

# Merchant of death pushes high-tech arms on Asia

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Nov. 7 — Crude, clumsy and a thorough-going capitalist — that was U.S. President Donald Trump at work this week on his tour of Asian countries. Trump the arms merchant pushed the main product the U.S. offers the world these days — high-tech weaponry. Standing next to Japanese Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo, Trump the salesman virtually commanded him to take military action against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. And then Trump placed the arms order himself, declaring: “[Abe] will shoot [DPRK test flights] out of the sky when he completes the purchase of lots of additional military equipment from the United States. The prime min-

ister of Japan is going to be purchasing massive amounts of military equipment, as he should.” (New York Times, Nov. 6) Trump referenced recent tests of unarmed conventional missiles by north Korea, some of which passed harmlessly over the Japanese island of Hokkaido. Facing U.S. threats that could become U.S. aggression in an instant, the DPRK continues to test both nuclear and conventional weapons. That should be no surprise. The 1950-53 U.S. war on the Korean peninsula never ended with a peace treaty; U.S. troops, ships and planes encircle the DPRK, including 40,000 troops in Japan itself; the Pentagon possesses almost 7,000 nuclear warheads; and Trump threatened in his first U.N. speech on Sept. 21 to “totally

destroy North Korea.” Trump also tried to flim-flam U.S. workers to sell them militarization: “It’s a lot of jobs for us.” But Trump was shilling for the U.S. banking-industrial-military complex, not for the few workers employed in this high-tech industry. Of the top 100 arms manufacturers in the world, U.S. companies like Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Northrop Grumman have accounted in the past for more than 60 percent of arms sales revenue and reap billions in profits yearly. The heads of U.S. high finance and industry might prefer a smoother merchant as the CEO of U.S. imperialism. But Trump shows their true face. They sow misery and chaos with their weapon sales and wars.

U.S. allies like Japan and client-states like Saudi Arabia already have high-tech U.S. anti-missile systems in place. But continuing U.S.-promoted war means orders for new weapons. The impact of this across the world — from the Korean peninsula to the Arabian peninsula — is devastating. When the U.S. arms the Saudi monarchy against a sovereign Iran, what happens? Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zari says that U.S.-backed Saudi Arabia wages “wars of aggression, regional bullying, destabilizing behavior and risky provocations” and “bombs Yemen to smithereens, killing 1000s of innocents, spreads cholera and famine.” (NY Times, Nov. 6) See editorial on p. 10 on what’s involved in Trump’s visit to China.

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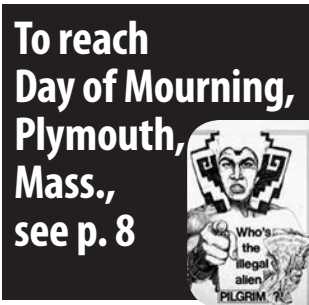
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# John Kelly, an apologist for Robert E. Lee

WW COMMENTARY

By Monica Moorehead

As if further proof was needed that Trump and many administration officials are pro-white supremacy, White House Chief of Staff, John Kelly, helped seal the deal on this issue with his comments during a Fox TV News interview on Oct. 30.

When host Laura Ingraham asked Kelly about the recent struggle to bring down Confederate statues which honor slavery, Kelly defended them: “I would tell you that Robert E. Lee was an honorable man. He was a man that gave up his country to fight for his state, which, 150 years ago, was more important than country. It was always loyalty to state first back in those days. Now it’s different today. But the lack of an ability to compromise led to the Civil War. And men and women of good faith on both sides made their stand where their conscience had to make their stand.”

When Kelly’s views were widely criticized, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, White House press secretary, defended Kelly: “[A]ll of our leaders have flaws,” mentioning presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and John F. Kennedy. (Huff Post, Oct. 31)

Sanders went on to say: “That doesn’t diminish their contributions to our country, and it certainly can’t erase them from our history. And General Kelly was simply making the point that just because history isn’t perfect doesn’t mean that it’s not our history.”

Lee, Jefferson and Washington were slave owners. Lee was a commander of the Confederate States Army during the Civil War.

Kelly is the former secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and is a

retired four-star general in the U.S. Marine Corps.

To put Kelly’s views into political context, it was Trump who stated that “both sides” were to blame for what happened in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12, when armed neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan and other alt-right forces viciously attacked anti-racist activists. Their actions resulted in the murder of anti-fascist Heather Heyer by a neo-Nazi who drove his car into a crowd. Neo-Nazis at the same rally nearly beat to death DeAndre Harris, an African-American youth.

### Bring them down!

These white supremacists had gathered in Charlottesville to defend a statue of Lee and prevent it from being taken down. Courageous actions by anti-racist protesters have removed Confederate monuments around the country in Durham, N.C., New Orleans and other cities.

The U.S. Civil War was a struggle between two social systems — chattel slavery and wage slavery (capitalism) — which could no longer co-exist side by side. Although the Union army defeated the Confederate army on the battlefield, surviving members of the slavocracy were allowed to regroup into extra-legal terrorist organizations like the KKK — thanks to pro-slavery sympathizers in the White House, led by President Andrew Johnson.

Because Lee and other Confederate leaders called for Southern states to secede from the Union — which was deemed treasonous — shouldn’t Kelly’s and other Trump officials’ defense of the Confederacy also be viewed as treasonous?

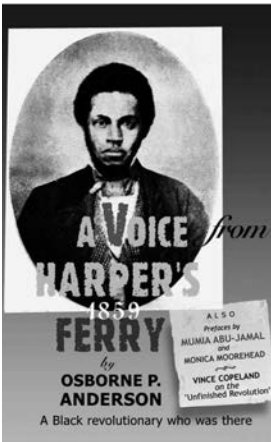
Some members of the Black Congressional Caucus state that Kelly needs a “history lesson” on what the Civil War was about. However, in reality, Kelly, Trump and their ilk are more than aware of whose side they are on. And it is not the side of the workers and oppressed peoples. □

## A Voice from Harper’s Ferry

Written by Osborne P. Anderson, a Black revolutionary who was there.

Essays by: Mumia Abu-Jamal, Monica Moorehead and Vince Copeland on the “Unfinished Revolution.”

Read it at [www.workers.org/ebooks/AVoiceFromHarpersFerry.pdf](http://www.workers.org/ebooks/AVoiceFromHarpersFerry.pdf)  
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**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
[atlanta@workers.org](mailto:atlanta@workers.org)

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c/o Solidarity Center  
2011 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
443.221.3775  
[baltimore@workers.org](mailto:baltimore@workers.org)

**Bay Area**  
1305 Franklin St. #411  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510.600.5800  
[bayarea@workers.org](mailto:bayarea@workers.org)

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.286.6574  
[boston@workers.org](mailto:boston@workers.org)

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
335 Richmond Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.883.2534  
[Buffalo@Workers.org](mailto:Buffalo@Workers.org)

**Chicago**  
312.630.2305  
[chicago@workers.org](mailto:chicago@workers.org)

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.738.0320  
[cleveland@workers.org](mailto:cleveland@workers.org)

**Denver**  
[denver@workers.org](mailto:denver@workers.org)

**Detroit**  
5920 Second Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313.459.0777  
[detroit@workers.org](mailto:detroit@workers.org)

**Durham, N.C.**  
804 Old Fayetteville St.  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.322.9970  
[durham@workers.org](mailto:durham@workers.org)

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
[houston@workers.org](mailto:houston@workers.org)

**Huntington, W. Va.**  
[huntingtonwv@workers.org](mailto:huntingtonwv@workers.org)

**Indiana**  
[Indiana@workers.org](mailto:Indiana@workers.org)

**Los Angeles**  
5278 W Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
[la@workers.org](mailto:la@workers.org)  
323.413.2120

**Madison**  
[Madison@Workers.org](mailto:Madison@Workers.org)

**Milwaukee**  
[milwaukee@workers.org](mailto:milwaukee@workers.org)

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
[phila@workers.org](mailto:phila@workers.org)

**Pittsburgh**  
[pittsburgh@workers.org](mailto:pittsburgh@workers.org)

**Portland, Ore.**  
[portland@workers.org](mailto:portland@workers.org)

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585.436.6458  
[rochester@workers.org](mailto:rochester@workers.org)

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[rockford@workers.org](mailto:rockford@workers.org)

**Salt Lake City**  
801.750.0248  
[SLC@Workers.org](mailto:SLC@Workers.org)

**San Antonio, Texas**  
[SanAntonioWWP@workers.org](mailto:SanAntonioWWP@workers.org)

**San Diego**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
[sandiego@workers.org](mailto:sandiego@workers.org)

**Tucson, Ariz.**  
[tucson@workers.org](mailto:tucson@workers.org)

**Virginia**  
[Virginia@workers.org](mailto:Virginia@workers.org)

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300  
Washington, DC 20037  
[dc@workers.org](mailto:dc@workers.org)

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Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)  
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# American Airlines in the hot seat over ‘racial insensitivity’

By Dolores Cox

Tamika Mallory, Black activist, organizer and co-chair of the Jan. 21 Women’s March on Washington, D.C., was removed from an American Airlines flight from Miami to New York on Oct. 15. She describes the incident as racially motivated — “flying while Black.”

Mallory held a press conference about this outrage in New York on Oct. 17 with rapper/activist Mysonne, who was also ousted from the flight; her attorney, Royce Russell; New York state NAACP President Hazel Duke; NY state Sen. Brian Benjamin; NY state Assembly member Michael Blake; NY City Council member Jumaane Williams; and others.

