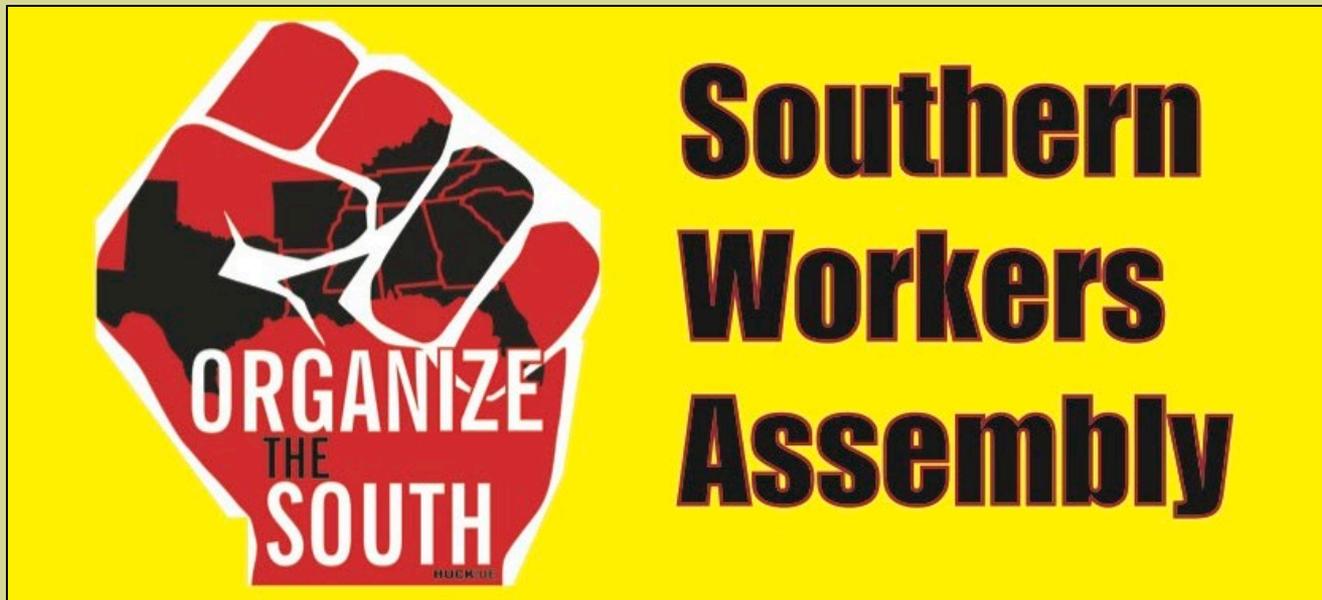


**Building a 21st Century
Working Class Movement
Southern Workers Assembly School**

May 2, 2021



How does capitalism work?

We make it go!

Production → Distribution → Consumption



Workers

So, who are we?



**Capitalism is based on the production and sale of commodities.
In slavery, the entire 24/7 body of a worker was
bought, sold and owned.
In capitalism, we sell our ability to work, our labor power.**



