Defying anti-strike law

Workers shut down West Virginia schools

By Otis Grotewohl
Charleston, W.Va.

Feb. 26 — Tens of thousands of teachers and education service personnel in West Virginia braved rainy weather and carried out what is the first successful statewide teachers’ strike there in U.S. labor history on Feb. 22 and 23. Education employees in all 55 counties forced superintendents of education to close schools on those days.

The strike continued throughout the state on Monday, Feb. 26, with thousands rallying at the state Capitol in Charleston, and reports indicate that a fourth day of the walkout will happen on Feb. 27.

This action followed a union rally on Feb. 17 and a directive from state leaders of the American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia School Service Personnel Association. (“Statewide education strike looms in West Virginia,” Workers World, Feb. 20)

Striking educators and school support staff packed the hallways of the state Capitol in Charleston on Thursday and Friday, uniting on such chants as “Fired up, fed up!” and “What’s disgusting? Union busting!” Others set up picket lines at their schools throughout the whole state.

Both AFT National President Randi Weingarten and NEA Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss came to Charleston on Feb. 22 and walked picket lines throughout Kanawha County. The next day, state leaders of the three unions issued a joint statement at a press conference in Charleston where they declared their members would continue to stay out on Monday, Feb. 26, since there was little movement by the Republican-led legislature.

In response to the educators’ strong mobilization, state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey has publicly announced that a state injunction would be sent to union leaders. Strikes and work stoppages are illegal for education and state employees in West Virginia. This reveals the action as even more defiant when compared to other legal teacher strikes. Eyewitnesses reported to Workers World on Feb. 22: “Morrisey’s staff placed a mounted, stuffed bear in front of his office to avoid the angry crowd.”

What is at stake

West Virginia teachers rank 48th in pay in the U.S. Additionally, all public and state employees, including teachers and service personnel, are now facing out-of-pocket increased costs in health insurance coverage through the Public Employee Insurance Agency. Unfortunately for education and state employees in West Virginia, PEIA has not been fully funded since 2011, which has led to higher premiums and deductibles for re-

Continued on page 6

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212.627.2994
Alaska ends subminimum wage

By Mary Kaessinger

Feb. 23 — Alaska became the third state to eliminate subminimum wage for disabled workers. The law in Alaska takes effect immediately.

“Workers who experience disabilities are valued members of Alaska’s workforce,” Greg Cashen, acting commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development said. “They deserve minimum protection as much as any other Alaskan worker.” (alaska-native-news.com, Feb. 19)

Payling subminimum wages to disabled workers has been standard practice in the United States since 1938. Although the Fair Labor Standards Act has been amended many times, its provision that employers allow pay subminimum wages to people with disabilities, as well as to people who are refugees and domestic workers, to name a few categories, has never been changed.

Meantime, Goodwill Industries continues to profit from low-paid labor. Goodwill’s profits have funded CED salaries since 1938. (530 million)

The National Federation for the Blind and the Autistic Self Advocacy Network have long advocated changing the subminimum wage provision.

Mundo Obreo

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.

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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.

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In the U.S.

Workers shut down West Virginia schools

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**Philippines**

**‘Keep up the pressure to free Mumia’**

By Betsey Piette

Philippine

Dozens of activists once again filled the court-room and demonstrated outside the Criminal Justice Center during a Feb. 26 status hearing in the ongoing appeals case for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The hearing before Judge Leon Tucker was supposed to be a report on progress made by the Philadelphia district attorney’s office in locating a March 27, 1990, memo from former Deputy DA Gayle McLaughlin Barthold to former DA Ronald Castille regarding the status of Philadelphia death penalty cases.

However, Tracey Cavanagh from the DA’s office requested yet another extension, this time for 90 days.

Cavanagh claimed the DA’s office had been unable to locate Barthold’s memo among hundreds of boxes of records from the 16 death penalty cases similar to Abu-Jamal’s up for appeals based on Williams vs. Pennsylvania, a case in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that a judge was constitutionally required to recuse himself where he was previously involved in the case as prosecutor. The extension, she said, would provide time to search through the files of all 70 capital cases when Castille was district attorney.

Judge Tucker questioned the request for an extension, noting that he was the one to point out the existence of Barthold’s memo from his in-camera review of boxes of files in Abu-Jama’s case last September. Tucker scheduled another status report for March 27, with a bearing on April 30.

Attorneys for Abu-Jamal, Judith Ritter and Sam Spital of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, agreed to the extension on the ground that the district attorney’s office, now under new DA Larry Krasner, has indicated that it will reconsider its position on all the Williams-Michele appeals.

Gathered outside the court after the hearing, Abu-Jamal’s supporters promised to be back in court in March and April, vowing to keep up the pressure on Krasner to do the right thing for free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

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**Bay Area**

**Outrage as BART cops kill again**

By Terri Kay

Oakland, Calif.

The family of Shaleem Tindle and other members of the community gathered at a board meeting of the Bay Area Rapid Transit on Feb. 22. They went to show their outrage after seeing a newly released body-camera video of a BART officer killing Tindle, a 28-year-old Black man.

BART had been forced to release the full video after it was partially leaked. The video clearly shows Tindle marooned and rolling over with his hands up while taking three bullets in the back.

Tindle was killed by BART officer Joseph Mateu on Jan. 3, right across the street from the West Oakland BART station. The cop was back on duty only two weeks after the shooting.

The family and community made their demands clear at the board meeting: Take Mateu off duty, fire him, charge and prosecute him for murder, and disarm BART police!

Family attorney John Burris said: “It’s pretty clear from the video that Mr. Tindle was shot multiple times in the back at a time it was not apparent that he had a weapon of any kind.”

Tindle had been in a fight with another man when Mateu ran up and fired, although he was shot multiple times in the back at a time it was not apparent that he had a weapon of any kind.

Tindle had been in a fight with another man when Mateu ran up and fired, although he was in no physical danger himself and was not able to see any weapon in play. He never identified himself as a police officer.

KQED News reported that “Marcella Banks, grandmother to Tindle’s two children, described him as a family man. ‘I have a quiet rage,’ Banks said. ‘He’s walking down the street minding his own damn business, protecting my daughter who had her hijab on and his wife and his two children while some strange man is doing something to them.”

Over an hour of angry and emotional testimony at the BART Board meeting by family and community included that of Cephus Jr. “Uncle Bobby” Johnson, uncle of Oscar Grant, a young Black man shot down by BART officer Johannes Mehserle in 2009. BART Board President Rob Raburn announced they would make no decisions that day. The room erupted in anger, with the family lining up in front and locking arms and everyone else chanting, “No justice! No peace!” The crowd eventually marched out and Raburn adjourned the meeting to continue in a private session.

