A massive crowd of 250,000 people protested President Donald Trump’s visit to Britain on July 13 in London, says the Stop Trump Coalition. The group was a main organizer of Together Against Trump demonstrations.

Though dubbed “the Carnival of Resistance,” the issues raised were serious: opposition to Trump’s racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, and immigration and environmental policies, including U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate control accord. Signs also slammed Britain’s Brexit policy for its xenophobia.

Owen Jones, a coalition leader, explained: “We need to show that we abhor everything that Trump represents: bigotry, racism, anti-Muslim prejudice and misogyny.” (New York Times, July 13)

The Women’s March London kicked off the protests prior to the main demonstration. With the theme of “Bring the Noise” — drums, whistles, pots and pans — women said loudly and clearly that “this misogynist is not welcome here.” Stonewall, the LGBTQ rights charity, had a large contingent and denounced Trump’s attacks on their rights in the U.S. Later in the day, demonstrators, including many Muslims, marched across London. Huge banners were held aloft that read, “Trump not welcome here!” while sign and chant slogans said, “Refugees are welcome here!”

A 20-foot-tall blimp, representing Trump, hovered over both Houses of Parliament, the sites chosen because “there are a lot of parallels between Trump’s politics and the UK government, such as indefinite detention of migrants, and having environmentally unfriendly policies,” explained organizer Nona Hurkman. (USA Today, July 13)

Jeremy Corbyn, Labor Party leader, told the crowd at Trafalgar Square: “We’re asserting our rights to demonstrate and live in a world that’s not divided by misogyny, racism and hate. I want to live in a world where refugees are not blamed for the wars they are victims of.” Dividing ourselves by xenophobia means we all lose, he stressed, and “when we unite around common objectives, we can all win.” (socialistworker.co.uk, July 13)

Protesters strongly defended London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Muslim of Pakistani descent, who has been the target of racist attacks by the U.S. xenophobe in chief and the ultraright in England for his statements sympathetic to migrants. Khan opposes the U.S. travel ban on immigrants from majority-Muslim countries and has called Trump “a menace to democracy.” When asked about Trump’s visit by the media, Khan championed the unity and diversity of his city’s population.

While in Britain, Trump publicly slandered immigrants and pushed Prime Minister Theresa May to hasten Britain’s exit from the European Union. In 2016, the
Eight people were arrested July 12 during a nonvio- lent direct action targeting the national headquarters of MTC — Management Training Corporation — located in Centerville, Utah. MTC is the third largest builder of internment camps housing undocumented migrants. The eight were part of a coalition formed to combat attacks on migrants. They joined other groups around the country by focusing on the company that is building for-profit prisons and detention centers. The group called for abolishing ICE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — and for the end of for-profit prisons.

— Report and photo by Summer Smith, who was one of those arrested

New York City

‘No more kids in cages’

Chanting “No more kids in cages! Stop the deportations!” and “No ban on stolen land!” protesters marched around the plaza at Rockefeller Center in New York. At one point, they pushed through a police barricade, took the bleachers and hung a banner over the wall which declared: “Close the Detention Centers Now! Open the Borders. Asylum for Refu- gees.”

They were protesting there July 11 because the National Homeland Security Conference, an annual event aimed at creating propaganda to promote the Department of Homeland Security and private security contractors who are responsible for the detention and deportation of millions of immigrants, was held a dinner inside Rockefeller Center. As conference attendees gathered in the sunken area at the center of the plaza, where the ice rink is in the winter, protesters sent them a load message.

The newly formed group FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) called the demonstration. FIRE’s goal is to get rid of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, dismantle concentration camps holding immigrants and tear down any racist border wall that Trump tries to build. Many people passing by showed their support for the protest, which was taking place as children snatched from their parents at the border remain locked up in detention centers, terrified because of the violent separation.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan

Workrs World

Protest hits MTC and ICE

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and authoritarianism, 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:

Mundo Obrero

Workers World

Workers World is building for-profit prisons and detention centers. The eight were part of a coalition formed to combat attacks on migrants. They joined other groups around the country by focusing on the company that is building for-profit prisons and detention centers. The group called for abolishing ICE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — and for the end of for-profit prisons.