**19th century
slavery**



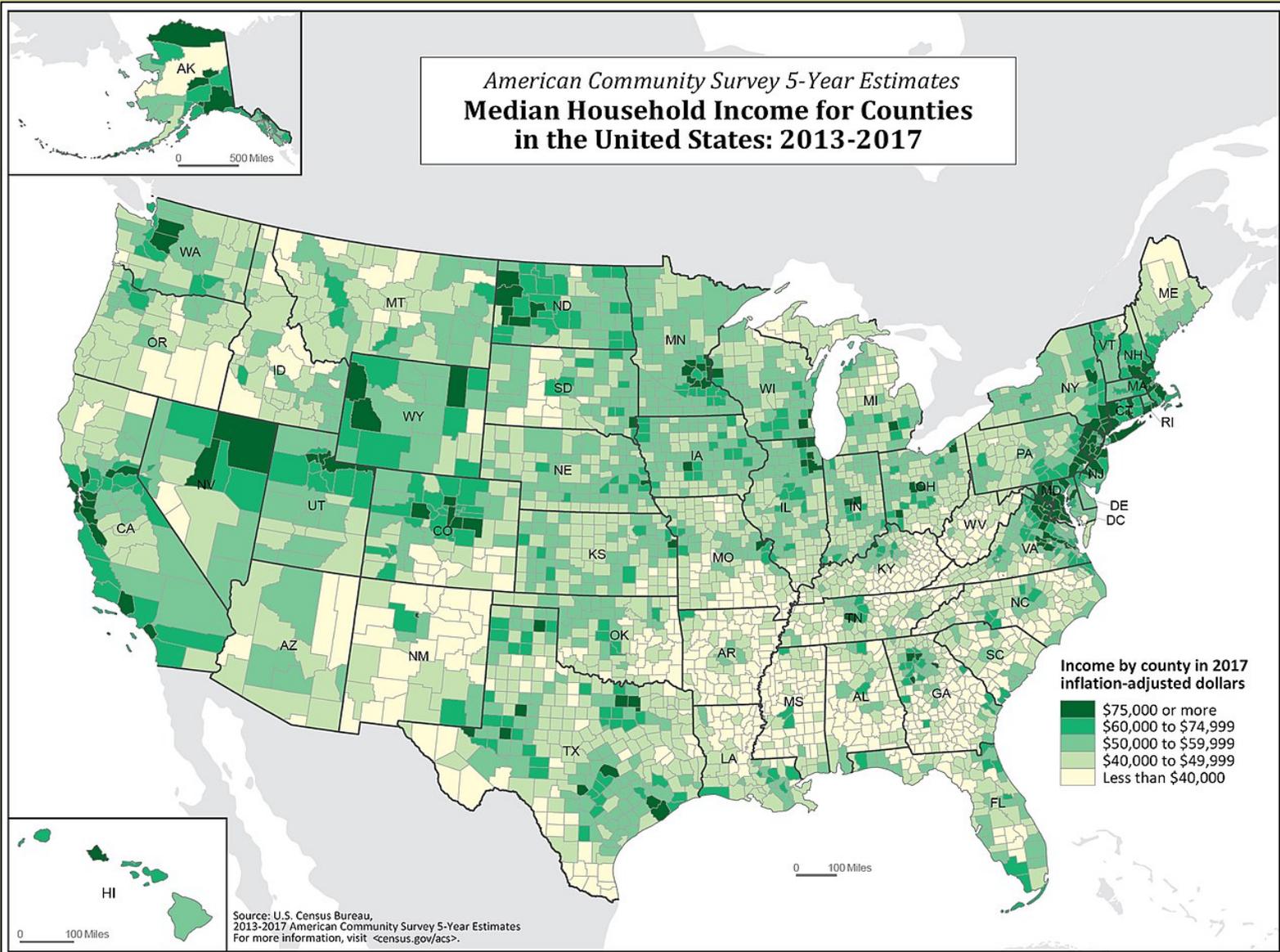
**20th century
industrial capitalism**



**21st century
AI capitalism**

The issue is how we define a social class.

Capitalists use stratification, or levels. Mostly of income.



Social Class in 21st Century Capitalism

Capitalists:

Super rich billionaires

Active owners

Speculators

Middle classes

Small businesses

Elite professions

Family farms

Working class

Wage workers

Gig workers

New workers

Unemployed



Class	Owens Means of Production (Income from Property)	Purchases Labor Power	Sells Labor Power (Income from Wages)
Capitalists	+	+	—
Traditional Petty Bourgeoisie	+	—	—
Proletariat	—	—	+

Two important new developments:

- 1. Class polarization:** the middle class is being forced into the working class and the billionaire class is increasing.
- 2. People are being forced into permanent or long term unemployment** because of the robots, the new machine slaves

What is class consciousness? What is false class consciousness?

