By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The outrage and organizing skills of high school students who survived the mass school shooting in Parkland, Fla., on Feb. 14 have grown and spread in the weeks after, until on March 24 more than half a million people demonstrated against “gun violence” in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of thousands more poured into “sibling marches” in more than 800 cities in the U.S. and internationally. The breadth of outrage echoed the mass turnout for global Women’s Marches after the election of right-wing President Donald Trump.

Most speakers from the podium in Washington focused on gun control and voting as solutions. But many young people are bent on more progressive and radical demands. Witness the list presented by Chicago youth to their City Hall on March 14, the day they joined the National School Walkout against “gun violence.” Their demands included: “No school closings, no guns in school, end the criminalization of youth, no police academy but fund schools in Black and Brown communities equitably, student committees for hiring staff, improve language access and culturally relevant curriculum, fully fund special education and bilingual service, invest in schools by making banks and business pay their fair share, and jobs for youth.”

The historical shadow of the “Children’s March” in Birmingham, Ala., hung over the D.C. demonstration. On May 2, 1963, thousands of Black school children, some as young as six years old, marched and defied police dogs, fire hoses and police beatings to protest the violence of racist segregation.

Here are several reports on the March for Our Lives from WWP activists who advocate delving deeper into the causes of and solutions for “gun violence”:

It was a chilly morning in Washington, D.C., when comrades from Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C., Durham, N.C., and the New York metro area gathered for the March for Our Lives anti-gun rally. This rally was organized by students who survived the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. That school serves a diverse but largely Jewish community in Florida. It is no coincidence that Nikolas Cruz, the shooter who expressed racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic views on social media, targeted this school. Indeed, of the 17 killed, more than half were Jewish, immigrants and students of color.

Reaching out to some of the 500,000 people in attendance, WWP members, candidates and supporters handed out newspapers, letters and flyers that called students to fight bigotry and advocated for the only solu-

Protests have erupted against the assassination of 22-year-old Stephon Clark by Sacramento, Calif., police on March 18. See page 2.

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Responding to police murder
Protesters block entrance to NBA game

By Monica Moorehead

Another young Black man’s life was tragically taken March 18 when three Sacramento, Calif., police officers emptied 20 shots into the body of 22-year-old Stephon Clark in his backyard. The police justified the murder by claiming that Clark had a gun in his hand. It turned out to be an iPhone. Clark was the father of two young children.

Four days after the shooting, hundreds of angry protesters took to the streets, chanting, “Stephon Clark, say his name.” As they marched onto Interstate 5 and then proceeded to the Golden 1 Center, home to the National Basketball Association’s Sacramento Kings, the visiting Atlanta Hawks were the Kings’ opponents that night. The protesters, however, had a different agenda.

“Catching the police off guard, hundreds of protest-

eers encircled the entire center, preventing thousands of spectators from entering the arena. This dramatic action delayed the game for 20 minutes; only 2,400 people saw the game in person. Surrounded by the players before the start of the game, the Kings’ principal owner, Vivek Ha-

nade, publicly offered condolences to Clark’s family. Before their March 25 game, the Kings players wore warm-up shirts that read: “Accountability. We are one. StephonClark.” At a March 23 protest, Clark’s brother, Stevante, shouted “20 shots” in each police officer’s face.

Herman Bell granted parole – but cops, politicians try to nix it

By Greg Butterfield

Supporters of Black liberation fighter and political prisoner Herman Bell held a packed news conference at the Center for Constitutional Rights March 23. They came out to show support for a recent New York State Parole Board decision to free Bell after more than 40 years – much of it spent in brutal solitary confinement. The board’s decision has come under attack from police groups, the corporate media and elected officials, including “liberal” Democrats Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio.

“Supporters of Herman Bell at Center for Constitutional Rights.

Speakers, representing a broad coalition of prisoners’ advocates, public officials, artists and activists, called for the parole decision to be upheld.

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Rockford, Ill.

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Cleveland

Cleveland

Charlotte, N.C.

Working and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for greater profits. Capitalism means war and au-

terity, 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. Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-

Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigen-

dranization that not only aims to abolish capital-

ism, 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 greater profits. Capitalism means war and auster-
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Workers World is a weekly newspaper that serves to build solidarity with workers and the oppressed worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact the WWP branch nearest you.

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Ending gun violence – a radical call

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Continued from page 1

DEO workers fight union busting

The Betsy DeVos-led Department of Education canceled the contract with nearly 4,000 DEO workers on March 17. The federation of Government Employees Council 252z had voted down DEO’s proposed collective bargaining agreement on March 5. The DEO’s deliberately mimicked March 12 “collective bargaining agreement” — which AFGE properly calls a “directive” — strips workers of “previously negotiated rights and protections” and enforces draconian take-backs. It also interferes with AFGE’s — and every U.S. union’s — legal right to strike. To preserve jobs, AFGE shop stewards would have to represent members off the job. Expecting the union to function without representational time would be “like asking the fire department to operate without a truck or a fire hose,” says AFGE.

Herman Bell

Continued from page 2

client has met all the criteria for release.

Among the many speakers and supporters were Bina Ahmad of the National Lawyers Guild, New York State Senator Kevin Parker; CCR Board member Lumumba Bandele, and Pan Africa of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Readers are urged to take action to support Herman Bell. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/yy7qapr2.

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WNYC PHOTO: UCALIFORNIA

Herman Bell

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In 1969, the catalyticizing of the LGBTQ movement during the Stonewall Rebellion made drag queens, trans women and the gender nonconformity of the gay community visible worldwide for the first time. These oppressed peoples, and the new social relationship that came into being in the rebelled in the wake of, was first seen by bourgeois, reactionary forces at the time as an attack on the nuclear family and, ultimately, to the stability of capitalist society. These perceptions were, in one way, correct.

