



# Speak Out Now

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

speakoutsocialists.org

(510) 343-9105

## Don't Leave our Future in the Hands of Those who Continue to Destroy the Planet

So far, winter has brought extreme weather events all over the world. This winter the U.S. has faced severe blizzard conditions that killed over 69 people and grounded thousands of flights. Extreme rain hit California, causing record rain and massive flooding and power outages. Japan faced a deadly winter storm killing at least 17 people. Europe faced an unprecedented heat wave. Australia, the Philippines, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo suffered under massive flooding, and the Great Salt Lake in the U.S. is on the verge of drying up. And 2022 was another year with record levels of high temperatures and CO2 in the atmosphere.

World leaders talk about the climate emergency, but in fact they continue to increase the production of fossil fuels. The latest COP27 (the United Nations global meeting on climate change) that took place this past November couldn't have made this hypocrisy any clearer. The meeting was attended by over 600 fossil-fuel industry lobbyists from the biggest energy corporations in the world, a 25% increase since the previous meeting. The meeting struck down any commitment to phase out fossil fuels. The conference concluded with no new agreements to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions or fossil fuel extraction, and no agreements to prioritize the transition to renewable energy. All past agreements remain non-binding and unenforceable — that is, they are totally useless. There

was even talk of raising the target global temperature increase to above 1.5 degrees Celsius — which has been the agreed goal for years — and which would be catastrophic for humanity if they do.

World leaders reluctantly agreed to create a so-called “damage and loss fund” for poorer countries that have been the worst hit by the effects of climate change caused by rich countries. But this has nothing to do with stopping global heating. This fund is intended as nothing more than hush money. There are no financial commitments by the rich countries. And, if any money is ever paid, it will do nothing to prevent those in power from continuing the destruction they are causing while those most affected are left to suffer and die. It's just an empty public relations stunt. To make their efforts even more laughable, next year's meeting will take place in Dubai, and led by lead the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.

Ultimately, this COP meeting was simply another demonstration that this system of capitalism, which destroys the environment in its endless pursuit of profits, has no solution to the climate crisis that it has created. The climate catastrophe will only keep getting worse as long as we leave our fate in the hands of those who defend this system. For every human being on the planet, this poses an urgent question: what are we going to do to fight for our future?

## WORKERS IN BRITAIN FIGHT BACK

**As inflation skyrockets, hundreds of thousands of workers all over Britain have gone on strike demanding higher wages. And the strike wave continues to spread. Join us for a discussion about this movement with Daniel Randall, a worker on the London Underground (subway), and a supporter of the socialist group Workers' Liberty.**

**ONLINE TOWN HALL**  
**Saturday Feb. 4 at 12pm PST (3pm EST)**



## Profit Before Planet at ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil scientists knew about the catastrophic damage of fossil fuels to our environment since the late 1970s. To protect their industry, they began a decades-long campaign of outright denial and misinformation that continues to this day. But that's old news.

And the predictions their scientists made about the effects of fossil fuel use on the planet were closely aligned with exact trends we've seen in recent years.

In other words, had ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel giants chosen fifty years ago to protect the planet instead of their profits, humanity likely wouldn't be in this mess. Instead, they continue to confirm their horrific predictions from the 1970s, profiting from planetary destruction.

## Covid Vaccine Profiteers

The U.S. government is ending the free vaccine program, and Moderna and Pfizer, the producers of the main vaccines in the U.S. are getting ready to raise their prices, from \$26 a dose to as high as \$130 a dose..

As new Covid variants continue to develop, there will continue to be necessary vaccines. But now without government funding, and skyrocketing vaccine prices, less people will be able to get the new vaccines. And more people will die. And it will be the poor, and the millions of people without health insurance that will be most at risk of severe illness and death.

Pfizer and Moderna will be paying for their new massive profits with the lives of the most vulnerable in our society.

## Rich Get Richer During Crisis

According to a recent report published by Oxfam, the richest people have gotten even richer during the pandemic. From 2020-2021, the richest one percent of the world's population have received 63% of all new wealth. The bottom 90 percent only gained 10% of all new wealth during that period. The total wealth of the world's billionaires increased by about \$2.7 billion per day, while inflation has decreased the wages of billions of workers around the world. So, the rich get richer as the rest of us pay for their crisis.

## Politicians are Liars!

George Santos, a newly elected Republican to the U.S. House of Representatives from New York, has been caught telling all sorts of lies in order to get elected. He's lied about his family background, his education, his work history, his name, about being Jewish, about whether his mother died on September 11, and many more. Some have called on him to resign. But so far, that looks like it won't happen because most Republicans don't want to lose his seat in the House.

Santos may have been caught red handed, but his case is only another example of the outrageous lies politicians from both parties will tell just to get elected.

## Inflation is Hitting Workers Hard

We are told the inflation rate is at 6.5% as of December 2022. But that is just the average increase for all goods. When we look at some of the most commonly purchased items, we can see the increase is much higher. As corporations are making record profits, we are just getting ripped off.

Bread increased 17%	Butter increased 34%
Eggs 60%	Coffee 15%
Airfares 28%	Public Transit 18%
Utility Gas 20%	Fuel Oil 41%

**Food at workplaces and schools 129%.**

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. But we aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – keep the wealth and make all the decisions. But working people do the work to make society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. And when we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

**Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world**

**speakersocialists.org**

 @sonsocialists 

