

Durham victory over white supremacy



UPDATE: On Feb. 20, the Durham District Attorney has announced that all charges have been dropped against all the Durham defendants, including five who were to have gone to trial on April 2.

**By Durham Workers World bureau
Durham, N.C.**

People power won the day here on Feb. 19, as three anti-racist activists went to trial on charges stemming from the toppling of a Confederate monument on Aug. 14. The three beat the charges.

The trial was held six months after righteous action by the people of Durham brought down the monument.

After months of political pressure, the

state decided to break the trials against the eight freedom fighters into separate proceedings.

Felony riot charges the eight had faced were dropped last month, thanks to pressure and solidarity from the anti-racist movement around the country.

The state's presumptive motivation may have been their estimation that they had a better chance of convicting the activists on the three misdemeanor charges each faced: defacing a public building or

monument, conspiracy to deface a public building or monument, and injury to real property.

Instead, the people's movement against white supremacy and in support of these anti-racist fighters emerged victorious. Raul Jimenez was acquitted of all charges. The charges against Dante Strobino and Peter Gilbert were dismissed outright.

"Today is a small victory," said Raul Jimenez at the rally after the trials end-

ed. "Two of us had our charges dismissed, and I was found not guilty. This is a reminder that tearing down monuments to white supremacy is not a crime! It shows that the whole world is watching. It's a reminder that there are people who not only support what happened here in Durham, but support their communities doing the same thing we did here. White supremacy is not welcome anywhere. We will continue to fight."

Continued on page 3



BLACK LIBERATION MONTH 6-7

African Americans vs. imperialism
Lessons of 1960s strikes
Moorehead to students: 'Become activists!'

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Unions vs. Janus 4

Meek Mill & Mumia 5

'Don't touch the ADA!' 8

Sam Marcy on the economy and war 11

Domestic violence 8

Editorial
Budget of, by, for rich 10

VENEZUELA , SO. AFRICA , PEOPLE'S KOREA 10

Parker opens anti-capitalist Senate campaign

By Terri Kay

The Peace and Freedom Party of California held a press conference at the state Capitol Building in Sacramento on Feb. 15 to announce its slate of candidates for the 2018 elections. The gubernatorial nominee, Gloria La Riva, PFP nominee for state insurance commissioner, Nathalie Hrizi, and PFP nominee for secretary of state, C.T. Weber, were there and gave their statements.

Statements were also read by representatives for John Parker for U.S. Senate and Kevin Akin for state treasurer. Also running is Mary Lou Finley for state controller.

Parker's statement included the following:
"John Parker, a national leader of Workers World Party, is the Peace and Freedom Party candidate for U.S. Senate. He is well-known in Los Angeles, where he resides, as a longtime fighter against white supremacy, police terror and for immigrant and worker rights.

"Parker has traveled worldwide and written extensively as an anti-war and anti-imperialist activist, often representing the International Action Center. His international experience is critical at a time when Trump's trigger finger is itching to go nuclear against North Korea and also threatening military intervention in Venezuela, all the while escalating the war in Syria.

"Parker campaigns to end capitalism and fight for

John Parker, left, with Oscar López Rivera, former political prisoner and heroic Puerto Rican independence fighter.

PHOTO: LAWRENCE REYES

socialism, declaring that Trump's deportations, police terror, giveaways to corporations, white supremacy, misogyny, programs to deepen poverty, and his extreme militarism are part of capitalism, inspired by the previous administration's record deportations and wars. Your vote for John Parker for U.S. Senate will help to build a movement for revolutionary change."

Statements of the candidates can be found at peaceandfreedom.org.

California is one of only three states with "top two primaries." Passed as Proposition 14 in 2010, it mandates that only the top two vote-getters in the primaries advance to the final state general election. In effect, this essentially locks out third-party candidates from the general elections. □



In honor of Black History Month — SUPPORT WW

Fighting racism in February 2018, Black History Month, means starting at the top and denouncing the openly racist, white supremacist in the White House. It means opposing and exposing the bigot in chief's racist policies, like ramping up Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on 7/11 stores all around the country and deporting Haitian and Salvadoran workers after slandering them and the entire African continent in vulgar terms.

That's why every month, not just Black History Month, this newspaper chronicles the struggles of African Americans to eradicate institutionalized racism, root and branch. Our weekly coverage of the ongoing Black struggle here and our coverage of the struggles in Africa to throw off imperialist chains is based on the principle of self-determination: that oppressed people have the right to fight to end all forms of

inequality and injustice — by any means necessary.

If you appreciate such coverage, it's time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. We established it in 1977 so readers could help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to make qualitative, revolutionary change that crushes capitalism and fights for socialism.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — and much more if you can — members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/; it's easy to set up monthly deductions. Know that we're grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future!



Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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WORKERS WORLD this week

★ In the U.S.

Parker opens anti-capitalist Senate campaign.....	2
Protests as killer cop goes free	3
Unions demand end to anti-worker system.....	4
Education walkout looms in W. Virginia.....	4
Farmworker housing: Too dangerous to live in	4
Free Mumia, free Meek Mill, free them all!.....	5
Philadelphia: PR evacuees face homelessness.....	5
Don't touch the ADA!	8
Domestic violence is linked to mass murder	8
Tennessee: Fascists outnumbered again	10
Economic contraction and military expansion	11

★ Black Liberation Month

Durham: Victory over white supremacy.....	1
Black Solidarity Week in Oakland	7
Rally in Rochester hits Trump's racism	5
African Americans reject imperialism, Pt. 3.....	6
Sanitation workers' strikes 1968	6
Monica Moorehead to Black students on activism, Pt. 2 ..	7

★ Around the world

Venezuela: Maduro calls elections for April 22.....	9
ANC celebrates inauguration of Cyril Ramaphosa	9
Beware U.S. war propaganda against Korea!	10

★ Editorial

Of the rich, by the rich, for the rich	10
--	----

★ Noticias en Español

¡Cuidado con la propaganda de guerra de Estados Unidos contra Corea!	12
--	----

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DURHAM

Victory over white supremacy

Continued from page 1

Strobino added, “The judge thought this was going to be an easy conviction. Today showed that the power of the people can overcome the state.”

Courts packed, streets filled against white supremacy

Throughout the day, dozens packed the courtroom to support those facing trial. Later hundreds filled the streets for a solidarity march against white supremacy -- which turned into a victory rally after the day's proceedings.

Nearly 75 people showed up for an early morning press conference at the courthouse before the trials began. The crowd included not only many from Durham, but also solidarity delegations that had traveled from New York, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, San Diego, Indiana, Ohio and elsewhere.

A statement issued by arrestees and read at the press conference noted: “As we head to court, we are buoyed by the strength and determination of being part of an unrelenting people's movement for justice. We are walking in the legacy of many freedom fighters who have come before us.” The statement uplifted the 50th anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre in South Carolina and the 39th anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre in North Carolina.

It continued: “They give us the strength and determination to continue to fight racist jails, racist courts, the racism of Durham's eviction crisis, brought on by gentrification. We will not stop until white supremacy and all forms of oppression and exploitation are defeated. No matter the outcome of the trial, our movements will push forward with more resolve than ever.”

Throughout the day, the courtroom was filled with supporters as the state

suffered defeat after defeat.

In the evening, upwards of 200 people gathered at the site where the toppled monument had once stood for a march to the courthouse to join the freedom fighters as court ended for the day.

As the march prepared to step off, word reached the crowd that another victory had been secured by the people's movement: Raul Jimenez was found not guilty of all charges. The response from the crowd was electric. Cheers and chants broke out as the demonstration hit the streets heading to the courthouse, taking over all lanes and snarling downtown traffic.

“People all over the world know about what happened in Durham. Freedom-loving people, anti-racist people, oppressed people, they know about what you did,” Larry Holmes, first secretary of Workers World Party, told the rally at the courthouse. “Black people passed that statue going to that court; that statue was there to tell them you may not have physical chains on, but they're still there, and that you'll never get justice under this white supremacist system. It was a statue of terror. ... The statue was put up at the height of the KKK's national strength and membership. But [Black people] won't have to pass by that reminder any more because we liberated it. Statues are symbolic of systems. When you tear down a statue, you remind everyone that someday we'll tear down things that are bigger than statues and build something that's about freedom and liberation.”

Takiyah Thompson, one of the five freedom fighters whose charges remain, said, “We're fighting white supremacy and hatred and a system that keeps its foot on our necks. Around the corner [at the Durham County jail] there are people in jail with bail as little as \$50 who



PHOTOS: WISCONSIN BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE MOVEMENT



Takiyah Thompson

can't pay for their freedom. A few weeks ago, a Black Lives Matter activist was shot and killed in New Orleans. It's important that we come out and build real community as we continue to fight.”

Thompson added, “I'm looking forward to not justice but a push toward liberation. Because even though we're in court and we're doing all this organizing around this issue, we know that this is a protracted battle.”

#DefendDurham struggle continues

When white supremacists marched on Charlottesville, Va., in August, they were met with militant opposition by anti-fascist and anti-racist protesters. Heather Heyer, an anti-fascist who marched that day, was murdered by a member of the fascist American Vanguard Party.

Two days later, the people of Durham continued that opposition by tearing



Q Wideman

Judge compounds racist outrage Protests as killer cop goes free

By Nathaniel Peters
New York

Deborah Danner, a 66-year-old Black woman, was shot and killed inside her Bronx apartment on Oct. 18, 2016, by New York police Sgt. Hugh Barry.

This Feb. 15, Barry was found not guilty of all charges by a judge after a bench trial. Barry had declined his right to a jury trial, figuring that his chances were better with a judge than with members of the Bronx community, who are subjected daily to racist terror at the hands of the New York Police Department.

In response to the verdict, a People's Monday protest was held on Feb. 19 by NYC Shut It Down, a Black Lives Matter police abolitionist group that has held Monday protests every week for over three years. Each action has highlighted a different Black, Brown or Indigenous person killed by the police.

Protesters marched to Times Square despite heavy police repression, stopping along the way to tell the facts of Deborah Danner's murder. Multinational onlookers enthusiastically supported the action.

In his trial, Officer Barry had claimed that his life was in danger after he entered Danner's apartment. This was contradicted by the testimony of another officer and by an emergency medical technician. Nevertheless, Judge Robert Neary found him “not guilty.”