Cut Brooks of the Anti-Police-Terror Project (APTP) stated after the video was finally released: “For a month BART used the corporate media to lie to you about the murder of Shaleem Tindle. Many of you ignored the case because you thought the brother had a gun. Some of us stood up anyway, because even if he did have a gun, we are clear that all violence is state violence and losing a Black life — any Black life — matters. Even now, with the video, the state is so insidious and cunning that they are trying to convince you that you are not seeing what we are seeing in this video. Be clear — the BART PD saw this video and then cleared Joseph Mateu to go back to work.”

APTP had ended their annual Martin Luther King Day march at West Oakland BART, where Tindle was killed, to honor his memory and protest the murder.

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**On the picket line**

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

NYC Teamsters train to be ‘sanctuary union’

Teamsters in New York City’s Joint Council 16 voted Sept. 13 to become a “sanctuary union.” A third of its 120,000 members are immigrants. Now, staff and workers are being schooled in their rights under U.S. law. Applying the principle, “Union solidarity first, immigration status second,” the Consortium for Worker Education walked a class through the difference between a judicial warrant and a judicial house arrest. Under the Fourth Amendment, only a judicial warrant allows authorities to search a home or business or make an arrest.

A key part of the training is how to bargain future contracts that contain clauses forcing employers to follow proper procedures before granting federal authorities access to a worksite. The training also includes information on what workers should do if stopped while driving or approached at home.

The Teamsters’ decision to openly challenge Trump’s draconian deportation practices came after the loss of one of its members. Eber García Vásquez, 54, a married father of three U.S.-born children, was detained on Aug. 22 when he showed up for a routine appointment. Despite no criminal record and two pending green card applications, García was whisked back to Guatemala on Oct. 6. (OTPL, Workers World, Oct. 12)

Teamsters JC16 posted Jan. 23 on @sanctuaryunion: “We are getting letters from all over the country encouraging our union to become a sanctuary union. Thanks for all the support!” Union solidarity forever!

Restaurant workers: End sexual harassment and fight for ‘One Fair Wage’

Chapters of Restaurant Opportunities Centers United held #NotOnTheMenu rallies and actions Feb. 13 demanding an end to sexual harassment in the restaurant industry. ROC’s slogan for its National Day of Action was “Restaurant workers face the worst sexual harassment of any industry — and we’ve had enough!”

To reinforce their demands, ROC issued a booklet on Feb. 12 titled “Better Wages, Better Tips: Restaurants Flourish with One Fair Wage.” Of 6 million tipped workers in the U.S., ROC reports that “the vast majority [are] women and disproportionately workers of color.” Under an antiquated, unjust federal law, workers in 23 states can be paid as little as $2.72 an hour. “As a result, tipped workers live in poverty and depend on food stamps at rates twice that of the general population.”

Statistics show that in seven states that have adopted OPEW, sexual harassment is lower, as are poverty rates, especially for workers of color, while wages are higher, and employment rates and industry growth are equal or higher.

Atlanta paratransit drivers strike for safety and respect

Chants of “We move this city!” and “No justice! No peace!” rocked Atlanta on Feb. 14 as more than 70 mostly African-American Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority paratransit drivers staged a one-day strike.

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 792 were protesting MARTA’s outsourcing and the increasing neglect of the buses, which hurt riders with disabilities, elderly riders and the drivers.

Stanley Smalls, ATU executive board member, told the Feb. 14 Atlanta Journal Constitution that MARTA does nothing to upgrade its aging fleet: a wheel fell off one of the decept bus during a recent trip and exhaust fumes sicken passangers.

MARTA outsourced the paratransit services to MV Transportation in 2016. “The goal of these private transportation companies is not to improve transit service [but] boost their profits,” said Local 792 President Michael Majette in an ATU statement. “They do that by gutting transit service for seniors and people with disabilities, cutting corners on safety, and beating down the working people who provide this important service.

This is about the civil right of all residents and visitors of Atlanta to safe, reliable and affordable public transit without regard for their age or disability.”

SF Labor Council echoes global call: Free Mumia!

A mighty U.S. labor network — the San Francisco Labor Council, charted in 1863, with over 150 unions representing more than 100,000 union families — sent the latest call for freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. In a resolution passed unanimously on Feb. 12, the SFLC demanded Philadelphia’s District Attorney Larry Krasner, as well as Gov. Tom Wolfe, release all police and prosecutorial files related to Mumia’s case.

This resolution, noteworthy since it is from a major U.S. labor organization, also documents international labor’s longtime support for Mumia: from Britain’s largest union, UNITE; the International Dockworkers Union; and Doro-Chiba, the Japanese railway union; to the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, the largest union in South Africa, among others. Read the full SFLC statement at tinyurl.com/sflcmumia/.
When Milt Neidenberg joined the group of revolutionaries in Buffalo, N.Y., who would later found Workers World Party, it was the beginning of the anti-communist witch-hunt period that changed everything after World War II.

Milt was a veteran. He had been a sailor in the Pacific during the war, with lingering bouts of malaria to show for it, and he had spent a few years at the City College of New York on the GI Bill. At the urging of his cousin, Dorothy Ballan, and her comrade, Sam Marcy, Milt visited Buffalo.

Milt was looking for something that could make more meaning in his life. With his signature Navy peacoat, his penetrating but warm gaze, and his Brooklyn Jewish humor and charm, he was exotic in depressed, repressed Buffalo — where it seemed that every intersection in the impoverished working-class neighborhoods sported three bars and a church.

What he found was a political outlook that would inform his actions and his ideas for the rest of his life, until he died on Feb. 4, at the age of 96, at home in Brooklyn with his beloved comrade, Rosemary Neidenberg, at his side.

Milt accumulated experiences in the class struggle as a steelworker in Buffalo and later as a unionized worker in New York City. This and his great interest in and study of U.S. labor history and Marxism eventually made him into one of the Party’s leading dispensers of both practical and theoretical advice to a new generation eager to fight the bosses.

In Buffalo, Milt followed in the footsteps of another Party founder, Vince Copeland, and got a job at Bethlehem Steel — a plant with 16,000 workers at the time. In 1945, Milt and Rosemary Neidenberg, who had married in 1943, were arrested for firing a wildcat strike there. In response, all the workers walked off their jobs. They stayed out for three days as the company and top bureaucrats in the Steelworkers Union frantically tried to end the strike.

Milt became a steelworker when the union militancy of earlier periods — the great organizing battles of the 1930s and the powerful strike wave of 1946 — was at an ebb. The Korean War was on. An orgy of anti-communism led to the widespread firing of radicals and the execution of the Rosenbergs — and union leaders were jailed during the war for violating the Smith Act.

Eventually, the comrades in Buffalo; Youngstown, Ohio (another steel city); and a group in New York City, known collectively as the Marcy tendency, left the SWP in 1958 after more than a decade of deep differences over that party’s accommodation to anti-Sovietism.

