In Mexican election
Masses move left

By John Catalinotto

Some 53 percent of Mexicans who went to the polls elected Andrés Manuel López Obrador, popularly known as AMLO, as the next president of this country of 123 million people, the third most populous in the Western Hemisphere.

This landslide victory of AMLO against three other candidates of more right-wing and conservative establishment parties — the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the National Action Party (PAN), which together have ruled Mexico over the last 89 years — was the most lopsided electoral victory in Mexican history. His nearest rival got less than half AMLO’s votes.

López Obrador’s electoral coalition is also leading in votes for the lower house of the legislature in five out of nine state governments in play. Plus an AMLO ally, Claudia Sheinbaum, became the first woman elected mayor of vast Mexico City, the capital.

When AMLO’s three rivals conceded on the night of July 1, Mexicans flooded the Zocalo Square in the capital with mass demonstrations to celebrate the victory and demonstrate their great expectations that a new era had begun. They expressed hope that in this new era the Mexican regime would be more sovereign, less repressive and less under the thumb of Washington, while providing more social programs aiding the poor and being free of the corruption that aids only a handful of oligarchs; government, police and military bribe-takers; criminals; and their imperialist contacts across the border.

The election of this more leftist candidate breaks with recent trends in Latin America, which have seen rightist presidents elected in Argentina and Colombia and “judicial coups” depose center-left leaders in Uruguay and Brazil.

When evaluating how much of an “earthquake” the election of AMLO is, it’s good to keep in mind a useful quote from one of the founders of Marxist political theory, Friedrich Engels. In “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State,” he wrote: “Universal suffrage is the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It cannot and never will be anything more.”

Whatever the intentions and sincerity of elected officials, and even when these elected individuals are revolutionaries, their role in government still leaves the levers of real power — the army, the police, the justice system and today the media, not to leave out the banks — in the hands of the capitalist class that owns and controls it all.

In Mexico these levers are held by the oligarchy and directly by U.S. imperialism. The Pentagon virtually commands the Mexican army. The FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency operate throughout Mexico, entwined with and as corrupt as the local authorities. The U.S.-directed “war on drugs” has resulted in 200,000 people killed since 2006.

Only a massive upheaval that breaks apart this state can change social relations. Even carrying out substantial reforms will require mass actions much

Continued on page 9
Three Black trans women in Jacksonville, Fla., have been murdered since February 2018: Celine Walker, Ash- tashí English and Cathalina James. A fourth unnamed victim was wounded in a shooting, but has survived.

The ongoing violence in Jacksonville has sparked an understandable but nonetheless horrifying fear that the murders are connected and are the work of a serial killer or serial killers who target Black trans women.

More might be known about the situation if the city of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office would handle the cases properly. But, as usual, the officers of the capitalist, racist, transphobic establishment are dedicat- ing time, money, energy and police power while violence against transgender people surges. Even after their deaths, disrespect for these Black trans women has been continuous. The JSO has consistently misgen- dered the victims, referring to them only by their dead names (birth-assigned names), and as “men who identify as women,” “men dressed as women” and so forth. The authorities have repeated all the negative phrases that only serve to perpetuate violence against trans people, particularly Black trans women. To add further insult to injury, the JSO has taken no step to investigate these crimes as hate crimes.

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On July 5, in a second Trans State of Emergency dec- laration, Strive (Social Trans Initiative) served as a trans advocacy organization that meets trans people’s material needs. While acknowledging that nowhere is safe for trans people, Strive urged that all should be on high alert in and around the Jacksonville area. Strive also issued a continued call to action in the form of phone-ins and email-ins to the Jacksonville city and sheriff, and to the state attorney, demanding these cases be investigated as hate crimes. A further demand was that all media personnel and the JSO acknowledge and apologize for misgendering and disrespecting the victims.

Though a core belief of Strive is its anti-cop stance, since these cases are now in the hands of the police, Strive is putting pressure on every available avenue to solve these murders and bring a killer, or killers, to light.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should re- main in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital- ist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and democratically planned to satisfy and guar- antee basic human needs.

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

workers@wwp

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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and aus- tronomy, 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, 147 W. 24th St. and Fl. New York, NY 10011 Phone: 212.627.2994 E-mail: ww@workers.org Web: www.workers.org

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Mundo Obrero

Workers World

National Office

147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta

PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0815
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore

c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Bay Area

1305 19th St.
Oakland, CA 94612
510.652.2100
bayarea@workers.org

Boston

284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02110
617.656.7576
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
Buffalo@Workers.org

Chicago

1105 N. Ashland Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60622
312.630.2805
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland

Cleveland

P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.778.0220

Denver

denver@workers.org

Detroit

5900 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0774
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.

804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston

P.O. Box 543
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2631
houston@workers.org

Indiana

Indianapolis

P.O. Box 18123
Indianapolis, IN 46223
219.597.3200

Los Angeles

5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org

323.306.6240

Milwaukee

milwaukee@workers.org

Milwaukee

P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.391.2361
philadelphia@workers.org

Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 1032
Pittsburgh, PA 15230
pittsburgh@workers.org

Portland, Ore.

P.O. Box 1037
Portland, OR 97207
portland@workers.org

Rockford, Ill.

rockford@workers.org

Salt Lake City

801.750.2849
SLC@Workers.org

San Antonio, Texas

SanAntonioWWP@workers.org

San Diego

P.O. Box 3347
San Diego, CA 92163
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.

tucson@workers.org

Virginia

Virginia@workers.org

Washington, D.C.

P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

Post Office: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. and Fl., New York, NY 10011.
By G. Dunkel

From southern California to Scotland, to the misty British Isles and the Arctic coastline of Siberia, temperatures were way up. I’ve even recorded the last week of June and the first week of July. When temperatures in Siberia hit 90 de- grees Fahrenheit, 90 degrees higher than normal, it generates storms out of the Pacific Ocean. That’s pack out of sight — whether or not there’s an official declaration of a Siberian heat wave is not really relevant — it’s hot. More than 1,133 people died in the United States were under heat warnings or advisories stretching from the Mis- sissippi Valley, up to Chicago and over to the Seattle coastline of Siberia, temperatures were 90°F or higher. It’s common for heat-related fatalities and extreme heat, temperatures were 90°F or higher. It’s common for heat-related fatalities and extreme heat.
Houston
No children’s ‘slave quarters’!