Deborah Danner, who had been diagnosed in her thirties with schizophrenia, foresaw her fate. She wrote in 2012: “We are all aware of the all too frequent news stories about the mentally ill who come up against law enforcement instead of mental health professionals and end up dead.” (New York Times, Oct. 19, 2016)

She was one of over 300 people, overwhelmingly Black or Brown, killed by members of the NYPD since police

gunned down Amadou Diallo in 1999. Not a single officer has been sent to jail in connection with these killings.

The endless stream of racist police murders, and the inevitable nonindictments and not guilty verdicts that follow, raise the question: Why do the police kill so many Black, Brown and Indigenous people, and why do they always get away with it?

Simply put, because it is their job. Contrary to what they would like us to believe, the police do not exist to serve and protect the people. Just the opposite. Today's police forces are descended from the pre-Civil War slave patrols and night watches. They exist to oppress Black people and intimidate immigrants. Killer cops are not “bad apples.” They are doing exactly what they are supposed to do.

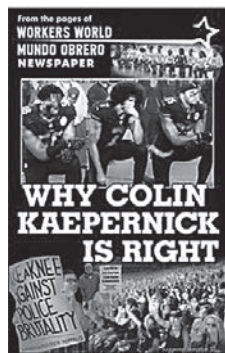
While we continue to fight in the courts for every victim of police murder, we must remember that full justice can



DEBORAH DANNER, shot and killed at age 66.

never be found there. The police cannot be reformed. As a fundamentally white supremacist institution, nothing less than their abolition can bring an end to racist police terror.

Justice for Deborah Danner! Black Lives Matter! □



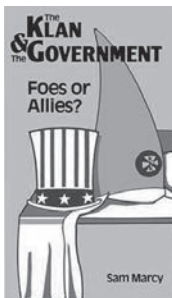
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The Klan & Government: Foes or Allies?

Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.

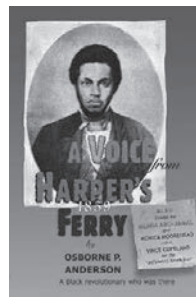
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COVER GRAPHICS: SATU BARRON

Unions demand end to anti-worker system

By G. Dunkel

After the shock of Trump’s victory in 2017, unions have been relatively quiet with no major protests. At the same time, anger among working women and men has been growing, along with right-wing attacks on unions.

A coalition of the major public service unions, those most directly under attack, has called for nationally coordinated protests, Working People’s Day of Action, on Feb. 24 in 25 cities. The unions involved are the American Federation of Teachers; National Education Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Service Employees Union.

The protests were sparked by the Janus v. AFSCME case, due to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 26, but they go much deeper. The union coalition is calling for “working people and our allies” to join forces in “standing up for our freedoms and demanding an end to a system that’s rigged against us. We will rise up and fight.”

What the struggle is about

Currently, unions have contracts that protect their members, with regard to not only higher salaries and benefits, but also safer working conditions, an end to unpaid overtime, and limits on arbitrary

hiring and firing. A union contract at a workplace or within an industry protects all workers to a degree, not just those who have actually joined the union. A union contract puts a floor under the salary and conditions that nonunionized workers face.

For the past 50 years, workers and the unions that protect them have been under unceasing attack from billionaire capitalist owners who have rigged the system to protect their profit-making.

In the 1970s, 30 percent of U.S. workers were in unions. Now, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 10.7 percent of U.S. workers are in unions, with 6.5 percent in the private sector and 34.4 percent in the public sector.

A main tool in the billionaires’ attack on unions is instituting so-called “right to work” laws. If a union has won a democratic election at a particular workplace, it is legally obligated to bargain for and represent all the workers. A worker has the right to not join the union, but the union is still obligated to represent all of them. Bargaining and enforcing a union contract are an expensive proposition. What a right-to-work-(for-less) law does is prevent unions from insisting that workers



CREDIT: CWA

who don’t join still pay their “fair share” for union representation.

Bruce Rauner, the billionaire governor of Illinois, originally started the lawsuit against AFSCME Council 31. Rauner’s suit attempted to weaken this Illinois local by banning “fair share” fees for unions involved in state government. When the federal district court said Rauner didn’t have standing to bring the suit, he found a state employee — Mark Janus — willing to allow the legal challenge to proceed in his name.

The Janus suit is backed by the Liberty Justice Center (an arm of the right-wing Illinois Policy Institute) and the National Right to Work Foundation, both part of a network funded by corporate billionaires who use the U.S. legal system to pass rules against the rights of everyday working people.

“Right to work” began in the 1930s as a crusade to preserve white supremacy over Black working people in states of the former Confederacy. Today Black workers are more likely to be union members than white, Asian or Latinx workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Black women face a double wage gap, in both gender and race. They make up 17.7 percent of public sector workers, although African Americans make up

only 12.3 percent of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Unions have a measurable impact in reducing the pay gap Black women face. An adverse decision in the Janus case will increase the inequalities both male and female Black workers already suffer.

A few months ago, public service unions were getting ready for Janus by simply having their workers sign new dues checkoff cards, to try to keep membership stable. But in the past few months, workers’ anger has grown into a feeling that their unions have to fight back.

The union leadership in general would probably prefer to push for voting in the upcoming congressional elections. But the ballot box is months away and the class struggle is snapping at their heels right now.

Workers are calling for a fight. The impressive number of nationally coordinated demonstrations is a good start. As of this writing, they are scheduled coast to coast in the following cities: San Diego; Phoenix; Las Vegas; Albuquerque, N.M.; Houston; Miami; Orlando, Fla.; Atlanta; Memphis, Tenn.; St. Louis; Louisville, Ky.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; St. Paul, Minn.; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Chicago; Madison, Wis.; Detroit; Columbus, Ohio; Buffalo, N.Y.; Erie, Duncansville and Boyertown, Pa.; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; and New York City. □

Despite anti-strike laws Education walkout looms in W. Virginia

By Otis Grotewohl
Charleston, W.V.

Thousands of public, state and education employees rallied here at the state Capitol on Feb. 17 to protest plans by the billionaire, coal-baron governor and his right-wing-led legislature to increase out-of-pocket insurance costs and break the unions.

Members of the American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, the West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia School Service Personnel Association were joined by their sisters and brothers of the Service Employees, the Teamsters and the United Electrical Workers.

Speakers at the rally included state leaders as well as National Education Associ-

ation Vice President Becky Pringle, who is African-American; American Federation of Teachers Executive Vice President Mary Cathryn Rucker; and Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall.

Kotanya Hart, a member of United Electrical Workers Local 170 and leader of “Race Matters in West Virginia,” told Workers World: “The state’s legislature is trying to divide us public employees by offering a small pay raise to some and nothing to others. They want to build a wall between us and we need to tear down that wall.”

At the end of the rally, the state presidents of the AFT-WV and WVEA announced a statewide walkout of all education employees on Feb. 22-23. The presidents announced that if nothing better is offered by the legislature before

then, they are prepared to either stay out or continue other actions.

This is in defiance of the state’s prohibition of strikes carried out by public employees, as well as threats of a possible injunction from the reactionary state attorney general.

A statewide struggle has been looming since the 2018 legislative session started in mid-January. On Feb. 2, workers in four counties staged a defiant walkout and took their anger to the Capitol. (“Education Workers Fighting Back in West Virginia,” Workers World, Feb. 5.) In retaliation, that same day Senate Republicans introduced a Koch-brothers-sponsored bill to eliminate the deduction of union dues through the teachers’ payroll. The labor movement commonly refers to this elimination as “payroll deception.”

The following weekend Feb. 3-4, AFT-WV and WVEA state and local presidents administered an authorization vote taken by their members across the state. The vote showed overwhelming support for an action. On Feb. 16, workers in six more counties — Cabell, Clay, Lincoln, Mason, Wayne and Brooke — staged another walkout and occupied the Capitol.

The Feb. 16 action was significant because Friday is the day legislators try to leave Charleston and get back to their hometowns. Workers know how much it irritates the reactionary legislators to face a Friday confrontation.

The Senate adjourned a little after noon, thinking the teachers and union members would leave, and reconvened at 6 p.m. But the workers stayed and the politicians were met with angry protesters who continued chanting.

What led to the struggle

In December 2017, the Public Employees Insurance Agency finance board, which covers all state and education employees, introduced proposals to drastically increase premiums and deductibles on health insurance. While West Virginia teachers are ranked 48th in the U.S. in pay, Gov. Jim Justice, already a billionaire, is the fifth-highest-paid governor in the U.S. (CNBC, Jan. 25)

Additionally, Justice is also the richest person in the state of West Virginia and owner of The Greenbrier, a luxury resort for many in the U.S. ruling class, which actually contains a survivalist-style bunker for the U.S. Congress.

When the governor introduced a meager 1 percent raise for teachers, it was viewed as a slap in the face. Since then, the House of Delegates introduced a petty 2 percent increase to be followed by a 1 percent increase three years later. This is

Continued on page 5

Farmworker housing: Too dangerous to live in

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Two families who worked and lived at Melrose Farm in Owasco were suddenly homeless when state building code inspectors condemned their employer-provided housing as dangerous and uninhabitable on Feb. 10. Their eviction left four parents and five children scrambling for shelter.

The Workers’ Center of Central New York held a “Rally for Dignified Living and Working Conditions” outside the farm the next morning to highlight the horrific and frequently unsafe housing conditions of farmworkers.

This employer had received many warnings from code enforcement people and many requests from workers to repair



PHOTO: WORKERS' CENTER OF CNY

Supporters rally near Auburn, N.Y., for safe farmworker housing and working conditions, Feb. 16.

the housing. This boss had also told workers to stop meeting with English-as-a-second-language teachers, who supported them in the housing struggle. The workers are being paid subminimum wages.

The employer’s actions violate opinions issued by the New York state attorney general’s office that farmworkers are permitted to have visitors as they choose.

Local farmers have been known to call both local and state police to threaten visitors who met with farmworkers to share information about their rights.

The WCCNY mobilized its network and connected the evicted families to emergency housing and financial assistance provided by the nearby Auburn community. □

Free Mumia, free Meek Mill, free them all!

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

The frame-up of rapper Meek Mill by Philadelphia cops bears a telling resemblance to the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Both stand as indictments of the entire injustice system.

Recent revelations about the fraudulent arrest and imprisonment of Mill demonstrate what police and prison abolitionists have known for decades: The entire institution of mass incarceration is a crooked, racist system.

Two ex-cops have come forward to accuse former colleagues of giving false testimony and fabricating evidence in order to lock up Mill on gun and drug offenses in 2008. Retired cop Jerold Gibson testified that the arresting officer, Reggie Graham, lied under oath during Mill's trial.