Trans and gender-nonconforming people today embody a contradiction—a contradiction between the sex we were assigned at birth and ourselves. Bourgeois ideology tells us that assigned sex is simply biological fact, immutable and eternal. That absolute definition of the gender binary is the basis of the gendered division of labor, which attempts to divide the entire human race into producers and reproducers. This division lies at the heart of the economy and is embedded within the capitalist constitution of the modern nuclear family.

This simplistic system, however, contradicts the actual biological facts. In fact, as early as the 1920s Lawrence and his friends had suggested that the mind and body were socially constructed within the capitalist constitution of the modern nuclear family.

Therefore, these people have entrenched this system of gender to be fallible. By demonstrating that the oppression of people of different genders, transness can be used as a weapon against capitalist ideology and cut a way toward a more complete and accurate understanding of gendered oppression.

Stigmatizing and criminalizing trans women

However, the path to our liberation wasn’t always so clear and has certainly never been light on obstacles. In the wake of Stonewall, the bourgeois state had its division of labor to answer to. In this struggle, medical stigmatization and criminalization.

By labeling homosexuality and gender dysphoria as disorders for diagnosis, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people were socially “otherized.” Gender dysphoria still stands in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association.

This stigmatization was used to explain away the differences between the “queers” and the “ordinary,” as inherent differences in the form of disorders to be treated, giving trans people a tremendous hurdle to clear to social acceptance. At the same time, laws against men “impersonating women” were enforced by the police, the state machine and even courts in order to arrest trans women. This was an attempt to protect no individual, nor even private property, but to maintain the ideology of assigned gender in the minds of the people.

These were the formal grounds of our exclusion from society, and could be described as attempts at the confinement of trans people and the growth of our communities through bourgeois medicine and law. It was obvious that trans people were being treated as a threat, but the exact nature of the threat we posed was difficult for even us to discern.

Therefore, trans people struggled for recognition in order to stay alive and to achieve social and legal change, but in many ways it was limited by its lack of historical context. Trans people could understand their oppression perfectly well, but for many decades there was no theory or explanation explaining the place of our struggle in history or in the present world, nor the significance of understanding and combating gendered oppression.

Regardless, trans people at the time of Stonewall sought to organize around their shared oppression, building their own organizations. Women’s Street Action and the Section of Vigil Action Revolutionaries (STAR), and seeking to unite with other movements which they engaged.

Overwhelmingly, trans women could find no respite in the women’s movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Ideological curators of the present, radical feminist movement were dominated by theory which essentialized the root of women’s oppression in biology, taking the supposedly universal genetic differences between the two sexes as their starting point instead of social relations, which, according to them, followed.

This view, as Marxist analysis makes clear, reinforces the institution of the gender binary, legitimizing the same function that it claims to criticize. It claims to assert the race.

Radical feminists actively waged a culture war against the trans community, publishing stories on how trans women who transitioned “appropriated womanhood” and reinforced patriarchal gender roles. They even said that trans women ought to divide the women’s movement against itself.

Meanwhile, the liberal feminist movement found itself unequipped and unwilling to deal with an ongoing social change that would obstruct its goal of “equality” through the further incorporation of women into capitalist production and the bourgeois state.

As a result, it was largely up to trans women to fight their own battles against the laws criminalizing them, against the police brutalizing them, against the men murdering them and against the culture viliﬁying them.

Feinberg explains gender nonconformity through Marxism

In the work of our late comrade Leslie Feinberg, who wrote extensively and deeply in the minds of the people.

This is hypocrisy at its best. If the bomber had turned out to be some oppressed sector of society, the media from the beginning would have labeled him as a terrorist. But it’s unheard of to call a white supremacist a terrorist. This is because white supremacy is so deeply intertwined within the culture of the United States that any discussion of white supremacy would threaten the hegemony of the U.S. government in both domestic and international affairs.

Revolutionary socialists in Austin and the University of Texas have responded to white-supremacist attacks like this in a multipronged way. First and foremost, we need to comfort the victims and those families. We need to build connections with neighborhoods affected and help organize self-defense committees within each neighborhood in order to adequately respond to potential future attacks.

Second, we need to educate the public about the threat to white supremacists and how white supremacy is intertwined within U.S. institutions. We must remeber that white supremacy is detrim- ental to the lives of minorities and workers. We must continue the fight for a socialist society that will abolish all class/racial/gender divisions and create an epoch of progress currently unknown to humanity.

But this inclusion is superficial in a liberal tendency with only its own interests. The primary political interest is putting a fellow white woman in the White House have nothing to offer multiple oppressed women whose needs are greater and who need far better.

It is relevant that this process occurred concurrently and not coincidentally with another such shift within the Democratic Party itself: a platform aimed at increasingly disenfranchised progressive youth. The Democrats are also responsible for a noticeable push to achieve the label of “inclusiveness,” starting in the 2000s with cisgender LGTB and more recently with trans people. As a result, the state that once arrested trans women for walking the streets of Manhattan, now employs trans people as public servants and even as soldiers and police ofﬁcers.

This dichotomy demonstrates perfectly the choice available to trans people in the U.S. at present: either assimilation or liberation.

The prospect of assimilation into a white supremacist, patriarchal, capitalist society appeals to some trans people, just as it is leading millions of Latin Americans and cis-heterosexual women, trans women, lesbians, trans men and disabled women should be made visible within liberal feminism.

