

These working materials are part of the toolkit

## Climate beyond Classism

transformative educational resources  
on classism in the context of the  
environmental and climate crisis

### When was Class?

A picture and quote guessing quiz on the intersectional history of classism and capitalism

**What:** Presentation with Quotes, Pictures and Solutions

**Date:** 04/2026



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# When was Class?

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Guessing the pictures: the intersectional history of classism and capitalism

# Introduction

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This presentation begins with a possible explanation of the task for the participants, followed by a selection of images and texts that can be used for this method, and immediately afterwards the answer key with background information.

The first slide for each topic always contains two pieces of material, usually an image and a text. These materials are given to the same group one after the other. The second piece of material therefore provides additional information. The material on the left-hand side of the slide should be given to the group first. The material on the right-hand side should be given second, after approximately 5 minutes of working time.

If the text is in italics and enclosed in “ ” it is a quotation; otherwise, it is a description written by us. Additions made for clarity are in [square brackets]. Omissions made for brevity or to aid understanding are indicated by [...].

All quotations/events have been translated into English, unless they were originally in English. It is therefore important to inform participants that the context of the quotation cannot always be deduced directly from the words or language used. Where the quotation was available to us in the original language, we have included this in the slide notes as well.

Sometimes, for copyright reasons, images are not inserted directly, but a link is provided as a suggestion for an image. Sometimes there are also alternative suggestions for images in the presentation notes, as well as further background information on the solution.

The source references, as well as the title and any further information, are set up so that they only appear in the presentation with an additional click, and can therefore only be displayed when the solution is revealed..

# Task for the Picture/Event-Guessing

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Discuss the image/quote/event within your group and consider the following questions:

- Image: What can you see? When was the image taken?
- Quote/event: Who might have said this? When was it said/when did it happen? Who might have been involved in the event?
- **What is being said or depicted here, and how does it relate to the topic of climate change and classism?**

# Strike of Deir el-Medina 1159 BC

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In the first documented strike in history, around 50 workers stopped work and demonstrated to demand payment of their wages.



[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streik\\_von\\_Deir\\_el-Medineh](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streik_von_Deir_el-Medineh)

# Strike of Deir el-Medina 1159 BC

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- Royal tomb builders worked in mines and were paid in natural goods, which were supplied less and less, or not at all
- Five strikes over a three-year period each resulted in their demands being met
- -> The exploitation and oppression of workers, as well as resistance, is a very old phenomenon

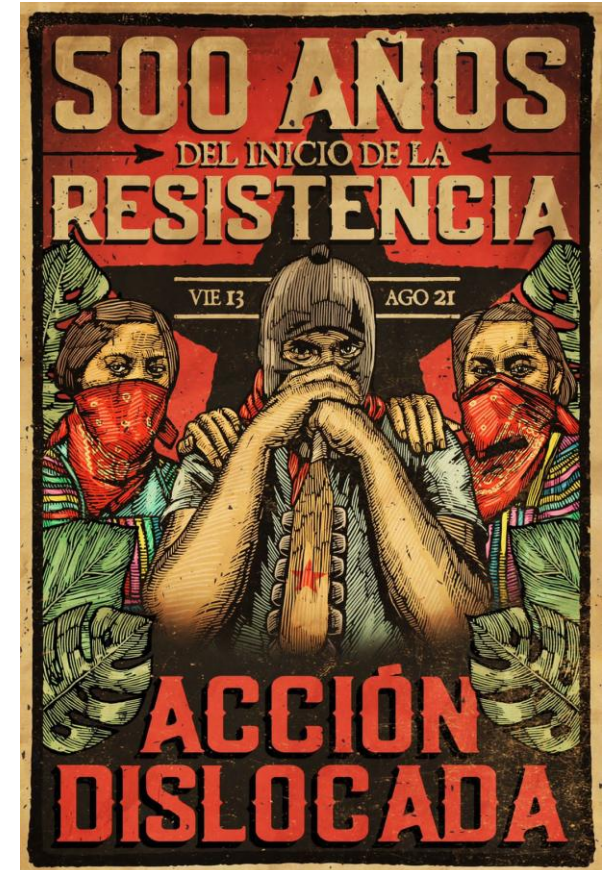


The so-called 'Papyrus of the Strikes', written by Amunnakht between 1187 and 1157 BC, New Kingdom. Museo Egizio, Turin.  
[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streik\\_von\\_Deir\\_el-Medineh](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streik_von_Deir_el-Medineh)

# Colonization of Abya Yala (1492)



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_landing\\_of\\_Columbus\\_on\\_the\\_shores\\_of\\_the\\_New\\_World\\_At\\_San\\_Salvador,\\_W.I.,\\_Oct.\\_12th\\_1492.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_landing_of_Columbus_on_the_shores_of_the_New_World_At_San_Salvador,_W.I.,_Oct._12th_1492.jpg)



<http://www.congresonacionalindigena.org/2021/08/13/a-500-anos-del-inicio-de-la-resistencia-no-nos-conquistaron-seguimos-en-resistencia-y-rebeldia-2/>

# Colonization of Abya Yala (1492)

- Christopher Columbus landed on an Island in the Bahamas, known by its native inhabitants as Guanahani  
→ beginning of colonization
- Appropriation of land and bans on indigenous forms of land use
- Exploitation, displacement and murder