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Houston’s Free Los Niños Coalition held a militant demonstration on July 6 outside of a Southwest Key building being remanufactured on a piece of unaccompanied minors crossing the Mexico/Texas border without an adult. Almost all speakers condemned not only the Donald Trump administration, but also both the Democrats and Republicans for their anti-immigrant policies and practices. Rev. Dr. William Barber was the last speaker after speaker said they would not allow this children’s prison to be opened.

Speaker after speaker said they would not allow this children’s prison to be opened. Anytime the government talks about detention facilities on July 9 were met with harrowing testimonies of the mistreatment of children. Activists admitted on July 9.

This mandated that all adult immigrants in detention facilities without them. The White House’s “zero tolerance” policy.

This mandated that all adult immigrants in detention facilities without them. The White House’s “zero tolerance” policy.

By Kathy Durkin

July 10 – The Trump administration’s war on im/migrant families continues. Some 3,000 migrant children are still separated from their parents, which the Department of Health and Human Services admitted on July 9.

From May 7 to June 20, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency took migrant children from their parents’ arms at the U.S./Mexico border under the White House’s “zero tolerance” policy. This mandated that all adult immigrants crossing the border would be taken into federal custody and their children placed in detention facilities without them.

The White House xenophobe in chief had to back down from this horrific “family separation” policy when a mass movement arose opposing it. Publicly, he reversed his order on June 20 not out of compassion — but because the “visuals” were bad for his public image.

Federal Judge Dana Sabraw has ruled that all children separated at the border be reunited with their parents within 30 days of their June 26 order, and he decreed that all children under 5 years of age be returned to their parents by July 10. The government now claims that it can only locate 54 of the 102 children under 5 and asked for an extension of the deadline, to deliver a proposed timeline on July 10.

Children are being held in detention centers, many in terrible conditions, caged, alone and neglected, and scattered to 27 states. Some parents have been deported without their children, causing a number of them to join lawsuits against U.S. government agencies to regain custody. The reality is that many young children may never be reunited with their parents, and could even be adopted.

Because immigrants are not entitled to due process, they are not provided with public defenders when they go to court, even if they are children. The absurdity of this policy is evident when toddlers must appear in court alone and a judge asks them if they understand immigration law!

This callous disregard for migrant children has infuriated millions of people and spurred on activism — even acts of heroism.

Outrage breeds resistance

On July 4, a courageous woman, Patricia Okoumou, protested these inhumane detention policies by climbing partial to the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. An immigrant from the Congo, Okoumou told the Guardian newspaper that she feared being shot or tranquilized by police, who surrounded her for four hours. She said to officers, “My life doesn’t matter to me now, what matters to me is that in a democracy we are holding children in cages.” (July 7) On July 10, Judge Sabraw said these were “firms deadlines,” and threatened to penalize the government if it doesn’t comply.

Okoumou boldly told police, “You could shoot me the way you shot Claudia González and killed the trans woman,” alluding, first, to the 20-year-old Indigenous Guatemalan woman killed by the U.S. Border Patrol in Texas in June and, second, to Roxana Hernández, a Honduran immigrant who died a brutal death in ICE custody in May.

Arrested and charged with three misdemeanors, Okoumou appeared in federal court on July 5. She sent a strong message that day wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan: “White supremacy is terrorism.” With legal help from Rise and Resist, Okoumou was released. Her next court appearance is Aug. 3.

Protests against family separations continue in Texas border cities. Congressional delegations visiting immigrant detention facilities on July 9 were met by La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE) activists in McAllen and by Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network members in Brownsville. LUPE, Texas Civil Rights Project and other forces are staging daily protests and a hunger strike until July 17 in McAllen.

“Abolish ICE!”

Demonstrations and encampments have been organized in front of Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities throughout the country. Police attacks have not stopped these actions, and calls to “Abolish ICE!” are only growing louder.

Workers World Party has supported these protests. Meanwhile, activists continue to plague Trump’s political cohorts. A group confronted Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell outside a Louisville, Ky., event on July 7, calling for ICE’s abolition. A few miles away, hundreds of people in Occupy ICE were demonstrating at the city’s ICE office, with the same message.

An encampment had been going on there for several days.

The 45th president campaigned on a program of racism and xenophobia. He started his election with racist propaganda. He ended his campaign with racist propaganda. He ended his campaign with racist propaganda.

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“Abolish ICE!”

Demonstrations and encampments have been organized in front of Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities
Portland Occupy ICE begins hunger strike

By Roy St. Warren, Josh Allan and Lyn Neely
Portland, Ore.

#OccupyICEPDX continues to face off with federal agents after three weeks of developing a sophisticated and professional resistance with more than 50 tents, hundreds of protesters and tremendous community support. Occupiers shut down the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office here for two weeks and began a hunger strike on July 4. Protesters are not intimidated by the cops’ use of arrests, tear gas and sharpshooters. They say they are here to stay until their demands are met: Abolish ICE, close the camps, stop deportations and stop incarcerating asylum seekers.

The occupation has developed a sophisticated community structure centered around a common anti-ICE, anti-capitalist program. Occupy teams include maintenance and engineering, food and water distribution, support for protesters, group meditation. The People of Color Caucus organizes 24-hour guard duty, security guidelines and decisions concerning the safety of all protesters, and policies concerning photography and videos. They hold nightly vigils and regular rallies centered around the stories of people directly affected by U.S. imperialism.

On June 30, city cops helped DHS agents by clearing streets in the vicinity of the ICE office to make way for a raid of the encampment. They cleared the sidewalk in front of the building’s entrance and erected a “no climb” fence around the perimeter of the facility. The fence obstructs the sidewalk on all sides, yet the city has not issued any citations for blocking public property — as they routinely do for houseless people. It makes the sidewalk inaccessible for those using mobility devices, in violation of Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

On July 3, the Portland facility reopened. Several media outlets reported that the occupation was disbanded. Yet the truth on the ground is very different: the occupiers maintain they will continue their struggle. They have learned from the U.S.-manufactured immigrant crisis as a crisis of imperialism and a direct result of U.S. intervention. People seeking asylum in the U.S. aren’t seeing from natural disasters, but rather from the violent, unlivable conditions created by U.S. hegemony in countries around the world.