After securing a search warrant for Mill's Southwest Philadelphia residence under false pretenses, Graham confronted Mill and claimed that the musician pointed a gun at him during the course of his arrest. Graham was the prosecution's sole witness, and Mill was convicted and sentenced on his evidence alone.

The Feb. 13 Philadelphia Inquirer reports that Reggie Graham is one of 26 police officers named in a "secret list" of



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Campaigns to free Black journalist and young rapper merge amid exposé of corrupt Philly cops.

corrupt cops maintained by the office of the district attorney. The second ex-cop, Jeffrey Walker, accused Graham of stealing money during drug busts. Graham retired two years ago.

Like so many Black youth, Mill still in prison

Yet Mill remains in prison after a purported violation of his ridiculous 10-year probation.

The wildly unjust treatment of Meek Mill is just one of thousands of cases that enable the state to keep youths of color in bondage and forced labor. After being

convicted on phony charges, they are then released to live under years of probation, which makes them extremely vulnerable to rearrest and further sentencing.

District Attorney Larry Krasner has requested three months to investigate the more than two dozen crooked cops. Meanwhile, public defenders in the city

are furious that they do not have access to this "secret list" of implicated officers and detectives, which could potentially affect dozens, if not hundreds, of cases.

While a campaign to "Free Meek" has been boosted by many of his followers and fellow musicians, including Jay-Z and Sean Combs, it is perhaps less understood how strikingly Meek's case parallels that of the legendary Philadelphia Black Liberation figure, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal has been held captive by the injustice system for nearly four decades, after being framed for the murder of a cop in 1981.

Abu-Jamal was shot, gravely wounded and then severely assaulted during his arrest. Meek Mill, testified Walker, was not only beaten during his arrest but swore under oath that Graham bragged about arresting "that rapper boy" and "whoop[ing] his ass." The court stenographer assigned to Mumia's 1982 trial later gave a sworn affidavit that Judge Albert Sabo bragged in his chambers, "Yeah, I'm gonna help them fry the n—r."

Even if Krasner attempts to intervene on Mill's behalf, his request for a retrial will still be determined by Judge Genece Brinkley — the same judge who sentenced him in 2008 and revoked his parole in November 2017. Similarly, Abu-Jamal's repeated requests for appeal and retrial were denied by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ron Castille, the same former district attorney who denied his appeals and signed his death warrant.

Tentacles of capitalist state: cops, DA, courts and parole board

The cops, the district attorney's office, the courts and the parole boards each play their role in the injustice system. One sitting member of the Philadelphia parole board, who is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, continues to block any hearings that could grant

parole to the MOVE 9, innocent yet still imprisoned for nearly 40 years.

DNA evidence recently exonerated Anthony Wright, falsely convicted for rape and murder in 1993. Now Andrew Swainson and Willie Veasy, both currently incarcerated in Pennsylvania, are demanding retrial, since the same crooked detectives who framed them were responsible for Wright's arrest and conviction. A civil suit won by Wright has led to the release of over 10,000 pages of police documents that could invalidate Swainson and Veasy's convictions.

Also named in the suit were 11 other detectives who are accused of beating confessions out of suspects and imprisoning witnesses for days to pressure them to make false statements. Prosecutors withheld crucial evidence from clients' defense attorneys, and cops were called to give false testimony. This is a systematic, institutionalized frame-up system; Meek Mill and Mumia Abu-Jamal are just two of its victims.

Meanwhile Krasner, who came into office this January, has made some encouraging gestures. This week his office dropped more than 50 marijuana-related cases after a noticeable spike in arrests. It is unclear if these cases are related to the "secret list" of corrupt police officers.

While the possession of small amounts of marijuana is only a citation-level offense in Philadelphia, many people of color are still arrested and charged with misdemeanors. Krasner has also announced his intention to prevent the deportation of immigrants who are charged with nonviolent crimes.

Fill the courts for Mumia Feb. 26 and March 27

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a proud representative of the thousands unjustly imprisoned across the country. He is currently one of 16 Pennsylvania prisoners who are appealing convictions overseen by Ronald Castille when he was both a Philadelphia DA and later a Pennsylvania Supreme Court judge. Upcoming court dates at Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Center include a status report Feb. 26 and a hearing March 27.

Supporters of Meek Mill are urged to join Mumia's supporters in this larger struggle. Meek Mill's case and the many ways the system fails Black youth will also be the focus of a town hall meeting entitled "Young Black America: A Philadelphia Story" on March 3 at Audenried Charter School.

When we say, "Free Meek and free Mumia!" we also say, "Free them all!" □

PR evacuees face homelessness

Over 1,500 evacuees from Hurricane Maria that devastated Puerto Rico last September, most of them housed by relatives in the Fairhill section of Philadelphia, need access to housing resources in Philadelphia. But instead of increased aid, 87 families are losing their Federal Emergency Management Agency housing assistance via Temporary Shelter Assistance programs on Feb. 14 and are in danger of becoming homeless.

A rally across from City Hall on Feb. 12 featured a mother and her three sons, as well as other families threatened with homelessness in a few days unless city and state officials extend the TSA pro-



Philadelphia

grams. Speakers called on Gov. Tom Wolf and Mayor Jim Kenney to provide full funding for long-term housing for every Puerto Rican evacuee. They also demanded a professional case worker/advocate to help evacuees navigate the overly complex and faulty FEMA process and find health care resources.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

Education walkout looms in W. Virginia

Continued from page 4

also seen as a low blow that will not make education employees' salaries competitive with those in the rest of the country.

To add insult to injury, the legislature also introduced bills to strip teachers of their seniority and replace public schools with for-profit charter schools.

Momentum growing for statewide action

All across the state, education employees have been holding informational pickets both before and after school. Many pickets have been carried out in front of businesses, law offices and houses of the arch-reactionary legislators who are pushing the anti-union agenda.

Michael, a high school teacher in

Morgantown, W.V., told Workers World: "Walkouts and walkins across the state have emboldened us. Talks of a strike are now commonplace. More hopeful, though, is that they are discussed as a solution to our ills."

West Virginia has no collective bargaining. Work stoppages are illegal here. That the public sector unions are solidified is significant; they are often pitted against one another by management and the state government under such "right to work" (for less) conditions.

The last time there was a major statewide teachers' strike was 1990. There have been one-day walkouts and "blue flus" since that time. The mobilization happening now is advancing the class struggle. □

Rally hits Trump's racism

By Gene Clancy
Rochester, N.Y.

Nearly 1,000 people rallied in a historic Black church here on Feb. 17 under the call for a "United Community Response to Donald Trump's Ongoing Hatred and Racism." They then marched through downtown streets to the Liberty Pole, carrying signs reading "Stop racism," "Black Lives Matter" and "End white supremacy."

The rally was endorsed by more than 50 local churches and progressive and community organizations, including the 1199SEIU health care workers' union, Workers World Party and the International Action Center. Notably absent were

any representatives of mainstream politicians or parties.

The gathering was organized after Trump slandered and insulted immigrants of color and called African nations "shithole countries" at a meeting in the Oval Office in January.

"We want to make a public statement against the hatred and racism of Donald Trump," said Minister Clifford Florence Sr., one of the organizers. "We wanted to make that public statement in the Frederick Douglass city."

Rochester celebrated the 200th anniversary of Douglass' birth on Feb. 14. The great anti-slavery revolutionary lived and worked in Rochester for over 25 years. □

CELEBRATE BLACK LIBERATION

African Americans reject imperialism Against U.S. war and repression

PART 3

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

From the 1950s into 1961, Robert F. Williams was the president of the NAACP chapter in Monroe, N.C., where he advocated and practiced armed self-defense against the Ku Klux Klan. Williams' refusal to categorically accept the nonviolent approach to Civil Rights resulted in his expulsion from the NAACP in 1961. Eventually he was forced to leave North Carolina amid an attempt to frame him on false kidnapping charges of a white couple.

After being transported out of North Carolina by supporters, Williams eventually settled in Cuba and later the People's Republic of China. He spent time as well in North Vietnam, where he addressed African-American GIs via radio broadcasts, exposing the racist and imperialist character of the war.

Perhaps the apex of solidarity between African Americans and the Vietnamese Revolution emerged when Black Panther Party leader Bobby Seale attended a conference in Montreal, Quebec, in late 1968 where National Liberation Front representatives recognized the party as the vanguard of the revolutionary movement in the U.S. The BPP in return gave full recognition to the NLF as the legitimate government of South Vietnam.

The following year saw efforts at deeper cooperation when the North Vietnamese government offered to release U.S. prisoners of war in exchange for the freedom of BPP leaders Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton. This offer was immediately rejected by the Nixon administration.

In August 1970, after Newton's release



Robert F. Williams in solidarity with Cuba.

on appeal bond related to charges of murdering and wounding two white Oakland, Calif., police officers, the BPP Minister of Defense pledged to send some members to join the armed wing of the Vietnamese Revolution as an act of solidarity.

In 1971, Newton and Elaine Brown, Central Committee members of the BPP, visited China where they met with Premier Chou En Lai.

Against U.S. war and repression

Burgeoning opposition to the Vietnam War among African-American Liberation organizations inspired resistance in the armed forces. Groups such as GIs United Against the War and the Malcolm X Society posed a challenge to the largely white officer corps who utilized discrimination as a means of intimidating African Americans and sowing discord within the ranks.

Black soldiers grew Afro hairstyles and beards as acts of protest and defiance. Many were radicalized through their experience in Vietnam, swelling the ranks of such groups as the BPP and the Black Liberation Army upon discharge.

Although the U.S. announced its withdrawal of ground forces from Vietnam in late 1972 after a horrendous round of bombings that December, the war continued until the liberation of Saigon on April 30, 1975. After a decade of continuing defeats and Vietnamese advances, the U.S. Congress halted the funding of the war, resulting in the collapse of the puppet regime in Saigon.

Contrastingly, in the U.S., the political toll of state repression and cooptation from Washington and Wall Street severely derailed the revolutionary wing of the African-American movement by the early

1970s. Robert F. Williams returned to the U.S. in late 1969. The BPP was wracked by an internal split in 1971 from which neither faction was able to fully recover.

The onset of the restructuring of the world economy in 1975, coinciding with the defeat of imperialism in Southeast Asia, led to massive capital flight and disinvestment from U.S. cities. This resulted in structural unemployment and deepening poverty among the working class, reinforced by the rapid expansion of the prison-industrial complex.