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Photo: D. EMANN

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Baltimore Target workers demand: ‘No More Racist Bosses’

Under a red “No More Racist Bosses” banner, workers at a Target store in suburban Baltimore gathered inside the entrance on July 3 and then led a walkout and picket. The Target workers leading the struggle, Erica Feldenzer and Sarah Shifflet, laid out their demands to In These Times on July 6: firing the two managers who made racist remarks and sexually harassed Latinex women of color and im/migrants. Spokeswoman Sarah Lyons, lawyer and tobacco buyers Reynolds as well as Alliance 1. FLOC is sponsoring a petition to help fight their boss, his anti-union and challenge of human dignity and a rehabilita-

Help FLOC fight unjust firings

When two Latina tobacco workers spoke out recently about their harsh living and working conditions on Randy Blalock’s farm in Roxboro, N.C., the bosses harassed, abused and ultimately fired them. Now the Farm Labor Organizing Commi-

Fight for $15 sets up ‘No More Racist Bosses’

In an email appeal signed by the Women of McDonald’s, Fight for $15 invites all fast-food workers who have experienced sexual harassment to get help via their new hotline: 844-384-4405. The email notes that Fight for $15 stands “with the brave workers who have filed suit against McDonald’s for letting sexual harassment against them go unchecked in many of its stores.” Its message stresses that “we are not alone.” And the message adds: “No company should ever ignore—or worse, retaliate against—employees who speak up about harassment on the job. Period. When corporations shift their responsibility, to provide safe and fair workplaces, we stand up.” (fightfor15.org, July 13)

South Carolina prisons: Raising children from jail

This interview was conducted after an April 15 rebellion at Lee Correctional Institution, a South Carolina maximum security prison. It was the deadliest prison uprising since the Lucasville Uprising on April 11-12, 1993. (Workers World, tinyurl.com/9qgrpdh2) Jared Ware spoke with individuals who are family members of exit incarcerated South Carolinian human rights advocates who have called for a National Prison Strike from Aug. 29 to Sept. 9. The demands and support actions are at incarceratedworkers.org. The following is Part 2 of the interview: Part 1 is available at tinylong/496fdjgl.

A South Carolina ‘dehumanizing’ prison.

By Jared Ware
Bishopville, S.C.

The individuals, identified here as D and S to protect their identities and prevent retali-

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Anti-Trump protests sweep Britain

By Christian Noakes

Seánad Éireann, the Senate of Ireland, passed the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill on July 11, which, if enacted, would make the purchase of goods and services from the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel illegal in the Republic of Ireland — the 26 counties where struggle ended centuries of British rule. The law the bill must also be passed by the Dáil, the lower house of the Irish parliament. Nonetheless, the passage by the Seanad is, in addition to being a little noticed, a major step in implementing the law, a symbolic victory and a testament to Irish-Palestinian solidarity. It also sets a precedent for transforming international consensus of the illegality of Israeli settlements into action.

While the right-wing Fine Gael government, currently in power, is opposed to the bill, it has otherwise enjoyed wide support. Along with Independent senators, bill-sponsor Frances Black, the legislation was endorsed by members of Sinn Féin, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party. The widespread support for the bill reflects the long tradition of Irish-Palestinian solidarity that stems in part from shared history and the material reality of settler colonialism. The causes of both Irish and Palestinian liberation are firmly rooted in the struggle against British imperialism.

Winston Churchill, who was British prime minister during World War II and then 1951-55, was central in the formation of the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries early in his political career. These are two British police forces used to terrorize and subject the Irish people to colonial rule. He also sent members of Sinn Féin’s IRA into the United States during World War II to form the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries.

In the early 1990s, Cuba endured its moment of the Cuban Revolution in the early 1950s, when Fidel Castro and his guerrillas ousted the dictator Fulgencio Batista. The Spanish Civil War and the Civil War in the Second World War also saw the Irish and Palestinian liberation movements share a common experience.

On July 26, 1953, Cuban revolutionaries attacked the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. With sixty years later, Fidel and his guerrillas ousted the U.S.-backed dictatorship, march into Havana in early January 1959.

That same year, Workers World newspaper began to publish. After more than 20 years of anti-communist reaction in the U.S., the Cuban Revolution helped revive interest in revolutionary socialism. The more outrageous the anti-Cuba propaganda in the corporate press, the harder Workers World has worked to tell the truth about this great victory over U.S. imperialism.