Milt and Rosey were among the stalwarts who then founded Workers World Party on Jan. 1, 1959. It stood out for its support of all the socialist countries against imperialism and internal counterrevolution — as well as its position on the Black struggle in the U.S. WWP went beyond supporting Civil Rights and an end to segregation to upholding the right of oppressed nations to self-determination.

The Neidenbergs moved to New York in the 1960s and from then on were engaged in many struggles led by the Party across the country. At this point, let’s hear from some of the scores of activists who worked with and learned from Milt over the years.

Decades of revolutionary advice to workers

At the membership meeting of United Steelworkers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers Union, held on Feb. 15, President Andre Francois and Vice President Steven Kirschbaum led a tribute to Brother Milt Neidenberg: “For 44 years, from the time of the union’s three-strike founding struggle in the 1970s, through subsequent contract battles, strikes, rallies, political campaigns and daily skirmishes with the companies and their state, to up only weeks before his death, comrades Milt was the mentor, teacher and adviser to the leaders of this militant, fighting, majority Black, brown and immigrant local.

Guided by decades of collective ‘on the line’ experience of the Party and his Marxism as in Marx’s does philosopher, Milt provided invaluable political analysis, relationship-of-forces assessments, brilliant and ever-present passionate solidarity, and militancy. He exemplified revolutionary Bolshevik unionism and, until his last breath, fought for the liberation of the workers and oppressed.”

At the close of the tribute, the comrades for the first time publicly for honoring resolution and a contribution of $1,000 to continue his life’s work.

Bill Beard first met Milt in May 1968: “The burning issue in the city was the racist teachers’ strike against Black community control. Milt spoke about how we, a lifelong unionist, had crossed a Federation of Teachers’ picket line to teach in Ocean-Hill Brownsville (in Brooklyn) and support the Black community. Here was this middle-aged white unionist with a classic Brooklyn accent, a WWII Navy veteran, Teamster and former steelworker who was standing with the Black community against racism. He also organized delegations of comrades to go to New Jersey to support the United Black Brothers, Black autoworkers fighting racism at the Lin- den and Mahwah auto plants.

...Milt organized interventions and disruptions against utility, rent and transit fare hikes at City Council and public service commission hearings. He helped to set up the Center for United Labor Action, whose slogan was: ‘If you don’t have a union, fight to get one. If you have a union, fight to make it fight.’ Our intervention in a major telephone workers’ strike promoted solidarity between the mostly male craft workers and the unorganized, mostly women Black and Latinx operators. It led to a successful organizing campaign among the operators, led by comrades Sue Steinman and Gavrielle Gemma.”

“Many times over the years, as a Party labor activist, I sought Milt’s wise advice. His thinking on the crisis of leadership in the current U.S. labor movement as well as his ability to apply classic Marxist economics to the contemporary crisis of capitalist overproduction — both of which have had a devastating impact on autoworkers like myself — informed many articles that I wrote for this newspaper. His comments on the regular conference calls that we had as a fraction to support the fired Boston school bus drivers were a tre-
mendous contribution to our discussions, both theoretically and tactically.”

Fred Goldstein: “Comrade Milt was a truly class-conscious militant. He was a central part of the March tendency in Buffalo during the formative years of Workers World Party. He was a highly political steelworker, steeped in Marxism-Leninism and who used his political edge to promote the class struggle in the unions. Milt tutored several generations of labor unionists to fight against the reactionary bureaucratic tide within the U.S. labor movement, while at the same time doing everything to strengthen the unions against the bosses. He was an exemplary revolutionary who promoted proletarian internationalism, anti-imperialism, anti-racism, immigrants’ rights and women’s and LGBTQ rights within the union.”

Bob McCabe: “Milt had a way of always bringing the conversation around to politics, always offering a class-conscious, Marxist analysis, which, I had to admit, made sense to me, the son of a widowed mother, a poor, low-wage worker with four children who was always scrambling to make ends meet. Rosemary and Milt’s self-sacrificing dedication to human liberation through communist revolution moved this young individual to decide, I’d like to do my way, to join them.”

Minnie Bruce Pratt: “For almost three months in the spring of 2002, when I was out of work, Milt taught me Marxist economics. Every week I would come to him with the New York Times, McDonald’s, the new menu for a hamburger that gets eaten. Not like a car! Where are the surplus value? He said: ‘The current socialization of labor is marked by subdivision of tasks into smaller and smaller units of production, and into more and more geographically distant or isolated units of production. The challenge is to make visible the hidden creation of value.’ My first ‘homework assignment’ from him was to make visible that value in a flier for the Stop Workfare campaign. People on public assistance, the majority women of color, were being forced to do city maintenance jobs for no pay. Later I wrote poems making visible the worth and connection between workers’ lives.”

Edward Tadevosian: “In September 1972, a group of Palestinians took Israeli attackers hostage to exchange them for 200 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Isra- eli jails. Both Palestinians and Israelis were murdered by West German police and military forces, resulting in a wave of worldwide anger against the Palestinians. Sam Marcy asked me to write a leaflet explaining to workers this complicated issue and to consult with Milt. Milt understood the importance for Jewish revolutionaries and communists to support the Palestinian people and refute the Big Lie of Zionism — that the state of Israel is the antidote to the bigotry of anti-Semitism — when instead Israel has been one of history’s worst bigots and aggres- sors in its 70-year-old racist occupation of Palestine.”

A memorial meeting will be held on March 31 in New York City, place and time to be announced.

By John Steffin New York City

Unions and allies at Columbia University are gearing up for a militant protest against “right-to-work-for-less” right-winger Mark Mix, scheduled to speak on campus Feb. 27. That’s the day after the U.S. Supreme Court hears the union-busting Janus v. AFSCME case. University union organizers are calling all union workers in New York City to join them — not just because the Janus ruling will impact a large segment of workers — but because when workers fight together, they win.

Mix is president of the National Right to Work Founda- tion, largely responsible for pushing anti-union legis- lation across the U.S. in the last decade. While the foun- dation may not be mounting a campaign to terrorize oppressed people in the streets, like the Nazis and Klan are trying to do, “right to work” is merely a different way of creating hell for working and oppressed people in the U.S.

In fall 2017, students, workers and community mem- bers from Columbia University and across New York City marched to protest the College Republicans’ deci- sion to invite white supremacist to speak on campus. This is the determined opposition planned for Feb. 27 to fight off Mix’s “right-to-work-for-less” campaign.

“Right-to-work” law is not just a cleverly named pol- icy created by the right wing to bust unions and erode the power of working-class people. “Right to work” was originally a racist attempt to drive a wedge between Black and white workers. The policy was developed by Texas businessman and Ku Klux Klan sympathizer Van Lott, at the height of the 1940s U.S. labor struggle.

