Fight for socialism!

Can’t vote out racism, sexism, war

By Teresa Gutierrez

Nov. 7 — When you read this, the most unprecedented, disturbing, racist and depressing U.S. presidential election will finally be over.

This election cycle developed into a contest between the two most unpopular candidates in modern times. One will be inaugurated in Washington on Jan. 20.

This article, written before the election, is about preparing for the next four years, despite who wins. No matter the outcome, capitalism has arrived at a dead end, unable to overcome its deep contradictions, showering wealth on those already billionaires, while grinding down the workers who produce everything. The dire consequences of that fact will only intensify over the next four years.

Building a mass movement to fight this system is the order of the day, no matter the outcome of the election. It must be said upfront, however, that a Donald Trump victory would be horrifying. Even though it seems unlikely at this point that Trump could win, no one had expected him to get this far.

A Trump victory would give a further green light to the forces of racism and repression, both inside and outside the capitalist state. The movement would have to prepare for more unbridled police terror and mass deportations.

At best, it would mean a government so deadlocked that little gets done and both parties blame the other. Few could wish any of this on the people of this country. A deadlocked government means the elderly do not get their Social Security checks on time, the impoverished do not get badly needed benefits, government workers of all kinds get furloughed.

No matter which party wins, the movement must be prepared to resist more wars and repression carried out in the name of “national security.”

Two parties, one system

To revolutionaries and socialists who understand the capitalist nature of this country, it is well known that the Democrats and the Republicans differ little, as both historically represent Wall Street and the Pentagon. Although the social base of each party is different, they both adhere to the norms of capitalist rule.

The Republican Party is richer and much, much whiter, and is supported by the most reactionary elements of the ruling class. The Democratic Party depends on support from the unions and people of color, appearing more working class even though it is closely intertwined with Wall Street.

It is the fat cats in the boardrooms and their agents who wield the real power and dictate to the party in the White House.

Only mass upheaval from the workers and the oppressed can push back those fat cats.

Continued on page 6

Don’t just mourn, organize

Nov. 9 — We’re as angry and shocked as our readers. The polls were wrong. We’re the only ones who are horrified that a candidate could be elected who boasted of his misogyny and egged on the worst racists while talking trash against immigrants.

But this is no time just to mourn. It’s a time to reaffirm support and militant solidarity with all those who have been the main targets of Trump’s demagogy and hatred: women, people of color, immigrants. That’s the only path toward uniting the working class against its real enemies: the billionaire rulers of this country, including Trump.

The day after the election must become Day One of the resistance.

More information will come out as to who voted and why. Trump tapped into many grievances and used them to get elected, promising anything and everything and directing anger at the first African-American president. Yet both Trump and Clinton were unpopular, and both offered no real solutions to the problems of capitalist exploitation, racism, sexism and war.

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Excerpts from a statement of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, released on Oct. 29 and published in full on workers.org.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine extends its strongest support and solidarity to the Indigenous nations at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the settler colonial project of genocide and plunder in North America.

“The Indigenous strikers at Standing Rock are defending Indigenous land and water, resources that have been abused and polluted for centuries. They are defending the very existence of their people with their valiant resistance. As a Palestinian national liberation movement, we salute [them] and all who stand alongside them at Standing Rock, confronted by the militarized forces of the settler colonial state and their privatized agents,” said Palestinian leftist writer Khalat Barakat in an interview with the PWW media office.

“It is no surprise that G4S has [proposed] private security for the construction of the destructive, invasive pipeline through Indigenous land, threatening the water and safety of the Standing Rock Sioux and the rights of Indigenous nations. [G4S provides] security to the Canadian mining corporations that plunder Indigenous land for mineral wealth around the world (and) sells equipment and security services to the Israel Prison Services, which imprison over 7,000 Palestinians. [It is] involved in the mass incarceration of children and youth — especially — of color in the U.S., and in the deportation of migrants in [Britain], Australia, the U.S. and elsewhere,” said Barakat.

“The hundreds of Indigenous nations — including Palestinian participants — coming together at Standing Rock exemplify an uncanny history of centuries of resistance in the face of a genocidal project,” said Barakat. “Today’s U.S. empire that bombs and threatens (occupies?) lives — especially in the Arab world, Asia, Africa and Latin America, was built on settler colonialism, the genocide of Indigenous people, and the enslavement and genocide against Black people.

“The land and water defenders at Standing Rock are defending all of us. We see them reflected in the Palestinian mothers holding tight to their olive trees targeted for settler destruction; in the Palestinian farmers who resist in the so-called ‘buffer zones’; and the fishers who brave warship fire to preserve Palestinian fishery.

“There have been hundreds of arrests, the use of massive military equipment and the force of the state in order to enforce the [DAPL] through sacred burial grounds and attempt to force Indigenous land and water defenders from their land. (This mechanism is) used in Palestine, keeping thousands of Palestinian political prisoners behind bars for struggling for the freedom of their people and their land,” said Barakat.

We express our strongest solidarity with Native and Indigenous struggles for self-determination and liberation. We encourage all Palestinians, especially the Palestinian community in the United States, to ... build upon the efforts of Palestinian youth in support, solidarity and participation in the Standing Rock camps of struggle, and in developing ... joint struggle and solidarity with Native liberation movements.

We also encourage ... the Palestine solidarity movement to ... deepen its involvement in the struggle to defend Indigenous land, and note ... the protests ... linking the struggle of Palestinian prisoners and the call to boycott G4S with the defense of Standing Rock. There is a long history of ... common struggle between our liberation struggles, together in the global movement to defeat settler colonialism, Zionism and imperialism, that we must nurture and build upon until victory and liberation.”

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SEPTA riders launch fare campaign

By Betsy Piette
Philadelphia

Handing out hundreds of "SEPTA Inconvenience Passes" (SIP) to passersby at a Nov. 7 press conference outside SEPTA headquarters, activists included on the company to compensate riders for lost access to transportation during the six-day transit strike. SEPTA is the public the city of Philadelphia for 3.4 million people in and around Philadelphia.