OccupyICE has spread to other cities around the country. It echoes other occupations of workers and oppressed, like the Paris Commune, the general strikes of the early 20th century, Occupy Wall Street and Standing Rock. It presents an opportunity to expand the workers’ struggle into deeper arenas of the class struggle and build.

A broad-based, global anti-war movement is intrinsic to solving the immigrant and refugee issue. While the capitalist media frame immigrants and refugees as a crisis, the real crisis results from capitalism itself. Unaffordable housing and healthcare, extreme inequity, racist police violence, pollution and climate change are all real issues facing workers and oppressed peoples.

Racist attacks on migrants and refugees by the U.S. ruling class serve to divide the working class and distract us from the real culprits behind the serious problems we face today. But through continued proletarian internationalism, workers in both imperialist core countries and in colonized countries can fight together against their common enemy: the ruling class. □

Police attack on ICE encampment condemned

By Betsy Piette Philadelphia

Police raided an encampment outside the Philadelphia Immigration Customs and Enforcement facility for the second time on July 5. It was the fourth day of the people’s protest.

Ten minutes before the early afternoon attack, police told protesters they had to move water coolers and supplies off a sidewalk and clear space in front of the building. As people began to comply and legal supporters tried to clarify the situation, the police, using bicycles, pushed through the camp, knocking down tents and canopies, throwing possessions aside and padlocking those who questioned their attack. Seven people were arrested.

The encampment outside the Philadelphia ICE facility, the most aggressive faisal mass migration.

Nancy Nguyen, a child of Vietnamese refugees to the U.S. and executive director of VietLead, referred to the history of the U.S. war on Southeast Asia, where more bombs were dropped than during all previous wars combined. “We are here now, but since 2003, over 1,475 people from Vietnam and Cambodia have been deported. We are seeking justice and we stand in solidarity with the people who have been occupying this space. More eyes are on ICE now.”

Colombian activist Mara Hinojosa, from Philadelphia, joined the encampment who are the immigrants and we stand in solidarity with the people they face and oppress. If you have a system that is acting upon you oppressively and is not accountable to you, as a community you have a right and responsibility to resist that force.

“Philadelphia police, with increased funding of over $600 million per year, have shown that they are incapable of being accountable to the city of Philadelphia. We have to hold them accountable ourselves — by whatever means necessary. Whether it is the Philadelphia police force, ICE or the U.S. military, we have to disempower, disarm and depose them, and do it on our own.

Also speaking for REAL Justice, Anthony Smith, first generation U.S. born, from an immigrant family, raised that “Black immigrants from every continent who are here now, but since 2003, over 1,475 people from Vietnam and Cambodia have been deported. We are seeking justice and we stand in solidarity with the people who have been occupying this space. More eyes are on ICE now.”

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Following a 15-month-long siege on a 15-month-long siege on Philadelphia’s Powelton Village neighborhood, police launched an assault on the MOVE compound the remains of the MOVE members who died during the siege. Nine MOVE members were arrested and convicted of the death of a Philadel-phia police officer during the raid. Despite the lack of any evidence linking any of them to the shooting, they were given 30- to 300-year sentences. All nine became eligible for parole in 2008, but have been repeatedly denied.

On June 6, Debbie Sims Africa, minister of education for the MOVE organiza-tion at the time of her incarceration, became the first of the MOVE 9 to be paroled after nearly four decades in prison.

Debbie was reunited with her daughter Whit and son Mike Jr. for the first time in nearly 40 years.

Mike Africa Sr., Debbie’s spouse and one of the remaining six MOVE members still incarcerated, became eligible for parole a year ago in southeast Philadelphia and Africa Phil, died in prison.

On July 6, this writer met with Debbie and her son, Michael Africa Jr., on the porch of the Delaware County, Pa., surrounded by a wonderful garden on the first cool day after a week of heat waves.

We started out talking about how Debbie came to be involved with MOVE. I wanted to know where Debbie Sims Africa was born. It became known as the MOVE 9. Debbie responded by describing her experience, and that of her brothers and sisters, as young teenagers growing up in Philadelphia’s Black Bottom neighbor-hood, where there was always something going on: fights, police violence, etc.

Debbie said her long story short: “My brother got into a fight with one of his friends — ended up with my sister on probation. My boyfriend, Mike Africa Sr., got my brother in a fight. I was coming and didn’t want us in the streets, reached out to some MOVE people she knew. Accompanied us to the house and talked with us for hours, giving us sound advice, talking about how violence wasn’t the solution to problems. That we should try to solve problems.

“It wasn’t called MOVE at the time, but one of their members invited my two brothers to come to their place in Powelton Village to work at a car wash they ran. This was around 1972 or ’73. My brothers loved it. They didn’t want to come home and didn’t they? They got involved in MOVE activities, in speaking engagements — at the time they were in full throttle speaking out against injustice. They loved it, taking care of the dogs and going to study sessions that MOVE founder John Africa held, educating people how to avoid violence in their communites and on police brutality — the things that made people’s lives miserable.

“My older sister took dictation for John Africa. My mother was at home with all involved at that point, but I didn’t want to go there. I was in high school and aspiring to be a graduate.”

“We actually ran away. They found us, but we got away and have never been back.”

The conversation turned to the work to free the MOVE 9.

Debbie described the terror of the police siege that started on Aug. 5, 1978, we did not discuss the event that led to the arrests and impris-sonment of the MOVE 9. However, while incarcerated, Debbie wrote about her experience for onamove.org.

Then 22, Debbie was in the house during the 1978 attack with her 2-year-old daughter. She was eight-and-a-half months pregnant with her second child.

Debbie described how police used fire hoses to forcefully spray water through a broken window in the basement. The impact was enough to throw two-by-four oak beams across the room, literally tear-ing the house apart and killing dogs in the process. Then, a second wave of water came through another window, catch-ing them in a crossfire of water.