“Right to work” was originally a way to divide and weaken the labor movement for the benefit of Black and white workers. The policy was developed by Texas businessman and Ku Klux Klan sympathizer Van Lott, at the height of the 1940s U.S. labor struggle.

Rabid white supremacists like Muse were worried about the equality between Black and white workers promoted by unions like the Congress of Industrial Or- ganizations. Other capitalists saw that dividing workers could lower wages and eliminate benefits, and began adopting Muse’s program.

Today, the National Right to Work Foundation contin- ues that racist legacy, especially in relation to the Janus case, which Mix was invited to speak on. The Feb. 26 Su- preme Court hearing will feature legal arguments as to whether “right-to-work” legislation applies to the public sector, which is composed primarily of workers of color and women.

The Supreme Court sides with the right wing — and, with Trump’s recent appointment of Chief Justice Neil Gorsuch, it seems likely — this could be a huge blow to one of the last bastions of working-class power in the U.S. Currently, barely 1 percent of all workers are unionized, with a majority of them in the public sector.

The legislation allows workers to opt out of union dues while still requiring the union to support these workers. With this loss of funding, a union becomes less able to fight off attacks by the bosses. And the attacks won’t stop. In each contract nego- tiation, the bosses will fight to lower wages, roll back benefits and chip away at the union’s membership base. New workers, without understanding the importance of unions, will only experience the weakened unions and assume it’s not worthwhile to pay dues, further eroding union power and reducing union numbers.

Fighting ‘right to work’ at Columbia

At Columbia University, a private employer, a nega- tive ‘right to work’ ruling would not apply to most employees. However, the National Right to Work Foundation has still played a role in helping the Columbia administra- tion to weaken working-class power on campus.

The foundation submitted an amicus brief in support of the Columbia administration in its negotiations with graduate workers who voted to unionize in 2014. Re- cently, the university officially refused to recognize the graduate workers’ union. Graduate students are a major source of labor in the academy, both in teaching classes and in conducting research that gains grants and fund- ing for the university. They are workers, but the univer- sity as well as the foundation refuse to acknowledge this.

Columbia welcomed the National Right to Work Foun- dation support because, for the last several decades, the university has been waging a war on its workers. While Columbia has a facade of progressivism, it behaves no differently than a typical capitalist firm, which means busting unions, lowering wages and rolling back bene- fits. While replacing full-time faculty with precarious adjunct professors, Columbia has also filled its board of trustees with bankers, CEOs of investment firms and real estate moguls.

On the afternoon of Feb. 27 there will be a press confer- ence to give a working-class perspective on “right-to-work” legislation and the need to protect Mix’s appearance at Cu- lumbia. See facebook.com/events/132460090091407/ On the evening of Feb. 27, join with union members and allies on campus in protesting “right-to-work-for-less” Mix — including 1199SEIU, United Auto Workers Local 2110, Barnard College Contingent Faculty and the Graduate Worker Union, as well as student groups like Student Worker Solidarity and the Liberation Coalition.

More info at facebook.com/events/7655961449343455/ After decades of attacks on unions, workers are forc- ing solidarity to reverse the tide, and communities that benefit from strong working-class organizations are joining in support.

Come out to Columbia University on Feb. 27 to say: Unions, yes! When we fight together, we win! □

Hospital union rallies vs cutbacks

More than 1,000 members of 1199SEIU union came out to an emergency morning rally at Madison Square Garden in New York on Feb. 21. Their aim was to begin to mobilize against the crisis facing health care due to lack of adequate funding. Following talks by a multinational alliance of doctors, nurses, home care workers, drivers, dietary workers and nurses, the rally concluded with the call: “We will unite to save Medicaid! Our health care system is on the ropes! We must stand and fight!” Maurice, a labor technician, told Workers World.

The union distributed a statement pointing out that for-profit insurers reap windfall profits, even as health care providers have struggled without reimbursement increases for years. The shortfall in funding leaves hun- dreds of thousands of low-wage and poor people in New York at risk of losing coverage. Those institutions that provide the safety net of medical care for low-income communities have the greatest risk of closing, 1199SEIU workers explained.

The NYS Nurses Association statement pointed out that during the last year there was a real struggle to maintain funds needed to keep hospitals open and to maintain quality health care. Along with 1199SEIU and other health care unions, the NYSNA is organizing to take demands for adequate funding and no cuts to Al- bany, the capital, on March 14. They call the upcoming action, “Code Blue Healthcare.” And they will fight for what they called for on Feb 21: “Health care is a right!”

— Story and photo by Anne Pruden, 1199SEIU retiree workers.org March 1, 2018 Page 5
By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The Working People’s Day of Action was held coast-to-coast on Feb. 24, with actions in dozens of U.S. cities calling out thousands of workers. The day was initiated by the workers’ rights organization, Jobs with Justice.

The protests were timed to defy the reactionary Janus vs. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31 case due to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 26. The case threatens the right of public sector unions to collect fees from non-members to cover the negotiating and grievance costs of representing them.

A ruling against AFSCME Council 31, representing workers in Illinois, would be a vicious attack on all public sector unions to collect costs of representing them. Against the negotiating and grievance costs of representing them.

The Janus attack is part of an ongoing attempt by billionaire owners to break public sector unions, which now have the majority of U.S. union members. These unions fight for increasing the minimum wage, improved workplace safety, better health care benefits, protection of retirement funds and many other issues.

Public sector unions hold a strong bottom line for better benefits for all workers. Women are 57 percent of public sector union members. (National Women’s Law Center, 2012) One in five African Americans work in a public sector job. (New York Times, May 24, 2013)

The Feb. 24 date also commemorates a turning point in the historic 1968 Memphis, Tenn., sanitation strike by Black and other nationally oppressed workers to be represented by a union, which began Feb. 22. That’s when over 1,300 African-American men, represented by AFSCME Local 1733, walked out on strike.

The men were then making 65 cents an hour under life-threatening work conditions.

On Feb. 24, Black leaders and ministers formed a statewide organization to support the strike, but the city obtained a court injunction to keep the union from picketing. Black ministers called out their congregations to support the strike.

Workers shut down West Virginia schools. Continued from page 1

Workers shut down West Virginia schools. Continued from page 1
cipents since that time.

As one 21-year veteran junior high teacher told Workers World, “I didn’t become a teacher in this state for the money, but at one time, the insurance seemed like an incentive to stay here and teach.” The state’s legislature was majority Democrat in 2011, with Republicans taking control of the House and Senate in 2014. But state workers view both capitalist parties as being negligent when it comes to fixing PEIA.

The right-wing-led legislature introduced bills advocated by the billionaire Koch brothers, such as “a payroll deception bill,” misnamed “payroll protection,” which would stop union dues from being deducted from members’ checks. The bill was introduced in deliberate retaliation for the first round of teacher walkouts on Feb. 2. The Koch Family Foundation funds a number of anti-union initiatives throughout the U.S.