The Transit Riders Initiative demand was for SEPTA to provide free for the strike days and refunds on monthly transit cards. In front of a giant SIP pass, spokesperson Erica Mines told the crowd that the initiative, which would have negotiated with riders and provide free rides, these passes will be used in lieu of fares once service is restored.

The newly formed group wants SEPTA management held accountable for neglecting to address worker needs in a timely manner, failing to negotiate in good faith with workers and forcing the strike.

"The responsibility of accepting this cost falls on the administration, not the workers," Mines stated. "SEPTA management intentionally stalled negotiations to intentionally use public inconvenience from the strike to force workers into sac- rificing vital demands."

The SEPTA drivers, clerks and maintenance workers of Transportation Workers Union Local 234 struck Nov. 1 after bargaining for two years to get a fair contract. Key sticking points were worker pensions, health benefits and wages.

A Transit Riders Initiative press release stated: "The transit workers' de- mand is basic rights that all workers should be entitled to. Sacrificing these demands lowers the minimum expec- tations for employers across the board, from city workers to nonunion workers."

At the press conference, community activist Deandra Jefferson called out SEPTA for putting "capitalist greed" ahead of workers' need and community rely on public transit. Around 800,000 riders, including 50,000 students, use SEPTA's buses, trains and trolleys every weekday. Jefferson pointed out that if these riders had refused to go to work or school in support of the TWU Local 234 strike, "it would wound down, SEPTA management again demonstrated that SEPTA drivers and riders should be united on the same side against a racist, anti-worker transit agency."

A glowing mass transit would be for the whole mass of people. Until then each union victory benefits all people who have to work to survive whether employed, un- employed, union or not-organized. What do we want? Transit justice for the community — and no one left waiting at the station.

Workers.org
Union and community solidarity with striking transportation workers in Philadelphia.
The IWW put out a call for solidarity in Everett, whose workers produced shingle weaving from a 1917 Sunset magazine: “If the automatic carriage feeds shingles, the worker is driven to the wall. He can’t dodge the teeth of the giant, for no man can dodge the expression of his class to hisemployers.” The Wobblies also organized skilled trades. The IWW also organized oppressed workers of all nationalities into its ranks in defiance of segregation.

The majority of the mill workers were shingle weavers. Here’s a description of shingle weaving from a 1917 Sunset magazine: “If the automatic carriage feeds the shingle weavers, the weaver has no chance to dodge the teeth of the giant, for no man can dodge the expression of his class to his employers.” The Wobblies also organized oppressed workers of all nationalities into its ranks in defiance of segregation.

Shingle weavers strike A city of 30,000 people, Everett, was a company town, whose workers produced lumber, shingles and shipping. The lumber industry, known as the “lumber king- dom,” dominated the Pacific Northwest in the early 20th century. The Weyer- hauser Group exploited more than 30 million acres of timberland, equal to the area of Wisconsin. The undiversified na- ture of economic life bound all the Ever- ertt bosses into a common body, the Ever- ett Commercial Club.

Throughout the summer the workers held out, despite their picket lines being kept up a fighting lawyer, George Vanderveer, to the cemetery where the Everett massacre was buried. The Everett massacre was exactly where it was during the Everett massacre.

On May 17, 1917, the 74 Wobblies were tried in Seattle for the murder of Denver Radical Miners’ Union leader while other deputy had been shot in the back by a fellow deputy. Thousands attended the trial, though the courtroom only held a hundred. The Seattle Central Labor Council lined up a fighting lawyer, George Vanderveer, to help the defense. Vanderveer skillfully constructed the case that night, was brought to see the Everett. And thanks for helping to grow the revolu- tionary media in the U.S. that’s in print as well as on the Web.

Women workers in New Orleans after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

WW Supporter Program to help us deliver the Marxian-based, worker-organized, rev- olutionary class truth that you’ve come to depend upon. We urge you to sign up today!

We invite you — sign up today! Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. And thanks for helping to grow the revolu- tionary media in the U.S. That was the IWW’s greatest historic victory, setting off cel- ebrations in Wobblies halls from coast to coast and inspiring laborers and lumber mill workers to step up organizing.

The Everett mass struggle led to the great Seattle general strike in 1919, which showed more strength than any other.

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Dillard students give KKK Duke a hot reception

By Quest Riggs

New Orleans

Students at Dillard University, a historically Black liberal arts college in New Orleans, stood up against the university administration, campus police and white supremacy on Nov. 2.

With the support of community members, activists and students from campuses throughout the city, the Dillard students showed the militant potential of the youth. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, our youth are ready to fight courageously against further encroachment by the fascists.

When the students learned, on less than one week’s notice, that David Duke had been invited to their university, they were shocked and outraged. The infamous former “grand wizard” of the Ku Klux Klan, inspired by Donald Trump’s racist presidential campaign, had decided to run for the U.S. Senate in Louisiana. Polls that put him at 5.1 percent of the vote meant he was just over the 5 percent threshold required to participate in a U.S. senatorial debate held at Dillard on Nov. 2.

The event was orchestrated by Raycom, a private broadcasting company. A progressive group called Fight for $15, Socially Engaged DU, sent a letter to the university president urging him to refuse to allow Duke on campus, citing fears for student safety and embarrassment, among other reasons. After their letter was ignored by the president, they vowed to protest the event. With help from students, activists and activists across the city, they organized a large, energetic and determined crowd.

Militancy wins broad support

The protesters marched around the building, chanting “No Duke! No KKK! No fascist USA!” They eventually moved toward the back entrance of the building, where they were met by the campus police force. Protesters were able to try to open the doors, confronting the cops face to face. They wanted to get in to disrupt the fascist David Duke and chase him out of majority-Black New Orleans.

After holding their position at the entrance for about an hour, the protesters were sprayed with Mace, hit with batons, threatened with Tasers, kicked, and shoved. They were fearless and sustained a long confrontation, but eventually the cops were able to lock the doors, prompting the protesters to move to the other side of the building to demonstrate against the repression.