In 1955, after the U.S. sponsored the bombing of the United Nations headquarters, Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the Burmese National League for Democracy, was detained by the Burmese military. She was released in 1995. Today, she is the leader of the Nobel prize-winning National League for Democracy, which won a majority in the recent election and is now ruling.

In 2017, the U.S. administration increased its harassment of the Cuban people. The Trump administration has continued the U.S.-backed dictatorship, march into Havana.

In response to the Seanad’s support for the Occupied Territories Bill, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman has called for closure of the embassy in Dublin. Defense ministry spokesperson Emmanuel Nahshon also said the Irish Senate’s act of solidarity was playing into a “dangerous and extreme anti-Israel boycott initiative.”

The bill, however, would only outlaw goods produced in territories that are internationally recognized under the Fourth Geneva Convention as being illegally occupied. Under the two-state consensus, the bill would not entail a boycott of all goods and services produced by Israel; it only bans imports produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Israel’s mischaracterization of the bill as “anti-Israel” is directly rooted in the struggle against British imperialism.

Continued from page 1

The prison system is because the phones let callers access, via video systems, to visit friends and family. Cops say the phones can expose the things that they do when they’re using extreme force. The same way people use cell phones out on the streets when they’re selling drugs, certain things cops aren’t supposed to be doing. They can be exposed. They can’t hide when we’ve got the phones. There are other cases of members of these state terrorist organizations to Palestine.

Although many in the U.S. see the struggle for Irish freedom as having been resolved, there is far from a solved question of the potential for a renewal of the Irish struggle.

The British ruling class playing a repres- sive role in both Ireland and Palestine. Although many in the U.S. see the struggle for Irish freedom as having been resolved, there is far from a solved question of the potential for a renewal of the Irish struggle.

The Scottish Labor Party and Scottish Greens have created an opportunity to do whatever one is able to do, while the English fear for their friends in the U.K. to be the partner of the referendum to leave the EU, which passed narrowly. Implementing Brexit will restrict immigration to Britain from EU countries and harm migrants and refugees.

Sheffield mayor bans Trump

In another sign of resistance, the mayor of Sheffield, Magid Magid, a Somali immigrant, banned Trump from the city and named July 13, 2016 “Sheffield Solidarity Day.”

Some 4,000 marched against Trump that day in Sheffield and in Manchester, which is located east of Leeds and 1,000 kilometers from Birmingham.

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In 1956, when the U.S. announced that it was breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba, WW’s first editor, Vince Copeland, led a protest inside the United Nations, his booming voice proclaiming the U.S.’s “war on the banks, not the people.” In the early 1990s, Cuba ended great economic hardships after the Soviet Union fell and the U.S. tightened its economic embargo. Workers World played a key role in helping the Peace for Cuba International Appeal to end the blockade, the trade ban and all intervention against Cuba.

Despite the choking blockade, the Cuban Revolution only grows stronger and more respected as it sends life-saving medical teams all over the world. As the Trump administration increases its hostility to the socialist country, Workers World remains dedicated to defending revolutionary Cuba. Donations from WW supporters have helped get our pro-Cuba writings in print, distributed and posted at workers.org.

We invite you to join us, the 41-year-old WW Supporter Program to help us continue to publish articles in solidarity with workers and oppressed peoples worldwide and in opposition to U.S. wars. The newsletter is a source of anti-racism, anti-war, pro-Solidarity with Palestine, pro-LGBTQI+ news and work- ing-class truth, while it supports immigrants, opposes Islamophobia and helps build pro-socialist campaigns.

To join, write checks to Workers World, write donations to workers.org/donate. Supporters who contribute $75 a year receive a year’s subscription, a monthly letter; those who contribute $100 or more receive five books. Thanks for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S.
Prime Day strike in Spain, Germany

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Amazon's biggest sales day of the year is now Prime Day, a two-day online shopping spree that this year falls on July 16 and 17. Begun four years ago, the sale is expected to haul in $3.4 billion for the company during the sale is expected to haul in $3.4 billion for the company in 2018, up from an estimated $2.4 billion a year ago. (Washington Post, July 16)

But on this Prime Day, Amazon workers represented by unions in Spain and Germany slammed Amazon profits by going on strike. As the workers withheld their labor — and the company site got hit with an unexpected computer glitch — financial analysts lamented the negative impact on Amazon’s business.