The rest is history.

“We huddled together, scared because we knew cops had lots of guns and other weapons. We didn’t know how they were gonna do it, but we knew their plan was to kill us. Cops were yelling over a loud-speaker for us to come out the house ... but we didn’t trust them, so nobody went out there.”

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The cells may look like dorm rooms, but we were not living in college conditions,” Debbie explained. “There were locks on our doors and not one inch of privacy. We were not able to move around, not able to make phone calls that much and had limited contact with our families. Even our phone calls and visits were made available.

“Up until my release, I was in a room with other MOVE sisters. We didn’t generally socialize with everybody because we have very specific beliefs and consis-tent principles we follow. Because of that, we carry ourselves a certain way, and people have been known to say, ‘They’re different.’”

“The other prisoners saw our mental toughness and physical strength, that we had the spirit to go on and fight for the people we care for and respect them. We always had a strong impact on what happened in the prison, and there was sup-pport from our families. During the parole cer-emon, I even had officers wish me good luck and say it was time for all of us to go. We did our time and should be released.”

Free the MOVE 9

The conversation turned to the work to free the MOVE 9 members who remain imprisoned, more than nine years after they became eligible for parole.

“We are asking for MOVE people to be released. We were given 30 to 100 years, and we’ve done our work over our minimum — nearly 40 years at this point — and we’ve already served the right to be paroled,” Debbie explained.

“People can send letters to the MOVE organization in Philadelphia, since letters matter during this time,” she said. “We can make sure they get to the proper place. On Aug. 5, there will be a program to commemorate 40 years of MOVE people still in prison. We’re planning a run/walk, a panel discussion and enter-tainers. People are welcome to join and donate. More information can be found on onamove.org.”

“People have already done so much in support year after year, decade after de-cade. We’ve had so much good support, often from a small, consistent group of strong supporters who have never let us
Prison conditions breed hopelessness

By Jared Ware

The deadlident incident of violence in a U.S. prison in a quarter century took place at the Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina on April 15. According to multiple reports, including South Carolina Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling’s own, prison guards and emergency medical technicians made no attempt to break things up until after the fight was over, while imprisoned people were beaten and stabbed. Seven people were killed and dozens injured, with at least 22 requiring hospitalization.

I interviewed three individuals from prisons inside the South Carolina Department of Corrections on April 22. One of them identified himself as a member of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group of imprisoned human rights advocates who have made national calls to action for a prisoner-led strike in response to conditions they feel are responsible for the violence and hopelessness in prisons across the U.S.

These three individuals, identified as D, S, and E, have the same beliefs helps. MOVE does not believe in killing life unnecessarily. Having the same beliefs helps. MOVE does not believe in killing life unnecessarily.

D: I'm going to take you back a little step here — to 1996 at least [to Bill Clinton's Prison Litigation Reform Act and Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act]. These acts, that went into full effect in 1996, initiated 85 percent Truth In Sentencing laws [a movement to end parole and increase the length of prison sentences], as well as ensuring that prisoners convicted of certain offenses served at least 85 percent of their sentences throughout most of the states today.

It's not necessarily something that's violated in South Carolina; it was actually national. There was a domino effect in 1996, initiated 85 percent Truth In Sentencing laws [a movement to end parole and increase the length of prison sentences], as well as ensuring that prisoners convicted of certain offenses served at least 85 percent of their sentences throughout most of the states today.

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Deidre Griswold, a founding member of Workers World Party and editor of WW newspaper, spoke at a July 7 forum titled “Korea: Behind the Headlines.” The forum, which attracted over 35 people to Chicago’s United Electrical Workers union hall, was co-sponsored by Chicago ALBA Solidarity Committee and Workers World Party and endorsed by Anakbayan Chicago, Chicago Anti-War Coalition, Chicago Committee Against War and Racism and Freedom, and 360 North West Side. Griswold based her presentation on her firsthand experiences visiting the northern and southern regions of the Korean peninsula over several decades. She provided historical context to the current political climate, including the ongoing conflict between the U.S. and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

She laid out an historical timeline beginning with the unsuccessful U.S. attempts at gunboat domination of Korea in the 19th century, the subsequent takeover of Korea by Japanese imperialism, the development of the Korean armed liberation struggle under Kim B. Jong’s leadership, theashes of the bombings of the north by the U.S. during the Korean War, the division of the country engineered by the U.S. after World War II, the establishment of a U.S. puppet regime in the south, and the development of socialist foundations in the north.

Griswold condemned the intimidation and exploitation employed by the DPRK, including military wargame exercises and open calls for the DPRK’s annihilation, as well as the expansion of Camp Humphreys, the largest U.S. overseas military base in the world.

Refuting the widespread lies about DPRK aggression, the former opposition leader pointed out the vast difference between the roles of the U.S. and North Korean military, Griswold challenged the audience: “When have you seen DPRK soldiers in the streets of the DPRK? Where have you seen DPRK weapons deployed outside that country? You haven’t because all their soldiers and weapons remain in the DPRK. They are there to protect their country, not to spread aggression.”

Griswold added that the DPRK’s military program serves as a deterrent and has thus far proven effective.

Opportunism aids imperialist aggression

By Christian Noakes

In imperialist Western Europe, North America and the U.S. in particular, a phenomenon has been observed: the head within progressive circles — involving vital support for imperialism and militarism.

As has been the case historically, this support ranges from denial of self-determination for oppressed countries — countries of the Global South — to jingoistic participation in a drive toward war.

In mid-2018 it is all too common for such so-called progressives to refuse to support the right of Korean, Venezuelan and Syrian self-determination. Some also refuse to denounce U.S. military and economic aggression against these countries. They line up their positions with the campaign of U.S. politicians and the corporate media to demonize the countries under attack.

The ability of U.S. imperialism to construct a popular consensus for war and subjugation against foreigners. It was the ideologic opinion manufactured by the imperialist ruling class.

To understand the consequences and function of this opportunism in acts of imperialist aggression, it is helpful to consider the blow to internationalism over 100 years ago during the buildup to World War I.