As the debate heated up, the protesters split up and attempted to block all the exits to prevent Duke from leaving without getting a piece of their minds. Cowardly Duke walked up to the back of campus with help from the campus police and administration. As protesters noticed his vehicle speeding off campus, they yelled and hit the car. After he escaped, the protest began to lose steam and disperse, and the cops used this opportunity to arrest protesters. A stout they would not have tried when the protest was at full strength.

All charges against the students were later dropped after widespread media coverage and an outpouring of support for the protesters.

To some students, the university administration and the campus police force have lost any legitimacy they previously may have held, and some students are looking to Black Lives Matter for their actions on the night of the protest.

As for Duke, it has once again been proven that he is not welcome in New Orleans and should expect steadfast resistance whenever he shows his face here.

Our youth have the courage, not only to fight fascists, but also to confront the state that protects fascists while murdering and imprisoning poor and oppressed people.

After Polk County ‘compromise,’ Fight for $15 goes statewide in Iowa

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Polk County, Iowa

In reaction to a vote by the Polk County Board of Supervisors for a compromised wage increase that contains anti-worker provisions, Fight for $15 supporters say they will now take the fight to the Statehouse.

After a series of meetings conducted by a county minimum-wage task force, followed by public readings by the Polk County Board of Supervisors, the latter voted for a gradual increase to $11.75 per hour — by 2019. This represents a $3.50 bump from the current $7.25 per hour minimum wage, but fails to increase it to a living wage, which at present is considered to be $15 per hour.

Dozens of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (Iowa CCI) activists showed up at each meeting to plead their case. At the first public reading of the ordinance, however, supervisors Angela Connolly and Robert Brownell introduced an amendment to the ordinance to create “a frozen tipped wage at 8.45/hr.”

“Along with blindingly the public with an amicable sound of ‘wage freeze,’ said an Iowa CCI press release, the supervisors “took two steps back” by moving forward with the “youth wage exemption,” where workers ages 14 to 17 would receive only 85 percent of the increased wage.

Iowa CCI organizer Bridget Fagan-Reidburn told WW: “This set off the readings in the wrong direction, and we spent much of our focus on eliminating the exemptions.”

“We felt that the voices of everyday people weren’t being heard,” Fagan-Reidburn said, “that they were listening to the restaurant and grocery industries and put priority to their opinions. We were scolded for our passionate public comment and they seemed angry and offended that we were pushing them to do more, but we kept pushing. They even threatened to scrap the entire ordinance.”

With the passing of this ordinance, praised as a “compromise” by Supervisor Connolly and others, the board sold out Iowa workers.

Democratic Party activist Pat Rynard defended the compromise and said the workers fighting for $15 an hour at the last meeting “got out of hand at times,” leveling personal attacks at the supervisors, as well as shouting and yelling at times during the meeting didn’t help anything.

Contrary to this claim, Fagan-Reidburn told WW that there was little “yelling,” as Rynard claimed in his “Iowa Starting Line” article of Oct. 12. “There was some tension and increased passion at times, especially when early on the supervisors came in and essentially admonished people for $15 per hour, calling us unreasonable.”

Fagan-Reidburn said there were no personal attacks, “just impassioned testimony” and “pushing back on dangerous exemptions to the minimum wage that pit young against old, tipped workers against non-tipped workers and set a bad precedent for the state legislature that convenes in a couple of months.”

As reported by the Des Moines Register on Oct. 12, “The vote makes Polk County the fourth local government in Iowa to raise its minimum wage (Johnson, Linn and Wapello counties already approved wage hikes),” yet none of these constitute a living wage.

A national study conducted by the People’s Action Institute, published last month as “Waiting for the Payoff,” concluded that the living wage for a single adult living in Iowa is $15.40 per hour, reflecting “what is needed to meet basic needs and maintain some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead.”

The study also reports that the living wage that a single adult needs “increases to $16.75 for those paying off student loan debt, noting that “Iowa’s minimum wage of $7.25 does not allow working families to make ends meet.”

Fagan-Reidburn said Iowa CCI and Fight for $15 Iowa will work with the community to help ensure that as many cities as possible participate in or improve the countywide ordinance.

“We will push cities to scrap the youth wage and tipped-wage exemptions. During the 2017 legislative session we will continue to push to pass a living wage bill.”

Roanoke, Va.: First-ever Fight for $15 protest

By Workers World Staff

Dozens of low-wage workers and their supporters, chanting “We can’t survive on $7.25,” held the first-ever Fight for $15 protest in southwest Virginia on Nov. 4.

The protesters were angry and loud during the noon lunch rush at the Burger King on Franklin Road SW in Roanoke.

The multinational low-wage workers, many women of color, spoke out about economic and other injustices they are facing, including having to juggle family responsibilities and two or three jobs to survive.

Many youth and students also participated.

For over an hour, workers held a banner declaring “Workers Produce All Wealth.” Other signs included Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s photo with a demand to end poverty, “$15 and a Union,” “Protest LGBTQ Workers’ Rights” and “Black Workers Lives Matter.”

Numerous supporters joined the protest, including the president of the Western Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, as well as union members from the Food and Commercial Workers, the Teamsters and the Virginia Professional Staff Association. Also present were the Coalition for Justice from Black Lung, Va., Fight for $15 workers from Richmond, Va., “Now, The People’s Power Assembly and Workers World Party. Messages of solidarity were received from Communication Workers Local 2204 and others.

Fight for $15 in Roanoke is planning more actions. See facebook.com/Fightfor15 or send email to fighter15.org.
Continued from page 1

Despite the maneuvers of the far right to influence the elections in favor of Trump, the polls are predicting that the first woman ever will be elected president of the U.S.

There would be much to celebrate if this happened, but if Hillary Clinton is elected, the consequences would be dire. Clinton, women and Latin America

Forceful words, meant to appeal to Clinton's pro-choice landslide of liberal voters, have alienated those who recognize the sexism of her campaign. Clinton spoke frankly to bigwig bankers about supporting their plan to slash the benefits.