AMERICANS IDENTIFYING AS UPPER-MIDDLE OR MIDDLE CLASS

2015

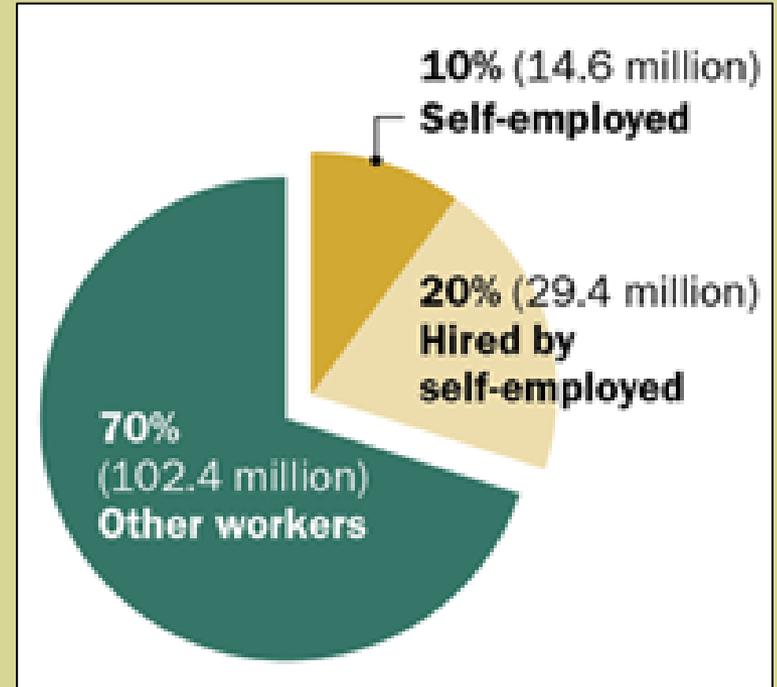
51%

2016

58%

Types of debt

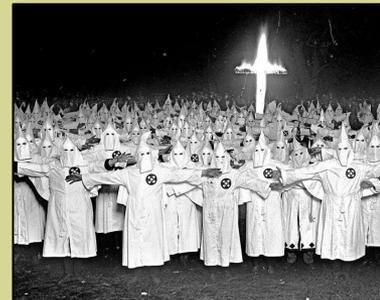
The total owed by the average U.S. household, by debt type.



We win when we face reality straight on. The capitalists win when they get us to daydream about our lives and go deep into debt. They try to hide their power.

Capitalists try to divide us against each other.

Race
Gender
Region
Occupation
Salary
Age
Nationality
Immigration
Religion
Literacy
Culture
Sexual identity



**Solidarity is the key to a workers movement:
An injury to one is an injury to all!**



an injury to one is an injury to all

We fight in two ways: our **workplace** and our **community**



Each workplace is a site of struggle. In each we have to organize, educate, and fight back.

Our power grows when we pull multiple workplaces into the same process.



Our goal is a movement of all workers in the same city.

Many will be in a union, and others will organize in any way they can.

Brothers/Sisters, now is the time!

We fight in two ways: our workplace and our **community**



We live in our communities and that's where we raise our children.

Every social institution is controlled by capitalists in their interest. They control us everywhere.



The power we develop in our workplaces can be used to protect and move our communities forward.

Worker's power is what we need.

The time to think and act is now

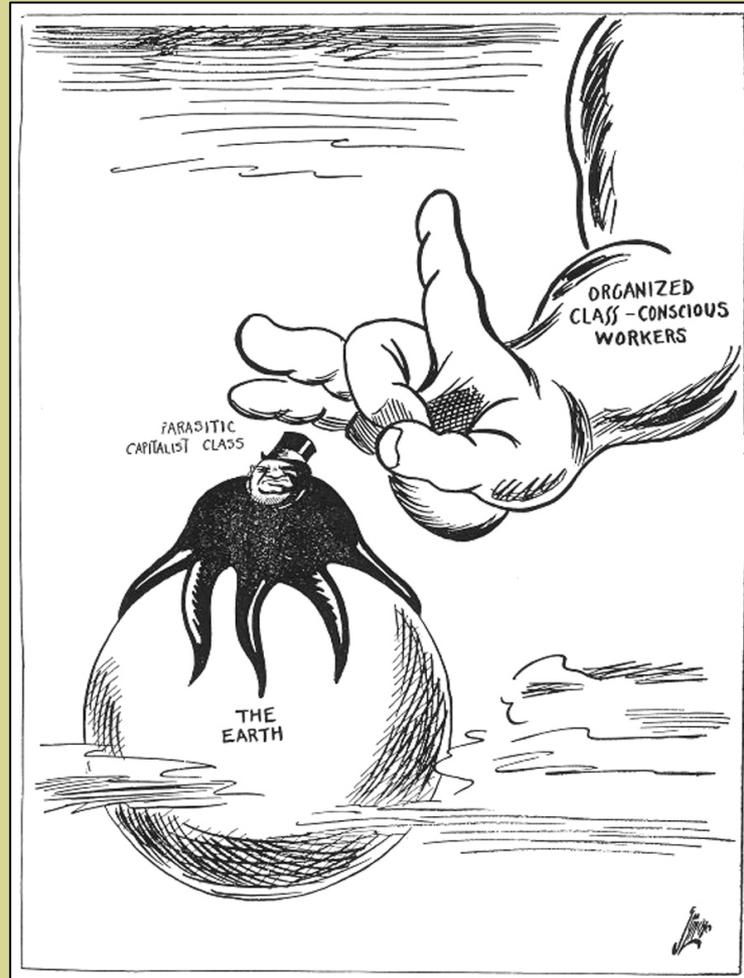
To win the class struggle, workers must study the system to change it