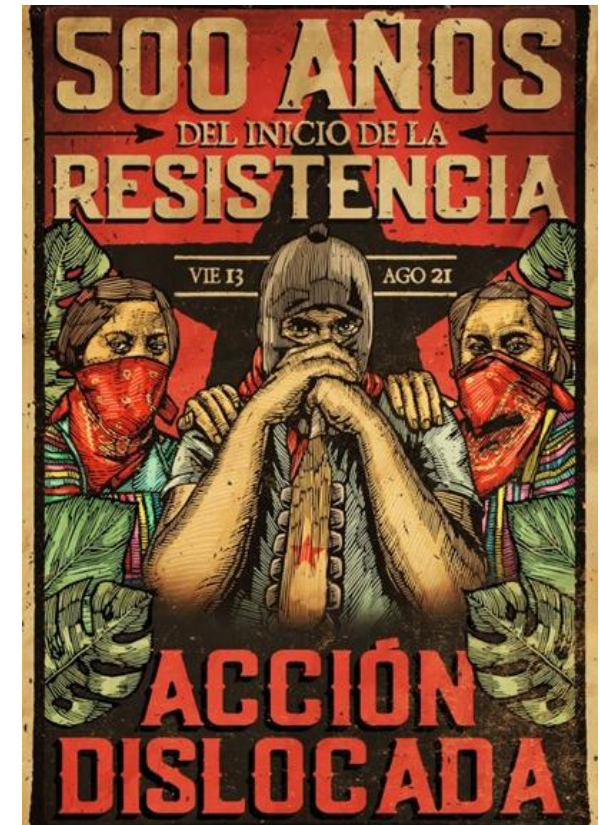


First landing of Columbus on the shores of the New World At San Salvador, W.I., Oct. 12th 1492

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_landing\\_of\\_Columbus\\_on\\_the\\_shores\\_of\\_the\\_New\\_World\\_At\\_San\\_Salvador,\\_W.I.,\\_Oct.\\_12th\\_1492.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_landing_of_Columbus_on_the_shores_of_the_New_World_At_San_Salvador,_W.I.,_Oct._12th_1492.jpg)  
Public Domain

# Anti-colonial Resistance

- Long history of resistance from indigenous and peasant populations
- 1989-1992: '500 years of indigenous, black and popular resistance' campaign
- Mexico: Zapatista / EZLN with principles of ecology and democracy
- Even today, activists are often murdered



<http://www.congresonacionalindigena.org/2021/08/13/a-500-anos-del-inicio-de-la-resistencia-no-nos-conquistaron-seguimos-en-resistencia-y-rebeldia-2/>

# German Peasants' War(1524 – 1526)

*"The root of all thievery are our princes and lords – they claim all creatures as their property: the fish in the water, the birds in the air, the plants on the ground, all must be theirs. But to the poor they say: God has commanded, 'Thou shalt not steal.' Yet they themselves fleece and skin everything that lives. And if a poor man lays hand on the smallest thing, he must hang. And Doctor Liar says 'Amen' to it."*



*Episode from the German Peasants' War*, oil on canvas painting by Hermann Eichler, c. 1867. Belvedere, Vienna. Published under the following license: [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/). <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/15227/episode-from-the-german-peasants-war/>

# German Peasants' War (1524 – 1526)

- **Quote:** Thomas Müntzer (Preacher & Revolutionary)
- Financing of nobility and church through taxes and levies imposed on peasants; privatization of common land
- Peasants organize and loot aristocratic estates
- The uprising of 1525 war crushed by military force