Nearly 1,800 Amazon workers in Spain struck for three days beginning July 16, and thousands more in six German facilities for one day on July 17. Germany is Amazon’s second largest national market after the U.S. (tinyurl.com/y9y3tv82)

The strikers are mostly warehouse workers, who fulfill internet orders under oppressive time limits, dangerous working conditions and almost too-low-to-live-on wages.

Amazon’s service workers are represented by Comisiones Obreras in Spain and Verdi in Germany. European labor unions have been aggressive in demanding workers’ rights at Amazon’s warehouses.

Usually, European warehouse workers strike Amazon during the winter holiday season. According to the Washington Post, hundreds went on strike in Italy and Germany in November 2017, saying they were under “high pressure to create more and more, in less time.”

Reinforcing the European unions’ call to boycott Amazon on Prime Day, international worker solidarity was put in motion by several U.S. advocacy groups, including the Action Center on Race and the Economy. They appealed to workers and consumers to boycott Amazon on the #PrimeDayOfAction and to refuse to shop at Amazon’s Whole Foods Market. The groups are also calling for a boycott of Amazon because of its sale of Nazi-era Confederate and white supremacist items through third-party sellers.

For conditions of Amazon workers in the U.S., see Workers World’s interview with an Indiana worker at an Amazon warehouse: tinyurl.com/y7p9phx.

A short history of NATO — a bosses’ alliance

By John Catalinotto

Because a misogynist, xenophobic and openly racist enemy of humanity like the U.S. president criticized NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) at the July 12-13 Brussels Summit, someone might get the false impression that NATO is worth defending. Far from it.

Whatever Donald Trump’s long-term goal regarding NATO, assuming he gets the alliance, he will assume he worth defending. Far from it.

For most of its history, NATO has included all the major imperialist powers except Japan and Australia. Members have been the United States, France, Britain, Italy and Canada from 1949 on, and Germany since 1955, when it was West Germany. These five plus Japan make up the G7 countries that currently set economic rules for the world.

NATO also includes smaller countries that are long-standing members of the imperialist world — like Spain, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark and tiny Iceland. Greece and Turkey are also in NATO.

The major NATO powers are imperialist countries because their corporate and financial ruling classes buy, through their banks, control the bulk of the world’s wealth. The capitalist under their control is used to exploit labor and extract resources throughout the world.

Until World War II, Britain and France directly ruled vast parts of Africa and Asia in the form of colonies. Germany held colonies too, but fewer than those two powers. The Netherlands, Belgium and even tiny Denmark held colonies larger than the home countries.

The major NATO countries are not in possession of cutting-edge technologies, control mass media, manufacture powerful weapons and are the most heavily armed. They sell weapons to the world, but keep the most advanced weapons for themselves.

Through their control of the world market, currency exchanges and banking, and with their technological advantages, these countries now directly and indirectly oppress most of the world.

Of the G7 countries, the imperialist United States, with the largest single national economy and by far the greatest military power, is the most dangerous to humanity.

NATO’s role 1949-89

During the first half of the 20th century, these predatory states batted for mar- ket, colonies and raw materials. In their rivalry, they launched two world wars that together killed 100 to 200 million people — mostly workers, peasants and other toilers.

After World War II ended, the class of plunderers and robbers ruling those countries saw that, while they had been fighting each other, a third of humanity had liberated itself from their grip. So the Russian-Soviet Union, which ended World War I, also survived the onslaught of Nazi Germany. World War II ended in Eu- rope with the Yugoslav and Albanian rev- olutions and the Soviet Red Army’s march to Berlin. By 1949, all of China was liber- ated and half of Korea. The Vietnamese people were winning against the French.

There was revolutionary civil war in Greece. Colonial regimes were beginning to crumble around the world. The working class in France and Italy seceded on the edge of taking power in these countries where the communist parties had organized the workers’ armed resistance to fascism.

So in 1949, Washington, by far the dominant imperialist power then, founded NATO to prevent workers’ revolutions in war-ravaged Western Europe and to confront the Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe. Only in 1955 did the Soviet Union establish the Warsaw Pact with its allies in Eastern Europe.