Greater emphasis on electoral politics and business development could not fulfill the national aspirations of the African-American people.

In the nearly 45 years since the Vietnam War, African-American people fought — and are still fighting — against national oppression, class exploitation and government repression.

The experience acquired during the successive administrations of Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr., Bill Clinton, George Bush Jr., Barack Obama and now Donald Trump necessitates a renewed effort to overcome the ruling class and its state apparatus.

Resisting capitalism and national oppression

These events during the period of the 1950s through the mid-1970s are important to recount in light of the revisionist history surrounding the role of both white radicals and African Americans during the Vietnam War.

Absent the persistent military and political fortitude of the Vietnamese people, along with resistance from African Amer-

Sanitation workers' strikes 1968: SOLIDARITY A

By Edward Yudelovich
New York

The predominantly African-American sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., members of AFSCME Local 1733, went on strike on Feb. 12, 1968. This was the famous "I Am a Man" strike, which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was supporting when he was assassinated.

On Feb. 1, two African-American sanitation workers, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, had been crushed to death in one of the city's outdated trucks. Memphis had no facilities for Black workers to wash up, change clothes or get out of the rain. Cole and Walker were sheltering from the rain inside the truck's barrel when the compacting mechanism malfunctioned. The truck hadn't been repaired because the city wouldn't spend money for safety for these workers.

Only recently, after almost 50 years, did their families receive their pension benefits. Many U.S. unions held a national moment of silence this Feb. 1 to honor Cole and Walker.

After the murder of Dr. King, oppressed communities in 110 U.S. cities rose up in rebellion.

Fifty years ago, 7,000 sanitation workers, members of Teamsters Local 831, had flooded New York's City Hall Park on

Feb. 2 demanding higher wages and benefits. That crowd was 70 percent of the entire sanitation workforce.

For years the city had had an unfair policy by which sanitation workers' salaries had to be lower than police and firefighters' salaries. And sanitation workers contributed more from their paychecks but got lower pensions compared to police and firefighters.

The importance of the strike was underlined by a flier handed out by Local 831, which pointed out the life expectancy of a sanitation worker was 54 years compared to 67 for the entire U.S. population. Even today, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, "refuse and recyclable material collectors" consistently have one of the highest rates of on-the-job fatalities. Seventeen New York sanitation workers were killed on the job between 2000 and 2014.

The workers' decision to strike was about far more than money.

One sanitation worker, a shop steward, said it all at a standing-room-only union meeting two days before the vote: "We may handle garbage but we're not garbage." ("Dignity and Respect: The History of Local 831" by Kevin Rice)

New York: 'No contract, no work!'

The sanitation workers' contract with



Memphis sanitation workers fight for their union, AFSCME Local 1733, and their right to strike, in the spring of 1968.

WALTER REUTHER LIBRARY,
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

The total cost to the city would be about \$6 million a year. ... Last fall a little group of bankers convinced the city it needed 'better subways' and got a referendum passed

to spend \$2.5 billion for these allegedly better means of transport. This clique of bankers will supply the \$2.5 billion of other people's money for a price. They will rake off \$125 million in tax-free interest each year for themselves and the city will pay it. That's 21 times the \$6 million the sanitation workers are asking for. And these bankers would never have to lift a garbage pail!"

The 1968 strike continued for nine days until Feb. 10, despite the media demonization of the union. The New York Times wrote on Feb. 9: "Mayor Lindsay has taken the right and necessary course in moving for an injunction under the state's new

MONTH

icans, both outside and inside the military, victory against imperialism would not have been possible without additional years of fighting.

The selective service system in the U.S. suffered a monumental setback when the draft was abolished in 1973. Later in 1980, registration was reinstituted, but the draft has not been fully reinstated.

However, there is an economic draft due to poverty and joblessness that has fueled the war machine launched by Washington through the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and the present targeted attacks, deployment and commando operations prevalent in Somalia, Niger, Yemen, Syria and Iraq.

In the first year of Trump’s administration, tensions have escalated with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, whose nuclear program has served as a pointed warning to the Pentagon and other potential adversaries. People’s China has developed into the second-largest economy in the world, while its conventional military forces total more than 3 million well-trained soldiers.

U.S. taxpayer monies invested in the military and security apparatus total at least \$1 trillion annually, when funding for both the Pentagon and intelligence services are taken into account.

Although it cannot create a sense of sustainable security for the ruling class, Washington’s war budget is larger than all other states combined.

Despite all its rhetoric and sloganeering, the U.S. ruling class remains insecure. The advent of Trump is a manifestation of the paranoid atmosphere existing among the imperialists in Western capitalist nations.

African Americans have no other choice than to reject the Pentagon war machine, since it has only resulted in their underdevelopment, displacement and ongoing national oppression.

The eventual demise of U.S. imperialism can only strengthen the struggle for liberation and social emancipation of the oppressed. □

AND RESISTANCE

Taylor Law. The city cannot surrender to such tyrannical abuse of union power.”

NYC labor threatens general strike

President of the sanitation workers’ union John Delury was jailed. Mayor Lindsay asked other unions, including District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the city’s largest public employee union, to provide scabs and have their members pick up the garbage. In solidarity with the striking workers, other city workers refused.

When Mayor Lindsay appealed to Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to call in the New York National Guard to break the strike, all the city unions, including DC37 and the New York City Central Labor Council, threatened a general strike.

When the strike was finally settled, the union won a wage increase above the city’s offer: double-time pay for Sunday work and a 2.5 percent increase in the city’s contribution to their pension funds.

Most of all, this was a victory for dignity and respect for the sanitation workers and for labor solidarity.

Lessons for today

During the two years after the New York City and Memphis strikes, sanitation workers in Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D.C.; Charlotte, N.C.; Atlanta, Ga.;

Monica Moorehead to Black students ‘Become an activist’

I had not yet defined my political ideas but continued to seek answers why unjust conditions existed. In the midst of this exploration, the Attica Prison Rebellion occurred in upstate New York in September 1971. There was 24-hour media coverage while the prisoners took guards hostage to make their demands heard. I began a prisoners’ support group on campus, mainly to write to prisoners to show our solidarity with their demands for more humane conditions.

During my junior year at Hampton in 1972, I met the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, a mass organization formed by Workers World Party in 1970 to support the rights of prisoners and their families. The PSC had a Richmond, Va., chapter, about 90 miles from Hampton and was giving outside support to prisoners inside the Virginia State Penitentiary who were rebelling against inhumane conditions. The PSC was asked by the leaders of the Attica Rebellion to help bring their revolutionary demands to the outside world. They made this request right before many of them were massacred by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller’s National Guard and by local police. When I met with representatives of the PSC, it was really the first time I had any experience with anti-racist white activists.

From activist to revolutionary

At the time I met Workers World Party, I was teaching kindergarten in Norfolk, Va., where WWP had a branch. I still held the view that white people were born racist because that was all I knew growing up in the Deep South. I knew very little about the relationship between capitalism, as a social and economic system, and racism.

But once I started working with the party, not only did I step up my activism in practice but also in theory. I started to understand what I was fighting against

and the best way to do it within a multi-national organization fighting for revolution. The theory helped me politically understand how every issue is connected to every issue within the political and economic system of capitalism.

I began to understand that we are not all oppressed in the same ways, but the commonality is that we, meaning people of color, women, LGBTQ people and workers of all nationalities, are oppressed by the same system; and that we belong to the same class based on the varying degrees of exploitation of our labor, our nationality, our gender, our sexual orientation and other factors. I began to understand that white workers are also oppressed as workers, despite the fact that they are susceptible to racist and chauvinist ideas that come from the top, from the status quo.

I began to understand that if there is an oppressed class on the bottom, then there has to be an oppressor class on top, keeping the majority of us down — an oppressor class driven to make more and more profits that concentrate more and more wealth in fewer and fewer hands. That is the ruling class — just a handful of billionaires and multimillionaires who not only exploit our labor, but who have the power to shape how people treat and react to each other through reactionary ideas, be those racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist and so forth.

Workers World Party helped transform me into a materialist, that is, someone looking at and understanding the world objectively, as it is. And also into an optimist, understanding that workers united can be the agents, not of cosmetic change, but of real change.



Pam Africa and Monica Moorehead with Fidel Castro at a Conference on U.S. Prison Conditions held in Cuba in 2000. Pictured here, Fidel is writing a message to Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The system we live under, that system cannot be reformed. How can a system founded on the bloody backs of millions of enslaved people, stolen from Africa, be reformed? How can a system founded on the theft of Indigenous lands be reformed? How can a system be reformed that was founded on the theft of half of Mexico and the colonization of other lands? Institutionalized slavery and imperialist expansion of the West gave birth to capitalism — which cannot be reformed.

This is what the Civil War was all about — a clash of two social systems, vying to see which one would come out on top at controlling the means of producing everything in society. The short-lived Reconstruction period ended with the former slavocracy back in power, resulting in semi-slavery conditions for African-American people in the South. On the rise were the Ku Klux Klan, lynchings, exploitation of sharecropper farmers, low wages for people freed from slavery, and then re-enslaving them into convict labor by railroading them into prison. Racist Jim Crow segregation was legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1898, forcing millions of Black folks in search of freedom to migrate from the South to the North.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Civil Rights and the Black Liberation movements won tremendous gains for Black people in the South and North through blood, sweat and tears. But those gains have been slowly but surely pushed back during periods of reaction under the Republicans and the Democrats. □

Black Solidarity Week

By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

Black Solidarity Week was held here Feb. 17-24, initiated by the Community Ready Corps for Self-Determination.

The philosophy behind this call is explained on the Corps’ website: “Our communities have been robbed of the benefits of effective functional solidarity, either through external attacks, predatory design, or internal disputes that have been manufactured or manipulated. We are obligated to ask the question: What are the forces & factors that keep us from getting to functional & effective solidarity? Operating on the wisdom that we win or lose, one generation at a time, the Community READY Corps calls for a week of Black Solidarity beginning on February 17 running through February 24. The time is now. We must set the example for the generations of doers, thinkers, teachers and leaders that come behind us.”