This is the slightly edited version of a talk given at a Feb. 3 forum, “Women and the Struggle for Socialism,” hosted by Workers World Party in New York City.

Commentary

The string of bombings that wracked Austin, the so-called liberal bastion of Texas, is yet another manifestation of white supremacy. Soviet medical scientists as early as the 1920s had remarked that human sexual difference was an illusion, in fact, it’s not. This had been evidenced socially by the worldwide prevalence of multigendered societies throughout precolonial history.

Therefore, it is clear that those who have entrenched this system of gender to be fallible. By demonstrating that the oppression of people of different genders, transness can be used as a weapon against capitalist ideology and cut a way toward a more complete and accurate understanding of gendered oppression.

Second, we need to educate the public about the threat to white supremacists and how white supremacy is intertwined within U.S. institutions. We must remember that white supremacy is detrimental to the lives of minorities and workers. We must continue the fight for a socialist society that will abolish all class/racial/gender divisions and create an epoch of progress currently unknown to humanity.

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How could you have not been horrified at hearing woman after woman share their painful experiences of being sexually assaulted by Michigan State Univer-
sity’s Dr. Larry Nassar? He was sentenced to a prison term of over 100 years after two of his daughters’ testimony. Today Mark Dantonio, MSU football coach and athletics director, members of MSU’s president, gymnast XAPS to speak out.

His final sentencing was on Feb. 5. When these universities seek the most money, they do not change its class orientation without fight. By Monica Moorehead

women at MSU by basketball and football players, many of whom are play-

No isolated incidents

The bigger question is: Are the sexual assaults at MSU isolated cases? What about similar assaults at Baylor University in 2014? Or at Oklahoma University in 2014? Or at the University of Minnesota? What about the Duke Lacrosse rape case in the early 2000s? Are any of these incidents isolated? Hell, no! In fact, even sports analysts say that sexual assaults against women are systemic, especially at schools with large athletic programs that each year bring millions of dollars into the coffers of these institutions — which are run more like corporations than educational institutions. The intervention of the class struggle is key to building class unity.

What analysts do not say is that rape culture against women is systemic to capi-
talism and is rooted in class society that will persist only so long as capitalism continues. By Monica Moorehead

Black & Brown Women United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights

The article asks: “How can young women, women of color, poor women, lesbians, trans women, and working-class women realize their full poten-
tial in capitalist society when all they face is violence, unemployment, exploitation, and oppression in their lives?” Additionally, it explains: “The capitalist state cannot be reformed and will not change its class orientation without the intervention of the class struggle.” The state, based on cruel and unjust laws, must be smashed as it was in Czarist Rus-
sia in 1917, in China in 1949 and in Cuba in 1959, and replaced with a worker’s state that will defend the interests of all the workers of many nationalities, both men and women with equal authority, in order to produce every-
thing we need to become productive human beings.

When these universities seek the most money, they do not change its class orientation without fight.

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By Monica Moorehead

This is the slightly edited version of a talk given at a Feb. 3 forum, “Women and the Struggle for Socialism,” hosted by Workers World Party in New York City.

A Voice From Harpers Ferry

by Jomo Kenyatta

A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!

MARXISM, REPAIRATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. A Voice From Harpers Ferry. A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!

WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Includes essays by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead, plus “Unfinished Revolution” by VACP Colpoff.
Empowered women march on International Women’s Day

By Kathy Durkin

International Women’s Day is commemorated on March 8. Established by women socialists in 1910, it is a day of solidarity with women in struggle against oppression, exploitation, racism, poverty and war.

With raised fists, militant marchers around the globe denounced the exploitative gender pay gap and anti-woman violence, both ills of capitalism.

Many demonstrators hit patriarchal capitalism itself. Empowered women workers demanded workplace respect and equal pay. Signs showed the #MeToo and #TimesUp campaign against job-related sexual misconduct is resonating around the globe. LGBTQ contingents were loud and proud, too.

Here are some highlights.

### South Africa: Honor Albertina Sisulu

Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture Maggie Sotyu led a tribute to anti-apartheid resistance leader Albertina Sisulu in conjunction with IWD, in Gauteng, South Africa. When this hero died in 2011, at 92, she was the longest-serving African National Congress member and had been persecuted and imprisoned by the apartheid state. Her spouse was ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who was subjected to systemic oppression and multiple forms of racist and gender discrimination and violence. They face higher rates of police abuse and are the fastest growing prison population. The state is removing their children at rates exceeding those of “The Stolen Generations” of 1910-70.

A national campaign calls for self-determination, empowerment and respect for the human rights of Aboriginal people.

### Australia: Defend Indigenous women

On IWD, Aboriginal activists called on all women in Australia to stand in solidarity with them in challenging widespread human rights abuses. Indigenous women are subjected to systemic oppression and multiple forms of racist and gender discrimination and violence. They face higher rates of police abuse and are the fastest growing prison population. The state is removing their children at rates exceeding those of “The Stolen Generations” of 1910-70.

A national campaign calls for self-determination, empowerment and respect for the human rights of Aboriginal people.

### Palestine

Free Palestinian prisoners!

Palestinian women in the Occupied West Bank rallied at the Israeli military checkpoint at Qalandiya, facing tear gas, and in Gaza, to protest the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. They called for an end to the occupations, freeing of all political prisoners and self-determination for Palestine.

Thousands of women from throughout Gaza converged at the U.N. offices, calling for the release of the 63 Palestinian women, including 50 minors and 17-year-old Ahmed Tamimi, jailed in Israel’s prisons.

Hundreds of women workers and students protested sexual and domestic violence and job and wage discrimination in New Delhi, India. Banners read: “Equal Rights for Women!” and “No rape!”