They reflect a danger, whether Clinton is this misogynist, it is dangerous. Not only do Clinton's words substantiate her previous attacks on those who oppose Trump, but they also reflect a dangerous trend in politics.

The rise of the alt-right is a danger, and the left and progressives should be on the lookout for it.

For the most part, those who attend and cheer at Trump rallies are deportable.

Protecting people

The rise of the alt-right is a danger, and the left and progressives should be on the lookout for it.

For the most part, those who attend and cheer at Trump rallies are deportable.

Water warriors, Standing Rock.

On her Facebook page that nonviolent water protectors are standing across the river to hold a prayer circle on Army Corps public land, but [were] halted by over one hundred hostile military police armed with deploying tear gas, pepper spray, batons and rubber bullets, as well as assault weapons and the threat of jail. … I was shot at pointblank range, doused with pepper spray, and kicked in the face, hundreds faced freezing waters.

That evening helicopters and airplanes harassed the resistance encampments with flyovers and flooding spotlights.

The world is watching

"Opeet Sukawin Camp Coordinator Phyllis Young condemned DAPL. "Since this company has arrived on our land, it has blatantly disregarded the law and our people," (nativesensonitorline.net, Nov. 6)".

If Clinton wins, the movement will be in the hands of Standing Rock camps as the world’s peoples affirm Ooit Sukawin sovereignty and their defense of WaterIsLife. Youth

"[W]e have seen our women suffer. One out of three women in our nation has been sexually assaulted by non-native people." (politico.com, April 22, 2014)

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runners from Flagstaff, Ariz., representing the Hopi, Navajo and Pueblo peoples, entered the site to support the Standing Rock resistance and to stand in solidarity with Standing Rock after a 1,400-mile run in late October. Representatives from Indigenous nations arrived at Standing Rock with statements of support from their peoples. Contingents from Canada to Japan also came to show their support.

Solidarity actions are spreading across the U.S., particularly at banks financing DAPL, and at local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offices. On Nov. 3, people were arrested Oct. 31 for blocking elevators at the local Citibank headquarters. The bank is a major lender to DAPL.

Another focus of solidarity actions will be on Nov. 15 at local Army Corps of Engineers’ locations to demand rejection of the DAPL permit and a full Environmental Impact Statement in the future destructive project.

Pipelines dangers: From Alabama to North Dakota

All those resisting at Standing Rock emphasize that inevitable pipeline failures will have dreadful consequences for millions of people. On Oct. 31, a 5,000-mile Colonial Pipeline ruptured in Helena, Ala., exploding in a 150-foot geyser of fire. At least four people were injured and eight people were arrested.

It was the police, not the alt-right, who attempted to cross Standing Rock and into the drinking water. “State-sanctioned violence and repression of all construction sites and pipeline construction is unacceptable,” said Rod Bradberry, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

“Listen to the water protectors!”

That the drive for capitalist profit constantly endangers people’s safety and lives was reflected in how the Wall Street Journal covered the Alabama pipeline explosion on Oct. 31. The newspaper did not mention any of its environmental consequences or acknowledge by name Anthony Lee Willingham, the 48-year-old African American man who died in the fire. The pro-big-business newspaper pontificated on how the explosion would impact gas prices.

Coast-to-coast solidarity with Standing Rock resistance

Solidarity actions in support of Stand ing Rock resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline are proliferating from coast to coast throughout the U.S. In New York City, multiple #NoDAPL actions are ongoing, weekly solidarity support rallies called by Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network. They have exposed the role of G4S — the global security firm that staffs Israeli prison and detention centers used to crush Palestinian resistance — whose guards are now also being used to protect Standing Rock water protectors.

From Oakland, Calif., National Nurses United is deploying a second team of nurses to support water protectors with medical and first aid needs. Participating RN Amy Bowen said, “As a nurse, I understand the need for our local and national bodies the mass cross-alliance solidarity to be implemented under a Clinton administration.

The state, no matter who administers it, will not jail killer cops or provide full employment or roll back rents — unless there is a struggle. A movement whose goal is to organize for revolutionary change is de rigueur. What we need is not a struggle.

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“IT IS A RACE THAT HAS LED TO THE MILITARY TERRORISTS IN THE PROTEST AT STANDING ROCK,” said Rod Bradberry, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

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 CONTRIBUTORS

BY WORKERS WORLD STAFF

Lydia Bayouyeta: “It is race that has led to the mili- tary terrorists in the protest at Standing Rock.”

Members of local Native American groups spoke and led chants and songs in their own languages, emphasizing both the im- A movement whose goal is to organize for revolutionary change is de rigueur. What we need is not a struggle.

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A century of struggle: The All India Trade Union Congress

Marajam Kaur is National Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC). Martha Grevatt interviewed her Oct. 7 during the 17th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions held in Durban, South Africa.

Kaur explained that until 1947 AITUC was the only trade union umbrella organization in India. In India, 11 union centers were formed between then, the 1980s and the current decade by various political currents – from the Marxist left to social democrats to “right-reactive, religion-based organizations.” The federations led by the All India Trade Union Congress, with the Marxist current running, trade union centers were formed during this period. All centers are the largest, followed by AITUC, which is “the top among the left.” After describing the AITUC and its growth, Kaur discussed the 180-million-strong councilwide general strike on Sept. 2.

Martha Grevatt: About how many unions are in AITUC?

Marajam Kaur: The AITUC has 3,000 affiliated unions from all sectors: oil, petroleum, metal, iron foundries, mining, unorganized sector, domestic workers, welfare scheme workers, vendors, hawkers, taxi unions, auto, poultry, and construction. About 50 percent are engaged in engineering workers, metalworkers, all sections including agriculture – unions of formal and informal sectors everywhere, governmental and nongovernmental.

Social worker unions are not protected by any law because they are not categorized as work and they are not getting wages. You are only being given honorarium because you are providing some services [such as immunizations of pregnant women and providing meals at schools to poor children]. They are almost 10 million, most of them are women, and they are working for worker status. They think, “We should be paid minimum wages,” which any unskilled worker is given in India.

