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USA

Round Up on the 3rd No Kings Day

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Eight million people took to the streets across the United States on 28 March, marching, rallying and picketing in over 3,300 sites. They came out to support their neighbors and coworkers who are threatened by masked and armed men. They opposed the authoritarianism of the Trump team with humor in their signs and costumes, but at the same time they can joke, they are willing to stand firm.

How did the March demonstrations differ from the two held last year? They were larger and more diverse, but still uneven. In some places there were union contingents but in other areas, only visible in a handful of union hats. Minneapolis, where the crowd was somewhere beyond 100,000, and perhaps as many as 200,000 the union presence was strong. But in the downriver Detroit area, where ICE has purchased a warehouse to house more than 1500 immigrants, UAW Local 900 sponsored a No Kings event. Their members are part of the movement to prevent ICE from opening a concentration camp right on their doorstep.

Montpelier, Vermont rally.

Just as there is unevenness in who shows up to participate, there is unevenness in how different constituents and different issues are welcomed. In general, demonstrators are able to raise a broad range of demands against both the war at home and the war abroad, in a few cases a tight-fisted organizing committee has banished some issues or failed to reach out to the most vulnerable communities.

Whatever the difficulties, it is good to see how people manage to find a way to raise their issues!

The bullies in Washington, backed by the bullies of Wall Street, think they are playing a video game in which there are no rules. They believe in citizenship of the elite.

With May Day just a month away, it's clear that the task is to build for an even broader mobilization around the celebration of the historic fight for the eight-hour workday (1886). From Minneapolis, the call is "No work, no school, no shopping!" Let's do what we can to move toward that call.

Austin, Texas:

Tens of thousands rallied in Austin, although estimates varied widely from 5,000 (NPR affiliate) to 40,000 (CBS affiliate). I'm not sure it was quite that much, but 5,000 is a gross underestimate. The stage was far more interesting than at the previous two No Kings rally. Instead of being dominated by tedious Democrats and mostly bland local politicians, there was a lot of music including a fantastic Spanish language ska band called Los Kurados. Speeches were pleasantly short.

The crowd, as with the others, was colorful with mostly homemade signs. Also like the others, the racial demographics were a bit weak. I saw few Black folks and not too many more Latinos. The organizers did ok up front though — the stage was a better representation than the crowd. Women comprised the majority of attendees. There was a good mix of ages as well.

Chicago: a personal note.

On the explicit political front, the stage was uninteresting, to no one's surprise. A few leftist groups were in attendance. DSA had two booths; PSL had a large one; and FRSO had one.

There was some anti-war sentiment, but not as much as we would hope for.

The local CLC had a booth, and I also saw banners or t-shirts from NALC, AFSCME and the IBEW.

On the fringes of the demonstration, literally and metaphorically, were three or four people under an "Iron Front" banner. I assumed from their appearance that they were fascists, but it seems the Iron Front was an SDP outfit in the Weimar years geared at fighting Communists and Nazis.

Bay Area, California:

San Francisco had a No Kings Day turnout of 100,000 with a labor and anti-war contingents. David Bacon, photographing the march, reported that it took an hour to walk from the front of the march to the end!

Attended a demonstration in Napa (50 miles northeast of San Francisco) that had 4,000 people. There was a rally and then a visibility march downtown which stretched for blocks with many cars honking in support. There were dozens of different actions all over the Bay Area.

Union City: poking fun at a dick.

Lots of student and Chicano participation in this Union City, a smaller city in the East Bay. This one was organized by "Union City Resists!" Other East Bay demos were in nearby Fremont and Hayward. In Oakland, after a kickoff rally, about 20,000 marched from City Hall to Lake Merritt.

Chicago, Illinois:

Multiple No Kings Day rallies and marches occurred in the Chicago region, including a main rally and march at the city center along Lake Michigan, events in city neighborhoods, and others in towns and suburban centers in the six-county Northeastern Illinois region (a population more than 9 million). A labor rally and feeder march which began around 11:30 AM, preceded the main rally/march, which started after 1 PM and wound up around 4:30.

