

This dossier is an attempt to address the pandemic, the crisis of capitalism, and the conjuncture of insurrection borne out of it from a perspective that rethinks Marxism. As the infrastructural institutions of the capitalist state crumble, having been cannibalized for four decades by processes of neoliberalization, extreme forms of economic inequality and class injustice, mapped onto and produced through lethal and variegated racist formations in the United States (but no doubt coming to a theater near you) have sparked an accelerated decolonization sequence. Spearheaded by black youth, this sequence has swiftly turned into a multiracial insurrection against racist police violence.. When we were collecting proposals for this dossier, the theme was the pandemic and the crisis of capitalism. It still is (and, from what it looks, it will be for a long while), but it is now also a conjuncture of insurrection and decolonization. This transformation of the conjuncture and deepening of the crisis is reflected in almost all the contributions as many have recalibrated, in real time, their interventions to address the unfolding complexity of the moment.

This Dossier...

The Editors

And indeed, this dossier is an experiment for us here at *Rethinking Marxism*. First and foremost, the time frame is very different from the slower pace of quarterly academic journal publishing. We announced the CFP in late Spring, the first drafts of essays arrived on June 15, it was a quick turnaround thanks to our referees, followed by revisions, copyediting, design and layout and now we are releasing it in early August—possibly too soon and already too late. Remaining

on this schedule itself was one of the biggest challenges. But this pace has allowed us to be in closer proximity with the conjuncture, speaking from within it, staking positions before the trajectory of the sequence realizes. Second, the discourse is intended to be similar in tone to our *Remarx* section: theoretical but not academic, grounded in the concrete real but not empiricist. The length of the essays are intentionally kept around 4,500 words or

below, not only to make the work of producing this dossier less onerous but also to expand the readership. Third, this is a format that allows us to produce an open-access supplement to our quarterly journal published by Taylor & Francis. As an experiment, we have chosen the dossier format, one that is peer reviewed and professionally copyedited, yet is not a part of the numbered sequence of the journal. We intended it to be (at

least, initially) an e-book and designed it to be read on the computer or tablet screen, with a landscape layout.

One thing that amazed us in terms of the reaction we received is the international nature of the proposals and submissions. The selection of international perspectives that we are able to present to you here is a testament to the growing international reach of *Rethinking Marxism*—a feat that we are proud of, especially given our parochial origins “in the sleepy West of the woody East” that is the New England town of Amherst, Massachusetts.¹ In a way, this represents one of the directions toward which *Rethinking Marxism* would like to extend as we attempt to contribute to the decolonization process that is unfolding in the United States from an internationalist perspective.

We believe that only such an internationalist perspective can account for the corruption of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, and can push for a comprehensive decolonization not only in the racial formation of the United States but also elsewhere across the world: in every connected instance where multiple logics of appropriation (whether taking the form of primary accumulation or class exploitation or unequal exchange) intersect with racialized, gendered, and sexualized regimes of ordering and extend ecological destruction.

¹ See the legendary Pixies' postpunk anthem “UMass” from their 1991 4AD album, *Trompe Le Monde*.