World War I, 1914-18

The Second International was a world-wide organization of parties calling themselves Socialist or Social Democrat; some in Western Europe had a mass wide organization of parties calling themselves Socialist or Social Democrats.

What should be a question of self-determination. Just as colonizers asserted the be self-determination in many parties. While these leaders did not themselves promote the hostile, almost racist, stereotypes, they found “progressive” pretenses.

In Germany, the Social Democratic Party voted to fund the war, with much of the leadership arguing for an imperial war against what was then Czarist Russia. From left to right, German society largely accepted nationalistic class collaboration, which was framed as an imperious defense of German culture and society from “backward” Russian influence.

In France and Britain, the social democratic leaders, with few exceptions, railed against German militarism and in support of their own capitalist democracies. Preserving imperialism as a progressive endeavor or defense against repression and backwardness promoted bourgeois nationalism that ultimately tore the Second International apart and piled workers against one another. The Second International was dissolved in 1916 after its organs in the separate European countries supported their own national bourgeoisies and followed them to war — on both sides.

The material basis for this treachery. Imperialist exploitation of the colonies enabled the ruling class, as Workers World contributing editor Fred Goldstein wrote in his book “Capitalism at a Dead End,” “to throw crumbs at the upper strata of the working class.” Those sectors allowed the development of a privileged labor leadership and workers’ parties that were no longer committed to revolution.

In Russia social democratic parties were split. Lenin’s Bolsheviks supported international working-class solidarity and maintained the principle of anti-imperialism. Segments of the Mensheviks supported Russian involvement, reject revolution in favor of opportunistic collaboration with bourgeois nationalists.

Having experienced the social-imperialism that divided socialists during World War I, Lenin was keenly aware that “the fight against imperialism is a sham … unless it is inseparably bound with the fight against opportunism.” (Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism)

21st-century opportunism

Just as colonizers asserted the belief in the “white man’s burden” — a racist concept — to impose Western imperialism on the world, so too do today’s “progressives” promote the narrative that U.S. imperialism is a gift to the Global South.

There was a reason the 21st-century opportunists would rather defend the right of self-determination for Western capitalists.

A selective standard infects the left. It makes some people enthusiastically supporters of imperialist aggression. It makes many others at least reluctant to speak out against imperialism for fear of breaking with public opinion that is manufactured by pervasive bourgeois ideology.

A selective standard infects the left. It makes many others at least reluctant to speak out against imperialism for fear of breaking with public opinion that is manufactured by pervasive bourgeois ideology.

In adopting and enforcing imperialist lies about the Global South, these organizations fall into the same trap with regard particularly to Syria. It has provided alleged “independent” alternative broadcast outlet that of-sided narrative touting regime change in Syria, broadcasting reports from the White Helmets grouping and other obviously partisan sources to support the U.S.-backed opposition there.

Instead of providing a left voice, has fallen into the same trap with regard particularly to Syria. It has provided alleged “independent” alternative broadcast outlet that of-sided narrative touting regime change in Syria, broadcasting reports from the White Helmets grouping and other obviously partisan sources to support the U.S.-backed opposition there.

To denounce the recent Venezuelan election and the legitimacy of the Boli- varian Revolution more generally, Oliver took to using misleading abbreviated quotes and a highly selective history of U.S. imperialism in the region. He did not mention how the U.S. military intervention in 2002 which tried to overthrow the democratically elected Chávez or any other facts that might reveal the extent to which Washington has consistently tried to undermine Venezuelan self-determination.

Even Democracy Now!, the most prominent alternative broadcast outlet that of- ten provides a left voice, has fallen into the same trap with regard particularly to Syria. It has provided alleged “independent” alternative broadcast outlet that of-sided narrative touting regime change in Syria, broadcasting reports from the White Helmets grouping and other obviously partisan sources.

The progressive façade propagated by liberals has made it easier for Washington to carry out military aggression without arousing mass resistance. It also provides an in opportunist alternatives for the left to support imperialist maneuvers while disguising this as leftist criticism. This was the case during this year’s Left Forum where opportunists attacked Black Alli- ance for Peace organizer Ajamu Baraka for his support of Syrian self-determination.

The historic lessons of the Second Interna- tional are applicable today, especially with its parties that they must confront oppor- tunism on the left if they are to adequate- ly oppose imperialism. This requires recognizing the imperialist funk, the idea which is used to vilify self-determination of countries in the Global South and present the liberation of those countries as a hazard for people living in the imperialist countries.
Continued from page 1

more powerful than dropping votes into ballot boxes.

**Who is AMLO?**

López Obrador has never been part of a social or economic movement. He is a politician with nationalist roots, harking back to Lázaro Cárdenas, who was president from 1934 to 1940 and promoted local capitalism — as opposed to collaborating with imperialism — while allowing the workers and poor to win some benefits. AMLO’s name is an acronym of his party, the Movement for National Regeneration (MORENA) — a party that depended on its popularity without an entrenched structure and two smaller parties with contradictory programs: the Workers Party (PT), a party with Maoist roots, and the Partido Encuentro Social (PES), which might have won some evangelical and LGBTQ rights. The alliance with PES might have won some evangelical and LGBTQ support for ex-President Rafael Correa and the Citizen Revolution that began with Correa’s first term in 2007.

That the Citizen Revolution now lies in ruins is evident in the banners and the chants of some 20,000 people who poured into Quito’s center in a 10-block-long protest that ended in Plaza Santo Domingo. Protests in Guayaquil and other cities emphasized that Moreno says. Cayetano told Workers World that 250 Ecuadorian immigrants demonstrated international solidarity in New York, joined by their allies on the afternoon of July 5. Correa is still our leader.

Huge banners from every province and hundreds of handwritten placards told a story: “Correa amigo, the people are with you.” “Freedom for Jorge Glas.” “We are all Rafael Correa.” “No to Dictatorship.” “The New Economic Law Serves Only the rich.” “The New Economic Law Serves Only the rich.”

 ...

By Michael Otto

**ECUADOR**

**20,000 protest to support former Pres. Correa**

A massive manifestation of popular support for ex-President Rafael Correa took place on the sunny afternoon of July 5 in Quito, the capital. The action was at the same time a dynamic expression of growing Ecuadorian resistance against current President Lenin Moreno's moves to restore the conservative policies that preceded the fledgling Citizen Revolution that began with Correa’s first term in 2007.