Another bill that has shaken people up would eliminate seniority rights, which would allow blatant discrimination and favoritism practices by the state. Seniority was won through previous historic union battles.

Since 2009, the West Virginia Legislature has been pushing for-profit charter schools. The education unions have been successful in defeating the charter school bills each year, but new charter school bills have reared their ugly heads in this session as well. On Feb. 22, the legislature took education off their agenda, which was a victory, since that delays moving forward on the anti-worker seniority bill and the charter school bill.

For the last several years, working-class and oppressed people in West Virginia have faced an onslaught of reactionary bills, from passage of the “right to work
dressed the rally. One of the high points came when a feeder march of several hundred workers from various SEIU locals joined the rally at Thomas Paine Plaza. Their lead banner read in part, “No Court Case Will Hold Us Back.”

Workers gave an overwhelmingly positive response to leaflets raising the connection between growing U.S. war threats, including against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and the increased attacks here on unions and on working and poor people generally. Many in the crowd remarked that the record Pentagon budget troubles us to meet fund people’s needs.

Over 1,000 people in COLUMBUS, OHIO, ignored the driving rain and marched to the center of state government. The vast majority were from the Ohio Education Association. Teachers and students demanded safe schools as well as fighting against newly introduced “Right to work for less” laws in the state legislature. There was much enthusiastic discussion among participants about the statewide teachers’ strike in neighboring West Virginia.

In MADISON, WIS., Workers World Party stood in solidarity with public sector unions against austerity, with the slogan, “Stop the attacks on unions and build people’s power!” Wisconsin was ground zero for workers’ struggles in 2011, when the state’s then-Gov. Scott Walker and the right-wing legislature rammed through a “Right to work for less” law.

Workers fought back with tremendous community support. By the hundreds of thousands, they occupied the state Capitol building here during February and March. The 2011 “Right to work for less” attack in Wisconsin continued the bosses’ 2011 campaign that has virtually eliminated collective bargaining for public sector workers and imposed wage cuts on state workers. The Janus vs. AFSCME case is one part of an organized, coordinated campaign of class war funded by capitalist billionaires. In Wisconsin, the attack has been bankrolled by the Bradley Foundation, the Koch brothers and other bosses. In other states, big business, Wall Street and Pentagon interests lead the assault.

Contributing to this report were Ben Carroll, Ellie Dorritie, G. Dunkel, Sam Olson, Susan Schnur and Jeff Sorel. The banking industry is also ripping off the workers in West Virginia schools.

for less” bill in 2016 to racist voter ID laws to many anti-choice bills further restricting access to abortion. At the beginning of the West Virginia legislative session in mid-January, a bill was introduced to require all schools to provide an elective course on the Bible. Fortunately, that bill is not currently moving ahead.

Racist governor and Big Oil

In addition to the reactionary legislature, the workers in motion are taking aim at the major oil and gas companies that have been fracking in the state for several years and stealing from citizens long before that.

Earlier this month, Lissa Lucas, a Democratic House of Delegates candidate, was physically removed from the Capitol building for the “crime” of listing the oil and gas companies that donate money to legislators. Lucas’ courageous action was in response to a bill, sponsored by Big Oil, that would allow companies to drill on landowners’ property without their consent. (Newsweek, Feb. 11)

Jerry Goldberg, an anti-foreclosure organizer with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition in Detroit and a veteran activist who has stood up to the banks throughout the country, commented to Workers World: “The debt owed by the average worker in West Virginia is much higher than that in most of the other states. Therefore, there are huge profits being made.” What is more concerning is the average salary in West Virginia is $23,000, which is only 28% of the $44,701. (Saneshawshour, Feb. 23)

Struggle spills over to other sectors

Inspired by the militant fight waged by education workers, state and public employees staged a rally at the Capitol building in Charleston on Feb. 19, organized by United Electrical Workers Local 170. On Feb. 23, nurses and hospital workers in Welch conducted a walk-in. These workers also have PEIA coverage and receive low pay.

Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania only 40 miles from the state line, faces a three-day strike by nurses. The average salary in West Virginia is $23,000, which is only 28% of the $44,701. (Saneshawshour, Feb. 23)

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While education and state workers initially directed their anger at the racist, billionaire governor and the anti-reactor lobby, they are now taking aim at Big Oil and the banks.

It is becoming clearer by the day that capitalism has nothing to offer workers and oppressed people through-out the world. Only a socialist system can guarantee a society that provides basic necessities for human survival.
Monica Moorehead to Black students: 'Become an activist'

When I was a teenager, the Vietnam War was a stimulus for the economy, providing a certain level of prosperity for which we fought Black workers out of jobs. In fact, if not for the rebellions during the mid-1960s in Watts, Detroit, Newark and elsewhere, industrial unions like autoworkers and the steelworkers would not have opened their doors to Black workers. That is the truth.

But the technological revolution in the mid-1980s — the computer age bringing in high-tech and low pay — has reversed these gains in terms of wages and benefits. This revolution ushered in the period of deindustrialization, and the loss of good-paying union jobs in the auto and steel plants helped create the living standards of millions of Black workers in the North and Midwest.

As industrial manufacturing shut down, millions of workers have been forced to work two or three jobs in fast food, retail or health care industries to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. These working conditions have caused a deep despair among people of color and women.

The #MeToo survivors to have also given rise to the “$15 an hour” and a union struggle led by Black and Latinx women. And it’s not just workers of color who have become aware of the impact of the high-tech era, but young whites as well. This reality was expressed in the 2011 Occupy Wall Street movement, which had the slogan “the 1% vs. the 99%.” Though those numbers are not really accurate, the overall sentiment was correct.

Privileged whites graduating with degrees from some of the most prominent universities were getting a rude awakening as the job market was closing to them when they expected to have a better life than their parents. The Occupy movement was short-lived when the local police killed one of the founders. These were the days of mass incarceration, city by city. But it was a very important wake-up call for young white people, giving them just a glimpse of what people of color have been up against for decades and centuries.

To their credit, many of them joined the Black and Latinx students who engaged in solidarity with Black and Latinx people, who are the constant targets of terrorism — a political war that has been waged, especially of youth of color, every year.

Misogynist Trump and globalization

Now, we have just experienced dealing with one year under Trump — an open white supremacist who is misogynist and xenophobic. But as horrible and offensive as his rhetoric was, he was not the first or the de- cent from other, previous presidents, including the Democratic ones?

For instance, under President Obama’s two terms, we had the worst deportations of immigrants than under any previous Republican administration. Recently, it was reported by anachronistic her presidential bid, Hillary Rodham Clinton protected a sexual abuser on her campaign staff. Wann’t she portrayed as a champion of women to counter Trump winning the presidency?