NATO’s reactionary role included plan- ning a military coup in Greece in 1967 that lasted until 1973. It is suspected of partici- pating in a 1968-82 “strategy of tension” in

Italy, when clandestine rightist groupings in Austrian ruling class and state carried out terrorist attacks. In 1975, NATO sent warships to intervene in Portugal to pre- vent the working class there from opening a struggle for socialism, after a revolution ousted the fascist regime.

The U.S. president always chooses the NATO commander, and the general in charge is always from the Pentagon. Therefore, NATO has always been a tool of U.S. imperialist policy. It remains such, despite Trump’s complaints.

New NATO role: World capitalist cop

In 1990, during negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet leaders to end the Cold War, Washington promised not to move NATO eastward. NATO’s declared purpose up to that time was to ‘defend member nations from threats by com- munist countries.” This purpose was seemingly ending with the Soviet Union’s implosion, disintegration in 1991 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

But since 1991, far from dissolving NATO, Washington has insisted that the military pact expand, while remaining under U.S. command. U.S. policy turned NATO into a type of imperialist police force. No longer confined to Europe, NATO has become a worldwide intervention force at the ser- vice of the transnational monopolies that exploit global labor and resources.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Rep- ublic joined NATO in April 1999. This expansion coincided with the U.S.-NATO air war in the Balkans that destroyed the sovereign and multinational country of Yugoslavia.

The imperialists still lie about the rea- sons for the war on Yugoslavia, claiming it was to defend Kosovo, a majority-Muslim

area. In his book, “Waging Modern War- fare,” 1999 NATO bombing victim Jane Fes- ley Clark admitted that the Kosovo war was “coercive diplomacy ... much more like the interventions of an earlier era” — that is, before World War II, at a time when imperialist powers openly occupied colonies and protectorates. (p. 418)

The former Yugoslavia — once a state representing about 20 million Balkan peoples — was broken into seven mini- states that are easy picking for West Eu- ropean and U.S. imperialism.


In 2011, with the fittest of pretexts, NATO attacked and destroyed Libya. That same year NATO countries also sab- otaged and supported the Damascus gov- ernment in Syria.

The destruction that these interventions brought about have hardly exacerbated the Palestinian crisis that continues today.

France and Germany balked at joining the U.S.-British invasion of Iraq in 2003 because their governments believed it a dangerous and foolish endeavor. For that reason, NATO didn’t begin that disaster.

Later, however, many NATO states added the occupation of Iraq, even though it was an open secret that the U.S. pretext for war — the claim of Iraqi “weapons of mass destruction” — was a lie.

NATO’s latest expansion

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were admitted to NATO in 2004. Albania and Croatia acceded to the alliance in 2009.

The countries of the Eastern European countries like Sweden that have a special relation with NATO.

NATO apologists claim the alliance defends freedom and human rights. On the contrary, NATO’s role is now to reconquer those areas of the world that had gained some independence from imperialism during the existence of the Soviet Union.

To confront the onslaught of U.S. impe- rialism, it is necessary to say both “Down with Trump!” and, equally: “No to NATO!”


July 18, 2018

PHOTO: CCOO
The future is now

Not so very long ago, the political pun- dits and economic gurus whose analyses are given plenty of space in the corporate media were predicting that the high-tech revolution then beginning to accelerate would elevate industrial workers in this country into the “new middle class,” where they would earn more money while leaving behind the dirty, dangerous jobs replaced by automation.

This rosy view of the future for the working class was debunked by Sam Marcy, the then chairman of Workers World Party, in his 1966 book, “High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class.” Marcy’s analysis was later updated by Fred Goldstein in two more books, “Low-Wage Capitalism” (2008) and “Capitalism at a Dead End” (2012). (For more info on books see workers.org and lowwagecapitalism.com.)

The economic facts and figures that now have bourgeois economists scratching their heads completely confirm what these Marxist revolutionaries explained beginning more than three decades ago. The high-tech revolution will not promise the future of a world of abundance and ease — but such a life can be achieved by the masses of people only if capitalism is abolished.

Look at what has really happened. Yes, many, many jobs that used to exist in manufacturing, mining, retail sales, communications, office work, transportation, agriculture and more are now obsolete. The owners of the means of production have shed human labor at a prodigious rate in the pursuit of ever greater profits. Millionaires have become billionaires in the process. But what about the workers?