In the city center, a small (75-100 folks) but noisy labor rally and feeder march called by the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) took place within eyeball distance of five large hotel towers, to highlight Unite Here's call for workplace actions this fall. (Chicago's tourist and conference industry is enormous, and a large employer, and now more than 50 large hotels are Unite Here shops.)

The rally featured a Unite Here speaker, a local AFGE official from TSA, and reps from other unions, and included a mention of planned May Day actions. Though few CTU members attended, the half-mile march to the main No King rally grew larger (more than doubling in size) and noisier as others spontaneously joined.

The main event featured speeches by official supporters (ACLU, Indivisible, Latina community leaders, Trans activists), and youth activists, and was chaired by official reps from Mayor Johnson's administration. The mayor was one of only two elected officials to speak — his remarks included a mention of planned May Day events. The other was the DP senate candidate Stratton, who is to replace the powerful but now retiring Dick Durbin, who appeared on stage (but did not speak) along with many local and state party officials. (Stratton loudly claimed not to take PAC money, but in reality, was elected with millions donated by billionaire IL governor Pritzker.) No labor leaders spoke, and no speaker was identified from the stage as DSA.

The rally included no mention of Palestine, Israel/AIPAC, or Cuba; only a brief generic mention of labor, a slightly less generic opposition to Iran and war spending; and many angry references to health care inequalities and ICE and Trans repressions. Small socialist contingents and tabling crews were evident, mainly PSL and DSA — Indivisible

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had the largest visibility. Attendees were predominantly white, some Hispanic, very few African Americans, and skewed older. Crowd size safely exceeded 25,000, with many unverified claims of 100,000 participants. The march circled the eastern edge of the Chicago City center on a crisp sunny photogenic day.

NK day was an official event, made evident by the organized DP stage presence, the mayor's speech and rally chairs from city hall, and the police-friendly march route. Consequently, some local left liberals and socialists made the what-was-the-point argument, perhaps a useful sentiment when organizing for May Day 2026.

Detroit, Michigan:

Thousands flooded Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit on a sunny but cold Saturday afternoon and spilled over to nearby streets. With eight rallies from downriver to downtown Detroit, it is estimated that about 25,000 people were demonstrating against the war abroad and the war at home.

Since Detroit is a border town, ICE and Border Patrol are ever present in the city. Through People's Assembly many whistle kits and mutual aid has been distributed. Several teenagers have been picked up by ICE, even those who have work permits.

Teachers have been particularly concerned about the well-being of their students, who have been picked up by ICE and sent to the nation's only family detention center, Dilley Immigration Processing Center, in South Texas. Although federal regulations recognize that children should not be detained, the Trump administration is seeking to end that restriction. Meanwhile the agreement is being violated and children, including teenagers, are harmed.

Houston, Texas:

According to the Houston Chronicle over 20,000 people participated in the march following the No Kings demo in front of City Hall. I did not stay until the march but spent several hours at the demo, where I saw probably about 3k+ people, but there could have been feeder marches later that I was not aware of. As for the last No Kings, there were a number of smaller events in Katy, Cypress, Sugarland and other suburbs of Houston.

The weather was perfect for an outdoor event and people were spirited. Speakers focused on local themes such as holding the mayor and city council members responsible for continued cooperation between Houston Police Department and ICE. and exerting more pressure on them. However, some took a much broader view and condemned the war with Iran, for example. As at previous No Kings, there were a number of stalls present, ranging from Indivisible to the local Food not Bombs chapter. PSL, YCL and local mutual aid groups were also represented. A local Socialist Alternative leader spoke.

Tabled for the local DSA chapter and got to know some YDSA folks who had their own stall right next to us. We were circulating a pro-immigrant rights petition for signatures that also seeks to hold local city council members accountable when it comes to immigrant rights.

Manhattan, New York:

Since the march is just a phrase "No Kings" and no specific demands like "End the War" or "Medicare for All," people made up their own slogans and posters — very creative.

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This march was a qualitative change from prior demonstrations. Many more people of color and many more young people. A friend says it was the same in the Brooklyn march. I don't know about the marches in the other parts of the city.

A march organizer told me the estimate was 200,000. I think it was at least that. I've never been to a march where it went down two avenues — 7th Avenue and Broadway—at the same time. (Broadway combined with 7th avenue after marching 11 blocks from 59 to 48th street).

