

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

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**Barack Obama's Presidency cannot refurbish the
image of American Imperialism!**

**Oppressed nations and people of the world should
unite to defeat US imperialism!!**

Faced with the deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, rapidly declining standards of living for a significant chunk of US population, increasing home foreclosures, and the ill effects of two wars of aggression and continuous massive military build-up, it is not surprising that an African-American and a first-time senator from the Democratic Party, Barack Obama, should win the US Presidential election. The corporate-financial elite ruling America brought Obama to the fore in their desperation to refurbish the image of American imperialism badly battered during the reign of George Bush. They think that Obama's relatively clean image and his African-American descent would be acceptable to the American people and the world at large. Given the depth of the current crisis and its impact on the people of the US, the frustration, anger and dissatisfaction of the people against the policies and misrule of Bush, anyone who contested against Republican Bush would have easily won the election.

The overwhelming opposition of the people to Bush shows the grave impact of the crisis on the lives of the people. Reports speak of a third of the US population living in extreme hunger and starvation. Even many Third World countries fare better than a considerable section of the American people. Moreover, Bush has become synonymous with a whole new vocabulary of anti-people terms: Guantanamo Bay, Abu-Ghraib, global war on terror, weapons of mass destruction, bail-outs, if-you-are-not-with-us-you-are-with-terrorists, homeland security, and so on. Hated by the world people as the biggest terrorist and vast majority of the world population eager to lynch him if ever an opportunity presented itself, Bush had become the safest bet for the victory of Obama.

Moreover, the victory of Obama also points to the acute contradictions within the American ruling classes accentuated by the deepening crisis. The sectarian and disastrous policies of the Republicans under Bush had alienated even a section of the ruling elites such as the Big Three of Detroit who felt humiliated by Bush denying them a share in the bail-out package of \$700 bln which is exclusively meant for the mortgage and investment banks.

But can Obama bring any basic change in the lives of the people? Can he break with the policies of his predecessor Bush? He had already declared that there would be continuity of policies pursued by Bush, that he would increase the troop strength in Afghanistan and step up attacks on so-called Al Qaeda bases in Pakistani territory, his tall talk of withdrawal of troops from Iraq is only due to the increasing casualties suffered by US troops and growing world-wide opposition and also in order to deploy them in Afghanistan. He is one with Bush in bailing out the rich and wealthy corporations from the financial crisis. Prior to the election, he met the representatives of the monopoly capitalist class and assured that he would bail them out of the crisis if he was elected as President. *The New York Times, The Washington*

Post and a big section of the mainstream media suddenly made a turnabout and endorsed Obama which gave a further fillip to his Presidential campaign. Even the consistently Republican supporter like *The Chicago Tribune*, and ex-secretary of state under George Bush, Colin Powell, endorsed Obama abandoning their own Republican candidate. So much was the enthusiasm, and, of course, compulsion, among the corporate-financial elites of America for Obama that his campaign managers collected funds that had far surpassed the fund collections of George Bush in the last elections. By approving the \$700 bln bail-out package Obama has proved himself to be no different than Bush in transferring wealth of the poor to the filthy rich, from the Main Street to the Wall Street.

The entire world media and the reactionary classes have hailed Obama's victory as a victory of the people, a victory of the Blacks, women and have-nots. They showered praises on the resilience and greatness of US democracy. They tried to hush up the reality of the US crisis, its tottering economy, and its designs for global hegemony. Some predicted that Obama would reverse the policies of Bush, put an end to militarism and war-mongering, restore democracy, assist in bringing a new balanced world order, and so on. In India too, some hoped that a similar 'miracle' would happen here and a Dalit would become the President of the country. All this is nothing but media hype.

Whether it is George Bush or Barack Obama America is not going to see any real change for the better. Power and authority are not in the hands of any individual, however powerful he/she might seem outwardly, but in the hands of the ruling class dominated by a tiny military-industrial, corporate-financial elite. The US military machine is pre-programmed to carry out aggression, invasion, subversion, bullying, mass murder irrespective of the consequences to fulfill its aim of achieving global hegemony. Bush or Obama can only act as the instruments to carry out these goals, the only difference being that of degree of efficiency in the execution of this global project and the degree of deception that one is capable of. Hence, hushing up this stark fact, a hype and so-called mass appeal has been diligently built up by the ruling elites and the media around Obama, projecting him as a saviour who can pull out America from the mess that it had come to be particularly under eight years of George Bush.

The oppressed people and nations of the world are going to confront an even more formidable and dangerous enemy in the form of an African-American President of the most powerful military machine and world gendarme. Under Obama, the new killer-in-chief of the pack of imperialist wolves, all the policies pursued by George Bush will stay in place with a few cosmetic changes. The world people should unite to wage a more relentless, more militant and more consistent struggle against the American marauders led by Barack Obama and pledge to defeat them to usher in a world of peace, stability and genuine democracy. Any illusions on the so-called black President of the most dangerous imperialist power will lead to greater enslavement and misery for the oppressed people and nations of the world.

(Signed)
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