

Spring 2024

# ADELANTE!

MEXICO SOLIDARITY & CHICANO LIBERATION



Chican@  
Liberation  
& Socialist  
Vision

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Poetry by Ron Baca & Bill Gallegos

Booklet 2 in an English & Spanish series from

**Liberation Road/El Camino Para La Liberación**



# What is Liberation Road?

**L**iberation Road is a nationwide revolutionary political organization working to achieve a socialist United States. We are multi-racial and multi-generational, organizing around issues that affect the lives of working and oppressed people. One of our principal goals is to build unity among like-minded socialist organizations and individuals so that we can more effectively face the current challenge from the racist right-wing and neo-fascist social movement, led by Donald Trump, even as we work for a truly fundamental transformation of our society.

**We live in a country** where economic and political control of our lives resides with a small handful of multi-billionaires,

nearly all of whom are white men. This tiny cabal determines, through their massive influence over who gets elected to office — who gets to vote, whether women have control over their own bodies, whether people of color can be massively incarcerated or even gunned down with impunity by the police, and how the tremendous wealth produced by US workers will be used.

**Doctor Martin Luther King** correctly characterized US capitalist society in his 1968 speech at Riverside Church as the “greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.” Today the United States has over one thousand military bases abroad, causing violence, death and destruction in the Middle East and Africa, while supporting Israel’s genocidal

“**We are multi-racial and multi-generational, organizing around issues that affect the lives of working and oppressed people.**”



**LIBERATION  
ROAD**  
EL CAMINO PARA LA LIBERACIÓN

“Over the past 150+ years the U.S. has continued to plunder Mexico’s resources & super-exploit its labor, in Mexico itself, and in the sweatshops of our own nation.”

war against Palestinians in Gaza. The US ruling elite continue to expand the trillion-dollar military budget. This even as millions of our people go hungry, lack housing, and our schools, hospitals, and necessary social services remain horrendously under-funded. All while they maintain their addiction to the fossil fuels which absolutely threatens the existence of all life on our planet.

**Liberation Road** firmly believes that none of this is inevitable or without alternative. We are working to achieve a socialist society — one based on three basic principles: genuine democracy, true equality for all races and nationalities, genders, and abilities, and an economy based on people’s needs not profit, with control of that economy in the hands of working people and their allies. We believe that to achieve socialism we must build the broadest possible unity from all the various sectors of our society, that we must be internationalist and support all peoples and nations who desire genuine independence and sovereignty. We must center the fight against racism and national oppression as the best path to unite our multi-racial working class and to develop the one alliance that can defeat our capitalist oppressors — that of the working class movement and the liberation movements of oppressed people of color.

As one important expression of our internationalism Liberation Road initiated the Mexico Solidarity Project (MSP) as a vehicle for building unity between the vi-

brant social movements in Mexico and our struggles here in the US. Mexico and the US share a nearly 2,000-mile border. We also share a tortured history dating back to the 1840’s when the US annexed nearly half of Mexico’s territory, and began the systematic oppression of its conquered Indigenous and Mexican residents. Over the past 150+ years the US has continued to plunder Mexico’s resources and super-exploit its labor, in Mexico itself, and in the sweatshops of our own nation.

**Mexico is now** in an exciting period that they call the 4th Transformation, a comprehensive project of social and economic justice led by the government of the Morena Party and Mexican President Andre Manuel Lopez Obrador. We believe that if we can help to build strong ties across our borders we can provide critical support for the Mexican people, and gain an important ally for our effort to transform our society. Towards that end we must say: Si Se Puede! ■

# The Chicano Nation & Self-Determination

The struggles of the oppressed peoples in the Southwest region of the U.S. are at the heart of progressive change for all

**Bill Gallegos**

Liberation Road

**T**he Chicano-Mexicano people are an oppressed nation in the U.S. Southwest. Its historical territory stretches from South Texas through Southwestern Arizona, which includes New Mexico, Southern Colorado, and California.

In 1848, the United States forcefully acquired the Southwest from Mexico in an unpopular war to create new slave states. It also aimed to acquire the California ports for northern industrialists and complete its “manifest destiny” to extend its borders throughout the continental U.S. The annexation of the Southwest meant the conquest and subjugation of the Native peoples of that region, as well as the Chi-

cano-Mexicano population who had lived there for centuries.