Manhattan: war crimes and sex crimes, part of the same matrix.

ICE was clearly the main issue. I was surprised how few signs about the war in Iran. Many about Epstein.

I didn't see the whole march and couldn't even hope to report on who was there and who wasn't, but it did strike me that there was a lot less labor participation than in the past. I saw the NY nurses, two locals of SEIU (1199 and 32BJ), Teamsters 804, Laborers (didn't catch the local) and UFT. Missed others, like Teamsters, UAW, AFSCME, who could have been there. Time for the labor movement to get moving!

Actually, all five boroughs held No Kings marches and rallies. It was a great day. TV news reports demos in all 50 states! Let's hope the growing involvement of Black and Brown folks continues.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

Milwaukee: before the march.

It was reported in the press there were over 100 "No Kings" demonstrations in Wisconsin on March 28th. The largest may have been in Madison. In Milwaukee there at least six protests, the largest of which drew over 5000 participants. Speakers at that event included the vice president of the Milwaukee teachers' union and a national board member of the NAACP.

Several socialist groups had organized contingents behind banners in the two-mile march through the community that followed the rally, including Democratic Socialists of America, Solidarity, Party for Socialism and Liberation and Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Ohio:

Mansfield: — 10 AM: I traveled here with three others and was excited to see what we estimated to be 300 people (organizers estimated to be 400) at the peak of the event. For a city of less than 50,000, that was more than the last No Kings in Mansfield. Though I was happy to see so many people, the speeches left me underwhelmed.

The speakers included a community member who wrote a letter to the paper after the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and an Ohio Democrat who was also a union leader. It seemed very much a Democratic party event, not a coalition with multiple organizations and issues coming together for a change kind of event.

The crowd was all different ages, although mostly white people in attendance, it was nice to see that some folks of color felt safe enough to be out demonstrating with us!

War monuments in the location we met in and the thin blue line memorial across the street really gave the whole thing a sort of eerie feeling to me.

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Galion: noon: The smallest demonstration of the day, but perhaps the most impactful. About 20 of us gathered in the square for the first ever No Kings event in rural Galion. Except for two Black men, it was an all white group of different ages.

Reactions were mostly neutral from passers-by, but far more positive responses than negative ones. However, almost as soon as we gathered, police drove by in cruisers and kept up observing us.

This wasn't an officially registered event and had no rally, but we listened to antiwar music and talked. The sentiment was mostly anti-Trump sentiment, but the few were interested in deepening the conversation and talked about the problem being systemic. We also talked about the possibility of building a May 1st event.

Statehouse Rally in Columbus, Ohio — 4 PM: organizers of this protest are reporting 20,000 people in attendance, it felt like standing room only!

The best part of this event was meeting a gay couple from the Galion and Mansfield area. They said they fled to Columbus years ago due to political safety concerns. They were ecstatic to hear of the work we're doing there now, and it felt like a full circle moment.

We exchanged contact information and connected on social media, so I'm looking forward to the connection that blossoms from this encounter. I think this is the kind of human moment that demonstrates the power of No Kings.

Overall, I have concerns that the No Kings movement may be co-opted by establishment Democrats. But this fear does not outweigh my willingness to capitalize on No Kings momentum as a revolutionary socialist, and I hope other comrades feel similarly. No Kings is a step in the right direction. We flexed our muscles on Saturday, and now it's time to commit to building the better world we know is possible. I'm looking forward to May 1st.

Olympia, Washington:

About 7,000 turned out in Olympia. Great spirit, great cross section of ages, cultures, interests. A great many homemade signs like "Not enough cardboard to list the reasons I'm here today."

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

Over 15,000 people gathered at the city-County building for a "No Kings" rally in downtown Pittsburgh on a sunny but very cold day. Ghadah Makoshi, a community organizer with the American Civil Liberties Union, summarized the rally's central message as being "no to authoritarianism in all of its forms."

While many issues were raised by the signs and speakers, there was a focus on ICE, evident by the number of people who came equipped with whistles. Matthew Jordan, a representative from Casa San José, called for an end to police cooperation with ICE. Recently, two young men, aged 18 and 20, were stopped by police for a traffic violation on their way to work and turned over to ICE.