Mallory explained that her removal from the plane involved a seating dispute. While at the airport check-in kiosk, she requested a seat change. But when she was at the gate, she was given her original seat. She told the agent that she had put through a seat change. Overhearing the conversation, the pilot asked her if she was going to be “a problem on this flight.” After Mallory took her seat, her name

was called over the speaker system, and she was told to go to the front of the plane. When she did, the pilot pointed at her and said, “You, off!” She was then ejected from the plane.

Expressing her outrage, she said she questioned airline staff about why she had been ejected and treated disrespectfully, but didn’t receive an explanation.

In a tepid response, American Airlines representative Ross Feinstein claimed the airline is looking into the matter: “We take these allegations seriously, and have spoken to all involved, including Ms. Mallory. Due to an error with a seat change request ... Ms. Mallory was rebooked on the next flight to New York’s LaGuardia airport.” (Washington Post, Oct. 16)

**Racism: an ‘industry-wide issue’**

Mallory told the Amsterdam News: “Other airlines have been mistreating people of color. We need to go from airlines apologizing and giving drink and food vouchers to airlines making policy changes.” (Oct. 16)

After exposing the airlines’ actions, Mallory said: “My emails and social me-

dia have been flooded with stories, particularly from women of color, saying they have been thrown off American Airlines flights and others. ... It’s not just a one-airline issue. It’s an industry-wide issue.” (Detroit Free Press, Oct. 29)

In another case, a pilot in Atlanta removed Brianna Williams, a 24-year-old Black woman, and her 4-month-old infant daughter from an American Airlines flight ready to depart for New York City on Aug. 21. She had requested the return of her stroller which was checked at the gate. Although Williams was reported by witnesses to have remained calm during a verbal exchange, the pilot was aggressive.

The Rev. William Barber, civil rights activist and North Carolina NAACP chapter president, became another victim of “flying while Black” on April 15, 2016. American Airlines ejected him from a flight after he complained to a flight attendant that the two white men sitting in front of him appeared to be intoxicated, and they had berated and cursed at him. After the police questioned the two men, Barber was ordered off the plane. He has since filed a lawsuit against the airlines.



Tamika Mallory, co-chair of Jan. 21 Women’s March on Washington, D.C.

The NAACP issued a travel advisory on Oct. 24, warning Black passengers about a pattern of racist incidents on American Airline flights; some are mentioned above. The organization cites multiple instances in which Black women were removed from flights or switched from the first-class section to coach. It also tells of a Black man being forced off a flight for responding to white passengers’ racist comments.

Although the airline alleges it does not tolerate discrimination, the NAACP says these events “suggest a corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possible racial bias on the part of American Airlines.” (Read statement at [tinyurl.com/y7fc77eh](http://tinyurl.com/y7fc77eh).) □

# Stop racist Ryan’s tax plan Workers to suffer while bosses benefit

By J. White

*“The only things one can be sure of regarding whatever it is that the Republican congressional majorities come up with for a tax plan is that it will shove more of the nation’s wealth upwards, that the math will be mostly magical thinking, and that there will be various strategies employed to keep the country from noticing these first two characteristics.”* (Esquire, Nov. 1, 2017)

Announcing the proposed tax plan, House Speaker Paul Ryan tried to appeal to working families, claiming the average family would have over a \$1,000 savings yearly. His argument was nonsense.

“The tax cut definitely dissipates over time,” David Kamin, a tax and budget specialist at the New York University law school, told PolitiFact. (Nov. 3, 2017) Based on Kamin’s calculations, the initial tax cut for a family with an income of \$59,000 will turn into a \$500 tax increase by 2024 compared to the current tax law.

Running the math on these claims reveals exactly what the top priority is in the House Republican tax bill: corporate tax cuts, not tax cuts for working families.

As the bill is written, even the poster family that Paul Ryan handpicked to support the bill would lose out by 2027. (Vox, Nov. 3, 2017)

Some of the deductions eliminated or pared back in the bill include the mortgage interest deduction; the state and local tax deduction; the medical expense deduction; the casualty loss deduction; and the student loan interest deduction. (Politifact, Nov. 3)

The new bill will also change taxation on 401K retirement plans, which many workers are forced to participate in. “In

essence, it would raise taxes on middle-class retirement savers to fund tax cuts for the wealthy,” Seth Harris, the former acting secretary and deputy secretary of Labor in the Obama administration told CNBC on Oct. 25.

**Tax breaks for the rich**

Who will benefit? The new law would cut the corporate tax rate from 35 to 20 percent; allow corporations to expense their capital investments immediately; set a new rate of 25 percent for so-called pass-through businesses, such as partnerships and sole proprietorships; and allow transnational corporations to repatriate, at a low tax rate, trillions of dollars they are holding abroad.

The primary beneficiaries will be members of the corporate class — the people who occupy senior positions in corporations and own most of the corporate wealth in the country. (New Yorker, Oct. 20)

**Who does Paul Ryan represent?**

A longtime Wisconsin organizer for the people’s movement told Workers World that Ryan used Jim Crow racist economic populism to get elected. There used to be thousands of union workers at auto plants in Wisconsin in towns like Janesville, Beloit, Kenosha and Racine (Ryan’s area). Ryan used chauvinist appeals, such as “buy America,” and attacking Mexico, China, etc.

Also, like all racist politicians in Wisconsin, Ryan has consistently used euphemisms and metaphors like “urban” or “crime ridden” when referring to Milwaukee, a majority Black and Brown city, to create division with workers from other communities destroyed by capitalism.

The Bradley Foundation, the Amer-

ican Legislative Exchange Council, the Koch brothers and especially the bankers, groomed Ryan and his Wisconsin cronies. Ryan is also anti-immigrant, a real enemy of the people. Like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who led the attack on Wisconsin public workers’ unions, Ryan too was groomed by some of the most virulent capitalist vultures such as the Bradley Foundation.

Ryan is a big fan of the late, reactionary author Ayn Rand, too. Like Walker, he’s a tool of the capitalist-imperialists, and very dangerous, especially when it comes to federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and women’s and LGBTQ rights, and union rights. He also supports U.S. imperialist foreign policy and wars.

**Building a resistance movement**

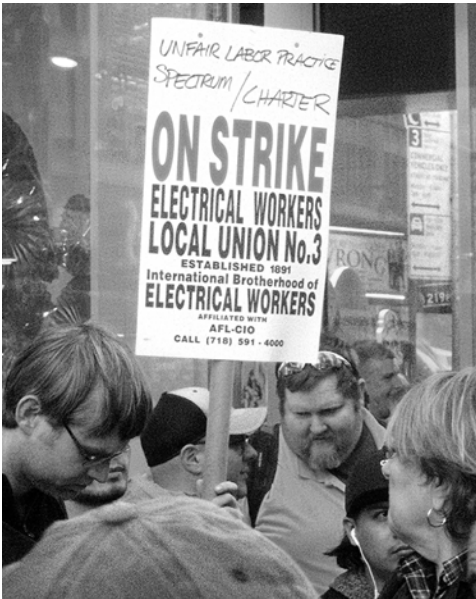
Anti-racist workers, women, environmental justice advocates and anti-war, LGBTQ activists are coming together

across the country to resist the austerity measures these tax changes will bring. To use a process known as reconciliation, which prevents a filibuster in the Senate, the Republicans recently agreed to a budget that included a tax cut that would add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit. “In other words they replaced tax reform with tax cuts.” (New Yorker, Sept. 28)

We know who they want to pay for this deficit. Not the Pentagon, whose budget keeps expanding. Congress will try to impose the cuts on poor women and children, food programs, the elderly and the disabled, the most oppressed in society.

But a people’s movement is brewing, as the bottom rises to the top. This movement will not stand by as they destroy the environment and deny the most basic rights to food, health care, education, clean water and healthy air. The people will build a movement of the workers and oppressed to expose the failure of capitalism to meet human needs. □

# Workers protest in Times Square to support Spectrum strike

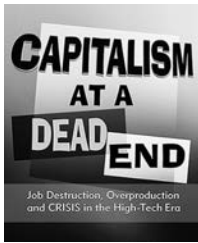


Some 1,800 workers of Spectrum, a part of Charter Communications that provides telephone, TV and internet services to customers in New York City, have been on strike for the past seven months. On Oct. 30, the NYC Central Labor Council held a large and militant rally that filled two blocks on Broadway, south of Times Square.

Delegations from the Teamsters 32BJ airport and building maintenance workers, Hotel Trades Council, Actors Equity and United Food and Commercial Workers were present.

One of the points that seemed to cause the most anger was that the chairperson of Charter Communications is paid \$98 million a year.

Photo and report by G. Dunkel



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# Brooklyn tenants battle Community leaders arrested in housing protest

By Anne Pruden  
New York City

Nov. 2 — “Kill the deal!” shouted a hundred angry protesters, mostly people of color, in downtown Manhattan this morning, led by tenant organizers, including the New York Communities for Change and the Crown Heights Tenants Union.

For many, this demand is three years old since their struggle to demand affordable housing at Brooklyn’s Bedford-Union Armory. This is city property, which the community demands be 100 percent affordable.

The developers, BFC Partners, anticipate cuts in housing subsidies from the Trump administration’s Department of Housing and Urban Development. Instead of having BFC make all the planned 330 apartments in this Bedford Avenue block site affordable, the city’s planning commission settled for an 80/20 plan. Thus, 67 units are called affordable, 99 units will be priced at \$2,203 a month

with another 164 units at \$3,700 a month, pushing nearly all local residents out.

Protesters marched to the office of their City Council member now responsible for the next step in making sure the armory is 100 percent affordable. Since an Oct. 30 vote, NYC’s Planning Commission will allow BFC Partners to increase the number of market-priced units. Council member Laurie Cumbo and Mayor Bill de Blasio, who for years have failed to denounce the displacement of low-income tenants, get the next say in the future of the armory.