### In South Korea

In Seoul, South Korea, women’s rights activists, together with labor unions, held “#MeToo” and “Stop at 3 p.m.” signs, signifying that due to the gender pay gap women work for free after that time. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions called on workers to leave their jobs at 3 p.m., and join the #MeToo campaign. The Korea Women’s Association decried the patriarchal social structure.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea commemorated this special day with a national meeting at the People’s Palace of Culture. The Socialist Women’s Union of Korea, its president Jang Chun Sil, and women officials and leaders of many sectors, participated. Women play an important role in all aspects of society; laws protect women’s rights, including in employment.

Thousands of women workers, farmers and others died on March 8 and marched on Mendiol, the Philippines, against President Rodrigo Duterte’s regime. The women’s organization Gabriela organized the demonstration to “Fight Duterte’s misogyny and fascism.” In Manila, protesters condemned Duterte’s War of extrajudicial kill-

ings and his brutal war on dissenters, and called him one of the worst violators of women’s rights.

Thousands of women rallied in Jakarta, Indonesia’s capital, to demand gender equality and an end to discrimination. On the prior weekend, thousands joined the Women’s March in Jakarta and protests in other cities. They demanded rights for domestic workers, migrant workers, Indigenous women, LGBTQ individuals, disabled women, sex workers and survivors of violence. The call resounded for reproductive rights for all women workers.

### New Delhi, India

In New Delhi, India, women called for gender pay equality and an end to anti-woman violence at the Place de la Republique in Paris, Marseille and other cities. Solidarity actions were held in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere.

### Madrid

Strike wave across Spain

Strikes swept the Spanish state on March 8 as 0.3 million women workers and male allies left work in 200 cities and towns. Protesting the gender pay gap, workplace sex discrimination and domestic violence, women asserted, “If we stop, the world stops!” The March 8 Commission stated: “We call for a society free of oppression, exploitation and violence. We call for rebellion and a struggle against the alliance of the patriarchy and capitalism.” (CNN, March 8)

Ten unions called for a 24-hour strike. The CCOO and GTU, the bigger unions, called for two-hour work stoppages, saying these walkouts were “an unprecedented strike in our country’s trade union movement.”

At midnight, 24 hours of strikes and rallies began in Madrid. Trains stopped running. Women blocked roads there and in Barcelona. Students chanted, “Madrid will be sexism’s grave,” as 1 million people rallied in the capital’s Plaza de Cibeles. Thousands of women demonstrated in Vitoria, Bilbao and San Sebastian in the Basque country.

In Italy, a 24-hour strike by women workers was backed by labor unions and women’s organizations. Actions were held in dozens of cities. Air, road and rail transportation services and school and health programs were affected. Thousands of militant pro-choice students marched in Milan.

Throughout Europe, women joined in work stoppages and marches. In France, women called for pay equality and an end to anti-woman violence at the Place de la Republique in Paris, Marseille and other cities. Solidarity actions were held in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere.
representatives from the occupied territories and “Di- aspora Women,” traveled to Spain and joined the March 8 strike in Madrid to call for women’s equality. Other events in Madrid and Getafe ended with calls for solidarity with and freedom for Saharawi political prisoners in Morocco’s jails.

Mass marches in Latin America and the Caribbean

Hundreds of thousands of women marched throughout Latin America, including in Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Nicaragua and Peru where Andean women participated. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, an enormous rally said “no” to femicides and “yes” to reproductive rights. LGBTQ activists joined in San Salvador, El Salvador. A banner in Mexico City, read: “Femicides, Negligence, Violence, Inequality.” Five thousand women from 34 countries attended a summit in the Caracol of Morelia Tzotz Chi of Chiapas, Mexico, organized by women in the National Liberation Zapatista Army. The “First International Gathering of Politics, Art, Sport and Culture for Women in Struggle” aimed to bring together women fighting back against patriarchal oppression.

Members of the Lenca community demonstrated on March 2, the second anniversary of the murder of Bertha Zuniga Cáceres, Indigenous leader, environmental activist and socialist, outside the Public Ministry in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She had led successful protests to stop a U.S./European bank-funded hydroelectric dam. That day, David Castillo, CEO of dam builder Desarrollos Energéticos SA at the time of her murder, was arrested for helping orchestrate it. His hearing was held March 8. Daughters Bertha Zuniga Cáceres, current leader of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras), which her mother co-founded, and Olivia Zuniga Cáceres, a Liberty and Refoundation Party legislator, are carrying on their mother’s fight — and Olivia Zuniga Cáceres, a Liberty and Refoundation Party legislator, are carrying on their mother’s fight — and Olivia Zuniga Cáceres, an Indigenous leader, environmentalist and political prisoner, traveling to Spain and joined the March 8 rally. The struggles of working and oppressed women were told through songs, speeches, music and visual art. Mahilton Munro, of United American Indians of New England and Indigenous Peoples Day MA, gave a riveting talk titled “Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Women and the Question of Land.”

She told the audience, “The very category of who is, and who is not, considered to be a woman is a tool of settler violence. The state uses gender violence to enforce white supremacy, anti-Blackness and settler colonialism. “Native women are attacked to destroy our families and our nations. Settler colonialism uses gender to colonize through centuries of rape and sexual mutilation, and through the widespread sexual violence of the residential schools and in foster care.”

Munro continued: “Two aspects of settler colonialism and capitalism are how they bring about violence against the land and against women. Our bodies are intertwined with the land and water. Our bodies are our homes that we have a right to protect, just as we have every right to defend the land and water.”