Political literacy is the key to victory

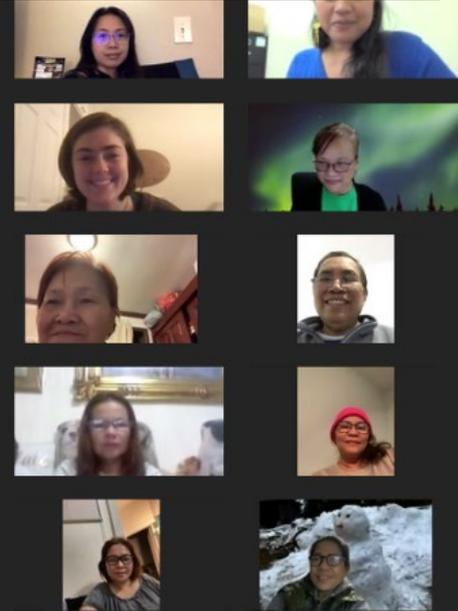
Consciousness is key

Class conscious workers can build a mighty movement

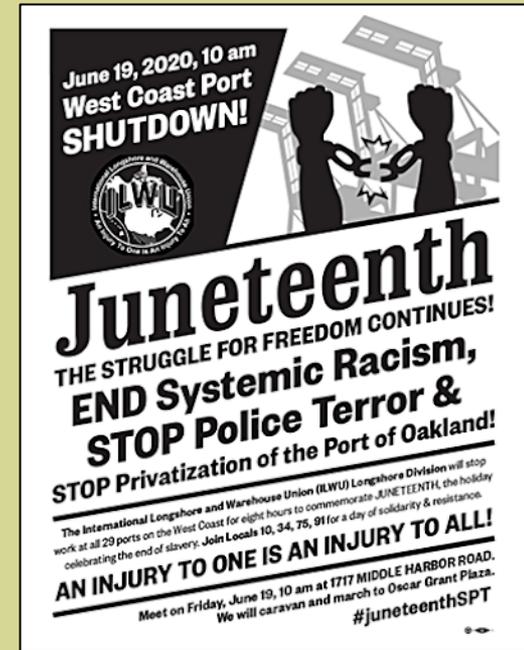
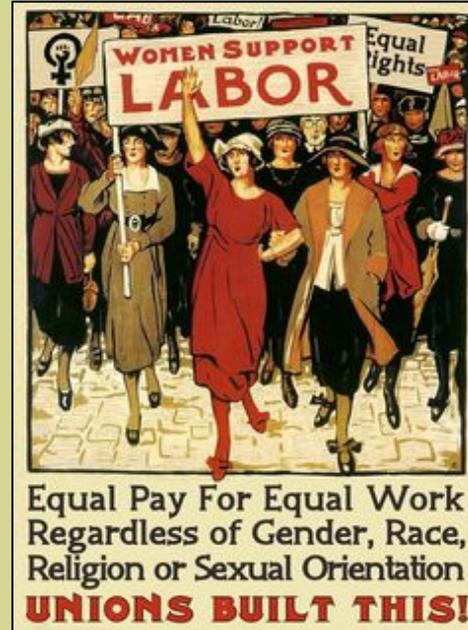
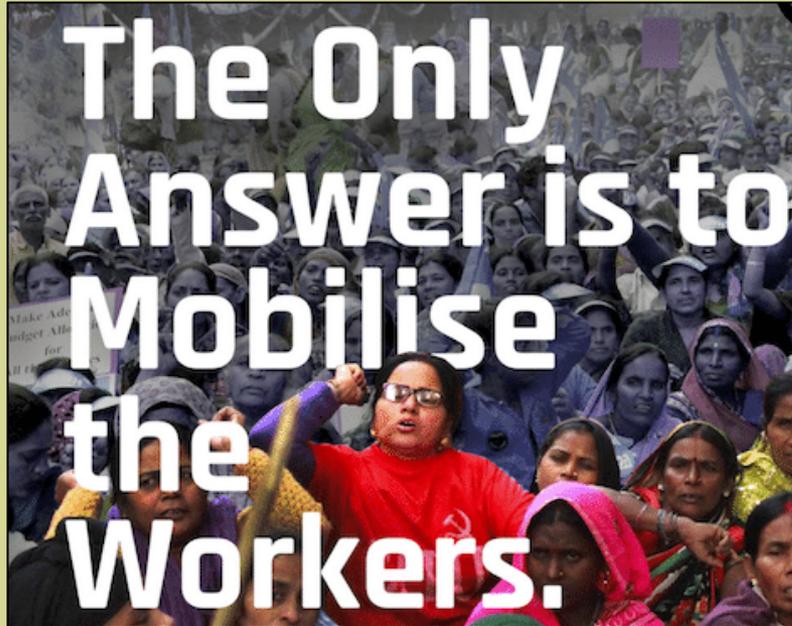