As today’s protest marched near city Councilwoman Cumbo’s office, it broke into the street. Chants became “Whose street? Our street!” Soon the New York Police Department broadcast orders for all to leave the streets or face arrest.

Ten marchers stood their ground to the cheers of others present. Green Party candidate Jabari Brisport was among those who were soon arrested. He and Joel Feingold had already been arrested at last week’s vote by the planning



WW PHOTOS: ANNE PRUDEN

industry. These politicians boast that they have made developers agree to having a small portion of new housing “affordable.” This,

although even the subsidized rent for allegedly affordable apartments is far higher than can be afforded on the community’s average incomes.

commission! Brisport had campaigned against Cumbo in the last election for City Council. Most working-class New Yorkers now ask, “Affordable for who?” to New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and other politicians they consider sellouts to the real estate

although even the subsidized rent for allegedly affordable apartments is far higher than can be afforded on the community’s average incomes.

The working class of Crown Heights sees how capitalism doesn’t work and says, “Kill the deal!” □

## Eyewitness Ames plant fire, Part 2: Corporate poison and politics

By Xzander Stephens  
Parkersburg, W. Va., area

On Oct. 21, the Ames plant fire here lit up a week of polluted hell for Parkersburg residents. (See Oct. 31 workers.org for detailed coverage.)

But West Virginia has a long history of being one of the most heavily exploited states in the union, used primarily as an extraction site for corporations. This is coupled with an extremely bloody record against workers’ rights.

One of the worst industrial accidents in U.S. history, for example, happened when 750 workers, drilling the Hawk’s Nest Tunnel in the early half of the 1930s, died of silicosis. Workers were being forced to break through the 99.4 percent pure silica in Fayette County, W.Va., as part of a hydroelectric project. The silica the workers inhaled created extensive and fibrous nodules on their lungs. They found it harder and harder to breathe. Ultimately, many suffocated to death as a result.

In August 1985, a small cloud of toxic chemicals escaped from a Union Carbide plant in Charleston, W.Va. At least 135 residents were treated for eye, throat and lung irritation; 28 of the injured were admitted to nearby hospitals. The cloud of gas contained several chemicals, including aldicarb oxime, which is combined with methyl isocyanate to produce aldicarb, a compound used in pesticides. Health officials assured the public that everything was fine and the chemicals were “nontoxic,” despite numerous medical cases contradicting this narrative.

In January 2014, up to 300,000 residents in Charleston were without access to clean water for several days after a major chemical spill, and were facing long-term issues with contaminated household water systems. State environmental officials estimated that as much as 7,500 gallons of a chemical used to process coal (crude 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol) flowed into the Elk River, a tributary of the Kanawha River.

In 2007, residents near DuPont and

Chemours’ Washington Works plant near Parkersburg learned their water had been contaminated with the chemical C-8, used to make Teflon. Now, over a decade later, the companies have finally agreed to pay \$670.7 million to settle the 3,500 cases in the class-action lawsuits that were filed.

In that decade, residents of Parkersburg reported a whole death-list of medical problems, including kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease and pregnancy-related hypertension, including preeclampsia and hypercholesterolemia.

Farmers also reported livestock affected by exposure to C8, with symptoms including bleeding from orifices, vomiting blood, tumors, seizures, blindness, tremors, foaming at the mouth and death. From the 1980s into the 1990s, DuPont and Chemours began to buy land from resident farmers and landowners for landfills, assuring them that what was to be dumped was ash, scrap metal and so on.

After years of reports of environmental and medical issues facing the community, some people began to dig to uncover the root cause. When the lawyer for one farmer uncovered the Teflon chemical link, Bernard J. Reilly, a legal counsel for DuPont, wrote in a company internal document: “The shit is about to hit the fan in WV ... the lawyer for the farmer finally realizes the surfactant [C8] issue ... Fuck him.” (tinyurl.com/jvfo3jo)

### Polluted capitalist politics

This pollution is taking place within a 154-year history of corporate exploitation and stranglehold on state politics. The current West Virginia governor is billionaire Jim Justice, a personal friend and strong supporter of Donald Trump. Earlier this year, Justice joined Trump at a West Virginia rally to announce he was switching his party affiliation from Democrat (read Coalcrat) to Republican.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump made several stops in West Virginia, where he spoon fed West Virginia workers false hopes of factories and

mines opening up, dangling coal in front of our faces just like every other Tom, Dick and Harry politician that comes through our mountains.

West Virginians buy into these farcical narratives out of economic desperation. They gave Trump 489,371 votes, a landslide victory with 68.5 percent of the state’s total votes.

While Jim Justice, after several days of continuous chemical smoke in Parkersburg, has made some statements about the Ames plant fire, the Trump administration has made a total of zero comments about the Ames plant disaster. Odd, since he apparently “loved” us during the election year.

This, combined with the state’s delayed response to the disaster, as well as the city running out of funds and water to combat the fire, left many residents feeling abandoned by everyone and left to survive if they could.

Where the political background involving Trump becomes most significant is Trump’s proposed 31 percent budget cut for the Environmental Protection Agency. This would greatly reduce, if not

strip, the resources needed to respond to emergencies such as the Parkersburg fire.

EPA staff and scientists at its regional offices across the country regularly respond to emergency calls from city and state officials during disasters such as this. Funds to respond to many of those calls, including from West Virginia officials, would no longer be available under Trump’s budget. So, in effect, this is what the Trump-Justice duo has in store for Parkersburg residents moving forward.

A class action lawsuit has been filed on behalf of Timothy Callihan and other residents. Defendants named in the suit are Surnaik Holdings of West Virginia LLC, SirNaik LLC, Polymer Alliance Services LLC, Green Sustainable Solutions LLC and Intercontinental Export Import Inc.

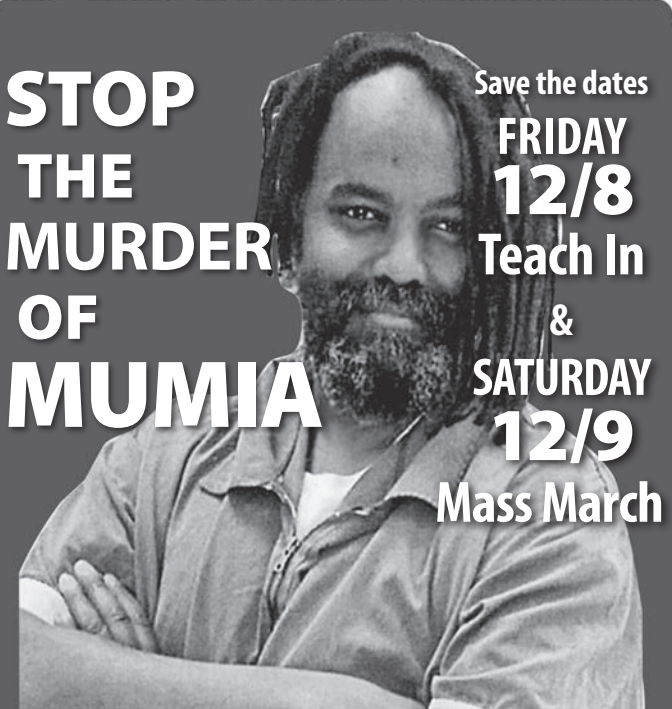
The full medical and environmental cost of this disaster remains to be seen. But with a state history of corporate coverups, state pandering and collusion with various corporations, with no regulations, zero social planning and little recourse for the citizens of affected areas such as Parkersburg, the outcome doesn’t look too good. □

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SATURDAY  
12/9  
Mass March**





San Francisco

# Community outrage over Taser vote

By Jeremy Miller and Terri Kay  
San Francisco

The San Francisco Police Commission at a “public” hearing on Nov. 3 narrowly voted to approve the use of Tasers by the San Francisco Police Department. The vote came on the heels of the Sept. 28 Oakland Police Department killing of a Black man, Marcellus Toney, by Taser — despite overwhelming community opposition.

After 13 years of community success in keeping Tasers from the SFPD weapons’ arsenal, the commission agreed 4 to 3 to allow them. The vote took place under questionable circumstances given the Brown Public Meetings Act. This state law guarantees the public’s right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.

The hearing room was packed with community anti-Taser activists, with more people watching on closed-circuit TV in an overflow room. Community members patiently sat through long-winded testimonies from official “experts” on Tasers, including a representative from Axon, a Taser producer that stands to profit immensely from this deal.

When the hearing was finally opened

to public comment, about 50 people lined up along the side and back of the room to speak. After only a few speakers, Cristina Gutierrez — fondly known in the community as Momma Cristina, from her role as one of the Frisco 5 Hunger Strikers — took her turn to speak. The commission had limited each speaker to two minutes, but Gutierrez wasn’t finished after two minutes and kept talking. Authorities turned off her mic, but that didn’t stop her and the audience yelled to let her continue to speak.

Instead, Commissioner Julius Turman, who ultimately voted against Tasers, called the meeting into recess. All the commissioners walked out, and a line of police and sheriff’s deputies formed across the space separating the audience from the vacant commissioners’ area. The people waiting in line decided to continue with their talks, sharing with the audience all the reasons they didn’t want the SFPD to be armed with Tasers.