As the title of Marcy’s book suggests, high tech has actually deskillled or elim- inated altogether millions of jobs. The result is lower wages and a precarious existence for more and more workers.

For instance, with the view that everyone was becoming middle class was the idea peddled to the labor movement that workers produce above what they are paid in compensation for their labor. There would be no profits without workers, because profits come from the value workers produce above what they re-ceived in compensation for their labor. (Another Marxist concept that bosses deny.)

But do workers need bosses? More and more young workers are saying no. They are starting to envision a socialist world where it is bosses, not workers, who will be obsolete.

In the meantime, the conditions for workers become ever more desperate as part-time, low-wage, no-benefits jobs replace full-time, permanent jobs at union wages.

The bosses are our enemies, not our partners. Trump is the epitome of the “benevolent” billionaire who promises the moon while robbing the shirts off our backs.

There’s only one answer to this, and it’s not class collaboration. It’s class struggle. Not a new idea, but one that has stood the test of time and is what is needed now. Let the stirring teachers’ strikes of this spring set the example for what is necessary and possible.

The slide in union membership, the decline of wages, and the general deteri-oration of living conditions for the work- ing class, as well as the increase in rac- ial, national oppression, the growing anti-immigrant attacks, and all the other setbacks during the last three decades for workers, were not inevitable. They were avoidable.

The underlying relationship of class forces in U.S. capitalist society was not objectively so unfavorable to the working class that it had no way to overcome the anti-labor offensive. Nor is further decline inevitable, even in the face of capital crises.

What has contributed to the feeling of inevitability about the retreat of the labor movement and the workers in general has been the steadfast refusal by the AFL-CIO leadership, including the Change to Win leadership that set up a parallel fed- eration in 2005, to muster the latent poten- tial of the workers and the oppressed in a true test of strength with the ruling class.

To be sure, there are undoubtedly threats of local union leaders, dele- gates, shop stewards, labor council mem- bers, as well as rank-and-file militants throughout the labor movement, in ev- ery part of the country, who have been straining at the bit to launch a fight-back. Such militancy has manifested itself over and over again in struggles during the 1980s up until the present day. What will revive the labor movement is when these forces are able to multiply, organize, and gain the upper hand.

1997: UPS teamsters strike

The strike against United Parcel Ser- vice was a powerful one that fought to reverse concessions, which had begun in 1982. The company had won the right to create a two-tier, part-time system of em- ployment.

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In August of 1997 the 185,000 mem- bers of the UPS division of the Teamsters union waged a 15-day strike that electrified the labor movement and the working class as a whole. Despite compromises made at the final round of negotiations, it had not been overcome, rightly so, as the first major vic- tory for a significant section of the work- ing class after two decades of defeat and repression.

The strike was led by Teamsters Pres- ident Ron Carey, who had democratized the union after two decades of defeat and re-pression. It was won by meticulous planning for a genuine class struggle, bringing in the rank-and- file at every stage.

The struggle was popular in the union movement and among the working class as a whole because it was projected as a struggle against part-time and low-wage work — not just for UPS workers in the working class as a whole. Sixty per- cent of the 185,000 UPS workers were part-time workers who earned only $4.75 per hour, as opposed to $19.95 an hour, plus benefits, for full-time workers.

The UPS Teamster leadership pre- pared for the strike for over a year. In formulating their bargaining position, the leadership of the UPS division sent a questionnaire to all 186,000 workers asking for their views on the most im- portant issues. Full-time jobs were the overwhelming priority for the workers. In addition, 10,000 of these workers were receiving part-time pay but were working 35 hours or more a week.

The union collected 100,000 signa- tures on a petition supporting its de- mands. It distributed the union’s position at workplaces, sports events, and other sites long in advance. It prepared a strong strike infrastructure.

Once the negotiations were underway, the union sent a video to all UPS shop stewards to keep them up-to-date on the strike, the union updated its web site every few hours, faxed bulletins to Team- ster locals, and set up a toll-free hotline for strikers.

The negotiations were to begin in July of 1997 but rallies were organized around the country beginning in March and continued to multiply up until the strike deadline. Carey had even gone to Germa- ny and France and worked with the UPS unions there to support the strike.

The battle-ready rank-and-file wins

When the UPS rank-and-file marched into battle they were thoroughly stu- dently organized, and prepared for strug- gle against a ruthless corporate giant with a world empire.