The Minister Huey P. Newton Solidarity March and Rally kicked off the week on Feb. 17 with a historic march led by Black community activists through the heart of the Black community in deep East Oak-



PHOTO: EAST OAKLAND COLLECTIVE

land, down International Avenue from 107th Avenue to 73rd Avenue. Many other events have been scheduled for the week, including “Surviving Smash and Grab,” featuring Chairman Fred Hampton Jr., Mama Akua Njeri and “Resurrecting the Legacy of Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz).” The full schedule can be found on the Community Ready Corps’ page at facebook.com/OakCRC.

Don't touch the ADA

By Mary Kaessinger,
wheelchair user

The House of Representatives voted 225-192 on Feb. 15 to roll back civil rights legislation for people with disabilities. The representatives disregarded Rep. James Langevin, a paraplegic person in a wheelchair, who pleaded with his colleagues to defeat the bill, ADA Education and Reform Act, or H.R. 620.

Disabled people themselves, including the mobility impaired, deaf and blind organized by National ADAPT, went to the House committee hearing on Feb. 13 to protest the bill. They were arrested and later released.

The protesters came back on Feb. 15, gathered in the House gallery, and chanted, "Don't touch the ADA," until they were again arrested and later released. ADAPT created a List of #Shame, naming the House members who voted to undermine the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Disability rights groups had mobilized for months to lobby against the bill. The National Center on Independent Living worked with 500 disability rights groups to try to defeat it.

Flouting this opposition, the House voted to "reform" — that's how the bill's

supporters put it — the ADA. The so-called reform undermines what has been called "the most successful civil rights law in history" by introducing procedures that significantly delay the processing of complaints about businesses violating disabled people's rights.

If the amendment passes the Senate and is signed by the president, a claimant will be obligated to deliver a complaint in writing to the business owner, and then wait 60 days while the business owner develops a plan to correct the violation. At that point the complainant has to wait another 120 days for the business to implement the plan.

Under this supposed reform, complainants must wait a total of six months for a remedy. Only then can they initiate a lawsuit if the owner still does not comply.

At present, without this amendment, the complainant simply downloads a form off the internet and files it with the Justice Department. The business is compelled to fix the violation — because it is the law — or face a lawsuit.

People who are mobility impaired frequently file such complaints to provide access to public accommodations. Complaints are also used to correct other situations faced by the disabled. For example, a group of deaf people sued Netflix



Disability rights movement protest calling for the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

because the captions on their films were poorly done. Following this suit, Netflix corrected the situation.

The House went to great lengths to prevent coverage of the demonstration by people with disabilities. The camera phones of protesters were collected as they entered the room. This prevented them from documenting their actions themselves.

Film footage shown on the Rachel Maddow TV show clearly portrays the House of Representatives in disarray, with members walking aimlessly around the floor looking up at the gallery. But the camera never pans up to show what the House members are looking at. You know it's

the demonstrators because you can hear them chanting, "Don't touch the ADA." Then the audio is turned off. Silence.

The fight against this bill continues. The bill next goes to the Senate to be put on its calendar and scheduled for a vote. It faces strong opposition from Congress members like Civil Rights icon Rep. John Lewis and Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a former helicopter pilot who lost both legs in a helicopter crash in Iraq. Both spoke passionately against the amendment after the House vote.

There will also be further protests by those most directly affected, that is, disabled people themselves. □

Domestic violence Begins at home, is linked to mass murder

By Sue Davis

Two wife-beaters with important positions in the White House — Rob Porter and David Sorensen — were forced to resign the week of Feb. 5 due to the social sea change led by the #MeToo Movement and Time's Up. While the misogynist in chief immediately cried crocodile tears over Porter's departure, days later he dismissively claimed he opposes domestic violence.

Trump has a long public history of sexually assaulting and disrespecting women. That started in 1992 with his first spouse's accusation of rape, which surfaced during divorce proceedings. Then there's the demeaning "Access Hollywood" tape that exposed his con-man boasting about groping women's genitals without permission. After that, more than a dozen women publicly stated that he had sexually molested, assaulted and harassed them.

Trump's ho-hum comment about opposing domestic violence, however, does not make up for the fact that, while he took office a year ago, he has not nominated a director to the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women nor a White House adviser on violence against women nor a State Department ambassador at large for global women's issues.

To make matters worse, in this year's first budget proposal, 25 OVAW grants — which the previous administration had initiated to research ways to prevent violence against women — were slated to be dropped. But that was swiftly changed in the White House budget released Feb. 14: The OVAW's \$450 million budget was fully funded, with even a 1 percent increase.

That raises the question: Will the 2013 reauthorization of the 1996 Violence Against Women Act, which extended the act to increase protections for LGBTQ survivors as well as Native women, remain after Trump nominates a "fox-guarding-the-hen-house" OVAW director? That's highly unlikely given the reactionary administration's recent regulation allowing health professionals, government authorities and business owners to discriminate against women and LGBTQ people by claiming so-called "religious or moral beliefs."

High rate of domestic violence linked to mass murder

The National Domestic Violence Hotline's latest data show that on average 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S. That's more than 12 million women and men a year. Nearly 3 in 10 women (29 percent of the

population) and 1 in 10 men (10 percent) have experienced physical violence and/or stalking by a partner and report a corresponding negative impact on their functioning.

During their lifetime, 1 in 4 women (24.3 percent) and 1 in 7 men (13.8 percent) age 18 and older have been the victim of severe physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner. Women aged 18 to 34 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Nearly 1 in 5 women (18.3 percent) and 1 in 71 men (1.4 percent) have been raped in their lifetime. Some 81 percent of women who experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner reported injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The National Intimate Partner Sexual Violence Survey of 2010 reports that Black and Native women suffer higher rates of rape than white women, while Latinx women have higher rates of violence other than rape. Every day three women are killed by male intimate partners in the U.S. Half of all women murdered in this country are killed by men they know intimately.

Obviously, this country has a profound problem with domestic violence. But especially when the abuser has guns. A Jan. 8 article in Workers World, titled "Link between domestic violence and

mass murder," reports domestic violence by an intimate partner provides a training ground for police murders and mass killings. A 2014 study by Everytown for Gun Safety reported that 59 percent of 100-plus mass shootings (four or more people killed) between January 2009 and June 2014 involved the murder of an intimate partner or family member.

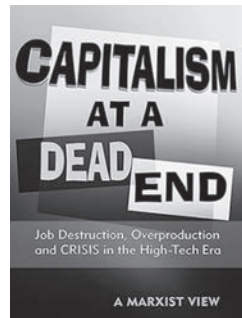
Though the Lautenberg Amendment to the VAWA was passed in 1997 to prohibit a married partner with a domestic violence conviction or a final restraining order from purchasing or possessing guns, social relations have changed so drastically in 20 years that now friends, relatives, former partners and stalkers must be included if they have a domestic violence misdemeanor charge or a preliminary restraining order.

Though the murder of 17 people with a semiautomatic rifle at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 15 was not directly related to domestic violence, it's revealing that the shooter reportedly had complicated health problems and difficult family issues.

That a young man with such serious problems did not get the help he needed from myriad community resources available shows how the very fabric of U.S. capitalist society is badly frayed. That the young man who posted on social media that he wanted to be "a professional school shooter" was not monitored by agencies allegedly charged with maintaining "public safety" is just another sign that U.S. capitalism is at a dead end.

Trump does the ruling class's bidding by cutting the "social safety net" for working and oppressed people. Is it any surprise that domestic violence is increasing, as is its link to mass murder?

A follow-up article will take up the issue of why women subjected to domestic violence don't trust law enforcement.

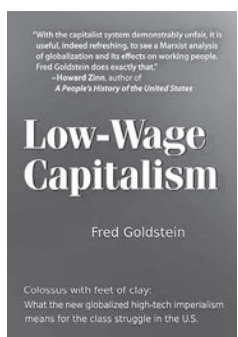


Capitalism at a Dead End Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

Low-Wage Capitalism describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx's law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.



For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to **LowWageCapitalism.com**

Available at major online booksellers.

Venezuela

Defying U.S., Maduro calls elections for April 22

By John Catalinotto

Feb. 19 — Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has affirmed his people's determination to reject the U.S. imperialist attempt to overthrow his elected government.

On Feb. 7, Maduro said that Venezuela would go ahead with presidential elections scheduled for April 22.

At an international news conference on Feb. 15, Maduro answered U.S. Secretary of State (and former CEO of ExxonMobil) Rex Tillerson's threatened embargo of Venezuelan petroleum by saying that Venezuela would be able to ship oil to other customers.

In January, Adm. Kurt Tidd, the new head of the Pentagon's war machine in the Americas known as Southcom, visited Colombia. His task was to line up that country's armed forces for any possible U.S. intervention in the region.

Tillerson visited Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Jamaica, with the main goal of making sure these regimes would side with Washington against Bolivarian Venezuela. In Mexico, Tillerson openly called upon the Venezuelan armed forces to carry out a coup against the elected government. Even the rightist Mexican government had to distance itself from his threats.

Following Tillerson's visit to Colombia, that U.S. client state increased the number of Colombian troops near the Vene-

zuelan border.

Under pressure from imperialism to postpone the elections, the Maduro government has chosen to defend Venezuela's sovereign right to decide the timing. The amount of organized popular resistance to imperialism, including that within the Venezuelan military and from international solidarity, will determine the outcome of this struggle.

Bolivarian forces made gains in 2017

Two important elections in Venezuela in 2017 showed mass support for continuing the Bolivarian Revolution, initiated and led by late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

Elections to the Constituent Assembly on July 30 created a popular government organ, defying the Venezuelan oligarchy and the imperialists. Later, in the fall, local elections ended in an overwhelming victory for the government party — the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) — and other parties supporting Bolivarian structures.

These two elections reversed an earlier election, that of December 2015 for the National Assembly in which opposition parties had gained a majority. The two 2017 elections established once more the authority of the political forces who are Chávez's successors, including Maduro.

The U.S. corporate media attacked the Venezuelan government by reporting that 130 people were killed in anti-gov-

ernment demonstrations last year. That completely distorts the fact that fascist gangs killed pro-government people; most of the fatalities were government supporters.

Rightist opposition parties and political leaders were discredited after they organized violent demonstrations that killed revolutionaries, popularly known as "Chavistas," and even carried out racist burnings of Black and Brown Venezuelans.

Two ultrarightist figures, Leopoldo López and Henrique Capriles, have been barred from running for president because they urged or organized violent actions against the government.

Right-wing opposition divided and discredited

At this time Maduro is favored to win the presidential election, although there is no guarantee. The right-wing opposition is divided and disorganized. U.S. imperialism has demanded the elections be postponed — they want time to unite an effective opposition.