The #MeToo and #TimesUp campaigns are exposing all forms of sexual violence, mainly aimed at girls and women, in every aspect of society, from the workplace to schools to Hollywood. But these are not isolated incidents that came out of nowhere. They are interconnected with current struggles on a global scale. This gets to the heart of what capitalism is, the effect it has on so many people. It is why Black Lives Matter, why we should resist it. Capitalism is an economic system that has to expand or it will die. It must expand its markets in order to sell its goods, or it will wither. This is the ultimate impact of the process of capitalism cannot be controlled by any individual or by any policy under capitalist law.

The rich have to get richer, and so the poor wind up getting poorer. Consider the Jan. 22 report from Oxfam, which stated that approximately 82 percent of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the richest 1% of the global population, while the poorest half saw no increase at all. Oxfam said billionaires would have seen an uptick of $762 billion in 2017 — enough to end extreme poverty seven times over. The US leads the world in the concentration with the widest gap between rich and poor compared to any other rich, capitalist country. (Bloomberg)

We are currently entering year 11 of a capitalist crisis, which is part of overall capitalist globalization. More profits are being made with fewer and fewer jobs for millions of unemployed and part-time workers on a global scale. Global financial and social changes in the capitalist system render larger and larger sections of the oppressed working class “expendable” as far as capitalism is concerned.

To the extent that capitalism no longer needs the labor of youth of color, they are subject to murder, prison, in effect, to a war that threatens the very survival of a whole generation. This was the case with Ferguson, Mo., just a few months after the 2014 youth rebellion against the police killing of Michael Brown. There, Black youth told the director of the school they wanted was to join a union, in order to get a decent-paying job to help support their families, not to be targeted by police.

There is an economic and social basis for the increase in police repression and murder in Black and Brown communities, and in the increase in mass incarceration. There is an economic and social basis for the increase in resistance to this oppression.

Workers World Party believes that the Black Lives Matter movement represents more than a continuation of the centu- ries-old struggle by African-American workers against racist state terror. We believe that the Black Lives Matter uprising, which is international in scope, reflects the awakening of a section of the working class, primarily young people, trained into anti-capitalist consciousness by capitalist globalization and technology.

This section of the working class is fighting the internalization of oppression through all forms of resistance against their oppressors, including — as they put it — “shutting shit down” and not waiting for some politicians to carry out empty promises.

When some of our youth members in Durham, N.C., took down a Confederate soldier statue just two days after the KKK and Nazis murdered an anti-fascist fighter in Charlottesville, Va., they declared that it is time, directly, had the right to take down this symbol of racism and bigotry.

What hasn’t changed

So, sisters and brothers, much has changed over the many decades since I was your age. Especially in terms of how we communicate with others on a global scale, which has the world so much smaller, with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, texting. When I was younger, we had to depend on printed word, snail mail, regular phones. This global change in communications has meant the younger generations are even more informed than 40-plus years ago.

But what hasn’t changed fundamentally is white supremacy, and oppression with women and LGBTQ people, those with disabilities, and even as other forms of inequality. Only the forms have changed, based on the ebbs and flows of the capitalist economy, which is always in crisis. All of these inequalities are rooted in class society. This keeps us divided, making it very difficult to unite to fight a common enemy — the handful of billion-aires who control close to 50 percent of the world’s wealth. Trump is a reflection of the capitalist system in crisis, not an isolated incident.

To stop this oppression means being an activist, not just for a week or a month, but for as long as it takes to help liberate humanity from such a horrific system. So many potential revolutionary have been tragically lost, not only to repression but to internal oppression, being made to feel that every injustice that they have expe- rienced is their fault. Think of how many women have committed suicide or are dealing with post-traumatic depression after being sexually assaulted. We see this being played out with what is happening with Michigan State Uni- versity. These women were forced to keep silent for so many years because they were being blamed for what happened to them. But what is happening at MSU is just the tip of the iceberg. It’s not an iso- lated incident but a systemic one, rooted in centuries of women’s oppression.

Being an activist, being an organizer, affords you the opportunity to under- stand the systemic nature of all of the injustices we face, the opportunity to fight for a better life, not only for one out for all.

The backbone of any progressive movement has been activists and revo- lutionaries, no matter the differences in ideas, as long as you can unite for a common cause. And it is becoming much easi- er to become an activist due to Trump! Trump is radicalizing whole new layers of the population who understand the impor- tance of being in the streets, not to be silenced any longer, especially women.

While you are pursuing your dream of a college degree, make social activism a part of your reality. Because your future will depend on that, along with the future of millions of others.

Don’t we all deserve a future that guar- antees a right to a job, housing, food, education, health care and full equality, without having to sacrifice one of those rights for the other? As the great aboli- tionist Frederick Douglass said, “With slavery, there can be no progress.”

This is part 3 of an edited talk given by WWP national leader Monica Moorehead at “A gala celebrating Black activism,” sponsored by the Pace University Black Student Union in New York City on Feb. 1.
Imperialists unite to escalate war on Syria

By Joe Mashharaw

At the end of 2017, millions around the world followed reports of the U.S.-led Coalition of Daesh (ISIS/ISIL/IS by the Syrian Arab Army and its allies as heralding the end of the genocidal U.S.-led war against Syria. It certainly is not the case in the war, but many feared that the imperialist powers and their allies couldn’t afford to lose the illusion of their strategy to destabilize West Asia.

At that time obvious dangers still remained, including thousands of U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Syria, a Turkish presence in northern Aleppo, pockets of other contra groups, and ceaseless Israeli air attacks. Despite these warnings, many feared the concept that Turkey’s role has.

This part of Syria holds most of its oil fields, the occupation of a portion of the territory exposes part of the reason the U.S. is in Syria in the first place. The Russian, Chinese, and the U.S. have done nothing to put real pressure on Turkey. The U.S. was quick to blame Russia and Syria for deaths caused by the bombardment, claiming that the SDF was being attacked and the U.S. was acting in self-defense. (cnn.com, Feb. 8) Even if the SDF were under direct threat by Syrian forces, the U.S. has no right to strike Syrian or Russian forces.

The attack by coalition jets on Feb. 7 near Deir ez-Zor marks the most serious direct attack against Syria by the U.S. since Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched at Syrian airfields last April. In this most recent aggression, the U.S. used the SDF, which is allowing Turkey to attack in Syria, as a hollow pre-test for the massacre.