The pretext for the war with the young and outgunned Mexican Nation was “to protect” U.S. settlers in Texas, who had been allowed to settle in that area with the condition that slavery would not be permitted. Since many of these settlers were from the slaveholding Southern US, this did not sit well, and they began a bogus independence movement enshrined in the white supremacist mythology that surrounds the “Battle of the Alamo” in reality, a battle between white slave traders and crooks and the Mexican army.

The U.S. preferred defending its settlers rather than its international agreements. War ensued, and one-third of Mexico was

**“The (U.S.) annexation of the Southwest meant the conquest and subjugation of the Native peoples of that region as well as the Chicano-Mexicano population who had lived there for centuries.”**

*Detail of mural  
by Jose Clemente Orozco, titled  
“The Great Mexican  
Revolutionary Law and the  
Freedom of Slaves”  
depicting President Hidalgo  
signing laws abolishing  
slavery and granting women the  
right to own land in Mexico.*

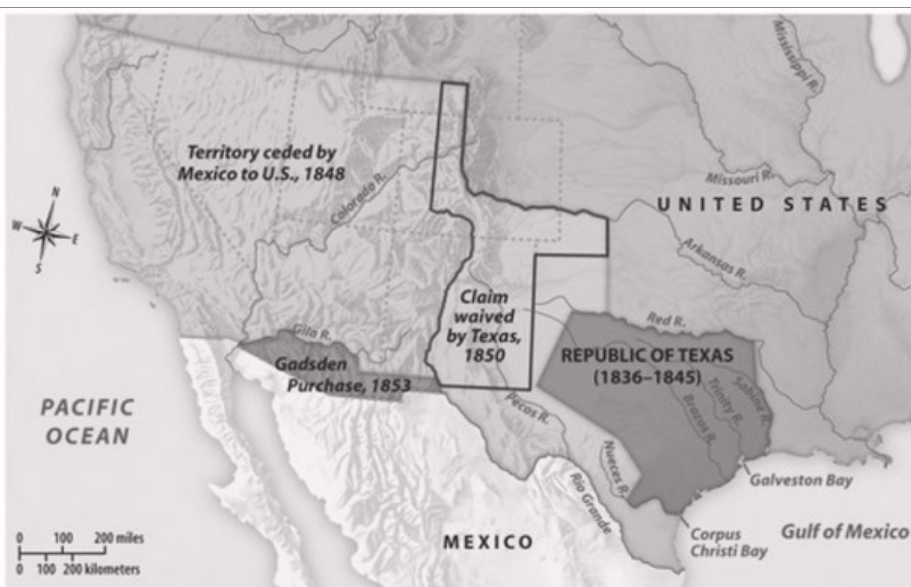
**“ The U.S.  
handled  
(the Treaty of  
Guadalupe  
Hidalgo) like all  
of the treaties  
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American nations:  
it was violated  
even before the  
ink had dried.**

annexed. In the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the United States agreed to honor the conquered people’s land, language, and cultural rights. The U.S. handled that treaty like all of the treaties that the U.S. had signed with Native American nations: it was violated even before the ink had dried.

Within two decades, the U.S. had stolen more than 100 million acres of Chicano-Mexicano lands and established all the primary forms and institutions of inequality and national oppression -- residential segregation and social isolation, political exclusion, educational segregation and exclusion, unequal salary structures, language and cultural

discrimination. The purpose of this oppressive structure was to acquire the land and immensely rich natural resources of the region and to exploit a now landless and powerless workforce. Naturally, the Chicano-Mexicano people resisted this oppression. The conquered people were forcibly prevented from developing as a part of Mexico and prohibited by racism and white supremacy from integrating and assimilating into the Euro-American U.S. As a result of historical developments before and after annexation, the Chicano/Mexicano nation of Aztlan emerged.

The roots of the Chicano people in the Southwest extend back to Spanish colonization in the 16th century. Spanish colonists arrived then from the interior of Mexico but were never too numerous. The Spanish, unlike the British, freely mixed with the indigenous peoples, creating a social and cultural reality that differed from that of the Mexican interior. Chicanos live in territories that were part of Mexico before 1848, and most have mixed Spanish and indigenous heritage. Most worked in a semi-feudal system of large farms, ranches, and missions owned by the Spanish patron





class. The language and cultural roots of the Chicano Nation were established during the 300 years of Spanish rule, but evolved into a unique new national culture following the U.S. annexation.

After Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821, this area became Northern Mexico, which amounted to some 45% of Mexico's territory. While under Mexican rule, Native peoples maintained their cultures and ways of life, and the Euro-Americans (Anglos) rapidly moved to solidify their conquest. Over the next fifty years, they transformed the semi-feudal character of the region into a capitalist one. First, they brutally suppressed those who continued to resist U.S. occupation. They then systematically eliminated the feudal and

semi-feudal relations of production by seizing Mexican-owned land. Thousands were shot, lynched, and burned out of their property; millions of acres of land were stolen by violence and fraud in "English-only" land courts run by Euro-American judges.

From the beginning of the annexation, the Chicano-Mexicano people have fought to defend their land rights, for union rights, the right to housing and educational equality, and the right to the free and equal development of their language and culture. This fight, whose national aspirations are captured in the slogan "Tierra Y Libertad" (land and freedom), helped to shape a new and unique national consciousness and a powerful desire for self-determination – to determine their own

political, economic, and cultural destiny free from oppression and Euro-American domination.

Self-determination is a complex concept that includes the right of Chicanos to form their own organizations, to choose their own leaders, develop their own strategies, and to choose their own methods of struggle; it means re-establishing their land rights, control of their local governments, the right to preserve language and culture, and to control the education of their children. Ultimately, it means exactly those rights enshrined in the United Nations Charter – the right to decide whether they want to be an independent nation, the basic right of all oppressed nations and colonies of the world. ■

# DANGER: A MAGA Victory in 2024 Will Lead to Ethnic Cleansing

How to fight Trump & the New Confederacy





**T**HERE IS NO HIDDEN agenda for Donald Trump and his MAGA movement that has taken over the Republican Party. “Make America Great Again” leads the nation backward to what should have been a defeated political idea, that of the Confederacy.

This New Confederacy promises unabashed white supremacy, disdain and hatred of those born in “shithole countries” of the global South, dictatorial presidential powers, repression of dissent and the use of mob violence domestically and military adventurism internationally to enforce their political agenda.

Trump started the New Year – even while facing civil and criminal trials involving more than 91 indictments – by releasing a comprehensive political program that he promises to immediately implement if elected president in November 2024. The centerpiece of his vision is a wish list of right-wing ethnic cleansing policies meant to secure and institutionalize white minority rule, with repercussions for the world, but especially the people of Mexico and Latin America. Here are some of the horrendous details.

### **Mass Deportations**

Trump is calling for mass deportation of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, the great majority of whom are Mexican, but also includes Central Americans, Cubans, Venezuelans, Haitians, Chinese, and Muslims. The New

York Times on November 11th ran an article titled “Sweeping Raids, Giant Camps, and Mass Deportations: Inside Trump’s 2025 Immigration Plans”. The article provides a chilling description of the plan: “To help speed mass deportations, Mr. Trump is preparing an enormous expansion of a form of removal that does not require due process hearings, and by building massive deportation camps to house the millions of immigrants and refugees, they plan to remove from the U.S.” Trump has publicly compared his plan to the infamous “Operation Wetback” of the Eisenhower administration, in which millions of Chicanos and Mexicanos were rounded up and deported to Mexico, many of them U.S. citizens. Most people don’t realize the horrendously broad impact of these policies, not only on those rounded up and shipped out, but on their families, their communities, on schools, local businesses, churches, and faith organizations, and unions with large numbers of immigrant worker members.

To help Immigration and Customs Enforcement carry out sweeping raids, he plans to reassign other federal agents and deputize local police officers and National Guard soldiers voluntarily contributed by Republican-run states.” Trump would pay for this terror project by using money from the massive U.S. military budget, as he did during his first administration when Congress refused to fund his infamous border wall.

### **An End to Legal Immigration**

Unlike during his first Admin-

**The centerpiece of his vision is a wish list of right-wing ethnic cleansing policies meant to secure and institutionalize white minority rule, with repercussions for the world, but especially the people of Mexico and Latin America.** ”

**“ The Trump and Republican agenda includes virtually eliminating opportunities for legal immigration.”**

*“I want to make my dreams come true. I want to be with my father.”  
Immigrants from Venezuela in Juarez, Mexico hold a peaceful demonstration demanding entrance into the U.S.*