Public barred from public hearing

Turman reconvened the meeting in another location while community members, uninformed of the change, waited in the original room. Only five people at a time were allowed in the new room and only those “not involved in disrupt-

PHOTO: NOEMIE SERFATY  
Protest at hearing on cops’ use of Tasers in SF Bay Area.

tive behavior.” (sfchronicle.com, Nov. 4)

Here’s where the Brown Act violation may apply. The vote was taken without the public being fully allowed to be present during the discussion leading up to the vote and for the vote itself.

Anti-Taser activists, who were locked out of the hearing, remained in the hallway chanting and singing. At one point, in an unprecedented act, acknowledging the illegitimate nature of the proceeding, San Francisco Police Commissioner Petra DeJesus actually left the commission to stand with the people.

When the vote was announced the crowd outside chanted, “Shame, shame!”

Why all the anger about Tasers? Aren’t they a “less-lethal” weapon? Even Taser proponents don’t call them non-lethal. One big issue is that even a “well-trained” officer can’t predict whether a Taser will



kill someone. Cops don’t know whether the person has a heart condition, pacemaker, asthma or any other condition that could automatically turn use of a Taser into deadly force. Reuters documented 1,005 incidents in the U.S. in which people died after police stunned them with Tasers. Ninety percent of these victims were unarmed. (reuters.com, Aug. 23)

Tasers are more likely to be used on African Americans and other people of color, especially against those in the midst of a mental health crisis. A Baltimore Sun study of Taser use between 2012-14 showed that out of 3,000 Taser deployments, 64 percent of the victims were Black men. □

## Columbia University Students win against white supremacy

By Julie Varughese  
New York

After a storm of criticism, Columbia University administrators have stopped their investigation of students who shut down the October appearance of a white supremacist there. Columbia has centuries of ties to white supremacy.

Executive Vice President for University Life Suzanne Goldberg reportedly emailed students on Oct. 30, saying charges were being dropped against the 19 students who interrupted white supremacist Tommy Robinson’s Oct. 10 speech.

The students were being investigated for violating the Rules of University Conduct. While under investigation, they were banned from events held by Columbia University College Republicans, which hosted Robinson, according to the Columbia Daily Spectator, the student newspaper.

Students had sent a letter to Columbia University President Lee Bollinger before Robinson’s event, arguing that he presented a “genuine threat of harassment to marginalized groups on campus.” (Daily Spectator, Nov. 2)

The investigation appalled more than 100 faculty members, who signed a letter to Bollinger in defense of the 19 students.

The faculty letter criticized the “over-reaction of the University to student protest through the aggressive and discriminatory and arbitrary enforcement of the Rules of University Conduct.” The letter added that “the administration seems committed to using ‘free speech principles’ as an opportunity to prosecute students for their reasonable efforts to critically engage biased, exclusionary and anti-democratic speakers brought to campus.” (tinyurl.com/y9gavdow)

Goldberg’s decision to drop the charges

was sent to students just a few hours before white supremacist and rape apologist Mike Cernovich — of Pizzagate conspiracy-theory infamy — spoke Oct. 30 at Lerner Hall on the Morningside Campus.

That didn’t stop more than 100 students and activists who marched onto campus and jammed their way into the lobby of the hall, halted only by security and New York Police Department officers. Cernovich was reportedly able to speak to only a tiny group and then fled through a side door to 114th Street, despite students’ efforts to confront him.

The Oct. 30 protest began with a NYC Shut It Down demonstration to honor Rev. Clementa Carlos Pinkney, who was gunned down in 2015 along with eight other congregants by white supremacist Dylann Roof at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Jamel Mims, an organizer with Refuse Fascism, reminded the crowd that a demonstration of rage against Cernovich was not enough. Other organizations in the anti-Cernovich protest included the Liberation Coalition, Workers World Party and People’s Power Assemblies.

Long struggle against racist institution

Although students avoided prosecution for their protest on Oct. 30, students and oppressed peoples of Harlem have long waged war against the oppressive institution of Columbia.

The university was founded as King’s College in 1754, with just eight students in what is now the city’s financial district. It later moved to midtown, then up to its current location in Harlem. Slavery has been tied to the university since its founding.

“Of the ten men who served as presidents of King’s and Columbia between 1754 and the end of the Civil War, at least

half owned slaves at one point in their lives,” according to the Columbia University and Slavery project.

In 1968, Columbia came under attack when it proposed to build a gymnasium and limit entry by area residents to a backdoor — a racist slight to the mostly historic Black neighborhood to the north and east of campus. Students who seized and occupied campus administration buildings in solidarity with the community were bloodied when the administration called on the police to remove them. Gymnasium plans were dropped.

Gentrification of working-class neigh-

borhoods of people of color reared its ugly, colonizing head again in the 1990s and 2000s with massive plans for expansion to make the university “competitive” with other Ivy League schools.

Students compelled the shutdown of a campus event in 2006 featuring the Minutemen Project, a racist, anti-immigrant, vigilante organization.

Students currently active in the struggle to keep Columbia free of white-supremacist speakers and organizers have vowed to keep fighting and not to be intimidated by the administration’s threats. □

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# Why you should attend WORKERS WORLD PARTY'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

By Megan Murray

Since the dissolution of the USSR and the Soviet bloc, the ruling class has been all too eager to declare the death of communism and “the end of history.” By the end of the 1990s, the brute force of imperialism and neoliberal globalization seemed to have eclipsed the counterhegemony that global socialism once promised. However, rather than stifling the struggle, the deep contradictions of capitalism have instead breathed life back into the revolution. With each miscarriage of justice, with each capitalist betrayal of empty notions of freedom and equality, workers and the oppressed see with greater clarity that we need to smash the entire system.

### Democrats have no answers, we do

Workers and oppressed people living in the U.S., under its racist, capitalist empire with Donald Trump at the wheel, are forming stronger and stronger bonds of solidarity with people’s movements across the world. To the dismay and surprise of the ruling class, socialism and the moral, historical and productive progress it represents are yet again inspiring the people to form disciplined opposition. The Democrats spinelessly tweet #resistance, yet remain complicit in global oppression. As the Democrats make clearer and clearer their allegiance to capitalism and the oppression it entails, the people must build stronger and more principled movements to fight for the only system capable of breaking from capitalism — the socialist system. This year’s National Party Conference

of Workers World/Mundo Obrero in the New York City area will represent a historic gathering of workers, the oppressed and those who have recognized the fundamental threat to humanity which capitalism poses. Contradictions in the current capitalist system have exploded into the open at increasing and dramatic rates in this past year alone. These manifestations — from the climate disasters in the Caribbean, Mexico, the southern U.S. and California, to rampant, deadly, racist violence by cops and neo-Nazis in the streets of U.S. cities — shape our approach to, and expectations of, this year’s conference.

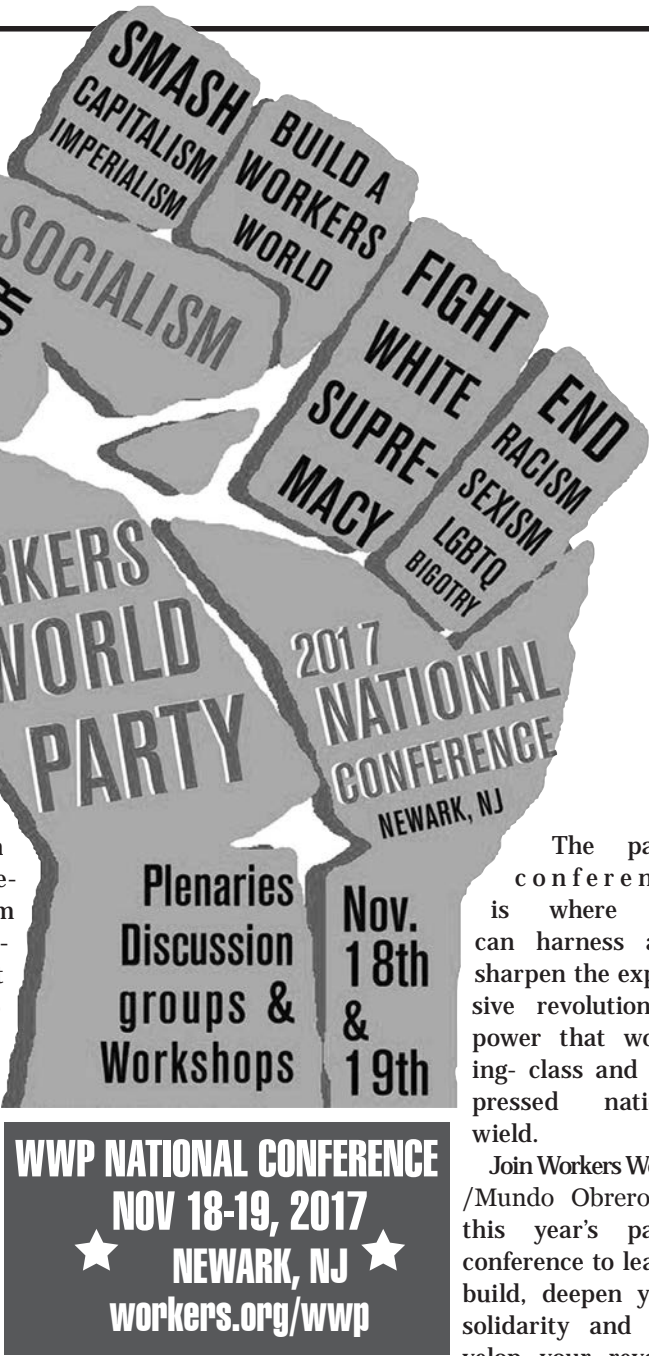
### Celebrate 100 years of revolution

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, we will acknowledge that triumph by firmly grounding ourselves in a historical perspective. Just as the Bolsheviks saw themselves in a uniquely revolutionary time and acted accordingly, so too must we grasp the content and potency of our own historical moment and, importantly, the political theory and action that necessitates. We must take lessons and inspiration from the revolutions in Cuba, Korea, Venezuela, Vietnam and other struggles that have fought and continue to fight an ongoing battle against capitalism and U.S. imperialism. The world today generates many existential, moral and political questions but provides few compelling answers to them. Oppressed people have pondered and built struggles to answer these questions. The radical, revolutionary and socialist movements that they formed

provided answers with historically profound results. As we learn from the 100 years of socialism behind us, we must also provide answers to fundamental questions ourselves, in our concrete social situation. Only through disciplined, self-conscious organization can we engage in the dialectical process of learning and doing which will be decisive in arming us with the revolutionary knowledge we need to decisively change society.