Nathan Heathman of Workers World Party, chair of tonight’s meeting, introduced Monica Moorehead, 2016 WWP Presidential Candidate, to the cheering audience.

“Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. Workers World Party holds the view that all oppression must be removed, not just directed against women. 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Trump engineers right-wing takeover

By Fred Goldstein

March 24 — With the appointment of racist, militarist warmer John Bolton to the position of national security adviser, Donald Trump has virtually transformed his regime into a bastion of ultrarightists.

With this transformation, Trump has demolished the original loose coalition that included establishment figures in the White House and the Cabinet. This coalition had been put in place by the broader ruling class to balance the ultrarightists around Trump, and Trump himself.

The transformation has sharply increased the dangers of war and the economic hardship for the masses. Leaders of the workers and the oppressed should take this development seriously and prepare for resistance now.

Trump and his handpicked ultraright yemen are basically in charge now. With the appointment of Bolton as national security adviser, virtually all the key positions in the White House and the Cabinet are now headed by extreme rightists.

The single exception is Secretary of Defense Gen. James Mattis. Known as “Mad Dog” Mattis, this Iraq war criminal and herder of Falujah’s has nevertheless sounded caution about nuclear war or first strikes against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). Mattis has also advocated for the U.S. staying in the Iran nuclear pact and has differed with Trump’s pro-torture statements.

The president’s closest advisors in any administration are the secretary of state, secretary of defense, national security adviser and his personal staff. The head of the National Economic Council and the trade adviser are also key positions.

Trump has used his firing and appointment powers to see to it that each of these positions is now occupied by an ultrarightist who is compatible with his belligerent, racist, militaristic program.

Hawk replaced by superhawk

Trump pushed out Gen. H.R. McMaster, a top military strategist even though he was a war hawk. The replacements are partly political, partly personal and partly factional. But the details are not as important as the fact that he has replaced McMaster with a superhawk, John Bolton.

Bolton on Feb. 28 wrote a major piece for the Wall Street Journal falsely arguing that there is a legal basis for making pre-emptive war against the DPRK. He is for regime change and for militarily removing the government of the DPRK, saying the south, which has been occupied by U.S. troops since 1950, should take over.

Bolton not only wants to get out of the Iran nuclear deal, but he also wants regime change in Tehran and would use bombing to bring about the end of the Islamic Republic.

He was an architect of the war in Iraq and still defends it. He was one of an influential group of neocons in the George W. Bush administration, along with Paul Wolfowitz, who gave policy fuel to Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld to start the Iraq war.

Bolton was a right wing that he could not get confirmation from the Senate to be the permanent U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. He had been acting ambas- sador for a year in a so-called recess appointment by Bush. But he had to re- sign when his recess appointment was up because he could not get confirmed.

This ambassador to the U.N. once said, “if they cut the top 10 floors off the U.N. it wouldn’t make any difference.”

Purge began with Priebus and ended with Mattis

The “moderate” side of Trump’s initial coalition consisted of such establishment figures as chief of staff Reince Priebus, former head of the Republican National Committee, secretary of state, Mattis, secretary of defense, Mattis, former head of the National Economic Council; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former head of ExxonMobil; Secretary of Defense Gen. James “Mad Dog” Mattis; and National Security Adviser Gen. H.R. McMaster. They are all good men, usually in the same boat with Trump.

Priebus, former head of the RNC, was pushed out early to be replaced by Gen. John Kelly — a racist, pro-Colonialist imperialist hawk and former head of Homeland Security and the U.S. South- ers Command.

More recently, Tillerson was ousted and is to be replaced by Isolophic Iran hawk Mike Pompeo, who was brought over from being head of the CIA and is closely connected to the Koch brothers. Trump and Pompeo have talked on a daily basis for months.

Next to go was Cohn of Goldman Sachs. Cohn had worked with Trump to push through the gigantic corporate tax-cut giveaways. But Wall Street was opposed to Trump’s trade war policies of imposing tariffs, especially on imports from China. However, Trump imposed the tar-iffs anyway, siding with the anti-China tariff pushers of the American Petroleum Institute and the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Black Lives Matter movement laid the basic concept for this. The Trump administration is using this as the basis for a societywide consciousness of the white working class.

Women’s March last January to answer the militaristic agenda of over 1 million people against Trump’s attacks on women, the working class, the environment and the international working class.

It is worth noting that Trumka and company did little to support the teach- ers in West Virginia, who waged a heroic strike in a “right-to-work” (for less) state.

People below move in opposite dire- ction from Trump

Trump, the ruling class and the do-nothing heads of labor are all moving in the direction of political reaction. But the people are moving in the exact oppo- site direction.

Over a million students came out in hundreds of demonstrations against the National Rifle Association on March 24. Their slogans were moderate, but the spir- it of determination to push back the gun lobby into the past was powerful and their blood money was something new.

Over a million women came out for the Women’s March on March 8 to answer Trump’s hateful misogyny.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals solidarity movement has raised consciousness about the inhuman depor- tations and the destruction of immigrant families.

The reactionary current emanating from the pro-capitalist, pro-middle-class sector of the ruling class is bound to eventually clash with the progressive current coming from the lower echelons — the poorer sections of the working class, the immigrants, the women, the LGBTQ community and the students. Reaction cannot hold forever.

Tariiffs, trade wars and the working class

The ruling class always carries on its wars at the expense of the working class and the oppressed. This goes for military wars as well as trade wars.

This is what is producing the labor bureau- cracy, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Vice President Leo Gerard, head of the Steelworkers union, have hailed the tariffs on steel and aluminum as a victory for creating jobs. These labor lieutenants of the ruling class are trying with their limited power to maintain their oversized positions and their oversized salaries.