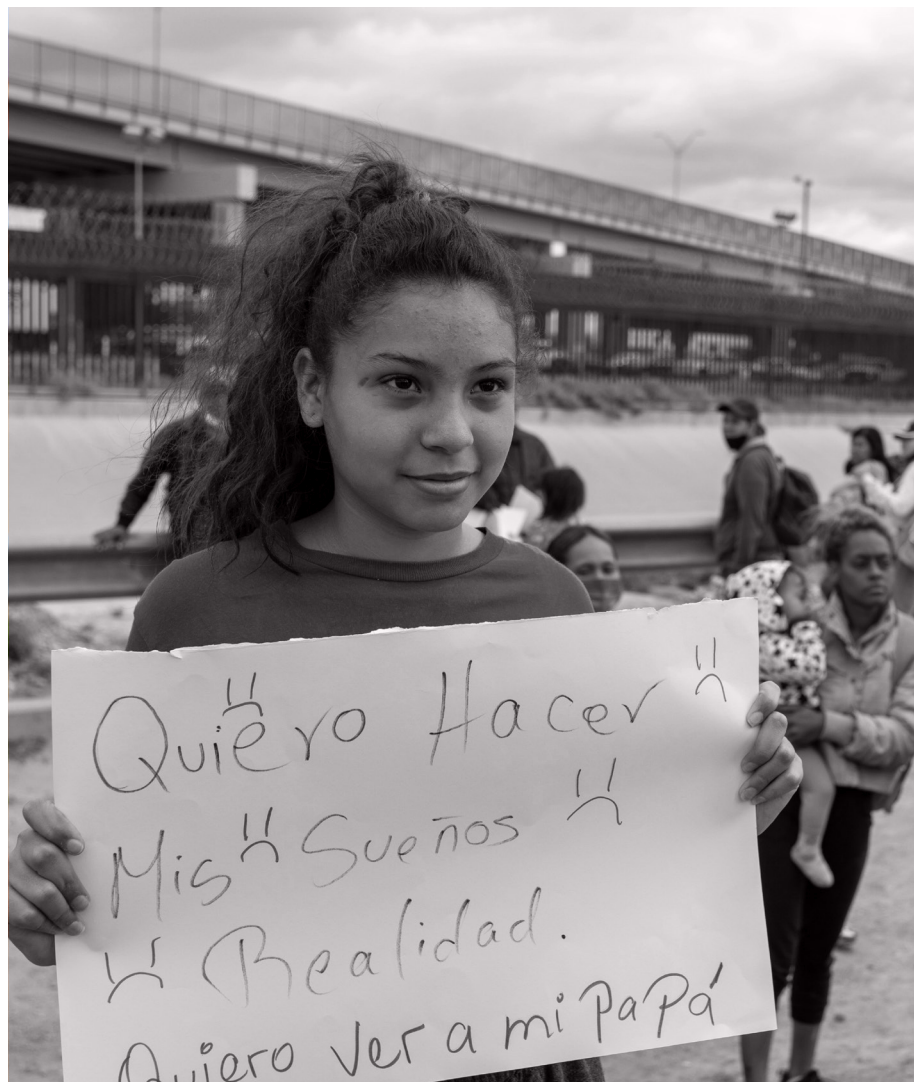


photo: David Peinado Romero

istration, Trump’s plan assumes broad judicial support from the reactionary Supreme Court majority that he appointed as well as from the hundreds of federal judges that he appointed during his administration.

The racist neo-fascist agenda includes altogether ending the DACA/Dreamers program, making it nearly impossible for refugees to achieve asylum in the U.S., and ultimately end the Temporary Protected Status Program that provides refuge for hundreds of thousands of people feeling systemic vio-

lence or natural disasters.

The Trump and Republican agenda includes virtually eliminating opportunities for legal immigration and promising to end the Constitutionally-protected policy of birthright citizenship for babies born in the U.S. to undocumented parents, and will order federal agencies to stop issuing Social Security cards and passports to these citizens. Trump has also promised to cancel the visas of international students who participated in anti-Israel or pro-Palestinian activities. U.S. consular officials will have the

okay to block visa applicants that a Trump administration considers to have undesirable attitudes.

Trump’s racist agenda has not only received enthusiastic support from most of Trump’s primary opponents, but some of them, have upped the ante by promising to launch military assaults, including missiles, against Mexican drug cartels.