### Come to a revolutionary socialist Party conference

The party conference is the locus of the people’s developing discipline, consciousness and strategic militancy. The party conference is where we begin and continue to form bonds with our comrades that carry us through the trauma, work and social chaos that capitalism and revolution entail.



The party conference is where we can harness and sharpen the explosive revolutionary power that working-class and oppressed nations wield. Join Workers World/Mundo Obrero at this year’s party conference to learn, build, deepen your solidarity and develop your revolutionary potential. If you are hesitant to join the fight, know that the time is now! The time to unite and smash capitalism and white supremacy is today! Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero extends an invitation to you to “Unite to Smash White Supremacy and Capitalism” with us at this year’s conference. For conference registration, housing, schedule and other information, go to [workers.org/wwp](http://workers.org/wwp). □

## BOOK REVIEW

# ‘Bolshevik Deputies in the Tsarist Duma’

By G. Dunkel

The centenary of the Russian Revolution has brought a burst of interest in one of the most profound and significant events of the 20th century. Major bourgeois organs like the New York Times, the BBC and National Public Radio characterize the Russian Revolution as an “extraordinary coup.” They dwell on its “totalitarian” nature and the way the German imperialists allowed Lenin to cross Germany in a sealed train in order to return to Russia. A little less than 90 years ago, Alexsei Egorovich Badayev published a book that supplies a sharp response to the bourgeois lies. Called “Bolshevik Deputies in the Tsarist Duma,” it is an engaging, detailed description of how Badayev and five comrades conducted the class struggle inside the fourth Duma, or assembly. The Duma was a sop, a talking shop set up after the 1905 Revolution in Russia, to let various social forces vent. It was dominated by the Black Hundreds, a reactionary party representing the feudalistic landlords, clergy and government bureaucrats in autocratic Russia. The other major party was the Cadets, representing the liberal bourgeoisie, which was opposed to reactionary aspects of the tsarist government but didn’t really challenge it or support the workers.

Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders saw running candidates “as an opportunity for far-reaching agitation and propaganda and as one of the means of organizing the masses.” (Badayev, Chapter 1) Winning more seats and engaging in parliamentary maneuvers to make slight improvements were not on their agenda. Instead, gaining a podium as a way of speaking to all the workers in Russia was significant for the Bolsheviks, whose party was still illegal and couldn’t function openly. Their platform, drawn up by Lenin, had three main points: a democratic republic, an eight-hour day and the confiscation of all landlords’ estates. This minimum program of the Bolsheviks implied getting rid of the tsar and giving the peasants land. Six Bolshevik deputies were elected by a constituency restricted to workers. They took their seats in 1912 and held them until 1915, when they were arrested and exiled after Russia entered World War I. Badayev, who was a metal worker and a Bolshevik when he was elected, wrote the book as an account of the struggles he and his comrades were engaged in. It explains how they followed their party’s lead in supporting workers in their struggles, using their Duma podium to state the Bolshevik position on the issues of the day.

The workers saw the Bolshevik deputies as theirs. If they had a problem, if there was a spontaneous strike, a funeral or a case of poisoning, they came to the deputies. Badayev recounts that before the deputies had their own office, workers used to come to their apartments. Sometimes the line stretched out the door of his apartment and down the stairs. One of the first major attacks of the tsarist army against workers was the Lena gold fields massacre in early April 1912, in which 500 workers were shot dead during a protest. Lena is in northeast Siberia, which was then even more remote than now. Once the news of the massacre spread, the Bolshevik deputies organized massive political protest strikes in St. Petersburg and many other industrial centers. At the beginning of the fourth Duma, the Bolsheviks were in a bloc with the Mensheviks — a party imbued with traditions similar to those of today’s social-democratic parties of western Europe. After a series of problems working with the Mensheviks, the Bolsheviks decided to split and form their own caucus in the Duma. But they didn’t just walk out. Badayev describes in detail how they held meetings and solicited comments, resolutions

and contributions from unions in St. Petersburg and elsewhere in Russia. Lenin pointed out that of the donations given to political newspapers by workers’ organizations in Russia, four-fifths went to Pravda, the one associated with the Bolsheviks; the Menshevik paper got the rest. A few months after Russia entered World War I, the tsarist secret police arrested the Bolshevik deputies and a few other leaders with whom they were meeting. After a swift trial, they were convicted and exiled — until the revolution of February 1917 led to their release. In an article printed in April 1912, Lenin explained that “our Party goes into the Duma ... in order to call the masses to the struggle from the Duma rostrum, to explain the teachings of socialism, to expose every government and liberal deception, to expose the monarchist prejudices of the backward sections of the people, and the class roots of the bourgeois parties — in other words, in order to prepare an army of class-conscious fighters for a new Russian revolution.” (Marxist Internet Archive, Lenin Collected Works, vol. 17, pp. 506-12) That they did, and A.E. Badayev wrote a very interesting book on how they did it. Many libraries have it, and it is available online from the Marxist Internet Archive. □



## WWP youth leader speaks at Bolshevik



WW PHOTO

From left, Jerry Goldberg, Clara Sorrenti, Koz Mo, Savannah Jay, Adrien Welsh and Dave McKee, squatting, Mond Jones and Tyler Vee.

Mond Jones, a youth leader of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, spoke and was well received at a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution organized by the chapter of the Young Communist League in London, Ontario, Canada on Nov. 4.

Jones’ presentation emphasized the importance of the Leninist position on the right of oppressed nations to self-determination in sparking subsequent revolutions in Latin America, Asia and Africa. He discussed how the lessons of the USSR experience speak to the need for continuing the revolutionary process in the transition from socialism to communism and called for going to the masses to build the working-class struggle for socialism as the best way to commemorate the Bolshevik Revolution.

Jones emphasized WWP’s solidarity with all those fighting U.S. imperialism, from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to Venezuela, Cuba, Syria and Iran, and called for an end to the colonial status of Puerto Rico and for canceling the debt. Other speakers included Adrien Welsh, general secretary of the Young Communist League of Canada, based in Montreal, Quebec; and Dave McKee, Ontario provincial leader of the Communist Party of Canada. The meeting was chaired by Clara Sorrenti, organizer of the YCL in London. There was also a dynamic spoken word performance by Mohammad Ali, an artist and activist from Toronto.

— Report and photo by  
WW Detroit bureau



## WHY COLIN KAEPERNICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper [www.workers.org/books](http://www.workers.org/books)

## INDONESIA 1965: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century

By Deirdre Griswold To read a PDF copy go to : [tinyurl.com/yam9b47g](http://tinyurl.com/yam9b47g)

# 100 years of Russian Revolution To the 0.001 percent: You are cheering too soon

By Deirdre Griswold

The world bourgeoisie, in their evaluations of the Russian Revolution, say it “failed,” and this proves socialism can never be achieved — certainly not through a revolution of the workers and the oppressed.

Maybe a little bit of “socialism” is OK in the eyes of some of them. By that they mean giving in to mass pressure for the capitalist state to play a larger role in mitigating the suffering of the people. But it usually takes a near rebellion for a capitalist government to institute socialized medicine, for example, or even Social Security pensions, which became law in this country in 1935, during the tumult of the Depression.

But allow the masses to have their own state power? Never, say the bosses.

In this series, we have gone over some of the deep material reasons for the weakening of the revolution, which eventually led to the dissolution of the USSR and the return of capitalist wage slavery to that vast region. But we reject the idea that the revolution itself failed. It was overcome eventually, but it left a profound impact around the world.

Even while it was struggling to build up its economy after severe underdevelopment and wartime destruction, the USSR was giving aid to countries fighting imperialism.

### Soviet support for other revolutions

During the 1950-53 imperialist war against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Soviet Union provided MiG fighter planes, and eventually pilots, to defend both the Chinese and Korean forces under attack from the U.S.

It supported liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. It helped the Ethiopian Revolution. It supported Vietnam in its struggles against French colonial rule and then U.S. imperialist intervention. And it intervened militarily in support of the revolutionary government in Afghanistan that was under attack from a CIA-armed and -trained reactionary army of warlords.

Yes, Afghanistan had a revolution in 1978 that set up a very progressive government which freed the peasants from debt and fought for women’s rights, sending young teachers — women and men — to the countryside. The U.S. armed and trained the counterrevolution — yet claims that its bombing of villagers in Afghanistan today is meant to promote democracy.

In supporting the Cuban Revolution, the USSR went to the brink of a military confrontation with the U.S. — the so-called “missile crisis” — in October 1962. The crisis ended when the Kennedy administration pledged not to invade Cuba again. (The CIA had organized the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.)

For the first 31 years of its existence, the Soviet Union had stood virtually alone as the only country in the world attempting to build socialism. The one exception was the Mongolian Revolution of 1921. Aided by the Soviet Red Army, the Mongolians drove out Russian White Guards who had

invaded their country. In 1924, they proclaimed the People’s Republic of Mongolia. But Mongolia was very isolated, with a small population.

