are attributable to those who perished in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Deaths not directly attributable to COVID-19 infections include the thousands that have died from dementia and neglect. Suicide and drug overdoses have played a tragically prominent aspect in this misery. Overwhelmed health systems saw many with heart disease, malignancies, kidney failure, etc., succumb because access to medical treatments was curtailed.”
2. [GameStop's saga may be over; its effect on Wall Street isn't](#)
 - a. “No one expects another supernova like GameStop to happen again, where a band of smaller-pocketed investors helped boost a struggling company’s stock 1000 per cent in two weeks. But the tools they employed can be used again and again, if those smaller investors stay connected on social media forums and if regulators don’t change the rules to hinder them.

In the long term, a Wall Street adage says that 'the fundamentals' always win out. That means a stock's price eventually settles where it should, based in part on how much profit a company is producing. The recent plummet back to earth for GameStop's stock may be proof of that.

What GameStop did, though, was show how a group of smaller investors banding together can dramatically push up a stock in the short term. Many market watchers believe hedge funds and other professionals also played a role in GameStop's surge, but they were likely only accelerating the spurt sparked by retail investors."