This agenda is but one crucial example of the program of the New Confederacy, represented politically primarily by the Repub-

**Continued on page 12**

# english (only) spoken here

(navajo code talkers' blues)

speak english  
speak english  
speak English

speak  
    english

not that jibber-jabber  
mumble-jumble horse crap

america.  
this is america.

speak  
    english

english. hear?  
english here!

understand?  
comprende?  
& where you from anyhow?  
say something.  
don't just stand there  
like some ignorant jackass.  
oh hell... why don't you  
just go back to where you came from.

what's the matter with you  
cat got your tongue?

June 2014  
**Ron Baca**

# Somos La Vida Nueva



Bill Gallegos 8.25.17

It drip, drip, drips into darkness  
the cruel weight of each molecule  
....of betrayal, the vast untruth

fill the void with the erosive accumulation  
of the most evil mythology of all:

- the pioneers
- the rugged individual
- conquer the wilderness
- tall in the saddle
- ride off into the sunset

A complete flood of carnage,  
rapacious avarice, and an  
ignoble stride across our bones, our herstory, nuestras raices.

We have felt the land burn and become a  
barren refuse of malls, billboards, and hucksters.  
We have breathed deeply of the air  
that has been corrupted by the gods of endless consume.  
We gag on the bitter dregs of the waters  
that boil with poisons and the constant flow of oppression.

And yet .... we are here  
And yet .... we live  
And yet .... we stand, we walk, we laugh, we work, we embrace,  
And we love....

A thousand songs pour from our  
hearts  
A million poems jump from our  
lips

MaestraPeace Mural, 1994, (details), artists Juana Alicia,  
Miranda Bergman, Edythe Boone, Susan Kelk Cervantes,  
Meera Desai, Yvonne Littleton, Irene Perez  
on the Women's Building, SF

An endless flood of images, of colors, of line, of  
bouncing ranflas, weave from our hands.  
We have become the uncaged ....  
the escapees from the asylum.

No desaparecidos, pero los aparecidos ...  
arising inevitably como la luna  
to cast the most wondrous sombras  
on this dollar-bound graveyard,

A Sombra that lights, a sombra that glows  
A Sombra that binds up  
all wounds  
And binds toda la gente, todo el mundo, toda la tierra  
y todo el cielo

We are the saving grace of  
freedom  
We are the miraculous rains of  
Revolucion

We will finally close the deadening drip, drip, drip  
which erodes our slumber, and suffocates our dreams.  
So that the world can awake, and sing once more



leftists and progressives (are you listening, Cornel West and Jill Stein?), this is but one more proof that this neo-fascist right-wing movement represents the greatest threat to any semblance of democracy, equity, and social justice. And these measures do not even include Trump's plans to eliminate all federal policies that address the climate crisis and provide a complete green light (and federal subsidies) to the fossil fuel industrial complex.

So where is the outrage? Where are the marches? Where are the sit-ins? Where are the boycotts? Where are even the articles or blogs that should be sounding the alarm about this planned ethnic cleansing?

### **What Is to Be Done?**

Labor can take the lead in this important fight for equity and democracy. The AFL-CIO should work together with the extensive network of worker centers throughout the US to not only push back on Trump's plans but work to achieve genuine immigration reform including an accessible path to citizenship for all the undocumented, and full protection for all DREAMERS. Left unity is more important than ever around this issue. Now is the time for all serious US socialist organizations to come together to develop a strategy to fight Trump's plans and for full rights for all undocumented workers.

The women's movement needs to step up as well, especially since the great majority of undocumented who will be

impacted by Trump's massive deportation campaign will be women. All leftists and activists can organize within the unions, independent political organizations (IPOs), non-profits, and other mass organizations within which they are organizing.

Trump's threat calls for a powerful and sustained response from the Biden Administration. The groups mentioned above can demand that response in an open letter to the Biden Administration calling for an immediate denunciation of the whole Trump program. This includes a commitment to genuine and comprehensive immigration reform that will provide immediate and unconditional residency to all refugees and asylum seekers while the authorities process their cases. We need to fight to restore the DACA program, and to advocate for new immigration legislation that will provide an accessible path to citizenship for all undocumented residents. This program should also include a promise to protect birthright citizenship.

All of this work should be supported by a comprehensive communications campaign to get out the word – including the Spanish language and other non-English media, Black media, and progressive outlets such as Democracy Now, Real News Network, the Mexico Solidarity Media website and Op-Ed features in the mainstream media as well. More than ever we need to work to win the battle of ideas on this issue. ■

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