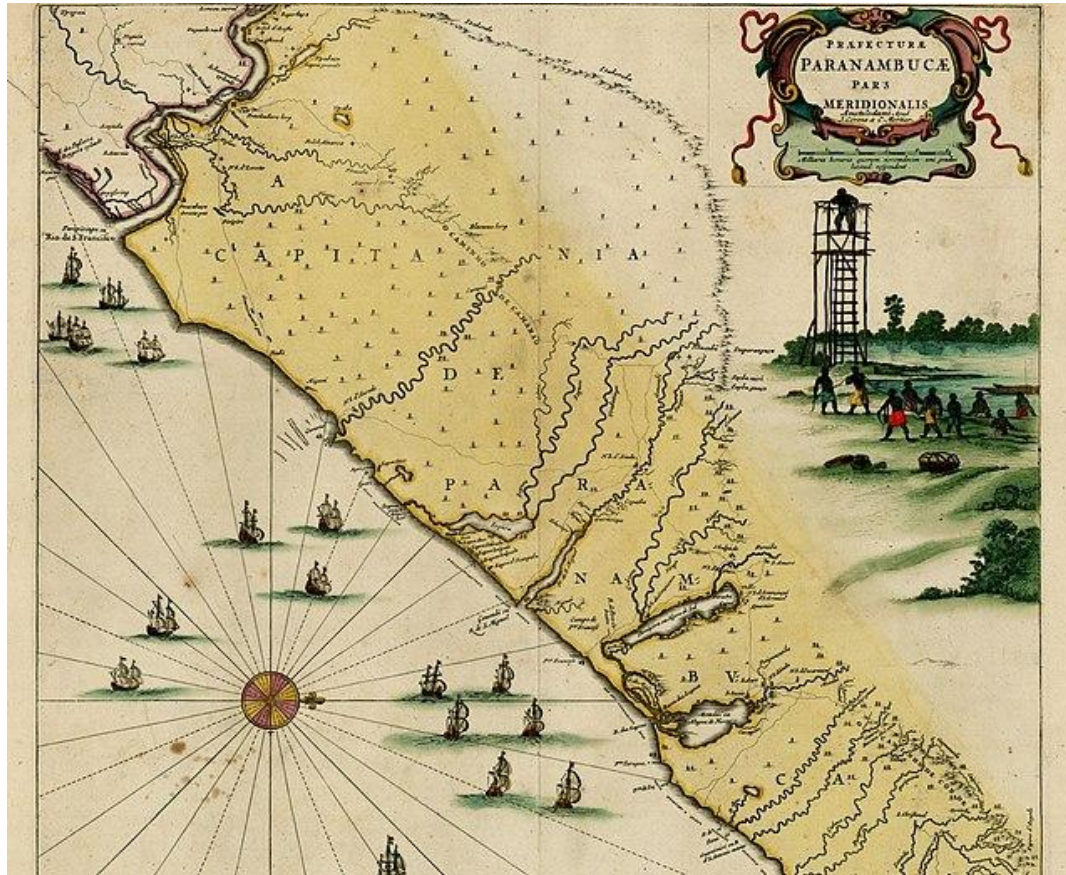


*Episode from the German Peasants' War*, oil on canvas painting by Hermann Eichler, c. 1867.

Belvedere, Vienna. Published under the following license: [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike](#).

<https://www.worldhistory.org/image/15227/episode-from-the-german-peasants-war/>

# Quilombos (since 17th century)



The Quilombolas' fight since centuries is a fight against racism, against capitalism and for nature.

Map of the Captaincy of Pernambuco showing the Quilombo dos Palmares  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa\\_da\\_Capitania\\_de\\_Pernambuco,\\_com representacao do Quilombo dos Palmares \(1647\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa_da_Capitania_de_Pernambuco,_com_representacao_do_Quilombo_dos_Palmares_(1647).jpg)

Public Domain

# Quilombos (since 17th century)

- Settlements of escaped African slaves and their descendants in Brazil
- Between 1.000 and 10.000 Quilombo Territories
- many quilombola communities are fighting for land rights, against racism and environmental destruction by corporations and large-scale projects.
- constitutionally recognized, successfully fighting large-scale projects, preserving and revitalizing culture and self-organization
- Intersectional anticolonial resistance



Karte des Kapitänseamtes von Pernambuco, die den Quilombo dos Palmares zeigt

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa\\_da\\_Capitania\\_de\\_Pernambuco\\_com\\_representacao\\_do\\_Quilombo\\_dos\\_Palmares\\_\(1647\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa_da_Capitania_de_Pernambuco_com_representacao_do_Quilombo_dos_Palmares_(1647).jpg)

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# Industrialisation in Europe (19th century)

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Coal is becoming the most widely used energy source in Europe.



BASF Ludwigshafen site 1881 – von BASF  
Veröffentlicht unter [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Lizenz](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/)  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/basf/5509563806/>

# Industrialisation since 1765

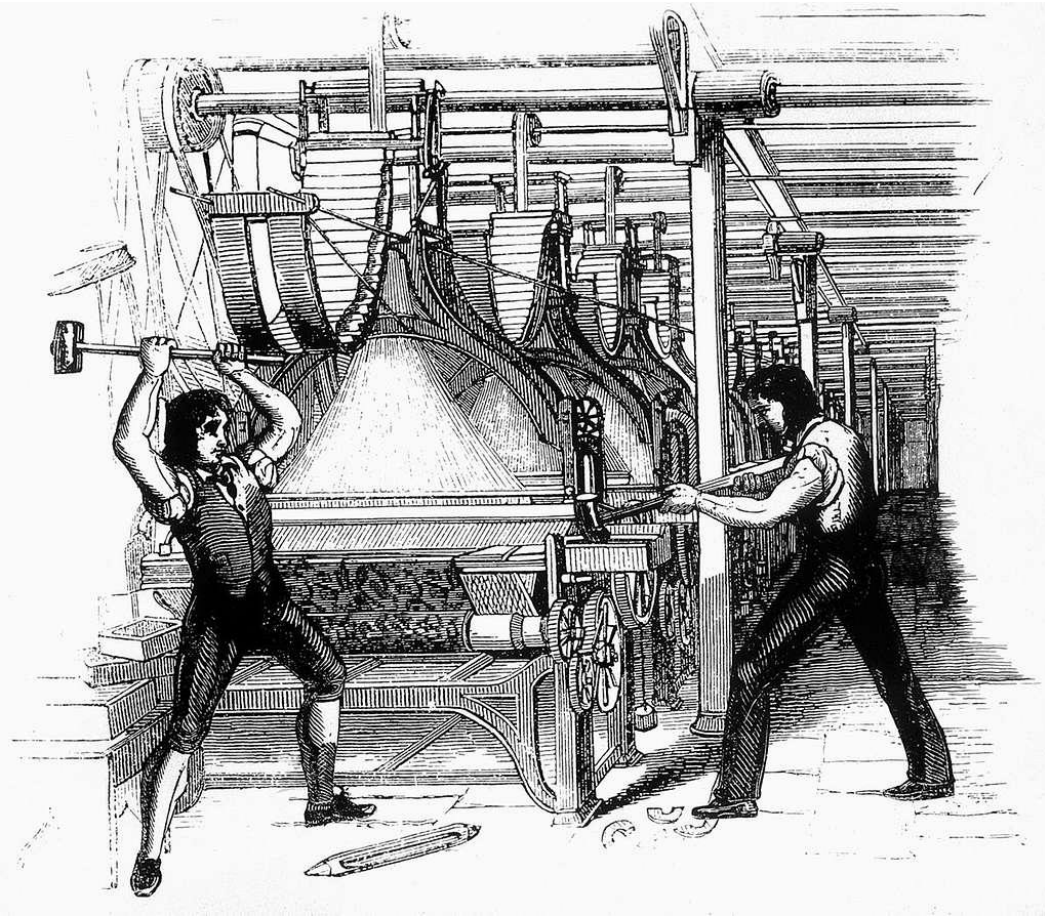
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- Beginning of industrial capitalism: production in large factories
- Coal is used for energy production
- Exploitation of workers and the non-human environment
- Sickening living conditions in workers' neighbourhoods
- Emissions rised since then