There are so many workers who are getting jobs for a little while, and then they’re out of jobs. There are those who are seeker of employment forced into menial jobs here and there, no job security. There are connected to the particular sectoral unions depending on their skill or semi-skill. There’s no sector left that we have not united.

At our last verification, which the government of India conducts, we had claimed 6 million workers, but the government gave us only about 3.8 million. This time, after a gap of 10 years, our claimed membership is now 14 million.

We are very sure this time we will be able to secure more than 10 million from government reports.

MG: What’s the history of AITUC?

AK: The labor movement began in India a century ago with the jute mills and textile mills. So the labor movement was quite influenced by the world labor movement, which was emerging at that time as well. The Marx and Engels talking about the working class coming up to take charge in the next period, in the next era.

The third influence on Indian labor was our own national freedom movement against British colonial rule. Then the 20th century begins. The participatory role of labor in the freedom movement increased and formation of unions also increased and, developing with that, the participation [by labor] in the freedom movement, in spontaneous calls given by the national freedom movement leaders. That influenced the freedom movement leadership also, recognizing these workforces very potential not only to fight for their own rights but their potential to even strengthen the liberation movement to get India free. So with that process we went further ahead.

The efforts were made to have an all-India organization. And the first conference, which was held in Bombay in 1907, was in 1920. There unions of all sections, formal, informal, governmental, non-governmental, all those unions came together and formed this umbrella organization as All India Trade Union Congress.

During the British period, under umbrella of AITUC, several rights of workers and several labor legislations were won. The Indian trade union movement was very well recognized in various phases of the freedom movement and in the organized movement after 1920. The result was when a Constituent Assembly was formed for the kind of constitution India will have after independence from British, that Constituent Assembly took note of the participation of Indian labor movement in the freedom movement.

The result was that several of our rights were recognized in the constitution of the free republic of India: right to associations, equal pay for equal work, maternity benefits to women workers, healthy working conditions, no discrimination at workplace and living wages. These concepts were taken into the Indian constitution, and this all was due to the labor movement which fought in India. We also achieved several legislations during British period. The Trade Union Act under which we registered our trade unions we achieved in 1926. Then Workplace Compensation Act and several laws. We sought many amendments, and we got [them]. Of these working hour conditions, also during British period we achieved [limits of] 12 hours; we got eight hours [after independence] in 1948.

MG: What were the main demands of that strike?

AK: About seven years ago, 11 center trade unions from the extreme right to the extreme left came together around 10 demands. Everybody was brought into one platform. The agenda was that we oppose the neoliberal economic policies of the government. We were saying, “Do not privatize the public sectors.” We also said, “Don’t contract work, but rather make labor regular.” We raised the issues of minimum wages, pensions and control of prices of essential commodities for everyday consumption and everyday use by the common people.

So a 10-point charter of demands was made under which we brought everybody together. We were saying, “No labor laws should be violated,” as they were being violated. All this was going on when a government change happened.

The previous government was trying to make changes in the labor laws, but with our resistance. We were very determined, trying to sell the public sector, but we did not allow that. So they said, “OK, the profit-making public sector will not be sold out.” They will only sell out that which is not making profits.

With our resistance, we were in a position to stop many things. But since the current government came into power, they have not responded to labor agitation and movements. [The Bharatiya Janata Party government is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.]

The result was that, prices increased. Issues of contractualization and casualization were going on. The government forcibly started changing labor provisions and, some through Parliament. When they did not succeed in Parliament because they were not in the majority, they mobilized and advocated with everybody — with all political parties.

In eight of 29 states where the ruling party rules, they have already made those changes. This is very dangerous. Because of that, we added our 11th demand — that labor law changes which are against labor will not be tolerated.

Tens of millions join general strikes

There is now a 12-point charter of demands around which the strike was held. These are the demands that the government’s aims to gain foreign direct investments (FDI) without any safeguards in India — in defense, railways and public sector. It also dealt with its attempts to harm our nationalized banking sector.

That was real, so we added the demand that no FDI will be brought on board, no FDI [will be] increased in every sector. But this government went ahead anyway. Based on our charter of demands, we organized a general strike on Sept. 2 in 2015.

Before that strike, a group of ministers had formed and negotiations had begun, but they did not want us to go on strike. We went on strike — with the participation of 150 million people. After that, the strike, the government refused to talk with us, refused to negotiate, did nothing.

Then we held a set of activities. Step by step we once again raised demands and went on strike on Sept. 2 of this year. It was even more successful than last year’s strike. This time the number of strikers increased from 150 million to over 180 million.

The government, through [its ally] the BMS [Indian Workers Union], tried to confuse the workers. They tried to say there was no need to go on strike. But still we got the participation of all sectors — and even succeeded in mobilizing farmers.

We succeeded in mobilizing workers who are not generally unionized and even mobilized the unions which are not affiliates of central trade unions. Everybody was brought on board, and it was a very successful strike.

Moroccan protests shake U.S. ally

By G. Dunkel

Fisher Mouchine Fikri and some friends jumped into the back of a garbage truck to extract his swordfish, worth $10,000, which the fish and game authori- ties of central trade unions. Everybody was brought into one platform. The agenda was that we oppose the neoliberal economic policies of the government. We were saying, “Do not privatize the public sectors.” We also said, “Don’t contract work, but rather make labor regular.” We raised the issues of minimum wages, pensions and control of prices of essential commodities for everyday consumption and everyday use by the common people.

Al Hoceima is in the Rif area of northern Morocco. Fikri, a 30-year-old swordsman, had just returned from Paris to the Al Hoceima, Fikri’s friends and went viral throughout Morocco. The protests were massive but peaceful, and the cops didn’t make any attempt to stop them. To calm the fury, 11 police and fishery officials were detained, but the charge was “forgery” for filing faulty paperwork about the incident. It’s highly unlikely that anyone will be charged with anything, since the authorities are calling it an accident.