Organization is key

Collectivity
Democracy
Accountability
Record keeping
Consensus
Knowledge
Independence
Gender balance
Leadership
Communication
Mobilization



Mobilization is key



First, we meet in small groups. Then we expand our network and begin to march. Like a rolling snowball we grow and build until we capture the imagination of the majority. Then we mobilize as a class.

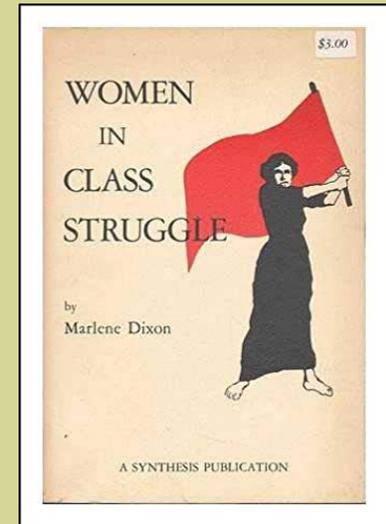
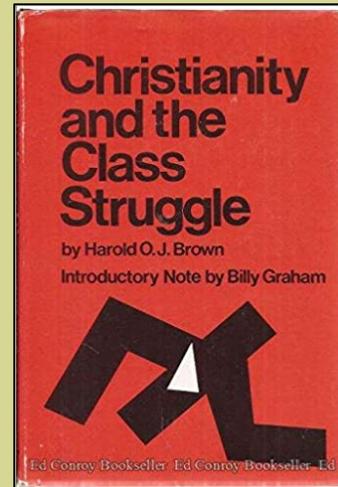
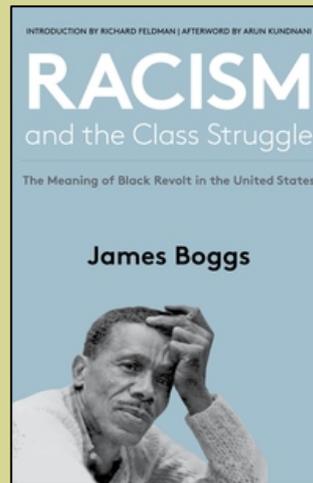
WE NEED WORKING CLASS POWER



Our daily struggle is over surplus value.

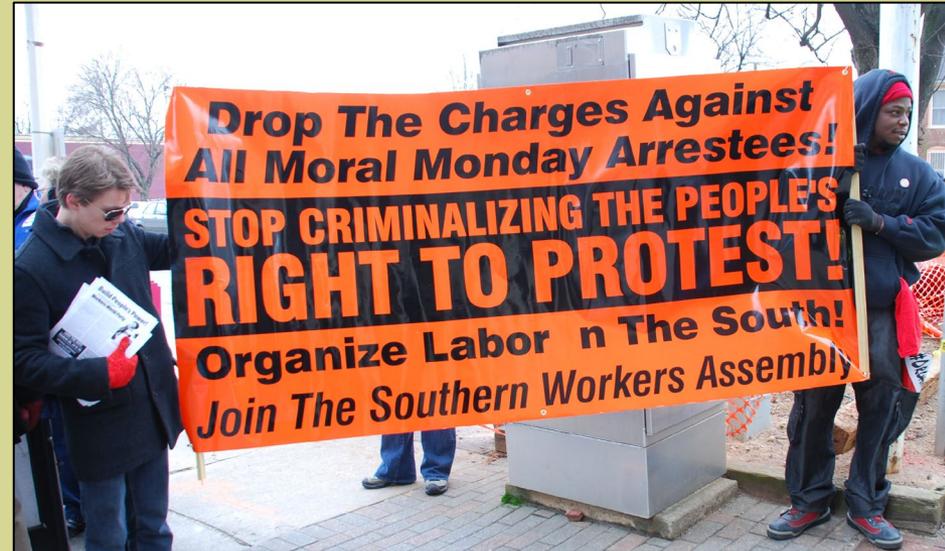
What do we need?