In 1948, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was founded, followed a year later by the triumph of People’s China. The common thread in all these revolutions was that they were carried out by parties based in the working class whose ultimate aim was to create a socialist society.

From day one, the main objective of the imperialists has been to break up the solidarity among these countries — just as it is doing today regarding China and the DPRK. It uses the carrot, but mostly the stick — the very big stick of threatening nuclear war.

### Can nukes stave off social advance?

Take away the nuclear weapons of the imperialist powers and what do we see? A dying system, choking on its own productivity.

If capitalism continues to be the dominant system, the youth of today will inhabit a world in which the gap between the haves and have-nots will have reached even more monstrous proportions. It is in the nature of capitalism to concentrate ownership of the means of production in fewer and fewer hands. While this may be concealed in the illusion that everyone with stocks owns a part of a company, even if it’s just through a pension plan or other market-based savings accounts, the truth comes out in the wealth figures.

An amazing chart, based on recent analysis of incomes, shows that since 1982, almost the entire growth in income in the U.S. has gone to the richest 1 percent of the population. (New York Times, Aug. 7) And in the last few years, the very, very, very rich — the top 0.001 percent — have seen the largest economic growth.

And this is BEFORE the changes in taxes and government regulation proposed by the Trump administration have been enacted.

If capitalism remains the dominant system, the racism, sexism, homophobia and scapegoating of immigrants — all of which serve the interests of capital by dividing the working class and thus lowering wages — will persist despite all the struggles against them.

### Changing consciousness has begun

Clearly, a day of reckoning is long overdue. Consciousness often lags behind reality, but when it comes, it comes with a bang.

Today’s generation is already reflecting the future. Capitalism is a dirty word. In a YouGov poll taken in January 2016, 43 percent of those in the 18-29 age bracket said they favored socialism; only 26 percent said it was unfavorable.

By March 18 of this year, the right-wing National Review was writing: “Socialism’s Rising Popularity Threatens America’s Future.”

If this is true in the United States, the bastion of world capitalism, it is doubly or triply true in the rest of the world. The capitalists have nothing to offer the vast majority, and instead seem intent on wrecking the planet rather than reining in their pursuit of more obscene profits.

Who is this young generation who have made what the National Review calls “a tectonic shift” in their views, compared to their elders? They are overwhelmingly young workers, whether they’ve been able to nail down a steady job or not. A large proportion are doubly or triply oppressed — because of their national origin, their color, gender and/or sexual orientation. And if they’ve tried to get a higher education in order to break into the job market, they are already debtors, tied to the financial system just as securely as those in debtors’ prisons in Charles Dickens’ times.

Speaking in Marxist terms, they represent a shift in consciousness of the workers, based on the new reality of capitalism having reached a dead end, unable to resolve its inner contradictions.

Every huge corporation now in existence wants to cut labor costs and expand its market. That’s what keeps the owners and investors happy.

They do it in several ways: eliminating jobs through automation and computerization, cutting wages and benefits, speeding up production and/or moving their operations to regions like the U.S. South or other countries where wages are lower.

While Trump blames Mexico for job losses in the U.S., the real culprits are Trump’s capitalist cronies who specialize in pitting workers against one another so they can pay the lowest wages. This was true as far back as the 1880s, when immigrant workers were being blamed (by the bosses’ politicians) for low wages (that the bosses forced on them).

Thus, the prospects for the future under capitalism are bleak indeed.

But take the same high level of technological development now achieved and put it to use raising living standards, reducing back-breaking labor, providing education and health care for all, harmonizing production with environmental protection, and liberating culture from the corrosive effects of racism, sexism, homophobia, class oppression and corporate consumerism. Then there is definitely a bright light at the end of the tunnel.

All this is sinking in as we write. Consciousness does eventually catch up to reality. And the reality is that there is no future for the workers — or the planet itself — under capitalism.

The Soviet Union showed that life for the workers could be improved enormously under a workers’ state and a planned economy. It never reached the level of full socialism, having to battle the world bourgeoisie for its entire existence, but it raised up tens of millions of workers and peasants from abject poverty and oppression. Its fall opened the floodgates of reaction and let capitalism be capitalism — unvarnished. And that opened the eyes of the new generation.

Now the ball is in our court. It will be up to the workers and politically conscious youth and oppressed peoples in the more developed, more utterly irrational bastions of rotting capitalism, to carry forward the world revolutionary struggle to break the billionaires’ grip on our planet.

That’s what the ruling class fears the most. And it should. □

## THE SILENT SLAUGHTER

An expose of the U.S. role in the Indonesian massacres with an introduction by Bertrand Russell. It contains the documents of an 1966 Public Inquest that was held at Columbia University. To read a PDF copy go to [workers.org/book/the-silent-slaughter/](http://workers.org/book/the-silent-slaughter/)



# ‘Bolshevik Revolution was Marxism in practice’

The following is part 1 of the talk given by Mond Jones, a youth leader of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, to a meeting commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, held in London, Ontario, Canada, on Nov. 4. The meeting was organized by the London chapter of the Young Communist League.

As Marxists, as Communists, we learn from history. We study the successes and the shortcomings of past revolutions, not only in an attempt to understand history and our current conditions, but to guide actions in the present and to guide us on the path to building a revolutionary future.

In this current time, we are seeing the failures of this corrupt capitalist system. Capitalism is in decay, and it’s crumbling in on itself. In Detroit we see it every day. We see the results of capitalist exploitation in degradation.

We see mass water shutoffs, for delinquencies of less than \$150. I have a comrade who had his water shut off for 50 cents. He and his mother were 50 cents short of the full payment, and they had their water shut off. However, big businesses in Detroit rack up delinquencies of hundreds of thousands every year, yet go unpenalized and continue to receive subsidies.

Thousands of homes and abandoned buildings lie vacant, while the rates of homelessness rise in the city. Homes are being illegally foreclosed and auctioned off left and right, kicking families to the streets, while the city’s emergency funds are used to help continue the gentrification of Detroit.

There was a conference in October where basically mayors came from all over the country to Detroit to see what a haven of “revitalization” it was. Folks are literally using Detroit as a model for how to quickly and successfully gentrify their cities.

Our party held a Real Detroiters Speak Out during this conference, where many

community organizations joined together to answer this narrative and expose the reality of poverty and destruction of our neighborhoods at the hands of the banks and corporations which we experience every day.

And that’s just one city. We are seeing these trends of destruction happening all over the world. The proletariat is growing increasingly into a class of hyperexploited, low-wage workers who can barely afford the bare minimum resources required to even be able to be productive at work.

Comrades, we have a problem. But we also have a solution. And here we are, gathered here as revolutionaries, to commemorate 100 years of the Bolshevik Revolution. Now is a time for celebration, for action, but also a time to revisit one of the most important events of the 1900s for the global working class, and how we can use the lessons learned there, to build revolution here.

The Bolshevik Revolution was quite a few things. Many people view it in a very static and simplified way. See, the Bolshevik Revolution was not only the first successful socialist revolution, it was also the first revolution to successfully put the ideas of Marx and Engels into practice. That’s huge.

Leninism is not only “Marxism in the age of imperialism” but quite literally “Marxism applied successfully,” Marxism IN PRACTICE, and it was the Leninist model that was adopted by revolutionaries throughout the global south. Still to this day, the Leninist model is



Mond Jones

used across the globe to wage People’s War against capitalism and imperialism. In short: Leninism works.

But let’s talk about some facts. People love to hear the facts, the numbers behind successes and shortcomings of historical events. So right now, I want to give a little bit of insight into the gains of

socialist revolution in the Soviet Union.

First, I will talk a little about the emancipation of women during the revolution. Communists understand, or should understand, the role in which special oppressions uphold capitalism.

Just six weeks after the revolution, the church’s patriarchal control over marriage was dismantled, and after within a year of revolution, a code was released that ensured complete equality of rights between both spouses.

In 1920, the Soviet Union was the first country in the world to legalize abortion. Prior to legalization, abortions were conducted in secret, for large sums of money, under unsanitary and dangerous conditions. To protect the women, the state provided abortions free of charge in any Soviet hospital capable of performing them.

In 1927 women formed 12.8 percent of the Communist Party. One-third of students in institutions for higher education were women. In the same year, women formed over 25 percent of the membership of trade unions.

During the revolution, there was a drastic shift in the way women were treated in society, compared to [their treatment in] the institutions of prerevolution tsarist Russia, where women had no rights and were relegated to the property of their husbands.

## Lenin and the national question

There’s a trend popularized by anarchists and radlibs alike to try and paint communist leaders as racists. We know that is not the case, and has never been the case, because the Bolshevik Revolution set a template for anti-racism and internationalism, through Lenin’s “Theses on the National Question.”

The Bolsheviks understood that capitalism and imperialism created the conditions for national oppression, and capitalism and imperialism are also upheld by national oppression. Lenin favored self-determination for oppressed people, because there can be no socialism, no road to communism, without dismantling the oppressive hierarchies capitalism promotes.

As well as abolishing the anti-gay legislation left over from the czarist era, the USSR actively supported the struggle for Black liberation in the U.S. and abroad. Black workers from the U.S. were invited by the state to emigrate to the Soviet Union, where they observed a much better life, free of the racism they would have experienced in the United States.

Paul Robeson a Black activist, communist and singer/actor from the U.S., stated that the social climate for Black folks in Russia was like something unheard of in the States. He said, “In Russia I felt for the first time like a full human being. No color prejudice like in Mississippi, no color prejudice like in Washington. It was the first time I felt like a human being.”