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“Lawfare” used to serve oligarchs and imperialism

“The law as a weapon of political warfare, called “lawfare,” was also used against president Luisa da Silva and Dilma Rousseff in Brazil and Cristina Kirchner in Argentina, all of whom Washington saw as obstacles to imperialist domination. As Kirchner observed, the objective of lawfare is “to hide the economic disaster that the neoliberal governments are carrying out in the region.” (perfol.com, July 9)

That Correa’s regime has become judicial targets of the soft coup d’état that started with the preventive detention and frame-up of Glas in October 2017 is no surprise. Some 70,000 public employees will now lose their jobs in the name of “austerity” to fix a manufactured fiscal crisis, while the government has forgiven billions of U.S. dollars in unpaid taxes owed by the rich.

Correa has been indicted for kidnap-

ing a former political opponent who was killed at the time of a furtive from Ecuador law, living in neighboring Colombia and engaged in sabotage against Ecuador as an agent of then right-wing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

On July 3, Judge Daniela Camacho re- nounced the Interpol arrest Correa and returned him to Ecuador for preventive detention. This charge is even more lurid than the cases against Glas and Lula da Silva. Ten or more cases against Correa are now underway by the Ecuadorian judiciary.

Marchers: “Rafael Correa is still our leader”

Amparo Castillo, leader of La Resistencia Ciudadana, explained to Workers World that untold numbers of public workers joined the march after work, along with many “like us, the people who ride the bus because we don’t own cars” and “other people of the heart who love Rafael Correa and many others who are thankful for the benefits that came from him.”

Compañera Castillo supports Correa and denounces especially the judicial and constitutional irregularities promoted by the current government. She says that people marched because we wanted to tell Moreno that “Rafael Correa is still our leader.

Huge banners from every province and hundreds of handwritten placards told a story: “Correa amigo, the people are with you.” “Freedom for Jorge Glas.” “We are all Rafael Correa.” “No to Dictatorship.” “The New Economic Law Serves Only the Oligarchy.” “There Is No Rule of Law in Ecuador.” “The Homeland Is Not For Sale.” “No Justice No Peace.”

The credit verdict ignored the Quito march, but after sunset as the rally in the Plaza Santo Domingo was ending, they blamed the protesters for violence. Castillo witnessed cops on motorcycles attacking demonstrators with batons. She saw a young man knocked down by one cop on a “moto” and then run over by another. Things got desperate when ambulances did not respond to her 911 calls for assistance.

Angela Cayetano, originally from Quito, traveled from New York City to repre- sent the International Action Center on the march and to find a way to involve the International Action Center in legal and political support for Jorge Glas.

The media have confused people, but recent polls find that more than 50 per- cent of Ecuadorians don’t believe a word that Moreno says. Cayetano told Workers World, “More and more people are not happy in Ecuador and want to heat up the streets to take [Moreno] out.”

Compañera Cayetano observed that the July 5 march was much larger than the protest held in Quito on April 10, which she also attended. Based on re-ports from her family members who live in Quito, she highlighted the fact that even some people who were long-time critics of Correa were marching on July 5.

Correista Wellington Echeveray called a press conference in San Francisco to 250 Ecuadorian immi- grants demonstrated international solidarity in New York, joined by their allies on the afternoon of July 5. Echeveray and Cayetano are active in collecting signatures to register the new MANA party, whose leaders organized the demonstrations. Ecuadorian leaders plan to organize more national marches to build the MANA party network and mobilize people against political per- secution and austerity measures that Washington and the International Mon-etary Fund have imposed as part of their neoliberal demands.
In the course of one week in July, baby formula monopolies exposed the drive for capitalist profits kills infants, and the Trump gang showed how an imperialist state serves these monopolies — or tries to — whatever ruthless means it takes. Good that they failed.

Capitalist monopolies strive for profits above all else. The Smoot-Hawley tariff, under Trump administration not only aids and abets these crimes, it does so in such a blatant way that it is impossible to ignore.

A 2004 study by The Lancet, the most prestigious medical journals, found breastfeeding could prevent 800,000 child deaths a year by 2020. That means Nestlé, based in Switzerland, and Abbott Laboratories, based in the United States, among others, have already contributed to millions of children's deaths on a worldwide scale. Abbott was a big contributor to Donald Trump’s inauguration ceremony.

These companies have killed millions of babies over decades by aggressively promoting their baby formula. Although they know it’s a lie, they claim their product is more healthful than breast milk from the mother. They also imply in their advertising that breastfeeding is what poor women do who don’t know better.

No formula to date is more nutritious than breast milk, but that’s not itself the cause of the deaths. The main problem is that in countries where safe clean drinking water is difficult to obtain, mixing dry formula with local water can provoke diarrhea or other illnesses that kill babies. Breast milk also provides immunity to diseases through antibodies passed from mother to child.

Even if local water is drinkable and refrigeration available, the formula can cost more money than people have. To extend the life of the formula, the baby’s caregiver is tempted to add more water, and the thinned-out drink is inadequate to nourish the baby. This also happens in poor families in wealthier countries. Aware of these problems, the World Health Organization has tried to limit false advertising of infant formulas.

China. He has also imposed tariffs on top supplier to the U.S. in 2017, especially U.S. workers.org/book/generals-over-the-white-house/

Workers.org free pamphlet online at: workers.org

Workers World editorial

Trump’s war on the world economy

By G. Dunkel

The Trump administration imposed tariffs at 12:01 a.m. on July 6 on $34 billion worth of Chinese products. The Chinese government immediately countered with its own tariffs on U.S. pork, soybeans and automobiles.

“The wrong actions of the U.S. have brazenly violated the rules of the World Trade Organization, attacked the whole world’s economic sustainability and obstructed the global economy’s recovery,” Lu Kang, a spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry, said in a daily news briefing. “It will bring disaster to multinational corporations, small and medium businesses and normal consumers across the world.”