Protests continued past the immediate outrage, with a major march in Morocco’s capital, Rabat, on Nov. 6. It was not just the gruesome police murder that brought people out into the streets. Protester Khalid Zerwal told Reuters at the rally: “The death of Mouhine is like a death for all Moroccans. This won’t stop until we get dignity and fairness.” Many protesters marched peacefully toward the Parliament, waving flags, chanting against the ruling elite and demanding democracy.

According to Forbes magazine, King Mohamed VI of Morocco is the richest man in North Africa. He has control over and profits from phosphates, Morocco’s most profitable export, as well as the fishing industry.

Morocco’s main trading and diplomatic partners are France and Spain, its former colonial masters, but the monarchy goes out of its way to maintain good relations with Washington.
Cuba wins at U.N., 191 to 0

By Cheryl LaBash

For the 25th time, the world had its say firmly opposing the financial, commercial and economic blockade imposed by the imperialist North American giant on Cuba, its much smaller socialist neighbor in the Caribbean.

More than a vote, it was a demonstration of worldwide popular support for ending the blockade against Cuba. Unlike previous United Nations. General Assembly votes, on Oct. 26 not even Washington said “No.” In a first, the U.S. and Israel abstained from voting, making the total 190 to 0. In 2015 the vote was 191 to 2.

Nineteen other representatives spoke before the U.S. and Cuban spokespersons. Others explained their votes afterward, including in an hourlong session following the lunch break.

Among those speaking were representatives of the U.N.’s Africa Group; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the large countries of Russia, the People’s Republic of China and India; the Pacific Archipelago Tonga; the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Caricom.

The Non-Aligned Movement recognized and complimented Cuba’s resolution. The U.S. and Cuba must end the blockade.

PentagonAchillesHeel.com

U.S. rep calls blockade ‘legal’

Samantha Power admitted: “Instead of the United States would not vote against Cuba’s resolution.

Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, firmly opposing the financial, commercial and economic blockade imposed by the imperialist North American giant on Cuba must end.

Alba [the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America] countries — Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua and El Salvador — spoke.

After announcing to applause the the U.S. would not vote against Cuba’s resolution, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power admitted: “Instead of isolating Cuba, as President Obama has repeatedly said, our policy isolated the United States. Including right here at the United Nations.”

U.S. rep calls blockade legal

But Power quickly claimed legality for the blockade that had just been denounced in the resolutions and in a 2-page Secretary General’s report supporting Cuba’s resolution.

In an example of the new, more nuanced U.S. foreign policy against socialist Cuba, Power, after referring to alleged “human rights” violations in Cuba, said: “Let me be among the first to acknowledge — as our Cuban counterparts often point out — that the United States has work to do in fulfilling these rights for our own citizens. And we know that at times in our history, U.S. leaders and citizens used the pretext of promoting democracy and human rights in the region to justify actions that have left a deep legacy of mistrust.”

“We also recognize the areas in which the Cuban government has made significant progress in advancing the welfare of its people, and in reducing the economic, social and human costs of the blockade.”

Power gave as a positive example of international cooperation between the U.S. and Cuba the fight to stop the Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa. She spoke of Cuban Dr. Félix Béez Sarria, who contacted Ebola, survived and returned to the Henry Reeve Brigade in Sierra Leone. She pointed out that the brigade takes its name from a Brooklyn, N.Y.-born, 19-year-old, who died fighting alongside Cubans for independence in 1876.

Cuban foreign minister speaks

After detailing the human and financial cost of the blockade, she said: “Let me be among the first to acknowledge — as our Cuban counterparts often point out — that the United States has work to do in fulfilling these rights for our own citizens. And we know that at times in our history, U.S. leaders and citizens used the pretext of promoting democracy and human rights in the region to justify actions that have left a deep legacy of mistrust.”

“However, it should not be kept silent that in the tragic moments of the epidemics of Ebola in West Africa, the deployment of Cuban medical aid was hampered by the refusal of the British Standard Chartered Bank to make transfers between the World Health Organization and the Cuban medical brigades, consisting of Dr. Béez Sarria and others who risked their lives by their direct contact with patients.”

Cuba improves people’s lives with doctor-to-doctor cooperation

“Even under such extreme conditions, Cuba greatly contributes to the fight to stop the Ebola virus epidemic in Africa. Cuba has sent doctors to suffer and risk their lives by their direct contact with patients. Cuba greatly contributes to the fight against the spread of this viral disease in the world.”

Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, firmly opposing the financial, commercial and economic blockade imposed by the imperialist North American giant on Cuba must end.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

By Leslie Feinberg, author of ‘Stone Butch Blues’

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba documents revolutionary Cuba’s inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, gender and the economy.

This groundbreaking book reveals how the Cuban Revolution has grappled with the pre-revolutionary legacy of 450 years of persecution and exploitation of homosexuals.

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba is an edited compilation of 25 articles from the Workers World newspaper series by Feinberg, Sender and Red, online at workers.org.

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By G. Dunkel

Although many jobs have dried up and developed capitalist countries throughout the world no longer seek as much low-wage labor, people from poor countries are being pushed into misery and war are taking almost unimaginable risks to make their way to developed countries where they hope to find future.

Often, it is to the very imperialist countries whose ruling classes have for generations fattened off exploiting the labor and resources of their homelands.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees, even though the flow of people making Mediterranean Sea crossings from Africa to Europe in 2015 has been only about a third of last year, the death rate this year is higher. For the Central Mediterranean route between Libya and Italy, one person has died for each 47 who made it through.


One of the biggest unofficial camps for refugees in Europe grew up over the past few years near Calais in northern France.

Migrants there have been mainly from East Africa – Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia – or Afghanistan, Pakistan and former French colonies. They gathered in a camp nicknamed “The Jungle” that was close to the tunnel running between France and Britain. The goal of many of has been to get to Britain, where some have family ties and the hope of finding jobs. Some 3 million immigrants work in Britain.

Various unofficial estimates from charity organizations have the number of refugees who had been living in the Calais camp at between 6,000 and 8,000. Officially, up to 10,000 were woman, and between 1,000 and 2,000 were unaccompanied minors, some as young as 10.