The Black American poet Langston Hughes also shared similar sentiments and wrote many poems dedicated to the work of Lenin and the USSR’s dedication to racial equality.

Racial equality and the abolition of national oppression were not just an idea or a series of empty statements in the USSR, but an active state project.

Next: USSR and internationalism.

## Get on the bus – for Nov. 23, National Day of Mourning

By Kathy Durkin

The 48th National Day of Mourning will take place on Thursday, Nov. 23, on the so-called “Thanksgiving” holiday, in Plymouth, Mass. Participants will gather at noon on Cole’s Hill above Plymouth Rock and march through the town’s historic district.

At a speak-out, Native people will tell of their history and the struggles of Indigenous people taking place today throughout the Americas. Non-Native supporters are welcome to come and be in solidarity with them. After the program and march, there will be a potluck social.

United American Indians of New England issued an appeal for supporters to attend the upcoming commemoration: “Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous

peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims, and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the earth.” (UAIINE.org)

This year, UAIINE says, “We will show up in solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world, and especially our relations in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean and Mexico suffering from hurricane and earthquake devastation compounded by colonialism.”

A special message will be given from 73-year-old Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

UAIINE points out: “Thanksgiving is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the relentless assault on Native culture.” Since 1970, the organization has planned the National Day of Mourning commemoration on that day. Participants honor Native ancestors and the

struggles of Indigenous people to survive today. “It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native people continue to experience.”

This very important annual day of solidarity draws Native people and their supporters from throughout Massachusetts, other New England states and beyond.

Here is information on buses traveling to Plymouth from Boston and New York City.

**BOSTON:** UAIINE has arranged for a charter bus for Boston-area residents without cars to attend the National Day of Mourning. The bus will board at “the Brewery” in **Jamaica Plain**, 284 Amory St. (near the Stonybrook station on the Orange Line MBTA), starting at 9 a.m. and will depart at 10 a.m. for Plymouth. The bus will leave Plymouth and return to Jamaica Plain at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$15 (below cost). Buy tickets at eventbrite at

tinyurl.com/y9q52tze/.

**NEW YORK:** The International Action Center is sending a bus to Plymouth. Meet at 6 a.m. sharp at the Solidarity Center, 147 W. 24 St., 2nd floor, in **Manhattan**. The bus will return from Plymouth at 4:30 p.m., arriving New York City about 9:30 p.m. Purchase bus tickets in advance at the Solidarity Center from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. Tickets: \$30-\$45; sliding scale. Tickets go fast! Buy your tickets now! For information, call 212-633-6646. (See IACenter.org.)

A bus leaving from **Brooklyn** is being organized by Eritye Papa Desalin. It will leave at 6 a.m. from Radyo Pa Nou, 1685 Nostrand Ave. (between Beverly and Cortelyou roads). Tickets: \$30. For information, call Dahoud Andre at 347-730-3620 or email erityepapadesalin@gmail.com. More information is at UAIINE.org and tinyurl.com/y8zcrag/. □



### 48th NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING Thursday, November 23, 2017 @ 12 Noon

**Cole’s Hill, Plymouth, Mass.** Hill above Plymouth Rock  
Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally.

For more information/orientation:  
**United American Indians of New England**  
Facebook.com/events/187901245087869

### 48th NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING Thursday, November 23, 2017 @ 12 Noon

Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.  
We will show up in solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world, and especially our relations in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and Mexico suffering from hurricane and earthquake devastation compounded by colonialism.



Special message from Leonard Peltier



# Koreans in U.S. organize ‘No Trump Day’

Korean organizations across the U.S., supported by anti-war groups, organized a “No Trump, No War Day” on Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., in solidarity with “No Trump Day” rallies in Korea and the Asian Pacific and calling on the U.S. to “Sign the Peace Treaty Now!” The following National Statement explains their campaign.

“They will be met with fire, fury and frankly power the likes of which this world has never seen before...”

“They won’t be around much longer...”

“I spoke with President Moon of South Korea last night. Asked him how Rocket Man is doing.”

“Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded...”

Trump’s words have escalated military tensions on the Korean peninsula to a degree this world has not witnessed since the Korean War. When Trump announced his tour of Asian nations from November 3rd to 14th, people of Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines mobilized en masse to protest Trump and American militarism in the Asian Pacific region. South Koreans are calling their nationwide rallies “No Trump Day,” condemning the United States’ aggressive policies toward North Korea and the ongoing infringements of sovereignty in South Korea.

The “No Trump No War” campaign was announced by over 220 South Korean civic groups organized by the Korean Confederation for Trade Unions in a press conference on October 27th. Tens of thousands are anticipated to participate in the estimated 140 different rallies in South Korea and abroad, especially in Seoul’s Gwanghwamun Plaza, where months of mass demonstrations led to the impeachment of former President Park Geun-Hye earlier this year. Koreans are using “No Trump Day” to demand the end of Trump’s warmongering and military intimidation in recent months; withdrawal of the THAAD anti-missile system from South Korea; the end of sanctions and hostile policies toward North Korea; and call for peace on the Korean peninsula and East Asia.

## Work for World Peace

In addition to Koreans’ demands, we the people in the United States oppose the Trump administration’s ill-informed escalation of tensions with North Korea, call for a peace treaty between the United States and North Korea to finally end the Korean War after 64 long years, fully support peoples of these countries mobilizing to protest Trump’s visit and preparing mass demonstrations around “No Trump Day,” and stand in solidarity

with all people — Koreans, Americans, and others throughout the world — unconditionally committed to preventing a disastrous rekindling of the Korean War.

Military conflict on the Korean peninsula will inevitably result in the deaths of those not only on the Korean peninsula, but in nearby countries who will be subject to an influx of U.S. military personnel via the web of existing US military bases throughout the Asian Pacific region.

In the wake of this year’s “Mother Of All Bombs” — so-called for being the largest non-nuclear bomb ever used in combat in human history — dropped in Afghanistan in April; the air-dropping of parts for the THAAD anti-missile system due to Korean residents of Seongju protests blocking roads to installation in late April and early May; and the October 11th U.S. military helicopter crash in Okinawa less than 1,000 feet from a residence and about a mile away from Takae Elementary School; it is clear that the U.S. military presence is a threat to the safety of the peoples of the “host” nations they claim to protect or “liberate.”

## Reconcile Historical Violence

These tragedies may have happened during the Trump administration, but it is a continuation of a legacy of U.S. militarization that destabilizes the livelihoods of peoples all over the world, since the enslavements of and genocides committed against Native Peoples and Africans in the Americas in the first British North American colonies preceding the United States. We condemn the Trump administration for its perpetuation of slaughter, militarization and infringements of sovereignty, especially hypocritical for a nation that so espouses the values of “freedom” and “democracy.”

These values are not even observed in the United States. American police, a force developed and refined as a continuation of slave patrols, are handed down equipment and technology including tanks and drones from the U.S. military to terrorize its own peoples. Police surveillance and crackdowns feed into a prison system wherein slavery is completely legal, per the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that did not completely abolish slavery after the Civil War, and



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

by which people of color especially Black, Native, and Latinx Americans are meant to serve as America’s hyper exploitable and undercompensated labor force, often disenfranchised of voting and other civilians’ rights well after imprisonment. If the United States stations troops in foreign countries to “protect our freedom,” why does their increasingly militarized police force terrorize, exploit and slaughter communities within the United States? If we are made as much the “enemy” as foreign peoples, are foreign peoples not just as unjustly persecuted as we? For whom does this promised “freedom” exist, and who or what do foreign military bases actually protect?

Even the South Korean rallies against Trump and war will be heavily restricted, per an announcement by South Korean police that anti-Trump rallies will be banned in central Seoul and other places Trump will visit in Korea on November 7th and 8th. In lands supposedly not under U.S. jurisdiction, the United States stifles people’s freedom of speech and assembly as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, just as it suppresses American dissent via targeted revoking of voting rights through policing and imprisonment.

## End the Korean War

Trump’s incendiary remarks and the recent unprecedented provocations by the U.S. military, such as F-35 and B-1B bombers flown to the Military Demarcation Line on September 18th in a highly provocative move to North Korea, must end at once to prevent the crisis on the Korean peninsula from escalating into a

war of dire consequences.

To this end, we demand that the Trump administration:

- Cease Trump’s warmongering, military intimidation and military-focused foreign policies!
- Abolish hostile policies such as sanctions toward North Korea and sign a peace treaty!
- Withdraw THAAD, which threatens peace in East Asia and the world, from South Korea!

The U.S. national “No Trump Day” solidarity rallies are endorsed by: Action One Korea (LA); ANSWER Coalition (LA); BAYAN USA; Catholic Workers; Hella Organized Bay Area Koreans (SF); International Action Center; International League of Peoples’ Struggle; KANCC (Korean American National Coordinating Council); Kabataang maka-Bayan (Pro-People Youth) (LA); Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (LA); Korean Peace Alliance (LA); Los Angeles Catholic Workers (LA);

Also, Nanum Korean Cultural Center (LA); Nodutdol for Korean Community Development (NYC); Pan-Korean Alliance for Reunification in USA; Peace 21 (LA); Peace & Justice Committee - TLTC; Progressive Asian Network for Action (LA); Raging Grannies; Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network; SoCal Organized Oppression-Breaking Anti-Imperialist Koreans (LA); Students for Justice in Palestine (NYC); Support Committee for Korean Prisoners of Conscience in U.S.; U.S. Peace Council; United National Antiwar Coalition; Veterans For Peace - Chapter 34 (NYC) & Chapter 21 (NJ); VFP - Iran Working Group. □

# Protests against tax hikes rock Haiti

By G. Dunkel

A series of militant demonstrations took place throughout Haiti in September and October. At first, the target of the protests was the new budget that President Jovenel Moïse imposed, raising taxes and fees. This would even apply to Haitians living abroad. When it became clear that the budget would not be modified, the most common demand in opposition was to call for Moïse’s resignation.