The Maduro government and the most prominent opposition groups have been negotiating ground rules for the elections in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic. The mediator for the talks was former Spanish President José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, who is no friend of the Maduro government.

On Feb. 6, according to the article

"U.S. promotes a coup against Venezuela" published Feb. 17 in lahaine.org, opposition negotiators were about to sign an agreement that set the time and rules for the election. Then Tillerson, who was in Bogotá, called opposition negotiator Julio Borges and demanded he reject the pact, which he did. Zapatero was then visibly angry that Borges had pulled a double-cross.

Faced with the opposition's last-minute submission to U.S. imperialism, it is only reasonable that Maduro and his government decided to go forward with the elections and to sign the pact already agreed upon, even though the opposition didn't sign it.

Recent actions by U.S. imperialism and its clients south of the border — from the stolen election in Honduras to the use of judicial offensives against popular politicians in Brazil and Ecuador — show that winning an election does not guarantee that a popular government stays in office. More important is that the oppressed classes are organized and have the means to defend their interests.

For anti-imperialists in the U.S., it is more important than ever to expose the attempts of the imperialists and their media to demonize political leaders south of the U.S. border.

In this specific case it will be essential to demand that the U.S. keep its hands as well as its military, along with those of its client states like Colombia, off Venezuela. □

South Africa installs new president

A radical redistribution is long overdue

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A transfer of power from former President Jacob Zuma to his Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has taken place in the Republic of South Africa's National Assembly.

President Ramaphosa was unopposed in his confirmation on Feb. 16 by the legislative body of the most industrialized state on the African continent.

Ramaphosa is a former trade union leader and chief negotiator for the African National Congress after 1990, when former President Nelson Mandela was released from 27 years of imprisonment to embark upon a transitional process from the racist apartheid settler colonial system to a nonracial democratic dispensation. Ramaphosa had been chosen as the new ANC president at the National Elective Conference held in December.

Ramaphosa is required to stand again next year during the national elections for both the presidency and National Assembly. The ANC has had a substantial majority in parliament since its rise to power in 1994.

Ramaphosa was uncontested in his bid for office, leaving him with an immense responsibility of directing the country toward national unity and economic development.

At present, South Africa is emerging from recession spawned by the challenges which are inflicting African and other emerging regions in the aftermath of the precipitous decline in energy and commodity prices since 2014. The South African rand, although recovering somewhat in recent months, has suffered de-



ANC members celebrate inauguration of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

preciation over the last few years.

Unemployment in South Africa was officially 26.7 percent during the final quarter of 2017. The two leading industries in the economy, mining and manufacturing, have been in decline for a number of years. Much of this stems from the systematic disinvestment from the country in response to the rise of the ANC to power and the militant character of the trade union movement, which has demanded larger salaries, better benefits and working conditions.

The radical redistribution of resources — including land, finance, mining, manufacturing and agricultural production — is long overdue. The ANC National Policy Conference during mid-2017 renewed its mandate for such reforms. Nevertheless, South Africa, despite its role as a leading economy on the continent, still remains well entrenched in the capitalist mode and relations of production.

A break with the world capitalist system in South Africa is necessary for genuine growth and sustainable develop-

ment. These measures would require similar policy efforts in other states throughout the Southern African Development Community and African Union member states.

From labor to business and political leadership

Ramaphosa has decades of experience in the ANC and resistance politics in South Africa. As former sec-

retary general of the National Union of Mineworkers, Ramaphosa played a central role in the national liberation movement.

He was chosen by former ANC and South African President Nelson Mandela to lead the negotiation team which reached agreement on a new constitution mandating the removal of the racist apartheid system. There was much speculation that Ramaphosa would be the successor to Mandela. This position went to former President Thabo Mbeki, who was elected as head of state in 1999.

Ramaphosa left his position as secretary general of the ANC in 1996 to pursue a career in business. This was done in part to provide funding for the party so that it was not reliant upon transnational corporations for its resources.

President Ramaphosa will inevitably need to take swift action on the national economy and on the drought which has struck South Africa. A national drought emergency was declared recently. In Cape Town, water resources are limited

for personal use.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, of which Ramaphosa was a co-founder in 1985, has cited that priority for water distribution must not be administered by the still-white-dominated agricultural sector. Cape Town municipal structures are controlled by the opposition, right-wing Democratic Alliance. COSATU harshly criticized DA Mayor Patricia De Lille, along with her party in general, for worsening the crisis.

COSATU noted in a press release issued in early February: "The threat to jobs and lives of people through diseases from sanitation spills that the DA risked has happened because they want to ensure continued water supply to farmers. Surely farmers' plants must be allowed to die before people do, but for the DA, Black people's lives are less important than farmers' profit from export products. The city and the province should know how much water is available in the dam and who the water is meant to go to. If the calculation reveals that half the water that is in the dams must go to farmers, then that must be checked and stopped before creating panic among residents. Failure to do this would be ridiculous. The fact is that farmers have used more water and that needs to stop."

These and other vital questions must be addressed soon by the Ramaphosa administration in order to prepare for the 2019 elections. Both COSATU and the South African Communist Party, the two key allies of the ANC in the Tripartite Alliance, have welcomed the inauguration of the new president, pledging to work with the ANC for the advancement of the National Democratic Revolution. □

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

Of the rich, by the rich,
for the rich

While he campaigned under the pretense of being a “populist,” the current president is anything but. Donald Trump is a billionaire who represents the interests of the richest one-tenth of 1%. He is a demagogue who spouts off against the wealthy elite on Wall Street, but whose every act is intended to further enrich their (and his own) coffers and support the Pentagon’s war drive.

The capitalist mass media deliberately misuse the word “populist” in describing Trump. They know that millions of people are furious at the filthy rich for amassing more wealth even as their own incomes stagnate or shrink. The corporate media and Trump are trying to steer that anger to the right, to racism, xenophobia and every kind of bigotry used to divide people.

But historically, the term populist was associated with leftist, grassroots movements against the robber barons and bankers, the Wall Street elite.

So while #45 pretends to represent “the people” and says, with his presidency, “the people became rulers of this nation again,” it’s a bold-faced lie, full of racist innuendo.

The corporate media are complicit. Even as they call him a “populist,” they know it’s just a pretext to cover up Trump’s loyalty to the millionaires and billionaires who make up the capitalist class. With his arrogance and unpredictability, Trump may be creating enemies everywhere — including among his own class and even his staff — but he and his buddies in Congress have thrown billions of dollars at the feet of the plutocrats and the war makers, cutting taxes on the wealthy and feeding the monstrous military-industrial-banking machine.

Now the White House is proposing a Robin-Hood-in-reverse budget that would transfer billions of government dollars from essential social services to — surprise, surprise — the super-rich and the military-industrial complex. The Pentagon’s already bloated budget would soak up almost \$200 billion more. An-

other \$46 billion is earmarked for Department of Homeland Security’s “immigration enforcement” program.

This \$4.1 trillion budget would significantly increase the federal deficit, meaning hundreds of billions of the people’s money will be sucked into interest payments to the bankers. At the same time, \$1.8 trillion would be stolen from vital government health care, food and housing programs — dealing a brutal blow to workers, retirees, low-income and disabled individuals.

Trump-the-candidate promised not to cut Medicare and Medicaid, providers of health coverage for 100 million people. But Trump-the-president is proposing hundreds of billions of dollars in cutbacks from both programs.

Food stamps would be slashed at the same time that work requirements would be imposed on people relying on them. Boxes of processed foodstuffs — excluding fresh produce — would substitute for a portion of the coupons used to buy real food. How seniors, disabled people and the homeless would even get them is not in the plan.

In the long run, this shift of even more wealth to the ruling class hurts the whole working class. In the short run, it is felt most by people already pushed down the furthest — African-Americans, Latinx, Indigenous and immigrants, as well as women, gender nonconforming people, those with disabilities, youth and seniors.

Trump’s much-touted “infrastructure” plan fosters privatization, letting his wealthy friends purchase highways, tunnels and bridges and then charging the working class — whose taxes paid for all this — to use them!

While the Democratic Party focuses its anti-Trump efforts on Russia influencing the election, workers need to recognize our real enemy: not just Trump, but the whole class of capitalists who finance both parties in order to prolong their dying system, a system that lets them profit off our labor every day and throw us away when they don’t need us anymore. □

Beware U.S.
war propaganda
against Korea!

By Deirdre Griswold

Feb. 15 — From the establishment New York Times to the far-right Fox News, the U.S. capitalist media have been on a campaign to demonize the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The “news” presented by these two wings of the capitalist establishment aims to discredit the leadership of the DPRK and cover up the amazing progress made by this socialist country, despite its being assaulted by war and sanctions.

This writer appeared on Feb. 12 on the Tucker Carlson Tonight news show on Fox TV. In the less than five minutes of time I was allowed to speak, I concentrated on alerting the 2.9 million viewers of that program to the serious war danger posed by the Pentagon, which is openly discussing — and actually preparing for — an attack on the DPRK.

The north Koreans have been under the gun of the Pentagon for more than 70 years. The U.S. military has occupied south Korea since 1945. From 1950 to 1953, the U.S. dropped more bombs on the north of Korea than it had on Japanese positions all over the Pacific during World War II.

Annual Pentagon war “games” aimed at the DPRK in recent years have included the armed forces of Japan, the former colonial power that brutally exploited all of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

Reacting to such threats to its very existence, the DPRK has sacrificed a great deal to develop nuclear defense. If any country needs such a deterrence against attack, it is north Korea.

People in the United States need to know that the Trump administration and the Pentagon are playing with fire. The DPRK will fight back if attacked. It has the will and the ability to defend itself. It is not going to surrender to threats. It never has.

War propaganda, both subtle and rabid

Neither the Times nor even Fox will admit to promoting a war. Carlson said, “I’m not for a war.” when I pushed him. But both their “news” is war propaganda. It is meant to soften up the people of this country to accept a war against the DPRK as somehow a “humanitarian” crusade. They create sensational stories to put the DPRK in the worst light. Fox is frenzied; the Times is usually more nuanced, while still viciously biased against the DPRK.

Fox’s Carlson paints the bleakest picture imaginable of life in the DPRK. The people are starving, they’re kept in ignorance, they are slaves to the state, etc. That’s what this millionaire “journalist,” a mouthpiece for billionaire Rupert Murdoch, tells millions of people here.