BASF Ludwigshafen site 1881 – von BASF  
Veröffentlich unter [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Lizenz](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/)  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/basf/5509563806/>

# machine destruction movements (early 19th century)



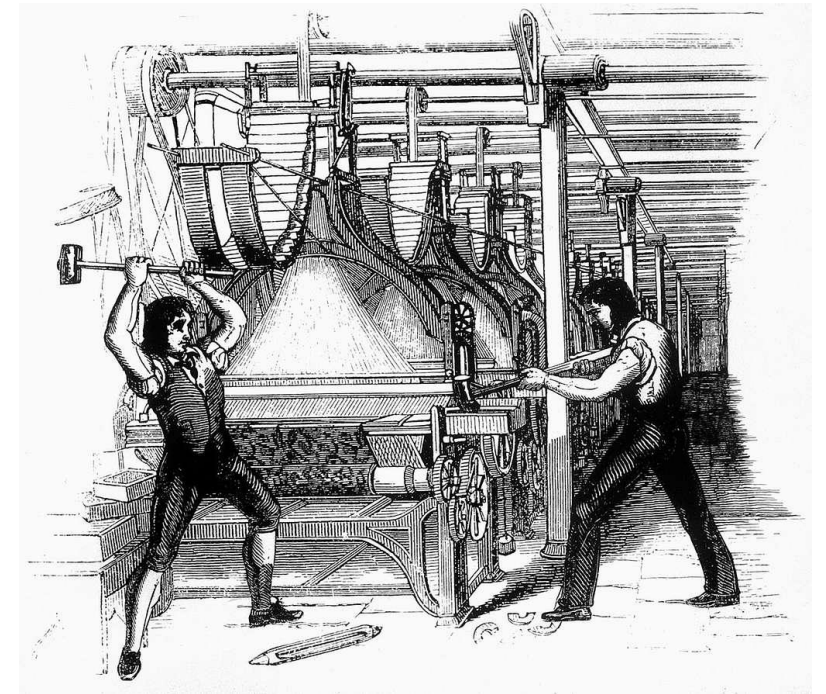
Workers destroy machines or newly built factories to prevent manufacturers from replacing skilled workers with unskilled labour, or to protest against deteriorating pay and working conditions.

<https://picryl.com/media/framebreaking-1812-9b84c2>

Public Domain Image

# machine destruction movements (early 19th century)

- protests against industrialization in Europe
- Workers destroyed machines to resist job loss and worsening conditions
- Known as the Luddites or the Swing Riots or „Weberaufstände“ (weavers uprising)
- Protest against employers replacing skilled workers with cheaper unskilled labour
- Protest not against technique itself but against social and structural dimensions



<https://picryl.com/media/framebreaking-1812-9b84c2>  
Public Domain Image

# Horatio Alger – 1867 – 1899

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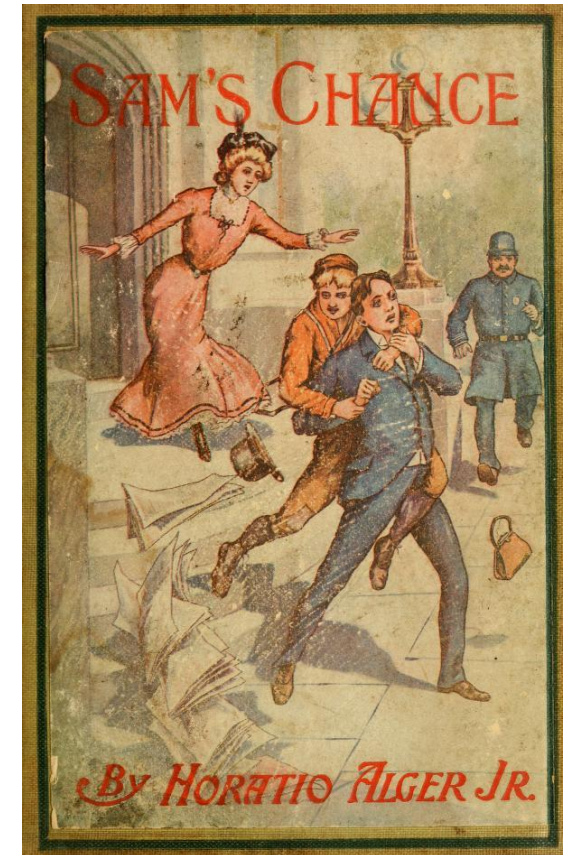


Public Domain Image

An US-American author publishes around 130 stories in which a poor hero works his way out of poverty and into wealth and happiness through hard work and thrift. The saying ‘from rags to riches’ became famous through these stories.