A shorter working day. Fewer hours, same take home pay. 30 for 40. A 4 day week. Increased pay with productivity increase.



Every worker needs a job and/or a livable income

A 21st century working class movement is needed now. Organizing the south can lead the way.



This presentation is available as a pamphlet from the SWA



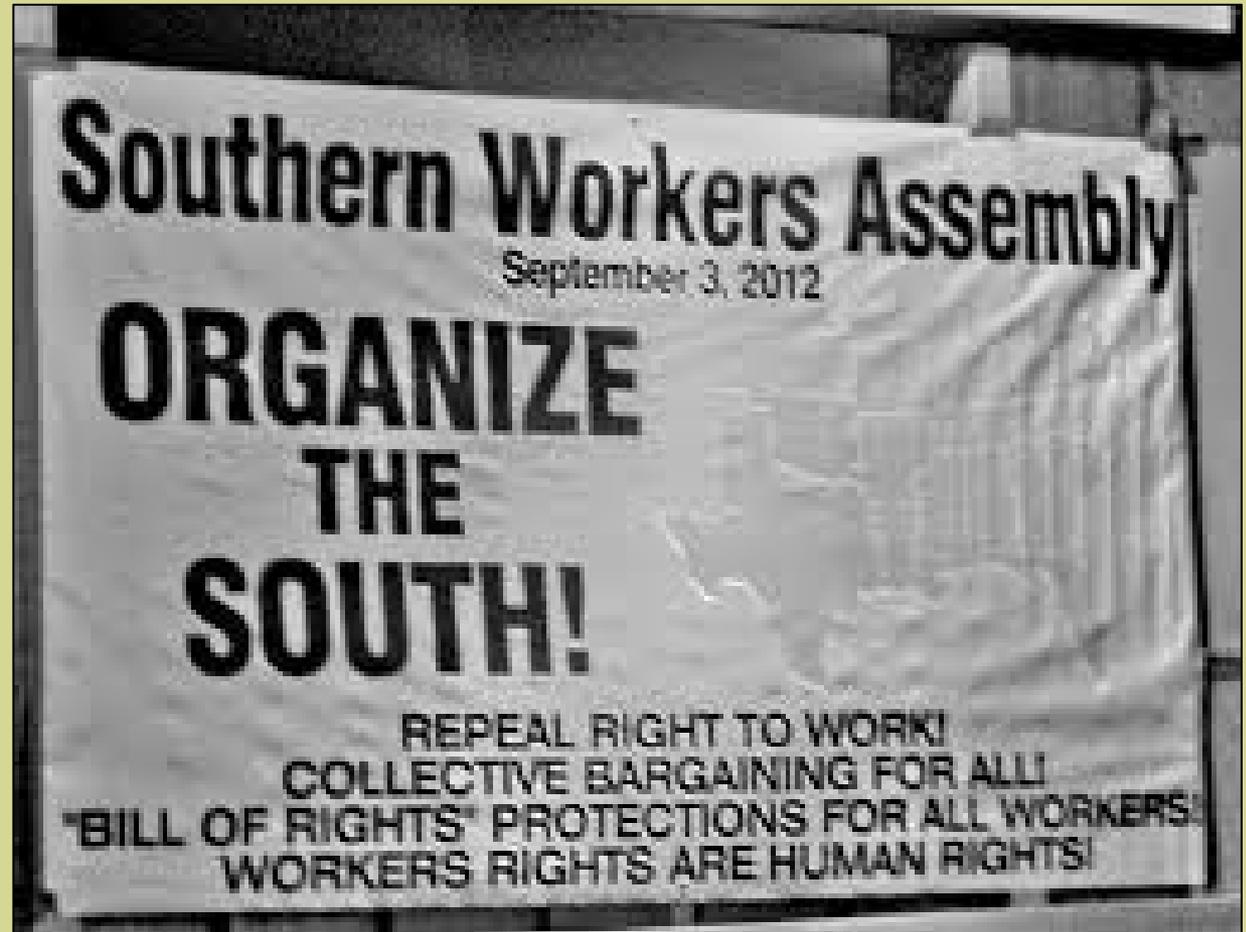
**Southern
Workers
Assembly**

SOLIDARITY WITH BAMAZON UNION!

**FIGHT
RACISM
with WORKER
POWER!**



**Southern
Workers
Assembly**



Questions?

