

# WANT TO END CAPITALISM? GREAT, THEN FIGHT A DATACENTER

## A Response to the Sonoran Internationalists

June 2, 2026

Our comrades at the *Sonoran Internationalists* have brought forth two criticisms of the local movement against the Project Blue hyperscale datacenter. Their first, “*Project Blue: Not in My Backyard*,” was written at the peak of the movement’s limited success in its strategy to appeal to local government. Their second, “*A Final Addendum to Project Blue*,” has been written at the current low point in the movement.

We believe that while their analysis is worthwhile, they fail to appreciate the importance of engaging in local struggles and have a vastly expansive definition of “reformism” that precludes them from supporting most worthwhile movement projects. In addition, we fear our comrades are less interested in building Communism than they are in providing critique from the sidelines, where their ideas cannot be tested and they are off the hook for actually solving difficult organizational problems.

In their first article, the Internationalists argue that the data center in Tucson is one part of a larger worldwide increase in demand for computing technology, which is driven fundamentally by the profit motive and subsequently by capitalist competition. As a result, stopping the center in Tucson will require its construction elsewhere, because it is driven by these powerful economic forces. They argue that even the best possible case for the anti-datacenter movement – i.e. stopping the datacenter in Tucson – simply condemns some other community which is less capable of resistance.

In this criticism, we agree wholeheartedly! An approach to this process wherein communities battle city governments and corporations to end datacenters everywhere is impossible. We believe over-extraction and waste of resources is a fundamental facet of capitalism, and the only solution to over-extraction is Communism.

Next, they argue that instead of fighting the datacenter, “we can use this understanding to *criticize* the entire system as it stands, as an example of why we need something fundamentally different” (our emphasis). Their alternative is to organize a Socialist society based on worker’s council government, which confers with experts to properly govern society and organize the economy without competition and over-extraction.

“*What is the problem*”, says the Internationalists? Capitalism. “*What is the solution?*” A complete rupture of our capitalist society by a revolutionary moment which transitions society to total workers’ democracy. And, in terms of practical steps to build this world-historic moment and drive it to completion? Our

comrades simply say, *critique!* All our friends can muster is a proposal that we critique the situation. Very good. Their criticism is well-received. And where is our revolution?

This is where we take issue with the Internationalists' conception of revolution. Revolution is not a long process, which we must work all our lives to build together. It is not a process which we must join together with the global working class in over a lifetime, in the hopes that one day, life on our world may live in harmony. Revolution doesn't require us to engage with the imperfect political situations in front of us in attempts to have our ideas adopted and our aims furthered. Instead, it is an idea which we can appeal to as we watch movements pass us by on Instagram.

Our comrades have valid criticisms, and we believe they should be taken seriously. In terms of immediate implementations, we think the local struggle to stop this datacenter must issue these criticisms as well, to avoid folks getting false illusions about the finality of their local project. In addition, we argue Marxists, Anarchists, and other revolutionaries should get involved as quickly as possible and begin building ties between this movement and other radical movements, in the hopes of converting this mass practice into real movements for Socialism.

The problem arises when we ask our Internationalists for solutions. When we do this, we are left with much to desire, to say the least. We are given appeals to revolution, to the establishment of worker's democracy, and at best we are asked only to issue critique. Our friends are *idealists*, meaning they have ideas of revolution, but no interest in practical transformation of the world according to these ideas.

In their second article, the Internationalists respond to a protest which was organized at the construction site last week. In an even more abrasive rhetorical style, the SI calls the demonstration a result of the movement's failure. They call the protesters Live Action Role Players and bask in their correct analysis. Of course, they don't do anything in the material world about it.

What the Sonoran Internationalists might not know (because they don't go into movements and talk to their activists) is that the demonstration had multiple strategic purposes. One major goal was to bring more people into the movement, in the hopes of mobilizing people to act on the world around them. The major aim is to convert this issue movement into a mass movement based in popular action.

The ultimate goal of Communism requires the entire masses to learn to govern themselves. To do this, the masses must start by developing organizations where they can act on the world as political agents. We feel that now the movement needs to pull the broader masses into a struggle where they can organize together and learn how to be political and democratic. We feel engagement with this datacenter issue has the potential to create new Communists, new activists, and new organizers which our movement desperately needs. It will require us to work on organizational problems and not just theoretical ones, which is necessary to

build revolution. We cannot wait for this process to happen on its own, we must make it happen by training ourselves and as many people as possible how to organize.

This is the utility and value in engagement with the datacenter movement. It is a movement that people are organizing together, where people have interest, and where people are cropping up who can organize. This is where Communists may grow. Activists from movement scenes like this are the most valuable recruits, because they care to work in the real world and when discussing theory, they can actually apply it to the experiences of organizing. These people make the best materialists and the best Communists. We should find them as quickly as we can, and work to become them.

The problem with this, for the SI, is that it is very hard, much harder than reading books and writing articles. It requires us to work with people, to argue, to participate in movements which might fail. It requires us to show that our ideas are correct and therefore risk being wrong. Our mandate becomes action, guided by revolutionary ideas. It is much easier to live in texts and articles, where one may never have to prove themselves and they can forever point out problems they don't care to work on. When the world brings forth to us an imperfect reality, we can decide that any kind of organizing which does not result instantly in revolution is simply making appeals to reforms, and therefore it is devilish reformism which only plays into the hands of the bourgeoisie. This is embarrassing behavior for so-called Communist militants.

We can no longer be satisfied with hefty books and lofty theories. We can only be satisfied by real Communist politics. Communist politics does not mean thinking the most correct ideas, nor does it mean constantly doing action again and again without thought. It means merging thought and action *dialectically* with comrades in struggle, and building real power by acting upon the world.

This struggle is not perfect, it has many problems in idea and in practice. This we will concede to our comrades. Unfortunately, we are on the back foot. We suffer from a lack of organizers and a lack of a Communist movement. We can only build that movement by engaging with the world strategically to further our ideals. We believe that this struggle is not hopeless, that this organization has the possibility for radical directions, and that real wins for Communism can be made through engagement with this group.

Our Internationalists believe they can use their minds alone to prepare for the right moment in proletarian consciousness, wherein a revolution will occur by virtue of their preparation of mind. This is simply ahistorical. To be militants, our comrades must go into the world as soon as possible. They must take their admirable zeal for liberatory Communism and put it into projects that attempt to realize this beautiful ideal. This means taking criticisms *to the movement* and applying them in practice.

If you want to end capitalism, then you must start the Socialist project. That means taking on tasks and pushing for Socialist directions. If you want to end

capitalism, you should fight a datacenter with your comrades.

The revolution will take work or the revolution will fail.