# Horatio Algiers stories of social advancement

- In most stories, upward mobility was achieved by chance and donations from a wealthy person.
- From rags to riches – a great myth. Structural inequalities are ignored.
- Stories of upward mobility are not the norm.
- Pressure and blame on the poor and working classes.



Public Domain Image

# Mass Trespass Kinder Scout (1932)

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This photo of the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout can be used:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-61008955>

*"We ramblers, after a hard week's work, in smoky towns and cities, go out rambling for relaxation and fresh air. And we find the finest rambling country is closed to us... our request, or demand, for access to all peaks and uncultivated moorland is nothing unreasonable"*

Benny Rothman

# Mass Trespass Kinder Scout (1932)

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- On 24 April 1932, a group of 400 men and women walked across the moorland of the Peak District, which was then the exclusive property of wealthy gamekeepers
- workers demanded public access to land reserved for the wealthy
- six protesters were jailed, but the protest sparked public support; inspired the Right to Roam movement & the UK's first National Park (1951)
- Early example of environmental justice: access to nature framed as a class issue

# Aktion Arbeitsscheues Reich (Work-shy Reich) 1938

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Franz Lissner lived here.  
Born in 1900.  
Arrested on 20 April 1933 during the  
„Aktion Arbeitsscheu Reich“  
Buchenwald.  
Several prison terms.  
1944 Neuengamme  
Killed on 4 February 1945

As part of the ‘Arbeitsscheues Reich’ (Work-shy Reich) campaign, more than 10,000 men were deported to concentration camps as so-called ‘asocials’ and forced into hard labour.

Published under: [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International Lizenz](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein_f%C3%BCr_Franz_Lissner_%28Uetersen%29.jpg)  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein\\_f%C3%BCr\\_Franz\\_Lissner\\_%28Uetersen%29.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein_f%C3%BCr_Franz_Lissner_%28Uetersen%29.jpg)

# Aktion Arbeitsscheues Reich (Work-shy Reich) 1938

- Especially men of working age who had twice turned down a job offer or given up after a short time
- Ability to work as an important reason for arrest
- Also a cover for the arrest and murder of many homeless people, prostitutes, Sinti & Roma, Jews



„Stolperstein“ for Franz Lissner in Uetersen (Holstein)

(Foto: Christian Michelides)

Veröffentlicht unter [Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International Lizenz](#)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein\\_f%C3%BCr\\_Franz\\_Lissner\\_in\\_Uetersen%29.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein_f%C3%BCr_Franz_Lissner_in_Uetersen%29.jpg)

# “Wages for Housework” - Campaign (since 1972)

*“A woman’s home is not her castle. It is her workplace. But a workplace we pay rent for!”*

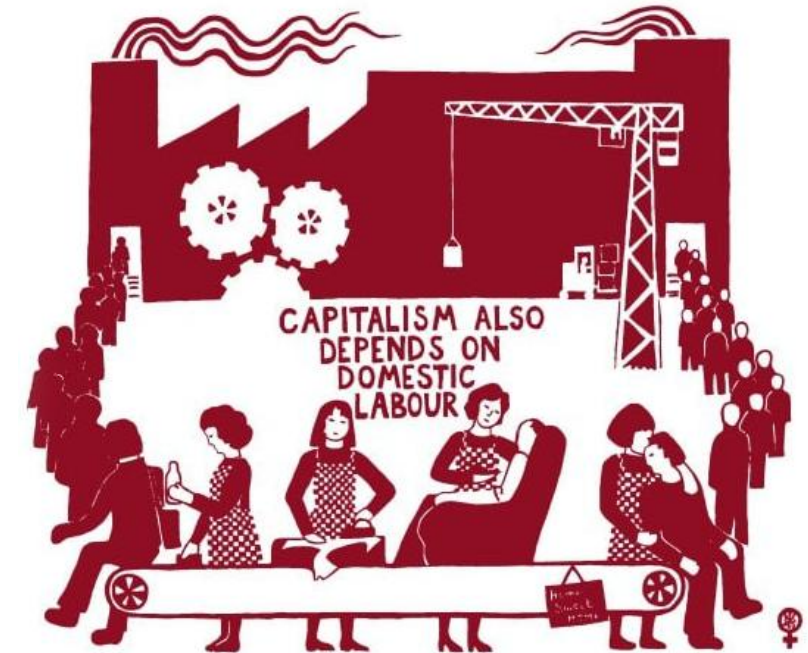
This photograph, taken by Bettye Lane in March 1977, may be used:

[https://hollis.harvard.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=HVD\\_VIA8000904989&context=L&vid=HVD2&lang=en\\_US&search\\_scope=everything&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=everything&query=any,contains,wages%20for%20housework&facet=rtype,include,images&offset=0](https://hollis.harvard.edu/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=HVD_VIA8000904989&context=L&vid=HVD2&lang=en_US&search_scope=everything&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=everything&query=any,contains,wages%20for%20housework&facet=rtype,include,images&offset=0)

