

The Democratic Socialists of America is the largest socialist organization in the United States. We believe that the economy and society should be run democratically to meet the needs of the many, not the few.



A better Quad Cities is possible. Join us!

How to Get Involved:

1. Become a DSA member at dsausa.org/join
2. Come out to our actions and meetings
3. Follow us for updates at quadcitiesdsa.org

Disclaimer: The views in this publication are not necessarily representative of QCDSA's democratically-decided positions (except where noted), but represent the diversity of thought of our membership.

The Quad-City Worker



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Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America

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A Message from the Quad Cities DSA Steering Committee

From Karl Marx submitting his first article to The Rheinische Zeitung, to Russian workers printing Pravda in defiance of the Tsar, and to the first issue of The Black Panther introducing a new generation to revolutionary thought, socialists have had a long and storied history of producing their own printed media. Not just as a way of getting around the censorship of the state and the capitalist propaganda apparatus, but as a form of self-expression, forum for important discussions, and as a work of love. As members of the Steering Committee of the Quad Cities chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, we are excited by all the dedication and labor our comrades have displayed in the starting of this publication. We are honored to be given a chance to be included in our chapter's humble contribution to the proud tradition of Socialist revolutionary publication.

In solidarity,

Steering Committee, QCDSA
James B, Ricky N, Meagan R, Ciara B, Julia C



What Is Capitalism?

By Andrew D.

The word capitalism is familiar, but poorly described, in our society. You can't talk about socialism without first talking about capitalism. Capitalism is an economic system based on the private ownership of the means of production. The means of production - the goods, services, tools, and land - are owned exclusively by a single person or small group of people: capitalists. The capitalists own facilities of production (stores, factories, and so on) solely to generate a profit for their own benefit.

Neither major party has a vision that serves the working class. We need a serious alternative to the Republican Party's proto-fascism and war on unions, immigrants, women and transgender people, and democracy itself—and an alternative to the Democratic Party's complicity.

We need a new party that represents a mass movement of everyday people who want to stand up and fight for a world that's free of war, bigotry, and corporate exploitation. We deserve a party that will champion worker power, fight for liberation and dignity for all people, end the climate crisis, and create universal programs like public housing, free college, and Medicare for All.

Join DSA to build that party with us.



The Quad Cities Worker is a joint project of the Quad Cities DSA Communications and Political Education Committees.

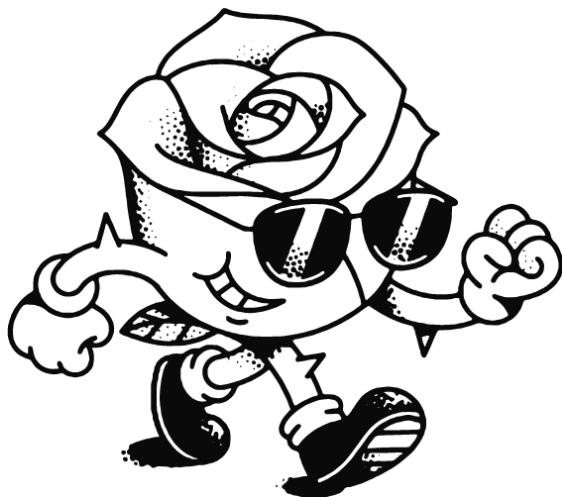
Great Today, Maybe Not Tomorrow

By Jenna I.

it's not you, it's CAPITALISM: why it's time to break up and how to move on by Malaika Jabali delivers a clear and easy to understand message, capitalism is failing us in the USA and it is time for something different. That something different is SOCIALISM.

The book breaks everything down into ten easy chapters, each explaining different ways capitalism continues to fail us and then provides current and historical socialist solutions, often centering Black voices and marginalized groups that have gone their own way. Despite the heavy topic, Jabali keeps the tone casual making the often bleak topic feel approachable and even surmountable.

If you feel like you sometimes have trouble articulating why capitalism leads to ruin and how socialism is the answer, I highly recommend this book. It also makes for a good beginning primer for anyone on the start of their socialism journey. My only issue is the book uses a lot of pop culture references and slang which means it will age quickly so grab it now while it still hits.



The revolution will not have 501(c)3 status.

By Sarah E.

WORKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE AND FINDING OUT MOST THE ORG DOES NOT CARE ABOUT THE PART THAT IS SAVING LIVES is like funhouse mirrors of ideology, confusingly straight forward platitudes. On paper it makes sense. We do the work, we make the engine start, keep the connections well-oiled, plaster pink decals in front of the public, usher them toward the resources, the people, they prayers answered. Here is your support. Here is your education, information, empowerment. Here we give thanks and praise to the nurses and doctors, the receptionists and clinicians who say yes, who validate your fears, hold your hand when you don't know why you're crying, where you meet the first doctor you've ever seen who looks like you and she literally gives you a juice box. She doesn't know it washes down a Xanax, she only knows you're here and you're scared and you made this appointment one hour ago. And then you clock into your shift, work from home on the couch, gratitude like stars in your eyes. Open your starry eyes to the warped mirror: a union bust, thirty thousand dollars in ad sales, you're being asked to get out the vote for a man who once told you are not the authority on the issue of what your own body has been through—what it can do. When you tell people who employs you, they thank you, giving thanks and praise for their prayers answered, their purgatory ended by a femme in scrubs in a discreet clinic some 50 miles away. The work you do saved my life they keep saying, your paychecks keep rolling in though you've never worn scrubs, never put on a reflective vest, never passed a protest or been called a name, never used the word procedure, never had to wear orthotic shoes or call security to be let in to your workplace. You wonder if the money sent to you would be better served in the cracked hands of a healthcare worker, wonder how much it would take to dismantle those departments portent and comfortable, each six-figure office in one go. Send every copper penny to the people who serve because it is right, shut down the election work, disband the comms team and

send the organizers back to their communities. You wanted to give back, you think, each keystroke a betrayal, you wanted to help, you buy a frame for the mirror. At 10 feet away you looked poised and pretty, at five feet you are shrunken and swollen, at one foot you are melted, congealed, no trace of a human, no face to meet your eye.

Statement on the End of Joe Biden's Presidential Campaign **By DSA National Political Committee**

Joe Biden has long been a warmonger and a perpetrator of genocide, a shill for corporations, an enemy of immigrants and the environment, and a failure to the working class. He has earned a disgraceful end to his career.

While Biden's departure from the presidential race today improves the chances that we may avoid a Trump presidency, whoever the Democratic nominee is will undoubtedly fall short of what the working class deserves.

More Americans are becoming painfully aware that the leadership of the Democratic Party is completely unprepared to fight the far right with the ferocity required. Democratic insiders admitted recently that Biden was only anointed in 2020 not because he could beat Trump, but because they wanted to beat the overwhelming popular democratic socialist candidate Bernie Sanders.

Since becoming president, Biden has taken every opportunity to ruin his chances of reelection. Most notably, he continues to fund and actively support Israel's horrific genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, tanking his popularity among young voters. He has offered zero vision for the future other than "Nothing will fundamentally change"—and as social and economic conditions get worse, we see that even that was a lie.

Of course, what is missing in this definition is what work creates these profits. This is where the real production begins: the workers. The capitalists need workers to labor in their facilities so goods and services can be made and sold. The capitalist is dependent on these workers: without them, they have empty stores, unworked land. Capitalists pay a wage to their workers, buying their labor power, to work for them. The capitalist owns their labor and uses it to produce their goods and services to generate a profit.

What's left unsaid, is that the profits of capitalism are the result of **exploitation**. We, the working class, do **not** own the means of production to provide for ourselves (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) we are forced to sell our labor for a wage. In other words, if we do not work, we can't get money to buy the things we need to survive. Also, what your boss pays you for your work will always be a fraction of the value of your labor: under capitalism, all profit is generated from how much extra labor your boss skimmed from your paycheck today.

Here's an example: let's say you work at Starbucks. You get paid \$15 an hour: on average, you make 25 drinks an hour, with each drink costing around \$6. Let's do the math: 6×25 drinks equals \$150, and so, you generate \$150 an hour for the company. Even once you remove the overhead (cost of materials, wages, rent, utilities) your company is making an immense profit from the value of your labor.

This is why we must abolish capitalism: it is pure exploitation. We want workers to directly, democratically, and collectively own the means of production. We will no longer be under the burden of the wage system: instead, we will only need to do the limited amount of work needed to perpetuate ourselves and society, and we can spend the rest of our time in leisure with our family and friends. The fight against capitalism is really the fight for the liberation of humanity.