Why won’t he talk about the fact that the DPRK has 100 percent literacy? It’s the highest in the world. Even the CIA World Factbook admits this. Interestingly enough, its list of countries’ literacy rates does not include the U.S. or south Korea.

No wonder. According to a study conducted in late April of 2013 by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy, 32 million adults, or 14 percent of the population in the U.S., could not read. In addition, 21 percent of adults read below fifth-grade level and 19 percent of high school gradu-

ates cannot read. For a country as rich as the United States, this is a monumental scandal.

And don’t blame it on the kids or their teachers. It is a reflection of cultural backwardness imposed on the people of this country by the small class of billionaires who control the government and media and defund the system of education.

Why don’t Fox and the Times mention that health care in the DPRK is free and the country has cut its infant mortality rate by more than 80 percent since 1950, despite war and sanctions? Or that it continues to reduce maternal mortality — the rate at which women die as a result of childbirth — even as maternal mortality has actually been increasing in the U.S.?

The crime is not that a country like the DPRK, which was destroyed by U.S. bombers in the 1950-53 war, has to prioritize defense while still pulling itself up by its bootstraps. The crime is that a country like the U.S., which has been among the most highly developed in the world for at least a century, can’t provide decent education and medical care for its people.

A sensationalist, lying media

What role do the media play in promoting imperialist goals? Plenty. Take, for example, the war begun in 1898, the so-called Spanish-American War.

People in the U.S. were told that Spain, the colonial ruler of Cuba, had blown up a U.S. warship, the Maine, in Havana harbor. The Hearst newspapers of the time, which had been campaigning for a war against Spain, ran screaming headlines for weeks: “Remember the Maine!” So did the paper of Hearst’s rival, Joseph Pulitzer, which equaled Hearst in printing distorted, exaggerated stories. (Pulitzer tried to cleanse his reputation for “yellow journalism” by leaving money to the graduate school of journalism at Columbia University — and it worked.)

When Frederic Remington, an artist who provided Hearst’s paper with illustrations, cabled from Cuba in 1897 that “there will be no war,” Hearst cabled back, “You furnish the pictures, I’ll furnish the war.”

This incessant propaganda was a prelude to a three-year war in which the U.S. ruling class succeeded in replacing Spain as the colonial ruler of the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico. While the U.S. claimed it was “liberating” Cuba and the Philippines, where revolutionaries were already fighting the Spanish colonizers, it was a lie. The war with Spain was fought for purely economic reasons — to open access for U.S. capitalists to exploit the labor and resources of what had been colonies of Spain. Once Spain was defeated, the U.S. turned its military against the independence fighters in both Cuba and the Philippines.

Remember the Maine? Well, in 1974, U.S. Adm. Hyman Rickover commissioned a Navy investigation into the sinking of the Maine. The conclusion: The ship had blown up because a fire had ignited munitions stored aboard. Spain had nothing to do with it.

We must be on our toes to combat war propaganda against the DPRK and expose any pretexts for war invented by the Pentagon and sensationalized by the capitalist media. □

Fascists way outnumbered
— again

By Robert Wilson
Knoxville, Tenn.

More than 200 people marched in a cold rain at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus on Feb. 17 to protest a gathering of the fascist “Traditionalist Worker” Party.

Those protesting the white nationalist gathering vastly outnumbered the 45 fascists. As more than 200 law enforcement agents stood by, many of the anti-fascist protesters shouted, “Who do you protect?”

Many of those protesting refused to confine themselves to a “secure demonstration area” set up by police. But police kept protesters from directly confronting the fascists in a parking garage near the campus.

University of Tennessee officials have said they did not invite the fascist group to campus and claimed they were help-

Protesters chant, “No Nazis, No KKK, No Fascist UTK!” in Feb. 17 rally.



less to stop the gathering.

This is the third time since August that white nationalist or fascist forces have come to Knoxville for rallies, only to be vastly outnumbered by residents of the area and region telling them they are not welcome.

The first was in August 2017, when a group of about 30 fascists held a rally at a Confederate monument. About 3,000 anti-fascists showed up to confront them.

The second was on the day of the Women’s March in January, in which about 14,000 people took part. Less than 20 fascists held a “counterprotest” while being protected by police. □

Economic contraction and military expansion

This article, written by Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy in June 1980, analyzes the basic contradiction within U.S. imperialism that is even more catastrophic today.

At a time of deepening economic crisis, many of the bourgeois ideologists and particularly their economists have increasingly turned their research to analyzing the nature and profound implications of the great economic crisis which began with the stock market crisis of 1929.

A recurring thought which continues to haunt many in the ruling class is the possibility that, notwithstanding current predictions, there may yet occur an economic catastrophe of the dimensions of the 1929 debacle.

One of those professors who concerns himself with the 1929 economic crisis is Charles P. Kindleberger. In his book, “The World in Depression,” 1929-1939, he presents the thesis that “the world depression of 1929 was so widespread, so deep, and so prolonged, not because of the deep disturbances to the monetary system but because the monetary system itself was basically unstable” and therefore broke down.

According to Kindleberger, when the economic leadership of Britain had eroded after the First World War and the U.S. failed to take it over, the monetary system collapsed of its own weight.

Monetary instability not cause of collapse

Kindleberger’s thesis is not a new approach. Many bourgeois economists have dealt extensively with the monetary crisis of the early 1930s and in one way or another they attribute the crisis either to mismanagement or accidental factors.

It was not, of course, the instability or imperfections of the capitalist monetary system that were the cause of the great economic collapse. The cause of the crisis, as it has been ever since the first worldwide capitalist crisis of 1825, was capitalist overproduction. The recurring monetary crises, which have become so pervasive in the imperialist epoch, are the effect of capitalist overproduction, not the cause.

Nevertheless, Kindleberger does point up a very important aspect of the world capitalist economy during that entire period which has relevance today, particularly as it affects the U.S. It is clear from his book, although he does not precisely say so, that it was not just the economic leadership of Britain that had become eroded. The significant fact that emerges from the entire era of the 1930s was that

Britain, notwithstanding its victorious position after World War I, had lost considerable ground in the economic basis for its military, diplomatic, and political leadership on a world scale.

Economic base eroded

The British empire as it stood during the economic crisis — militarily, diplomatically and politically — no longer had the formidable economic base to sustain its world imperialist leadership. The financial and economic cost of maintaining such leadership was far out of proportion with the returns required for a thriving imperialist exploiter.

Already in the 1920s, the British financial and industrial aristocracy was faced with the looming prospect of the loss of “our India,” as the U.S. later was forced to face the prospect of losing “our China.” The financial and economic responsibilities that British imperialism had toward the battered capitalist states of Europe, as well as its far-flung empire, put increasing strains on its obsolescent coal and metal industries, as well as its transport industry, including even the shipping industry.

Britain did not “surrender” its economic leadership to the U.S., as Kindleberger maintains. The U.S. conquered British markets by economic warfare, particularly in Latin America and parts of Asia. All of this was told at the time in an illuminating book with the expressive title “America Conquers Britain” by Ludwell Denny.

Britain lost its world leadership because it could not economically compete with the U.S., notwithstanding that its navy was second to none and that its worldwide empire was still juridically and militarily under its control. The worldwide revolutionary upsurge of the national liberation struggles, already fully in view in China, India and Indonesia, made it clear that military expansion by the British imperialists while its economic base was narrowing both at home and abroad created an impossible situation for Britain. An explosion, a collapse, was inevitable.

Fallback position

There was, however, a silver lining in this darker picture for British finance capital and for the imperialists as a whole. There was a fallback position for Britain that prevented the kind of explosion that could have only ended in a revolutionary conflagration and turned Britain into a genuine socialist republic.

While American finance capital took over much of the markets of Britain and generally strengthened its position in relation to all of Western Europe and Japan,

at the same time it secured the continued existence of Britain as a formidable imperialist power. In addition it became the guarantor of the vital interests of Britain as against other imperialist rivals such as Germany, as well as Japan, and a general bulwark of world political reaction.

Thus the acute contradiction arising from the profound divergence between Britain’s shrinking economic base and its ever-growing financial, diplomatic and military commitments, found a fallback position in the none too gentle embrace of U.S. finance capital with its great military potential.

But how is it with the U.S. today? There are some striking similarities between the British position of the 1930s and the U.S. position today. Like Britain, only more so, the U.S. is in the grip of a profound geopolitical contradiction, one that becomes clearer with each passing day.

Basic contradiction

On the one hand, the U.S. is in the midst of a steadily expanding military buildup of unprecedented and virtually unimaginable proportions. On the other hand the economic basis for sustaining such an unbridled military posture has been slowly but surely eroding.

The current economic crisis will surely accelerate and continue the erosion. The malady, however, goes much deeper than the current crisis, nor did it spring into existence with the pronouncement of the Carter Doctrine.

Unlike Britain in the 1930s, the U.S. has no fallback position, a fact which both the political and economic planners at the summits of the capitalist establishment cannot but be deeply aware.

A few years after the Second World War, the U.S. was the economic and military leader of world imperialism. It was the unquestioned dominant power in world affairs and it had attained virtually supreme political and military hegemony over the bourgeois world and the dependent, underdeveloped countries and oppressed peoples in the orbit of the world imperialist system.

At that time, in the early 1950s, the U.S. was responsible for more than 50 percent of the world’s gross production. At the beginning of the 1960s, the U.S. share of the world’s gross production had diminished to somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 percent. Today, according to the best estimates, it is between 25 and 27 percent.

Weakens geopolitical position

Were the gross national product of the U.S. produced for human use and not for profit, it would be more than sufficient to satisfy the great needs of the population of the U.S. and then some. But production for purposes of capitalist profit, which entails competition for capitalist markets and sources of raw materials, poses an entirely different set of circumstances and inevitably brings into play the geopolitical position of the U.S. From that point of view, the relative position of the U.S. as a world power becomes tremendously weakened. It means, for instance, that in the event of any serious military struggle, the adversary, whether it be the imperialist rivals or the socialist countries, may have access to a portion of three-quarters of the world’s total production.

Just as significantly, the U.S.’s relative share of the world’s gross product will continue to decline as the productive forces in the rest of the world must inevitably continue to expand relative to the U.S. position. In a world socialist cooperative commonwealth, on the other hand,

the share of U.S. production, even though it be on a relatively diminishing scale, would be of tremendous importance because of the U.S.’s highly sophisticated technology and its capacity for mass production.