# “Wages for Housework”-Campaign (since 1972)

- Quote from a leaflet by New York Wages for Housework Committee
- Group around Mariarosa Dalla Costa, Silvia Federici, Brigitte Galtier, and Selma James, 1972
- Unpaid domestic work is part of exploitation but is not seen as work.
- *“To say that we want wages for housework is to expose the fact that housework is already money for capital, that capital has made and makes money out of our cooking, smiling, fucking.”*

Quote Source: <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EDZfY-YWsAEkhus.png>



Capitalism also Depends on Domestic Labour. See Red Women's Workshop, 1976. TWL.2003.197.a, LSE Library  
<https://seeredwomensworkshop.wordpress.com/>  
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# Chipko Movement (India, since 1973)

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Activists prevented deforestation for industrial production by using the tactic of hugging trees.

Photo of a Chipko Movement protest in Uttar Pradesh in 1973

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<https://snl.no/Chipko-bevegelsen>

# Chipko Movement (India, since 1973)

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- A movement of villagers (especially women) in the Uttarakhand region of India against commercial logging
- Threats to their livelihoods due to flooding, water shortages, erosion, and the prohibition of using the forest themselves
- Emergence of ecofeminist movement that address the exploitation of both women and nature together



Photo of a Chipko Movement protest in Uttar Pradesh in 1973

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<https://snl.no/Chipko-bevegelsen>

# Green Belt Movement (since 1977)

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skasuga/375495241>

Public Domain

*“Trees are living symbols of peace and hope. A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky. It tells us that in order to aspire we need to be grounded...”*

Wangari Maathai

Zitatquelle: <https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/117297>

# Green Belt Movement/Wangari Matthai

- Planted more than 50 million trees since 1977 to stop deforestation, to stop soil erosion, secure water supplies and generate income
- movement combined ecological concerns with women's rights, social justice and democracy movements.
- More than 30.000 women have been trained in forestry, food processing, bee-keeping...
- Wangari Matthai won the Nobel peace price for this project



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wangari\\_Matthai\\_2001\\_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wangari_Matthai_2001_(cropped).jpg)

# Green Bans Movement, 1970's

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NSW Builders Labourers March

Female members of the NSW branch of the Builders Labourers Federation marching on International Women's Day in Sydney, March 1975.

Veröffentlicht unter [Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NSW_Builders_Labourers_march_on_IWD_1975.jpg) | [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NSW\\_Builders\\_Labourers\\_march\\_on\\_IWD\\_1975.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NSW_Builders_Labourers_march_on_IWD_1975.jpg)

New office blocks, shopping centres and luxury flats are to be built. Construction workers are expected to destroy more and more green spaces, older shops and residential buildings to do so. For that reason, they refuse to work on projects that are environmentally or socially problematic.

# Green Bans Movement, 1970er

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- New South Wales Builders Labourers Federation (NSWBLF): Engagement with urban planning
- Principle of social responsibility of labour: right of workers to insist that their labour is not used in harmful ways
- Protest against ecological destruction often from poverty & working class backgrounds (those who are affected)
- Shows the power of strikes



NSW Builders Labourers March  
Female members of the NSW branch of the Builders  
Labourers Federation marching on International  
Women's Day in Sydney, March 1975.  
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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NSW\\_Builders\\_Labourers\\_march\\_on\\_IWD\\_1975.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NSW_Builders_Labourers_march_on_IWD_1975.jpg)

# Landless Workers Movement, Brazil (since 1984)

Translated Poster: Land for All



Land für alle: Mitglieder der MST marschieren im Jahr 1984, dem Gründungsjahr der Organisation.