Meanwhile, tariffs will cost jobs. And not only the jobs of U.S. workers but the jobs of Chinese, Japanese and Korean workers, just on the basis of the contrac- tion of steel and aluminum production.

The Trump administration imposed limited tariffs on U.S. goods. The producers of those goods will engage in layoffs if the import quotas hold. The Wall Street Journal reported that when, for instance, President George Bush imposed tariffs, 250,000 workers lost their jobs.

Instead of hauling tariffs as a way to get jobs, true labor leaders would be fighting for all those steelworkers, coal miners and other industrial workers whose jobs have been destroyed by the bosses’ tech- nology and offshoring. They would make the capitalists responsible for layoffs and unemployment and demand a jobs pro- gram for displaced workers.

The narrow-minded, selfish labor bosses are the same bureaucrats who sold the same way they fought for the Dakota Access pipeline, which trampled on the rights of Indigenous people and was a blow to the environment.

A true working-class mentality puts the interests of the entire class ahead of the narrow interests of a tiny section of higher-paid workers.

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The Builders and the Bugs: The Anti-Housing Movement in Los Angeles — By Ernesto Hasbach — LowWageCapitalism.com

available at major online booksellers. LowWageCapitalism.com

El capitalismo en un calzón sin salida

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

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

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

Available at major online booksellers.
Farmers march for rights, win concessions

By A. Majumder

Since the beginning of March, Indian farmers have been making themselves heard, and their voices are hard to ignore. Tens of thousands of farmers in the state of Maharashtra, in western India, gathered on March 6, for the start of the “long march,” from Nashik to Mumbai, the state capital and India’s financial and commercial center.

Numbering about 50,000 by the time they arrived six days and some 112 miles later, they raised several key demands to support India’s beleaguered small farmers. The demands include compensation for failed crops, adequate support prices for their produce, adequate compensation for failed crops, individual and community land rights for forest dwellers, and adequate pensions.

Some of the farmers’ demands are already law but remain unenforced or under-enforced. Some demands arose from election promises that were never fulfilled. Yet other demands stem from recommendations of a 14-year-old government report by the National Commission on Farmers. As they approached Mumbai, the Khadi Adhikar Andolan in the state of Maharashtra and All India Kisan Sabha, and an umbrella alliance called the Bhoomi Adhikar Andolan (Movement for Land Rights), with agricultural workers mainly affiliated with leftist parties like the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

The march was largely organized by the All India Kisan Sabha, and an umbrella alliance called the Bhoomi Adhikar Andolan (Movement for Land Rights), with agricultural workers mainly affiliated with leftist parties like the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

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Meeting exposes Philippines government abuses

By Sam Ordóñez

Human rights abuse is being carried out by the U.S.-backed Duterte government in the Philippines. A public forum to expose that injustice was hosted here on March 22 by the U.S. chapter of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines.

Members of the Filipino community in Boston, with their allies, heard informative talks given by members of ICHRIP-US and BAYAN-USA, a coalition of Filipino organizations in the U.S. Then they broke into small groups to discuss the situation and create strategies to build local solidarity with the people of the Philippines. The meeting was well attended, with a dynamic, well-prepared, and informative keynote presentation by Vijoy Bryant, otherwise known as MC Baka.

The meeting highlighted the fundamental role of the military in sustaining U.S. imperialist structures and strategies in the Philippines. According to a report on the website of workers.org, Duterte’s three-year term has been marked by a significant increase in extra-judicial killings. Duterte said that the Philippines is “a country at war” and has vowed to continue his war on drugs, which has led to the death of thousands of alleged drug dealers. The government has also been criticized for its human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

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Farmers open spring strikes with mass protest

By John Catalinot

Faced with layoffs, downsizing and privatization of public services, public workers in Lebanon are marching in the hundreds of thousands to hold a countrywide strike. Workers had been striking for six days, and some 112 miles later, they raised several key demands to support India’s beleaguered small farmers. The demands include compensation for failed crops, adequate support prices for their produce, adequate compensation for failed crops, individual and community land rights for forest dwellers, and adequate pensions.

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Join anti-war marches April 15

More than a million people marched in some 500 cities around the United States insisting on an end to violence on March 24. Whatever their specific demands, the demonstration, led by high school and even younger students, was directed against the ultrarightists of the National Rifle Association and the Trump regime, telling them to stop the violence.

No one threatens more violence these days than the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The political challenge for those who understand the threat the military chain of command presents to cities all over the world is to bring this message to those same youths who look to the streets on March 24, many protesting for the first time in their lives.

The recent personnel changes in the Donald Trump administration, including appointing General John Bolton as national security advisor and Mike Pompeo to run the State Department, have placed an even more lethal threat against the people all over the country. The political opportunity right now is to bring this message to the youth and millions of workers who see their lives and livelihoods threatened by the irrationality of the super-rich.

* End military aid to apartheid Israel.
* Bring all U.S. troops home now.
* Close all U.S. bases on foreign soil.
* No to white supremacy, police brutality/murder. End racist mass incarceration.
* No to human being is illegal. No to mass deportations. Yes to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival programs) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status). UNAC says in its call: “The U.S. government and its leading Penta gon generals openly and repeatedly threatened nuclear war or massive military intervention against sovereign nations. Such is the case today with North Korea, Iran and Venezuela. Simultaneously, U.S. military forces are at war in several nations including Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia. Hundreds of U.S. military bases circle the globe in more than 100 foreign countries at the cost of $trillions while these same $trillions are subtracted from critical social programs at home. $Trillions in tax cuts and corporate bailouts are granted to the super rich while the war at home takes on virulent racist, sexist, anti-immigrant, L.G.B.T.Q, Islamophobic and homophobic forms. Join us!"

Neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party establishment will stop the drive to war. Only a mass movement of the people can do it.

Join the march. Build the protest. Make sure the youth who have begun to challenge power know they are welcome to join the fight against imperialist war — the greatest source of violence.

For more information, see UNAC's website: UNACpac.org/UNACcenter.org

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

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.

“If schools in the United States really want to impart historical truth, Catalinotto’s Turn The Guns Around would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans movement and the history of color revolution in the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

— Pvt. Larry Holmes GI resistor and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74. Available at online booksellers

**WORKERS WORLD **
**editorial**

**National Conference to Defeat Austerity**

Ricardo Santos Ramos speaks.

The photographs shown here were taken at the National Conference to Defeat Austerity on March 24 at the St. Matthew’s-St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in the North End district of Detroit. The event brought together hundreds of delegates from around the United States. Special guest Ricardo Santos Ramos, the former president of the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union of Puerto Rico, delivered a major address on the economic crisis in this U.S.-controlled colony.

Other speakers from Detroit, New York City, Baltimore, Boston, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Durham, N.C., and other cities discussed situations in their areas and how they are rebelling out solutions to the problems involving education, housing, water services, neocolonialism, food justice, imperialist war, labor organizing, cultural work and environmental justice. Solidarity statements were delivered on the common struggles in Palestine, Lebanon, the Philippines, Spain, Colombia, Italy and on and on ending the blockade of Cuba. A warm video message from Venezuela focused attention on the upcoming May 20 presidential elections there.

— Report by Abayomi Azikiwe

**Film showing builds solidarity with Anti-fascist Caravan to Donbass**

**By Workers World New York bureau**

It’s been four years since a far-right regime, which was supported by Washington seized power in the former Soviet republic of Ukraine and began a war of extermination against the people of the Donbass mining region bordering Russia. On March 18, a film showing was held at the Solidarity Center in New York to shed light on this crisis and efforts to build solidarity.

Introducing the films, Kayla Popuchet of Workers World Party explained, “The eastern Ukrainian region of Donbass has made a militant resistance to the fascists, as they are composed of working-class folks who hold anti-fascist beliefs. In the U.S. we do not hear about the war going on in Ukraine because our bourgeois media do not want us to be aware of what the government here is supporting. It is more convenient for them to silence the resistance. But with us, their words and struggles are alive. We see you, we hear you, and we love you.”

The first film shown, “Ukraine: Maskes of the Revolution,” by filmmaker Paul Moreira, caused a scandal throughout Europe when it was broadcast on French television in 2016. Moreira exposed the role of neo-Nazi gangs in Ukraine’s so-called “revolution of dignity;” the massacre of anti-fascist activists in Odessa on May 2, 2014; and the role of U.S. and European officials in covering up their crimes. The Ukrainian government tried to have the film banned.

Commenting on Moreira’s film, Greg

**National Conference to Defeat Austerity**

Ricardo Santos Ramos speaks.

The photographs shown here were taken at the National Conference to Defeat Austerity on March 24 at the St. Matthew’s-St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in the North End district of Detroit. The event brought together hundreds of delegates from around the United States. Special guest Ricardo Santos Ramos, the former president of the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union of Puerto Rico, delivered a major address on the economic crisis in this U.S.-controlled colony.

Other speakers from Detroit, New York City, Baltimore, Boston, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Durham, N.C., and other cities discussed situations in their areas and how they are rebelling out solutions to the problems involving education, housing, water services, neocolonialism, food justice, imperialist war, labor organizing, cultural work and environmental justice. Solidarity statements were delivered on the common struggles in Palestine, Lebanon, the Philippines, Spain, Colombia, Italy and on and on ending the blockade of Cuba. A warm video message from Venezuela focused attention on the upcoming May 20 presidential elections there.

— Report by Abayomi Azikiwe

**Film showing builds solidarity with Anti-fascist Caravan to Donbass**

**By Workers World New York bureau**

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Commenting on Moreira’s film, Greg
Interview with Borotba’s Victor Chapinov

“We can't allow Ukrainian fascism to spread further”

By Greg Butterfield

On Feb. 22-23, 2014, a violent coup overthrew Ukraine’s elected government. It brought to power the right-wing “Maidan” movement, with backing from both Republicans and Republicans in Washington.

The new regime, headed by oligarch Petro Poroshenko, has engaged a brutal civil war against the people of the Donbass mining region of eastern Ukraine. People there declared independence and formed the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. The war has cost more than 10,000 lives so far, and has been exploited by U.S. and Ukrainian politicians to push a carrera of aggressive campaigns against neighboring Russia.

The Ukrainian regime outlawed mass meetings in 2014, dispersing hundreds of political opponents and unleashed armed fascist gangs throughout the country, including in Odessa, where over 40 anti-fascist were massacred on May 2, 2014. At the direction of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund, Poroshenko’s government has spent privatization and cheap-off the country’s natural resources to Western capitalists.

Workers World spoke to Victor Chapinov, a coordinator of the outlawed Ukrainian Marxist organisation Borotba (Struggle), about the situation faced by workers and the anti-fascist resistance four years after the coup.

Workers World: It’s been reported that Ukraine now has the lowest standard of living in Europe of all the countries of the former Soviet Union. How do you assess the relationship between the junta and the IMF today?