This part of Syria holds most of its oil resources. The Pentagon’s willingness to maintain an aggressive occupation of this area exposes part of the reason the U.S. is in Syria in the first place. The Russian Foreign Ministry, often reluctant to level accusations, could not help but point this out in the aftermath of the air attack. “The true nature of the illegal presence of American forces on Syrian territory is not the fight against the Islamic State, but the "capture and retention of economic assets,"” (sytimes.com, Feb. 8)

Israel jet shot down

In a completely unprecedented move, Syria shot down an Israeli military jet targeting its territory on Feb. 7. Israel has violated Syrian airspace throughout the entire war, bombing wherever it pleases without military retaliation. It has also directly supported contra groups from the occupied Golan Heights in southern Syria. This is the first time Syria has shot down an Israeli jet since the 1982 war on Lebanon. In doing so, Syria has exposed Israeli vulnerability.

One of Syria’s most important allies, the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, declared the downing of the Israeli jet the “start of a new strategic phase.” (english.almanar.com, Feb. 10) This defensive action by the Syrian state must also be put in the context of increased attacks. “The true reason for the US and Iranian aggressive posture toward Lebanon, Isra- el has been building fortifications inside south Lebanon and has been challenging Lebanese airspace on a routine basis.

Hezbollah has grown exponentially more powerful in the years since Isra- el suffered defeat at its hands in 2006. While Israel may feel it must confront Hezbollah sooner rather than later to prevent Hezbollah from becoming too strong to defeat, Israel is extremely timid in confronting this challenge to its occupa- tion of Arab lands. Syria’s willingness to challenge Israeli air superiority at this decisive moment poses huge risks to Isra- el’s plans in the Levant.

Syria fights imperialist escalation

Despite these escalations, Syria and its allies are continuing to push for liberation and the territorial integrity of Syria. Syria and Turkey, the U.S. led the charge against Syria with claims that the Syrian government was creating a humanitarian crisis in the Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta. The offensive in eastern Ghouta led by the Syrian government is an effort to stabilize the area around Syria’s capital. Death squad groups use Ghouta as a base for attacks against Damascus, killing hundreds of civilians with indiscrimi- nate attacks. (aljazeera.net) The contra groups inside the region, has been holding hundreds of civilians in large numbers of years.

The U.S. is using this offensive to distract the corporate media from U.S. abandonment of the SDF in Afrin and Syria’s stepping up to defend it. The diplo- matic pressure on Syria also consis- tently serves as an attempt to justify imperialist occupation.

The imperialists are in a massive struggle to shift the control of forces back in their favor. The war against Syria is po- tentially in its most dangerous phase, with powers that once fought only through proxies now increasing their direct ag- gression against Syria and its allies.

Return Guantánamo to Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

Since 1999, Cuba has called for the re- turn of the 53 acres occupied by the U.S. in Cuba’s eastern Guantánamo province. Co- ordinated international actions amplified Cuba’s demand by marking the Feb. 23 anniversary of the 1903 “lease.” The 1903 agreement allowed the U.S. to use the land and harbor, first for a U.S. military colony in the Caribbean, and since the aftermath of the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan has been the site of a notorious prison where alleged terrorists are detained.

The Coalition to Close U.S. Foreign Bases (noforeignbases.org) initiated the coordinated activities with a unanimous resolution at its January conference. The call was welcomed and supported by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sover- eignty (MovPaz) and the National Network on Cuba. Actions took place in Berlin, Germany; Vancouver, Canada; and in Chicago, New York City; Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Mass.; Ariz.; and Albany, N.Y., in the U.S.

Meetings, educational street actions, plus a nation. It teleconferences in 2018 have been by Black Alliance for Peace and a twitter storm initiated by the U.S. arm of the Imperialists unite to escalate war on Syria

Afrin on Feb. 19 to fight Turkey alongside the SDF. As the convoy of volunteers en- tered Afrin it was immediately shell by Turkish forces. (aljazeera.net, Feb. 20) Subsequent convoys into Afrin have also been shelled following the deploy- ment of the pro-government NDF. (reut- ters.com) Turkey’s president has promised to lay siege to Afrin: “Prepara- tions in the field take some time. In the coming days we will lay siege to Afrin city. It’s very important that everywhere we go remains secure.” (rt.com, Feb. 20)

In the midst of confrontation between Syria and Turkey, the U.S. led the charge against Syria with claims that the Syrian government was creating a humanitarian crisis in the Damascus suburb of eastern Ghouta.

The offensive in eastern Ghouta led by the Syrian government is an effort to stabilize the area around Syria’s capital. Death squad groups use Ghouta as a base for attacks against Damascus, killing hundreds of civilians with indiscriminate attacks. (aljazeera.net) The contra groups inside the region, has been holding hundreds of civilians in large numbers of years.

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The purpose of the pamphlet was to show that will stop it

Copeland’s “Expanding Empire” tells the story of U.S. imperialism from its beginnings in 1989 up to the Vietnam War. The pamphlet is written during the Vietnam War and became one of the most widely translated publications. It’s most popular titles. It went through several printings. The same is true today. In the end, it all comes down to profits. “Expanding Empire” explains how and why you can’t have a “peaceful” world if increased profit inevitably produces war. And it shows how the only way to prevent fu- ture wars is to drive imperialist profits. Its contents are available in all major online book sellers. PenetgonAichlesHeel.com

Workers World Party activists in Baltimore, Feb. 23.
Parkland students do the right thing

By Deirdre Griswold

The young people who survived the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., are doing the right thing. They are not bottling up their shock and sadness, to live with fear and trauma over the gunning down of their friends, as has happened after so many other mass shootings in the past. They are fighting mad and organizing to try and change the world around them.

Many hundreds of students walked out of school on Wednesday, March 14, in the Di- ami-Dade counties in solidarity with those in Parkland who had lived through the shooting, as well as in remembrance of the 17 people who perished in the hail of bullets. One hundred of the Parkland teenagers then took a seven-hour bus ride to attend a session of the Florida House in Tallahassee, where a bill to ban assault weapons was on the table. De- spite the students’ angry pleas, the legis- lators refused to take up the bill.

The youth then went to the media to denounce politicians whose votes are bought by big contributions from the Na- tional Rifle Association. And that is true! It doesn’t match up with

where gun violence comes from

Gun violence in this country has been an existential threat since at least 1861, when the Southern slaveocracy kidnapped entire families from Africa, taking away all their human rights so they could be bought and sold as profit-making commodities. Hired guns made it possible for agents of the South- ern slavery to kidnap whole families from Africa, taking away all their human

My son Jeremiah Boykin called me from school on Friday, Feb. 16, to tell me that he was dismissed from class because he did not stand for the pledge of al- legiance. His constitutional rights were vi- olated. He was verbally and almost phys- ically assaulted by the person supposed to be Black. It is my duty to take on the limitations on their power, and invades their faith therein. It is that no- where Black children and adults young or elderly are shut down by police who act as judge and jury on behalf of the system of racism and the thin blue line.