China’s Ministry of Commerce asserted that the United States “has launched the biggest trade war in economic history so far.” (New York Times, July 6)

Trump is threatening ultimately to impose tariffs on $450 billion worth of goods currently imported each year from China. He has also imposed tariffs on goods imported from Mexico and Canada as well as from the European Union. A tariff basically a tax on goods imported into a country.

Trump argues that tariffs on steel and aluminum are necessary to bolster U.S. production and “protect U.S. national security,” since the metals are necessary in weapons production. Trump also argues that tariffs will “protect” and generate jobs for workers in these industries.

What is indubitable is that prices will rise for workers. Steel and aluminum are used to build cars, trucks and home appliances from cans for food to buildings and bridges — and steel and aluminum will be more expensive with the tariffs. Trump’s tariff war has sentenced U.S. workers to higher prices, which hit retired people and others on fixed incomes particularly hard, no matter what the impact turns out to be on the overall economy. But a closer look at tariffs, as well as manufacturing technology, shows how U.S. workers will also get hit through job loss.

Tariffs and technology target workers

While tariffs might be a boost to steel and aluminum manufacturers, other companies that use these metals, previously cheaper when imported, will lose out — and have to cut jobs.

The Trump tariff on steel and aluminum will hit hardest on imports from Canada, top supplier to the U.S. in 2017, especially U.S.-based steel and aluminum companies.

Historically, the Smoot-Hawley tariff, which was voted into effect in 1930 and certainly contributed to the severity of the Great Depression, reduced international trade by over 60 percent. Economist Paul Krugman estimates that the new U.S. tariffs and responses to them could reduce international trade by 70 percent. That means the 10 million U.S. workers engaged in international trade could face large job losses as a result. (New York Times, June 17)

Even if tariffs on foreign competitors increase the profits of U.S.-based steel and aluminum companies, there is no evidence these businesses will hire more workers.

Technological advances in manufacturing mean that fewer workers can produce more goods, and use of technology continues to reinforce that trend. According to the American Society for Mechanical Engineering: “In 2013, manufacturing output per manufacturing worker was $482,242; by contrast, each manufacturing worker in 2000 produced $363,847 in 2013 dollars. In 1976, the inflation-adjusted production was just $276,527.” (tinyurl.com/y9jynjrh)

ASME points out that, with increased factory automation, between 2000 and 2013, the number of U.S. workers in the metal industry, even as manufacturing output has grown.

So if tariffs could eliminate all manufacturing trade deficits with other countries that still work by driving down workers’ wages and job security.

For more by this writer read: “Laboring: Stories of a New York City Hospital Midwife” by Ellen Cohen, tinysquare.com/jmhbfry

The Impact of the Military-Industrial Complex

“Our view of the military differs fundamentally from the anti-militarism of the liberal and progressive elements in capitalist society. They fail to recognize that these capitalistic societies, that is, the relationship between the basic classes, determines the politics of the capitalist state, no matter which policy the governing group may pursue. This policy is inevitably imperialist and today inextricably serves the military-industrial complex, which, willy-nilly, is propelled in the direction of imperialist war.”

For more on health and the military, see

Cohen, tinyurl.com/pmhkfky

The United Steelworkers union represents workers in both the U.S. and Canada. President Leo Gerard generally supports Trump’s trade policy, but wants Canada exempted. Trump currently opposes exemptions, so some USW members — those workers in the U.S. engaged in steel production — would benefit from the tariff policy while workers in Canada won’t.

The U.S. government is in the process of renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA has regulated trade among Canada, Mexico and the U.S. since Jan. 1, 1994. This trade amounts to $650 billion a year. NAFTA gave an opening to U.S. agriculture that let big ag companies in Mexico farm, especially in Mexico, the market to full access to low-wage workers. It gave US ag companies in the U.S. the right to sell in the Mexican farm, while providing U.S. manufacturers with readier access to low-wage workers. It let U.S. manufacturers in the U.S. the right to sell in the Mexican farm.

For more on free trade see:

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For more on free trade see:

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For more on free trade see:
**Germany**

**Protest week held to ‘Stop Ramstein’ AFB**

Guilliard is an anti-war activist and analyst living in Heidelberg, Germany.

By Joachim Guilliard

Ramstein AFB, Germany

As the final action of a “Stop Ramstein” protest week against the largest U.S. Air Force base outside the United States, about 300 anti-war activists marched to and held a rally at the main gate of Ramstein AFB in Germany. Around 300 activists succeeded in symbolically blocking the access to the main gate for 45 minutes.

“Stop Ramstein” is a nationwide Ger- man campaign supported by numerous peace groups, left-wing organizations and individuals. It is directed primarily against the central role the air base plays in the U.S. drone war in the Middle East and Africa.

Among the speakers at the final rally were Sahra Wagenknecht, faction leader of the Left Party in the Bundestag (Lower House), and Ann Wright, a retired U.S. Army colonel and former U.S. State Department official who publicly resigned from the U.S. intelligence community in protest of the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The U.S. military uses the relay station in Ramstein for communication with the killer drones, which carry out attacks with no legal due process — what many call “lynch justice” — against people who Washington claims are terror suspects. The drones have already killed thou-sands of uninvolved civilians in addition to the targets.

At times, drone attacks have massac- red entire wedding parties because the U.S. suspected enemy combatants were among them.

The campaign is also directed against the military bases played by the huge base in U.S. and NATO’s illegal wars. Operations centers in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria have been and are coordi-nating combat operations by the U.S. Air Force and the armed forces of other NATO states. A significant part of the supplies to operational areas of the U.S. armed forces also pass through the airport.

**Action week diverse**

Although there were half as many demo-nstrators on the last day as in the two previous years, overall the action week, which culminated in the demonstration, was even more diverse than the previous ones. More than 200 people attended the 40 or so workshops of the four-day “Peace Workshop,” and 600 attended an evening event highlighting the aggressive policies of the Western imperialist states against Russia and the poisonous role of the media.

As in the previous year, activists against foreign military bases from 12 countries — including Pat Elder and Phil Wilayto from the U.S., Giuseppe Frittini from Italy, and Hoyeon Choi from South Ko- rea — met to exchange experiences and strengthen international networking for national and regional activities. Around 600 campers organized a large protest camp not far from the air base.