<https://mst.org.br/2025/04/09/this-land-is-our-land/>

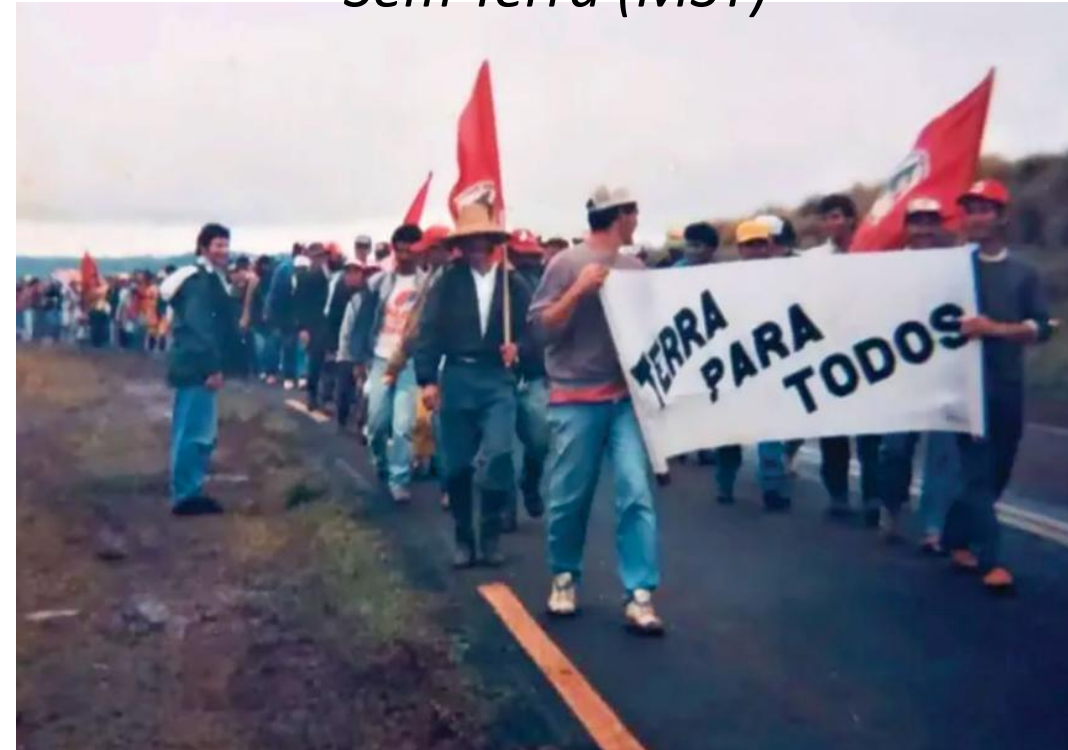
MST Archive

*We are “a mass, autonomous social movement that seeks to articulate and organise rural workers and society to achieve Agrarian Reform and a People's Project for” the country.*

# Landless Workers Movement, Brazil (since 1984)

- Fighting for Land for all, agrarian reform, food sovereignty, equal rights and a people-centered model of development
- 10% of the population owns 80% of the land
- Land occupations, large demonstrations, education
- Around 450.000 families who have conquered the land through the struggle and organization of rural workers.
- Their struggle links economic redistribution, anti-capitalism, and environmental protection

## *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST)*



Land for all: MST members marching in 1984, the year the organisation was founded.

<https://mst.org.br/2025/04/09/this-land-is-our-land/>

MST Archive

# Protest against the Cerrejón coal mine (since 1984)

This photo of a blockade on the tracks leading to the mine, taken in 2023, can be used as an illustration.

[https://www.reutersconnect.com/item/wayuu-indigenous-lift-blockade-of-railway-line-used-by-coal-producer-cerrejon-in-puerto-bolivar/dGFnOnJldXRlcnMuY29tLDlwMjM6bmV3c21sX1JDMk85MEFHTzM3RA%3D%3D?utm\\_medium=rcom-article-media&utm\\_campaign=rcom-rcp-lead](https://www.reutersconnect.com/item/wayuu-indigenous-lift-blockade-of-railway-line-used-by-coal-producer-cerrejon-in-puerto-bolivar/dGFnOnJldXRlcnMuY29tLDlwMjM6bmV3c21sX1JDMk85MEFHTzM3RA%3D%3D?utm_medium=rcom-article-media&utm_campaign=rcom-rcp-lead)

*“[The children] didn’t die from malnutrition. They were killed by a state that ignored the right to water by people who, before, if there was a drought, could move to different parts of the territory for water and supplies. These are people whose unique water spirit has been contaminated. Because, for us, the Ranchería is a spirit that has been contaminated and privatized by the Cerrejón, with the support of the state”*

Karmen Ramírez

founder of the Wayuu Women's Force 2021

# Protest against the Cerrejón coal mine (since 1984)

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- Cerrejón: South America's largest open-pit coal mine in Colombia
- Health hazards and water shortages for surrounding indigenous and Black communities
- Threats against and murders of environmental activists
- Activism in alliances of indigenous communities and workers, blockades and community empowerment



The Cerrejón Coal Mine

By Tanenhaus - IMG\_0523.JPG, CC BY 2.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11408769>

# Saúl Luciano Lliuya vs. RWE (2015-2025)

For the first time, a company is sued to take responsibility for the climate change impacts it caused.



Saúl Luciano Lliuya in Huaraz by the stream in which the water from the glacial lake flows through the town.  
Foto: Walter Hupiu Tapia / Germanwatch e.V.

# Saúl Luciano Lliuya vs. RWE (2015-2025)

- Peruvian mountain guides and small farmers sue RWE: Emissions contribute to the melting of a glacier causing flood risk
- RWE should contribute to the construction of the dam in the amount of its emissions contribution (0.5%)
- Can companies continue to outsource climate impact costs?
- Judgement 2025: Individual claim fails, but legal precedent set for corporate CO<sub>2</sub> responsibility



Saúl Luciano Lliuya in Huaraz by the stream in which the water from the glacial lake flows through the town.  
Foto: Walter Hupiu Tapia / Germanwatch e.V.

# The Expulsion of Sinti and Roma (1985)

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This photograph of members of Roma families standing in front of their destroyed homes, provided by the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, may be used:

<https://www.sintiundroma.org/de/set/030803/?id=2619&z=3>

*„The mayor of Darmstadt banished the families that had become homeless to tents on the outskirts of the city, next to the rubbish dump, wastewater filter plant, rat holes and motorway slip roads. Sinti and Roma were stunned by this racism.”*

# Romani Rose (\*1946)

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- Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
- House of Sinti\*zze and Rom\*nja attacked with explosives
- Mayor Günther Metzger has the house demolished in the absence of the residents
- Intersection of classism and racism



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romani\\_Rose.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romani_Rose.jpg)

# Britney Spears, 2013

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An image from the music video can be used:

<https://static.fabrik.io/zz8/dbdad923faf9de2c.jpg?lossless=1&w=1280&h=1280&fit=max&s=8c0b59051b4d69425076fdc9a8fee77d>

*“You want a hot body? You want a Bugatti? You want a Maserati? You better work, bitch”*

# RuPaul 1992 | Britney Spears, 2013

- Actor, Singer & Drag Queen
- Got famous with the song Song Supermodel (You better work)
- Work for your own self-esteem
- Rather used and understood as Empowerment for Queer Community
- Work as tool to happiness, beauty and status
- Status symbols often harmful to the environment
- Work not only as employment, but also as Self-optimization
- Capitalism & work ethic reproduced in pop culture



[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britney\\_Spears](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britney_Spears)



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RuPaul\\_by\\_David\\_Shankbone\\_cropped.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RuPaul_by_David_Shankbone_cropped.jpg)

# Sabhar, Bangladesch (24.4.2013)

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An image of the collapsed factory could be used:

<https://www.bpb.de/kurz-knapp/hintergrund-aktuell/268127/vor-fuenf-jahren-textilfabrik-rana-plaza-in-bangladesch-eingestuerzt/>

1136 people die and over 2000 are injured in the collapse of the Rana Plaza textile factory. Afterwards, textile workers are allowed to form independent trade unions for the first time.

# Rana Plaza collapse 2013

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- Cracks already detected the day before
- More than 3000 employees forced to work despite a police ban on entering the factory
- Mainly production for European fashion companies (Primark, Benetton, Mango, etc.)
- Exploitation of workers without regard for their health

# Stop EACOP Protest 2024/2025



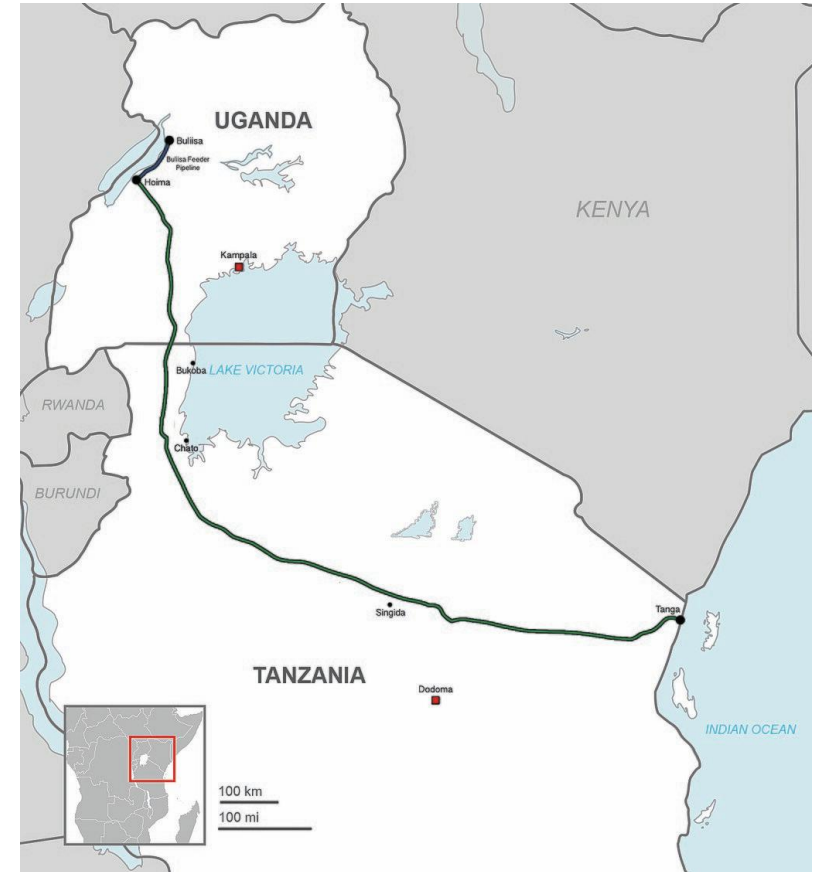
<https://www.commondreams.org/media-library/opponents-of-eacop-carry-a-banner-in-nyc.jpg?id=52979359&width=1200&height=400&quality=90&coordinates=0%2C1124%2C0%2C876>

*“The project threatens to displace thousands of families and farmers from their land. It poses significant risks to water resources and wetlands – including the Lake Victoria basin, which over 40 million people rely upon for drinking water and food production. It would rip through numerous sensitive biodiversity hotspots, and risk significantly degrading several nature reserves crucial to the preservation of threatened elephant, lion and chimpanzee species. And of course, burning more crude oil is the last thing our planet needs!”*

From: <https://www.stopeacop.net/why-stop-eacop>

# Stop East African Crude Oil Pipeline

- Planned Pipeline to transport Crude Oil from Uganda to oil port in Tanzania (mainly by French petrol company TotalEnergies)
- Displacement; Threats to water resources, nature reserves & livelihoods
- 34million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- Huge protests against the project in the region and worldwide
- Many banks and insurance companies have withdrawn from the project



[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/East\\_African\\_Crude\\_Oil\\_Pipeline#/media/Datei:Uganda-Tanzania\\_Proposed\\_Pipeline.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_African_Crude_Oil_Pipeline#/media/Datei:Uganda-Tanzania_Proposed_Pipeline.jpg)



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Thank you!

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