Much political maneuvering is taking place in France around the presidential election scheduled for this coming spring. The semi-fascist National Front, a major political party in France, has been whipping up an anti-immigrant, racist frenzy over the camp. The government of François Hollande, which calls itself “Socialist” but serves the interests of the capitalist class, decided to raze the camp and send the people living there to “reception centers” throughout France which were specially built to accommodate immigrants.

The Calais camp was completely destroyed by the end of October, and over 6,000 people were moved by bus to the centers. However, some 4,000 unaccompanied minors and a number of them wound up sleeping in a nearby stadium for several months.

The British government has accepted a few hundred. Britain and France are arguing over the number of refugees and how many have been moved to France or Britain, or how many are in the refugee camps.

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But the overall total of those living in reception centers or in transit on the present trip was posted, the project went viral online.

“We also are children of immigrants, we grew up in poverty; the principle of fairness is who we are,” said Souleymane, a resident of the Sarcelles suburb where the project began.

Workers.org

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Don’t just mourn, organize

The danger is not just Trump the person but the misogyny, racism and attacks on immigrants and the LGBTQ commu-
nity that his election catalyzed. His main support comes from white men. Whether they realize it or not, when they voted for Trump they identified not with his working class, in which the majority are now women and/or people of color, but with the ruling establishment.

On a corporate level, there’s a dishtowel fantasy — the fantasy of the strong, rich, white man who can fix everything, from “Batman” to Trump’s “reality” show. The “reality” of capital is provided for everyone. In this Fox-dominated atmos-
phere, which extends from films to radio and television to comic books, many bought into Trump’s outraght fantasy. But the promises of the Clinton neoliberal
erals are fantasy, too. The fantasy is that U.S. capitalism can be strong and contin-
ue to grow under the right president, one cagily hand-picked by the establishment.

The next four years will bring a strong dose of real reality. The house of cards that is the world capitalist system is al-
ed to fall. The world’s economic powers could re-

Gambia blasts the International Criminal Court

By Chris Fry

The western African country of Gambia an-
ounced on Oct. 25 that it was withdrawing from the Hague-based In-
ternational Criminal Court, calling the ICC “the International Caucasian Court.”

Gambian Information Minister Sheriff Bojang Jallow said that “the ICC’s con-
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but with the ruling establishment.

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tually the Sudan People’s Republic.

Workers World contributing editor
Greg Butterfield translated the article
at the author’s request. Abridged here, it is available in full in RedStarOverDon-
bass.blogspot.com, Nov. 2.

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It is precisely African Americans, Lat-
ins, Indigenous nations, women, Arabs, Musl-
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Syria and Donbass: Two sections of a united front against imperialism

By Alexey Albu

The writer is a coordinator of the变成了多德人Regeneration Union Borotba (Struggle), who participat-
ed in a recent international solidarity dele-
gation to Syria. Albu is a former regional
deputy of the Odessa region and survivor of the May 2, 2014, neo-Nazi massacre at the Odessa House of Trade Unions. He is currently living in political exile in Russia and the

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The fact is that we do not always get unbiased information through the lens of the media. Very often the media contrasts Rejova and the Syrian government, say-

The government signed the “Roman
statute” that created the ICC but has never ratified it. That is no surprise.

From Korea to Vietnam, from Afghan-

On a corporate level, there’s a
dish towel fantasy — the fantasy of the
strong, rich, white man who can fix every-
thing, from “Batman” to Trump’s “reality”
show. The “reality” of capital is provided for everyone. In this Fox-dominated atmos-
phere, which extends from films to radio and television to comic books, many bought into Trump’s outraght fantasy.

But the promises of the Clinton neoliberal
erals are fantasy, too. The fantasy is that U.S. capitalism can be strong and contin-
ue to grow under the right president, one
cagily hand-picked by the establishment.

The next four years will bring a strong
dose of real reality. The house of cards that is the world capitalist system is al-
ed to fall. The world’s economic powers could re-

Gambia blasts the International Criminal Court

By Chris Fry

The western African country of Gambia an-
ounced on Oct. 25 that it was withdrawing from the Hague-based International Criminal Court, calling the ICC “the International Caucasian Court.”

Gambian Information Minister Sheriff Bojang Jallow said that “the ICC’s continuation and humiliation of people of color, especially Africans. “There are many Western countries, at least 30, that have committed heinous war crimes against independent war
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The movement of people adhering to imperialism — and for the other comrades from Italy,

Two sections of a united front against imperialism

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The fact is that we do not always get unbiased information through the lens of the media. Very often the media contrasts Rejova and the Syrian government, saying that Assad bombarded peaceful Kurdish villages and violated the agreement granting autonomy to the Islamic State. After the trip to Syria, I realized that this is not quite true. The political landscape of the region is extremely difficult. Within the same area there are many different forces and groups that are under the influence of large political centers — united, sepa-
rated, fighting with each other. And the Syrian government intends to respect the agreement and give the Syrian Kurds their long-awaited autonomy. This was very important to me. That is, for now the union of progressive forces continues to operate against the Islamists, and inside this union there is no war. I re-
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The governments of Uganda and Ken-
dausterity, poverty and “sanitisa-
tion is the dream of hundreds of millions of people around the world. However, views about this new society are all very different.

I would like to make my views clear. I support any attempt to make progressive social change in my country as well as any political, social and government initia-
tive, if the alternative to it serves reac-
tion, regression and rollback to a lower stage of human development. That is why I support the young People’s Republics of Donbass, because their anti-palestine Hamas is “offensive, and for me it was very important to

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Families across Britain protest killer cops

By Taryn Fivik

London

Hundreds of people from across Britain gathered in Trafalgar Square to hold a rally against police brutality on Oct. 29. For the last 18 years, the United Families and Friends Campaign has had a march from Trafalgar Square to Downing Street. Those attending told Workers World that this year’s rally has been the largest.