Chapinov: The IMF’s demand is to create an independent system to investigate government corruption and an anti-corruption court independent of the Ukrainian authorities. At the same time, these bodies should be controlled by Ukraine’s international creditors. In fact, it is a question of creating elements of a colonial administration that would look after the local oligarchy.

Naturally, Poroshenko is not enthusiastic about such control, but this is a logical step along the path that Maidan started. Once again, it’s not about public control over corruption, but about control by international creditors — something like what we saw in Greece.

Workers World: From here it seems there has been a steep escalation in confrontations between the neo-Nazi groups and the Poroshenko government, especially on the streets of the capital. We know that a presidential election is scheduled for March 2019. How do you think this situation may develop over the coming year?

Chapinov: What candidate or grouping has the support of the Western backers of the coup?

Workers World: So far, regardless of the pressure exerted by the West on Poroshenko, he remains the main contender, the favorite of the U.S. and EU. However, other politicians of the Maidan camp are also being considered as an alternative — Vladimir Klitschko, Yulia Tymoshenko and even Wladimir Putin. How do you see the standoff in the coming period?

Chapinov: Negotiations are now underway between Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France on the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping contingent in the conflict zone. Under the preliminary agreements, these will be peacekeepers from Brazil, Sweden and Belarus. If this is done, then the number of periodic outbreaks of fighting may decrease. However, we have already seen in the case of Yemen that peacekeepers can be used as a screen for the actions of one of the parties, so the bellicose statements of Kiev must be dismissed.

Workers World: The previous U.S. administration tried to keep some distance from the worst excesses of the junta and the fascists by legitimising the direct sale of heavy weaponry to Ukraine. Now, under Trump, those restrictions have been removed. How do you think the shift in the U.S. imperialist government’s behaviour will affect the situation, if at all?

Chapinov: The Trump administration is clearly leading the way in aggravating the international situation. Sadly, Russian officials associated Trump’s arrival with the hope of “peace and friendship.” Experience shows that the right wing always leads to war.

Workers World: The Maidan coup will be used as an instrument of aggression depends on many factors. It’s important to note that the ruling elites of Ukraine are much more interested in the题 of the mega-projects “hawks” in the White House. They offer themselves as cannon fodder to Wash-ington, constantly declaring that they are waiting a “war with Russia.”

Workers World: Recently there was a meeting in Dubai between U.S. State Department envoy Kurt Volker and Russian presidential advisor Vladislav Surkov to discuss the situation in Ukraine. Surkov said there was general agreement between the two sides. Do you foresee any shift in Moscow’s role in war-staging toward the Donbass after the up-coming Russian presidential elections?

Chapinov: Russian circles are being pulled down toward a rapprochement with the West, especially the United States. They did not expect such strong pressure andming of the Minsk ceasefire agreements and causes casualties among civilians, but so far it has not undertaken a major offensive. However, it is said that a lot of work has been done with the help of NATO forces to train and rearm the Ukrainian Armed Forces and volunteer battalions. How do you see the standoff in the coming period?

Workers World: What is your message to communists and anti-fascists, especially in the Western countries?

Chapinov: The Western media prefer to “forget” about Ukraine — they say and write little about both the civil war, which continues, and the destruction of the econom-ic and lives of ordinary people, accord- ing to the recipes of the IMF and other international creditors.

It’s important to understand that Ukraine is a testing ground for impe-rialism’s war against the people. Here, there is a clear international situation. Russia’s ruling circles are looking for ways toward a rapprochement with the West, especially the United States. Sadly, Russian officials associated Trump’s arrival with the hope of “peace and friendship.” Experience shows that the right wing always leads to war.

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Costello habló con la periodista laboral más grande en el estado. Recientemente, andando alrededor de 2.000 trabajadoras/almacenes en Indiana, cada uno empleando el “viernes negro”. Amazon tiene cinco macén de Indianápolis en octubre, justo distribución” de Amazon. El camarada sobrevivir económicamente mientras son la compañía en todo el mundo luchan por supervivencia. Sin embargo, las/os trabajadores no tienen otras/os trabajadores no tienen beneficios. No hay beneficios totalmente cubiertos. MG: ¿Tienes compañer@/as de traba- jo en asistencia pública como cupones de alimentos? JC: Sí. Amazon es una compañía donde el CEO es una de las personas más ricas del país y del mundo, pero debido a que el salario es tan bajo, muchas/os trabajadores no tienen otra opción que buscar asistencia en otro lugar, trabajan- do en múltiples trabajos o mediante cu- pones de alimentos y otros programas de supervivencia. MG: ¿Hay una alta tasa de rotación? JC: Hay. Muchas/os trabajadores son expulsados hasta el punto de querer re- nunciar o ser despedidos por no cumplir con las normas. Entran muchas/os trabajadores que han sido despedidos pero vuelven a solicitar. Las/os personas son despedidas antes de su aumento, y luego son contratadas a tasa más baja. MG: Describe los datos demográficos de la fuerza de trabajo. (Hay discrimi- nación). En ellas: 1. Las/os trabajadores de Amazon no son personas de color más jóvenes y especialmente mujeres de color. Muchas/os trabajan múltiples trabajos. Amazon no es un lugar seguro para las/os personas que enfrentan oposición especia- lmente, como los/as trabajadores de Amazon que tienen una discapacidad, no es amigable para las personas LGBTI-, es el término de Amazon para las/os trabajadores no tienen beneficios. Muchas/os trabajan multitud de trabajos. Amazon solo ha ganado el derecho a sindicalización. Ambos impulsan ma- yorías del trabajo. Exigiríamos descansos y dispositivos invasivos de seguimien- to digno por el cual podríamos pagar las cosas...