The strike was won through a major test of strength between labor and cap- ital. The AFL-CIO leadership supported the workers during the strike, but did not back the Teamsters’ strike benefit fund with $30 million a week.

During the strike President Bill Clin- ton went under pressure — first not only UPS but also Wall Street — to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. The strength and broad support for the strike underscored the Clinton administration back, even though Clinton finally pressured a settlement and
And if this is just the beginning?

By Remy Herrera

France

July 12 — The arrival of summer, synchronous with vacations, is eagerly awaited by all workers. Those eager include workers fighting for justice, who know they will have to hold for two months until the start of the school year in September. This time, however, due to the social turmoil that has shaken the country since the beginning of the year, it is mainly the government that found time passing too slowly before the summer holidays.

In this period, however, some are certainly convinced they have won the war. They mean the social war launched against the people by the capitalists — who on July 3 selected a pure detachment of the French nobility, Geoffrey Roux de Bezieux, to be the head of their employers’ organization (MEPS), the state's “diplomat and ‘monarch'” Emmanuel Macron. Despite their convictions, everything indicates that the main confrontation is still ahead. Things are just beginning to get serious.

Neoliberal forces — those wanting to privatize everything and illegally funnel already in battle order. The order are ready for the next offensive, which will attempt pension “reform,” a new stage in the demolition of workers' social protection.

For that task, they appointed a “high commissioner,” Jean-Paul Delevoye. He is a right-winger, a former minister under Jacques Chirac with more than 80 years of cumulative mandates in politics. He recently joined the current president’s party, La Republique en Marche! Delevoye is preparing a draft pension law that the government will present to Parliament in 2019 as part of the Action Plan for Company Growth and Transformation, called the PACTE.

Under the pretext of “harmonizing” pension plans by “aligning” public sector plans with those in the private sector, the aim is to promote retirement savings markets as called for by the banks and insurance companies. The proposal would very few consequences, thus condemning pension balances to fall as the number of pensioners and life expectancy increase.

There will be no guaranteed pension level, and workers will be estranged from the vagaries of stock market returns. Nor savers be guaranteed recovery of their savings! It is indeed a hidden privatization of the pension system that is envisioned [something like a 401k in the United States].

In addition to capturing part of these pension savings, the proposal jeopardizes the financing of Social Security in France. Globalized finance — and pension fund managers, frustrated since the 2008 crisis by close to zero interest rates — are rubbing their hands like flies on a piece of sugar! After all, isn't that why they choose Macron?

A fair system?

A fair system would guarantee everyone continuity of their best career standard of living when they move from work to retirement. The European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recommend capitalization, that is, the kinds of steps in Macron's "reform." Despite this recommendation, the French system still operates largely and fortunately — on a pay-as-you-go basis. Current contributions finance current pensions and these contributions constitute future pension rights, thanks to intergenerational solidarity and the obligation for all, obliging the contributor. This pay-as-you-go regime, with guaranteed benefits, is secure because it is financed by contributions from wages throughout the country. This takes place without recourse to financial markets, and thus without the risk of a stock market catastrophe.

It is this solidarity that years of neoliberalism have weakened but failed to dismantle. It is this regime that President Macron wants to destroy as a service to the financiers. It is this pension system that workers in France will soon have to defend, to make it stronger and universal. Pensions do not present a demographic issue, based simply on the age distribution of the population, but rather a social justice issue. Society has a fundamental choice: either solidarity for all or each one for themselves.

The ruling elites, arrogant and sustained by a balance of power historically favorable to capital, must nonetheless remember that, in 1995, the largest popular mobilizations since the general strike of 30 million workers in May 1968 were launched precisely to defend pensions. Powerful strikes paralyzed the country for more than a month (November-December) that year and, under the pressure of two million demonstrators, forced the government (then of Alain Juppé, Jacques Chirac's prime minister) to abandon its "reform."

But in 2010, under Nicolas Sarkozy, three million more demonstrators were not enough to stop the infernal neoliberal machine. How many millions will have to be in struggle in 2019 to force Macron to order a retreat?

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Guerra arancelaria de Trump ataca trabajadoras/es

Por G. Dunkel

La administración de Trump impusó aranceles como respuesta a la política comercial de China. Trump ha condenado a las/os trabajadoras/es a crear una gran cantidad de productos que l...