Compared to the United States, the numbers in the Britain seem low. More than 880 people have been killed by the police in the U.S. since 2015. Meanwhile, 50 have been killed in Britain, where police do not carry guns. Most people die here while in police custody after being beaten or having their medical needs neglected.

This discrepancy in numbers does not mean that victims here have been any more successful than those in the U.S. in achieving justice. Since 1990, 1,577 people in total have died in police custody. That has led to zero convictions of police.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is supposed to investigate and prosecute these killings. The problem is that eight out of nine IPCC senior investigations are failed.

Many of the people who die in police custody here have mental health problems and are particularly vulnerable.

Justice for ‘Paps’

Saqib Deshmukh, from Slough (a town 21 miles west of London), was at the rally on behalf of the Justice for Habib Commission. He said, “I think the Black population of America [the U.S.] should see themselves as part of a diaspora. We really want to care about us as well. At the end of the day, in Paris, in Dakar, in Johannesburg — we’re having a conversation. Sometimes it feels a bit one-sided, but we’re open and we love you. We’re waiting for them to recognize us, our diasporic cousins. September 11 shows she reads and watches a lot of material from the United States online, including material from the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and hopes that the internet will open up more dialogue between borders.

Deshmukh stressed the importance of remembering those who have lost their lives at the hands of the police. “People have to know these names. Sometimes we look at what’s happening over in America [the U.S.] and we know those campaigns. We know their names. We may not know the names of Darrell Rivera and 49 others, but we know all these other names. There’s new families who come here each year. We need to know all their names. The media need to know their stories, and those authorities need to be held accountable for their deaths.”

As the movement to remember the names of those killed by police grows, so too have their names echoed louder in the halls of power, while the working class is on the defense against employers and capitalists on centers of oppression worldwide.

Families across Britain protest killer cops

By Ava Lipatti

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La necesidad de solidaridad internacionalista

Por Abayomi Azikiwe

A continuación publicamos la presentación de Abayomi Azikiwe, Secretario General Internacional de Luchas Populares cele- 
brocha en Chile el 22 de octubre. Azikiwe es un reconocido líder antiimperialista de 

Detroit.

Hay una debilidad fundamental en el movimiento popular en los Estados Unidos, 

y ésta es la necesidad del internacionalismo antiimperialista. Las luchas contra el racismo, la opresión nacional y la explotación de clases no pueden separarse de la necesidad de acabar con la injerencia de Washington y Wall Street en los asuntos internos de la mayoría de los estados del mundo. Ganar el reconocimiento en estas luchas fundamentales depende en gran medida del grado en que podamos crear conciencia generalizada de la difícil situación de las comunidades de color y de la clase trabajadora en general. Se está realizando este trabajo para alcanzar estos objetivos, aunque aún queda mucho por hacer.

La conciencia internacional con respecto al carácter del estado de EUA está creciendo enormemente. Esto se debe en parte a la reestructuración, la recesión y las rebeliones urbanas que han surgido es- 

tópica en respuesta a la muerte de Trayvon Martin en el 2012 y el verede- 

de la crisis del agua en Detroit, en el juicio de George Zimmerman. El anuncio de la abdicación de Zimmerman 

hauido mucho para cambiar la opinión pública interna e internacional sobre 

las instituciones que devalúan la vida afroamericana y los derechos democráti- 

cos. Fue durante este período que el hashtag #BlackLivesMatter comenzó a ser tendencia. Desde entonces, se han realiza- 

do esfuerzos para construir capítulos de BLM en EUA, extendiéndose internacio- 

nalmente. 

El complejo industrial penitenciario, que ahora abarca a unas 2,2 millones de perso- 

nas, y otras millones bajo super- 

visión policial, continúa siendo una forma de súper-explotación y contención social relacionada con el perfil racial y el sistema judicial injusto.

Estas son algunas de las principales cuestiones que debemos abordar en EUA. Nuestro internacionalismo debe ser fundamentalmente una lucha de las/os trabajadores y las/os oprimidas y los movimientos que han surgido en los contextos de emergencia y crisis.

Trazando vínculos entre el nacional y el exterior

Quizás la crisis de desplazamiento más profundo de hoy es la migración de perso-

nas del norte de África hacia el sur de Europa. Esta migración de personas desplazadas ha sido documentado por la Agencia de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados como el más grande desde la conclusión de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Hay de 60 a 75 millones de personas que han sido internas y externamente desplaza- 
das en el mundo moderno.

La migración de personas desplazadas se deriva directamente de los imperativos de la política exterior de guerra y explotación económica diseñados por Washington y Wall Street. Las intervenciones en Afgan- 
istán, Irak, Haití, Libia, Siria, Yemen y Somalia están alimentando el subdesarrollo y la hacinamiento.

Muchas de estas guerras permanecen en gran parte ocultas a los ojos de los EUA. Gran parte de la fuerza social de las/los trabajadores y las/os oprimidas y los movimientos que han surgido en los contextos de emergencia y crisis.

Causando mayores tasas de desempleo, pobreza, déficit de alimentos, conflictos de clase y guerra civil. Países como Somalia, Sudáfrica, Zimbabue y Nigeria, ri- 
cos en recursos naturales, terrenos y vías navegables estratégicas, se enfrentan a 

diversos niveles de recesión, depresión y crisis, causando mayores tasas de desempleo, pobreza, déficit de alimentos, conflictos de clase y guerra civil. Países como Somalia, Sudáfrica, Zimbabue y Nigeria, ricos en recursos naturales, terrenos y vías navegables estratégicas, se enfrentan a diversos niveles de recesión, depresión y crisis. En términos macroeconómicos, en gran medida, estos países se encuentran fuera de las cadenas de producción como parte de las redes globales de capitalismo. Sin embargo, esta desigualdad implica la vuelta a las formas coloniales de explotación y dominación.

La crisis de la guerra imperialista tiene sus componentes económicos. La sobre- 

producción de petróleo y otros productos básicos está haciendo bajar los precios de los petróleo y otros productos básicos está haciendo bajar los precios.