I say: No more abuse that whittles away at you to make you feel ashamed to be Black. It is my duty to take on the system for my Black children. They don’t know their own strengths yet. I am here to tell the world that you are worthy, lov- ing, humorous and charismatic, smart and a pleasure to be around. I propose taking police out of the schools to stop the school-to-prison pipe- line. Give the extra money in pay to the teachers and set up proper vetting of these teachers so that every Black child can get a proper, dignified education.

The pledge of allegiance, a weapon into a school and kill his fellow

The teacher, a Mr. Himes, showed My son Jeremiah Boykin called me from school on Friday, Feb. 16, to tell me that he was dismissed from class because he did not stand for the pledge of al- legiance. His constitutional rights were vi- olated. He was verbally and almost phys- ically assaulted by the person suppos...
Left-wing parties in the Ukraine under Soviet times it was transferred to Ukraine. Since 1999, the U.S.-led NATO military invasion. Although some Russians did unofficially come to help, along with anti-fascists from other countries, the majority of the militias were made up of local workers and farmers defending their homes and families. A terrible blow was the massacre in the multinational port city of Odessa on May 2, 2014. Fascists based into the city then attacked a protest encampment and set fire to the House of Trade Unions, killing over 40 people. U.S. and western European capital interests. The U.S. and its allies provided military aid to Ukraine, much of it through third countries. NATO provided training to Ukrainian troops and neo-Nazi volunteer battalions. According to the United Nations, more than 10,000 people have been killed in the war. Hundreds of thousands more have been made refugees, most fleeing to safety in Russia. The worst fighting took place in the first year. Now, the situation is frozen in a standoff. There is an international brokered truce, but it is regularly violated by the Ukrainian side. An economic blockade has created many difficulties for those who remained or returned to Donetsk and Lugansk. Recently, the Secretary of Defense and Congress repealed restrictions on direct U.S. sales of heavy weaponry to Ukraine and the ban on training neo-Nazis like the Azov Batallion. While Trump claimed he wanted better relations with Russia during his campaign, he serves the U.S. ruling class and its interests, just as previous administrations did. Trump has given free rein to the Pentagon generals whose job is to conquer on behalf of Wall Street. The Ukrainian government has implemented more and more austerity measures to secure loans from the International Monetary Fund. It has sped up the privatization of industry and land, leaving workers jobless and forcing many to migrate. U.S. and western European capital interests have been gobbling up Ukraine’s agricultural land and natural resources at bargain prices. Repression is intense. Communist organizations are under attack. There are hundreds of political prisoners — leftists, journalists, military draft resisters and regular people who have voiced their opposition to the regime on social media.

Solidarity with anti-fascist resistance

Although the war in Ukraine does not get much attention from mainstream media these days, its impact is being felt right now. The following things have happened so far in February: A fascist gang beat and robbed two anti-fascist youth leaders in front of police in Kiev. Ukraine’s State Security Service arrested a special needs students in Dokuchayevsk, a village in Donetsk, while class was in sess. Our comrades from the Ghost Brigade, a communist-led, anti-fascist militia, repelled an attack in Lugansk. The former head of NATO called for 2,000 U.N. “peacekeepers” to occupy the Donbass. And a new team of U.S. “advisors” was spotted on the front line. The war in Ukraine is also part of the witch hunt over supposed Russian “deception interference” that is currently being used to smear anyone who opposes the two-party system in the U.S. If Russian rulers are angry that Russia and the residents of Crimea and Donbass were able to checkmate their plans to bring NATO tactical air bases right up to the Russian border. Along with the military aid that Russia has given to Syria, this is driving the campaign to whip up a war fever again in Russia.

Since 2014, Workers World Party and anti-war organizations we work with, including the International Action Center, have engaged in international solidarity with the anti-fascist resistance inside Ukraine and in the Donbass republics. This organization has resulted in educational forums, petition campaigns and protests, including one held in Times Square immediately after the coup four years ago.

WWP has developed friendly, cooperative relations with exiled communists from Ukraine. Our organizers have traveled to Russia, Crimea and the Donbass republics to meet with resistance activists and offer our support. Workers World News has published articles on the situation in Russia for real news on the struggle there in the English-speaking world. We work to build international solidarity with people’s movements against white supremacy, police brutality, anti-immigrant raids and exploitation of low-wage workers.

We demand: Recognize the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics! U.S.-EU out of Ukraine! Free political prisoners! Stop the war drive against Russia!
Al momento de una profunda y creciente crisis económica, muchos de los ideólogos burgueses y particularmente sus economistas, se preguntaban si a pesar de más investigación hacia analizar la naturaleza y profundas implicaciones de la gran crisis del sistema imperialista, está en tentativa para controlar la deuda americana. Este artículo, escrito por Sam Marcy, fundador del Partido Obrero - Mundo Obrero en junio de 1980, analiza la contradicción básica dentro del imperialismo estadounidense, la cual es aún más catastrófica hoy en día.

Ya en la década de 1920, la aristocracia financiera e industrial británica se enfrentaba a la perspectiva inminente de la pérdida de “la otra India”, a la que no era el Estado Unidos de América. Las responsabilidades financieras de la banca británica sobre los estados capitalistas de Europa, así como hacia su lejano y el imperio, abrumaban sus bultos. industrial de y carbon, así como su industria del transporte, incluida incluso la industria naviera. La tesis de Kindleberger no es un enfoque congelado con búsquedas burguesas. Ta segunda Guerra Mundial dejaron a los grandes mercados el mundo, donde se les permitió tomar el control de los mercados de Bretaña y en general, no obstante las varias recesiones, aumentó su base económica mundial durante el período que lo hizo desde la primera crisis capitalista mundial de 1825, la que, sobre todo, se produjo al finalizar el siglo XIX. La crisis de 1929, en quien el crecimiento militar de la economía global aumentó el poder imperialista. Además, se convirtió en un síntoma del comienzo del declive general. A diferencia de Bretaña en la década de 1930, los EUA no tienen una posición anterior a que tanto los planificadores políticos y económicos en las cumbres del capitalismo imperialista, de un modo o de otro, se quebró. Pero la producción a los efectos del capital financiero de EEUU y con su gran potencial militar. ¿Cómo se mantienen las contradicciones durante la crisis económica - mundial, que en medio de una constante expansión de la producción mundial, había perdido un baluarte general de la política mundial. Este aspecto significativo de los ciclos económicos fue que cada pico del ciclo económico fue menor que los anteriores, un siembra de la crisis del consumo general y la erosión de la base económica de los EUA. El crecimiento militar comenzó alrededor del 1946 cuando el complejo militar-industrial, que a partir de la Segunda Guerra Mundial hasta la derrota final de los EUA durante la guerra de Vietnam, la economía capitalista estadounidense comenzó a mostrar un repunte económico general, a pesar de varias recesiones capitalistas que, en general, fueron de corta duración.

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