Beginning of general decline

The Second World War enabled the U.S. to exercise its economic political and military hegemony over the bourgeois world. From the end of the Second World War until the final defeat of the U.S. during the Viet Nam war, the U.S. capitalist economy was experiencing a general economic upsurge, notwithstanding several capitalist recessions which were of generally short duration.

A significant aspect of the economic cycles was that each peak of the economic cycle was lower than the preceding ones — a symptom of the beginning of general decline and erosion of the U.S. economic base. The U.S. military buildup began around 1946 when the military-industrial complex was fully validated by government decree in the form of a memorandum from Dwight D. Eisenhower in April 1946, when he was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. (See *Generals Over the White House* by Sam Marcy, World View Publishers.)

The military buildup, that was in full swing in the 1950s and continued without any pause in tempo until the end of the Viet Nam war, occurred therefore during a period of general economic upsurge, notwithstanding several significant recessions. The buildup also occurred while U.S. imperialism retained most of its markets under its military umbrella. How markedly different is the situation today!

The military buildup continues after the U.S. has lost its dominant position in Asia and has been severely restricted and under heavy pressure in all of Latin America. Its position in Europe has become politically and economically weakened, and in the Middle East it is most vulnerable to revolutionary attack from the oppressed people. Thus while military expansion continues, the U.S. economic base continues to deteriorate and contract.

The sources for the extraction of surplus value on a world scale have been narrowed and encumbered by revolutionary pressure of a most intense character from the oppressed peoples and underdeveloped countries.

Finally, like Britain, the basic industries of the U.S. are in decline, in a state of decadence, and under fierce competitive attack by the very allies which the U.S. government did so much to cultivate and resuscitate following the Second World War. Even the most superficial observers of the state of the U.S. world position cannot but be struck by the increasing divergence between two organic tendencies which are a product of monopoly capitalism.

On the one hand, there is the evident economic contraction of both the domestic and world economic base of U.S. imperialism. On the other hand, there is the continuing and relentless drive for military expansion. Both of these tendencies grow organically from the body politic of the capitalist class structure of exploitation and oppression.

The continued existence, side by side, of these two tendencies as though they were independent of each other is absolutely incompatible and of necessity leads to a catastrophe. There is no imperialist fallback position for U.S. capitalism. There is, however, a socialist solution to the catastrophic sharpening of this acute imperialist contradiction. □


WAR
WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

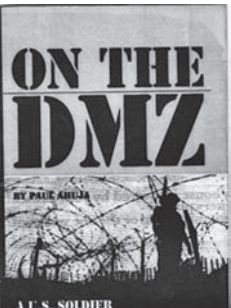
"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

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Mutinies, Soldier Revolts
and Revolutions

by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

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Filadelfia

WW/MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

¡Cuidado con la propaganda de guerra de Estados Unidos contra Corea!

Por Deirdre Griswold

15 de febrero — Desde la institución como The New York Times hasta la extrema derecha Fox News, los medios capitalistas de Estados Unidos han estado en una campaña para demonizar a la República Popular Democrática de Corea. Las “noticias” presentadas por estas dos alas del establecimiento capitalista apuntan a desacreditar a los dirigentes de la RPDC y encubrir el sorprendente progreso realizado por este país socialista, a pesar de ser atacado por la guerra y las sanciones.

Esta escritora apareció el 12 de febrero en Tucker Carlson News Hour de Fox Tv y en menos de los cinco minutos que me permitieron hablar, me concentré en alertar a los 2,9 millones de televidentes de ese programa noticiero sobre el grave peligro de guerra planteado por el Pentágono, que está discutiendo abiertamente, y en realidad preparándose para un ataque contra la RPDC.

Los norcoreanos han estado bajo la mira del Pentágono durante más de 70 años. Los militares estadounidenses han sostenido la ocupación de Corea del Sur desde 1945. Desde 1950 hasta 1953 Estados Unidos arrojó más bombas en el norte de Corea que en posiciones japonesas en todo el Pacífico durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Los “juegos” anuales de guerra del Pentágono dirigidos a la RPDC en los últimos años han incluido a las fuerzas armadas de Japón, la antigua potencia colonial que explotó brutalmente en toda Corea entre 1910 y 1945.

Reaccionando a tales amenazas a su propia existencia, la RPDC ha sacrificado mucho para desarrollar una defensa nuclear. Si algún país necesita tal disuasión contra el ataque, es Corea del Norte.

La gente en los Estados Unidos necesita saber que la administración Trump y el Pentágono están jugando con fuego. La RPDC luchará si es atacada. Tiene la voluntad y la capacidad de defenderse. No va a rendirse ante las amenazas. Nunca lo ha hecho.

Propaganda de guerra, sutil y rabiosa

Ni el diario The New York Times ni Fox admitirán que promueven una guerra. Carlson dijo “No estoy en guerra” cuando lo empujé. Pero sus “noticias” son propaganda de guerra y están dirigidas a preparar a la gente de este país para que acepte una guerra contra la RPDC y hacerlo parecer como una cruzada “humanitaria”. Crean historias sensacionales para poner a la RPDC en la peor luz. Fox está frenético; el diario The New York Times suele ser más matizado, aunque todavía tiene un sesgo brutal contra la RPDC.

Carlson de la cadena Fox pinta la imagen más sombría imaginable de la vida en la RPDC. La gente se muere de hambre, se los mantiene en la ignorancia, son esclavos del estado, etc. Eso es lo que este millonario “periodista”, portavoz del multimillonario Rupert Murdoch, les cuenta a millones de personas aquí.

No guerra contra Corea Popular

¿Por qué no habla sobre el hecho de que la RPDC tiene una alfabetización del 100 por ciento, la más alta del mundo? Incluso el Libro de Hechos de la CIA admite esto. Curiosamente, su lista de tasas de alfabetización de los países no incluye los EUA. Ni Corea del Sur.

No es de extrañar. Según un estudio realizado a fines de abril del 2013 por el Departamento de Educación de EUA y el Instituto Nacional de Alfabetización,



‘Manos fuera de Corea’: el famoso cantante Paul Robeson habla en una reunión pública en Harlem, N.Y., 3 de julio de 1950.

32 millones de adultos, o el 14 por ciento de la población en los EE. UU., no podían leer. Además, el 21 por ciento de los adultos leen por debajo del nivel de quinto grado y el 19 por ciento de los graduados de la escuela secundaria no podían leer. Para un país tan rico como Estados Unidos, este es un escándalo monumental.

Y no culpe a los niños o sus maestros. Es un reflejo del atraso cultural impuesto a la gente de este país por la pequeña clase de multimillonarios que controlan el gobierno y los medios de comunicación y socavan monetariamente al sistema de educación.

¿Por qué Fox y The New York Times no mencionan que la atención médica en la RPDC es gratuita y que el país ha reducido su tasa de mortalidad infantil en más del 80 por ciento desde 1950, a pesar de la guerra y las sanciones? O que continúa reduciendo la mortalidad materna — la tasa a la que las mujeres mueren como resultado del parto — a la vez que la mortalidad materna ha aumentado en los Estados Unidos.

El crimen no es que un país como la RPDC, que fue destruido por los bombarderos de Estados Unidos en la guerra de 1950-1953, tenga que dar prioridad a la defensa mientras se mantiene en pie por sí mismo. El crimen es que un país como los EUA, que ha estado entre los más desarrollados del mundo durante al menos un siglo, no puede proporcionar una educación decente y atención médica para su pueblo.

Un medio sensacionalista y mentiroso

¿Qué papel juegan los medios en la promoción de los objetivos imperialistas? Mucho. Tomemos, por ejemplo, la guerra que comenzó en 1898, la llamada guerra hispanoamericana.

A la gente de los EUA se le dijo que España, el gobernante colonial de Cuba, había destruido un buque de guerra estadounidense nombrado The Maine, en el puerto de La Habana. Los periódicos Hearst de la época, que habían estado

luchando por una guerra contra España, publicaron titulares gritando durante semanas: “¡Recuerden el Maine!”. También lo hizo el papel del rival de Hearst, Joseph Pulitzer, que igualó a Hearst al imprimir historias distorsionadas y exageradas. (Pulitzer intentó limpiar su reputación de “periodismo amarillo” dejando dinero a la escuela de posgrado de periodismo en la Universidad de Columbia, — y funcionó).

Cuando Frederic Remington, un artista que proporcionó al periódico Hearst con ilustraciones, cablegrafiadas desde Cuba en 1897 de que “no habrá guerra”, Hearst respondió con un cable, “Tú proporcionas las imágenes, yo proporcionaré la guerra”.

Esta incesante propaganda fue el preludio de una guerra de tres años. en el que la clase dominante de los Estados Unidos logró reemplazar a España como gobernante colonial de Filipinas, Cuba y Puerto Rico. Mientras los Estados Unidos afirmaban que estaba “liberando” a Cuba y Filipinas, donde los revolucionarios ya estaban luchando contra los colonizadores españoles, eso era una mentira. La guerra con España se libró por razones puramente económicas — abrir el acceso a los capitalistas estadounidenses para explotar la mano de obra y los recursos de las que habían sido colonias de España. Una vez que España fue derrotada, los Estados Unidos virtieron su ejército contra los combatientes de la independencia tanto en Cuba como en Filipinas.

¿Recuerdan el Maine? Bueno, en 1974, el Almirante de EE.UU. Hyman Rickover encargó una investigación de la Armada sobre el hundimiento del Maine. La conclusión: el barco se había destruido debido a un incendio que encendió municiones almacenadas a bordo. España no tuvo nada que ver con eso.

Tenemos que estar listos para combatir la propaganda bélica contra la RPDC y exponer cualquier pretexto para una guerra inventada por el Pentágono y sensacionalizada por los medios capitalistas. □

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida



La tesis de este libro es que la crisis económica, que se inició en agosto de 2007, marcó un punto de inflexión en la historia del capitalismo. El autor sostiene que el sistema no se recuperará, no volverá al ciclo capitalista normal de auge y caída.

Durante décadas, la clase capitalista ha utilizado la revolución tecnológica digital para aumentar la productividad del trabajo a un ritmo récord. Menos trabajadores producen más bienes y servicios en menos tiempo con salarios más bajos. El resultado es una serie de “recuperaciones sin empleos” que hace que las cosas vayan aún peor.

Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

El continuo estancamiento y el desempleo generalizado provocarán inevitablemente un resurgimiento de la lucha de clases que no se ve en EE.UU. desde la década de 1930; esta vez se dirigirá contra el propio sistema.

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