About a dozen other No Kings rallies took place in nearby towns, including McCandless, Penn Hills, Sewickley, Mt. Lebanon and more distant such as Clarion and Zelienople.

Romulus, Michigan:

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ICE warehouse (in background) with State Representative Dylan Wegela speaking.

Around 350-400 people came to Romulus, Michigan on No Kings Day. Many had been to demonstrations at nearby sites, including UAW Local 900.

On the sunny afternoon a crushed ice station provided snow cones to demonstrators, and if they were like me, they too relished what sunshine melted the ice.

We gathered at 7525 Cogswell St., home to an idle warehouse that has been purchased by DHS for \$34.7 million — 57% more than the previous sale price — and purchased without the knowledge of city officials. ICE is planning a detention center housing hundreds and one that is close to the Detroit airport. We call it a concentration camp and are organizing to make sure it never opens.

Demonstrators occupied the grassy area between the sidewalk outside the facility and the road, holding up signs that creatively expressed discontent with the current situation. Cars and trucks passing by honked their support of the action.

Given the logistics, the parking operation alone was a feat: roughly 260 cars packed tightly into a grassy area with a narrow entry point across the street from the facility.

In Romulus, the rumor is circulating that opponents of the ICE plan are paid to leaflet and demonstrate.

When Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib arrived, noticing the warehouse entry was blocked by cones, her security got out to move a cone — only to be quickly stopped by federal agents who keep continuous watch on the property. After that ordeal, Rashida then proceeded to lead chants in tandem with a young boy in attendance, “Show me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!”

Other rally speakers included Dylan Wegela, State Representative for Romulus and surrounding areas and member of DSA and Alyssa Loucks, a Romulus Middle School teacher who eloquently spoke to the particularities of U.S. authoritarianism. The Resistance Singers taught the crowd group songs from Minneapolis, and a Solidarity member and long-time union activist addressed union members, pointing out that this struggle can build union power.

The Coalition to Shut the Camps organized the Romulus No Kings event. It has garnered the support of 33 organizations in a “regulatory punch list” targeting Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), Wayne County, City of Romulus, DTE, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), demanding full disclosure of all proposals and the opportunity for public meetings before any approval of ICE plans.

The coalition plans to continue meeting at 3 pm at 7525 Cogswell every Saturday.

Salt Lake City, Utah:

The “No Kings” demonstration in Salt Lake City began with a rally of 8,000 at downtown Washington Square Park before participants marched a mile+ uphill to the State Capitol for the main rally. Several thousand more went directly to the Capitol. The March demonstration was larger than the 10,000 who rallied last October, and more diverse.

St. Paul:

The turnout exceeded the organizers expectations!

In fact, the first speaker at the Capitol rally was Jeanetta Williams, president of the Salt Lake NAACP. There were 18 No Kings’ rallies and marches in the state.

St. Paul, Minnesota:

The turnout at the Capitol in St. Paul was somewhere between 100,000-200,000 people and included impressive union contingents.

Traverse City, Michigan:

No Kings 3 march. I'd say 2,000-3,000 people.

Vermont:

At the 50 NKD sites that we know of in Vermont we've counted 29,441 participants so far. DSA and the Vermont May Day Strong coalition distributed some 3000 May Day fliers plus another 1500 of our Solidarity School fliers at 10 of the larger sites.

Politically it was a mixed bag. For example, in Montpelier Migrant Justice spoke and I was asked to speak to an Indivisible meeting about the May Day Strong organizing. While in Burlington Indivisible is run by liberal Democratic Party Zionists who refused to allow Migrant Justice, labor, or Palestinian solidarity activists to speak. There we had our own May Day Strong feeder march with some 1000+ participating, and held our own rally with Migrant Justice, labor and Palestinian voices speaking before we joined Indivisible's rally.

Thanks to Alex, Chris, Dawn, Dianne, Eric F, Eric S, Folko, Giselle, Heidi, Jody, Johanna, Linda, Paul, Peter, Randy, Traven and Wendy.

Source: [Soldarity](#)

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