Since the missions of the killer drones are crimes under both German and inter-national law, the “Stop Ramstein” cam-paign demands that the German govern-ment must immediately stop the control of these drones via Ramstein. The demonstra-tors also demand the closure of the military base.

Under the terms of the contract with the U.S. the German government could simply terminate the contracts on which deployment of the U.S. armed forces is based, after giving ‘two-years’ notice.’

“Kill orders are arranged at the touch of a button. These are just outrageous crimes! And it is unacceptable that they be implemented here from German soil, in any way!” said Sahra Wagenknecht to the participants at the closing rally.

Referring to the wars against Iraq and Afghanistan, Wagenknecht demanded that in the future there should not be a single German region from which wars of aggression could be fought. Such activity is prohibited by the German Constitution.

“There are over 1,000 U.S. military bases around the world, and none of them has to be guarded by the security of those countries,” continued the prominent left-ist politician.

The well-known theologian and writ-er Eugen Drewermann, who spoke after Wagenknecht, reminded the demonstra-tors that the U.S. military has bombed several countries, pointing to the Afghanis-tan war since 2001. Referring to the German government’s role, he said: “We are in-volved in these actions, and we are partly responsible. We must finally reject this policy. We Germans have every reason to press the brake, with all our might, to correct old mistakes.”

Translation by Workers World Man-aging Editor John Catalinotto.

**France**

**Strategy changes for railroad workers**

By Rémy Herrera

Paris

The “reformist” (CFDT) and right-wing (UNSA) union federations officially exit-ed the struggle against the management of SNCF, the national railroad company, on June 28. But the combative union federations, the CGT and Sud-Rail, which between them represent more than 90 percent of railroad workers, announced their intent to con-tinue mobilizing together in July — and probably even later in the summer.

Their strategy, however, will change. Since the beginning of April, they have conducted two days of walkouts followed by three days of work, which they call “off-and-on strike.” Establishing the calen-dar of strike days well in advance allowed them to co-ordinate action together — including the CGT and Sud-Rail at times — retaining a “shared calendar.”

Infuriated by the astronomical divi-sion of the state to the big-business media, they have formed “unions of action” specific to their sector, in the spirit of solidarity. The CFDT, for example, decided to keep the struggle against the management (UNSA) union confederations, after dropping their demand for a “collective agreement for rail transport” that is to replace the former law regulat-ing conditions for railway workers. As the saying goes, “When the bosses decide to restore slavery, the ‘reformists’ will ne-gotiate with their masters over the size of the slaves’ chains.”

Another mobilization grows

At the same time, another large-scale mobilization is developing, historic also in its strength, determination and duration.

Energy workers have been fighting for over 10 weeks in a very dynamic and mas-sive strike led by young workers, which started in Marseille. At the call of the CGT energy federation, electricians and gas workers moved into action, cooperating with and supporting the railway workers’ strike, with quite similar demands but specific to their sector, in the spirit of soli-darity to define public services.

Mobilization grows

Since mid-June, this mobilization has been growing. It includes workers at Ene-dis, a subsidiary of Électricité de France (EDF), the leading electricity supplier in Europe; and Gaz Réseau Distribution France (GRDF), a subsidiary of Engie (for-merly GDF Suez), the main distributor of natural gas in Europe. By the end of June, workers had blockaded nearly 300 worksites and occupied more than half of them.

These strikes were at first “off-and-on” before becoming extended and even un-limited — making this mobilization the largest strike in the French energy sector in the last ten years. The atmosphere at the strike sites is often welcoming and family-like, reframing broad bonds of lo-cal solidarity.

Infuriated by the astronomical divi-sion paid to private shareholders, the strikers are on the offensive. They are de-manding wage increases of at least 400 eu-ros ($464) per month, permanent hiring of colleagues currently on fixed-term or tem-porary contracts, cancellation of sched-uled job cuts, return of outsourced work, and nationalization of the energy sector to make it a true benefit for public service consumers — and not for the capitalists.

This strike is the culmination of the nu-meous powerful struggles led by electrici ans and gas workers over the past two years, which included the “days of anger” organized over several months in early 2017. Given the scale of the rebellion, the big-business media are imposing a total censorship of information. The fright-ened employers and government are im-patient for the traditional summer vacation period in August, when they as-sume the struggles will run out of steam.

“The strike is the beginning of the struggle,” the CGT announced. The ruling class is counting on the fragmentation of the workforce that has resulted from years of privatiza-tion and the dismemberment of the pub-lic sector. Bonuses for employees who stay on the job are even being discussed in the nuclear and high voltage lines sectors.

What will happen when vacationers return, when the people’s anger against Macron is renewed, and when the hope of change is reborn?

Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), who works at the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris. WW staff translated this article.

**Turn the Guns Around**

John Catalinotto

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

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 high-lights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

Available at online booksellers
Desde adentro, hablando de las cárceles
‘El primer prisionero ambientalista en el mundo’

Segunda y última parte de la entrevista con Bryant Arroyo, prisionero dentro del cárceles a SCI Frackville, Pennsylvania.

Por Ted Kelly

Años más tarde, cuando Bryant Arroyo encabezó un tipo de levantamiento sin precedentes en la prisión, fue su amigo y mentor Mumia Abu-Jamal quien lo apodó “el primer prisionero ambientalista en el mundo”.

Escribió Mumia en el 2003, Mumia explicó el contexto. “En 1998, un ex gobernador de Pensilvania, Tom Ridge, invitó a un empresario del área a unirse a él en un viaje a Sudáfrica. El empresario, John W. Rich Jr., era un operador de planta de energía y un terrateniente importante en el área del condado de Mahanoy Susquehanna, una región empobrecida y en dificultades donde las minas de carbón cerraron hace décadas. Rich se reunió e hizo tratos con la empresa de energía e químicos SASOL de Sudáfrica, y poco después anunció planes para un importante proyecto de convertido de tiempo después, anunció planes para un y químicos SASOL de Sudáfrica, y poco hizo tratos con la empresa de energía dificultades donde las minas de carbón cerraron hace décadas. 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