Both the Lavalas Family Party (FL) of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the breakaway Dessalines Children Platform (PPD) of Moïse Jean-Charles have played leading roles in many of these protests. It appears that a very



Burning tires during protest in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti.

loose grouping, the Coalition of Democratic Organizations (COD), has been issuing calls for the protests.

Even when Haitian police called off a protest, alleging there had been some violence, probably caused by provocateurs at a previous protest, people still came out to the demonstration called by the COD.

In October, the COD called for several protests in Port-au-Prince, as well as Petit-Goâve, Saint Marc, Cayes, Jacmel, Cap Haïtien and Ouanaminthe on October 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 17. ([www.loophaiti.com](http://www.loophaiti.com))

The Moïse government has stepped up repression against the protests and attempted to bring out its supporters in the Bald-Headed Haitian Party.

Haiti’s top officials have also asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to extend the Temporary Protected Status for another 18 months for Haitian immigrants living in the U.S. They would have to leave this country by Jan. 22 if an extension is not granted.

Government leaders in Haiti say they are reluctant to have another 50,000 immigrants coming from the U.S. and “dumped” in their airports. They cite al-

ready-existing problems of absorbing Haitians being expelled from the Dominican Republic, mostly agricultural workers — a policy which has been strongly opposed by Haitians.

Haiti’s officials say the country is still recovering from recent hurricanes and the horrendous 2010 earthquake, making it harder to absorb more people. They also state that the monetary remittances from Haitian workers in the U.S. to family members in the Caribbean island are very much needed.

U.S. imperialism is largely to blame for the impoverishment in Haiti, having super-exploited the country’s workers and plundered their resources for years. Haitian immigrants should be allowed to remain in the U.S. if they choose, and U.S. companies should pay living wages to those workers living here and those living in their homeland. □



WORKERS WORLD

editorial

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Trump, China and the DPRK

When the U.S. delegation headed by President Donald Trump visits People's China from Nov. 8 to 10, there will be public statements from both sides and closed meetings on trade, security and relations with other countries.

Big corporate interests that control the U.S. delegation will be closely following the trade and financial issues discussed and the agreements that are made. Their interest, as always, is to maximize the profits of U.S. billionaires, but any economic deals will be explained to U.S. workers as creating jobs here and aiding consumers.

The policy of the Chinese government is more complicated. People's China exists because of a monumental, decades-long revolution involving millions of workers and peasants. Its core leaders were communists who fought to

emancipate China from the landlords and capitalists, especially those who were tools of foreign imperialism. The 90-million-member Communist Party makes policy. For almost 40 years now, it has implemented a strategy of allowing capitalist entities to exist alongside the state-owned planned economy.

This followed a tumultuous period in China in which the party was divided over how this vast country could overcome its severe underdevelopment in a world dominated by imperialism. Those who advocated using the capitalist market for this purpose won out. But the workers' state created by the revolution was not torn down, as happened after 1991 in the ex-Soviet Union. The party retained its control over the economy and the state itself, and a period of tremendous growth followed. Hundreds of

millions of people overcame poverty, but the reforms also created several hundred Chinese billionaires.

In his long and detailed speech given at this year's Party Congress, CPC leader Xi Jinping indicated that China has now reached a new stage in its development in which it will further strengthen the state-owned industries.

This is welcome news to all who are fighting for a socialist future for the world.

Behind the friendly tone of U.S. politicians, military strategists and business people who accompany Trump to China is their undying hatred of socialism. They are not content with being able to make money in China. They more and more see China as the greatest challenge to their domination and exploitation of the world.

They have already announced that driving a wedge between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one of their main objectives of this trip.

The U.S. rulers and their generals know that a frontal attack on the DPRK, like the war they waged from 1950 to 1953, would unleash a monumental disaster. If they couldn't bring the Korean people to their knees then, how can they believe that is possible now, when the DPRK has strengthened its defenses by building nuclear weapons?

While there may be a need for diplomacy and soft words in the face of imperialist threats, it is in the interests of China and all who want peaceful development for the benefit of the masses of people that no concessions be made to U.S. imperialism's attempts to isolate and disarm the DPRK. □

Rejecting U.S. imperialism

U.N. votes against Cuba blockade

By Cheryl LaBash  
New York

For the 26th consecutive year, Cuba's resolution, "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba," was placed for debate and vote before the 193 member countries of the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 1.

Many people, including Cuban Americans, had signed up to sit in the U.N. gallery in solidarity with socialist Cuba. The audible applause and cheers of observers, and of U.N. delegates representing every corner of the world, punctuated the presentation of Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla.

No one was surprised by the final vote of 191 to 2, when only the U.S. and its client state Israel opposed ending the unilateral, genocidal and extraterritorial U.S. blockade of the much smaller Cuba.

Rodríguez Parrilla sharply rebutted the "disrespectful, offensive, and interventionist statements" of U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley. She repeated Trump's June 16 worn-out allegations of supposed human rights violations in Cuba as an excuse to intensify the blockade.

Haley had trivialized Cuba's resolution before the U.N. as a distracting "shiny object," noting only that the U.S. Congress can end the blockade. She declared U.N. resolutions to be "political theater"; boasted that the U.S. didn't care it was alone in "defending human rights"; and in rude, imperial style, turned her back on the world and walked out.

U.S. lacks moral authority

Speaking truth to power, Foreign Minister Rodríguez Parrilla said before the General Assembly what the world knows: "The United States, where flagrant violations of human rights are committed, of deep concern to the international community, does not have the slightest moral authority to criticize Cuba, a small, country characterized by its solidarity, with an extensive, recognized international record; an honorable, hard-working, and friendly people.

"[Haley] spoke in the name of the head of an empire that is responsible for most of the wars in progress on the planet to-

day, and which murders innocent people, and is the decisive factor in instability worldwide and the very serious threats to peace and international security, trampling international law and the United Nations Charter, which she cynically evoked. ...

"President Trump does not have the slightest moral authority to question Cuba. He leads a government of millionaires who intend to implement brutal measures against the poor and low-income families of this country, minorities and immigrants. He follows a program which encourages hate and division, and promotes a dangerous idea of exceptionalism and supremacy disguised as patriotism, and which will lead to more violence. He ignores the will of voters: Two-thirds of U.S. citizens and Cuban residents in the United States, as well, support an end to the blockade.

"Current U.S. policies harm citizens; corruption reigns in politics which have been hijacked by so-called special interests, that is, by the interests and the money of corporations [with] no support for education, health or social security; restrictions on union organizing; and terrible gender-based discrimination.

"Deserving of condemnation are the use of torture; police murders of African-Americans; civilian deaths caused by its troops; the indiscriminate, racially motivated death penalty; the murders, repression and police surveillance of immigrants; the separation of families; the detention and deportation of minors; and the brutal measures threatening the children of undocumented immigrants who grew up and were educated in the United States.

"This is the government that lost the popular vote." (Complete text at [tinyurl.com/ycpzumaz](http://tinyurl.com/ycpzumaz))

Lies and more lies

Although the current U.S. attack focuses on the 1959 Cuban Revolution, Foreign Minister Rodríguez Parrilla reminded listeners that "the appetite for annexation and domination, of what was and is today U.S. imperialism, had already been unleashed" when Cuba took up arms in its 1868 war of independence.

The 1898 explosion of the USS Maine became a pretext for the U.S. to enter the continuing Cuban struggle for inde-

pendence in the guise of allies, only to become invaders and occupiers. The U.S. imposed 60 years of domination on Cuba that only ended on Jan. 1, 1959, with the Revolution's triumph.

That the current blockade imposed by the U.S. hurts the Cuban people is undeniable. But as Cuba's Foreign Minister reminded in his presentation, misery from the blockade leading to regime change — not human rights — is the expressed intention of the U.S.

Rodríguez Parrilla quoted from the infamous, then-secret 1960 letter by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lester Mallory that advocated promoting "disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship. [A]ll possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba ... denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages." In the words of this U.S. official, the blockade of Cuba was created "to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." ([tinyurl.com/h6tm8e5](http://tinyurl.com/h6tm8e5))

New measures, politically motivated

In what is shaping up to be another pretext invented by the U.S. to further disrupt U.S.-Cuba relations, mysterious illnesses have reportedly affected diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Cuba has issued a special investigatory documentary debunking U.S. claims. ([tinyurl.com/yblm6y82](http://tinyurl.com/yblm6y82))

Foreign Minister Rodríguez Parrilla noted that the U.S. is using this pretext to undermine the right of Cuban citizens to travel freely and visit the U.S. for short periods, and to hinder family reunification under the bilateral agreement to grant no less than 20,000 immigrant visas per year. He emphasized the U.S. issued "an unfounded and dishonest warning to its citizens to avoid visiting Cuba and continues to restrict travel to Cuba for U.S. residents."

Rodríguez Parrilla continued: "The U.S. arbitrarily and groundlessly reduced the personnel of our Consulate General in Washington, limiting the capacity to provide services to U.S. travelers and especially to Cuban residents who have the absolute right to visit and interact normally with their nation and the Embassy, dismantling the Economic-Commercial

Office with the malicious political aim of eliminating dialogue with the U.S. business sector."

U.S. closes, Cuba opens

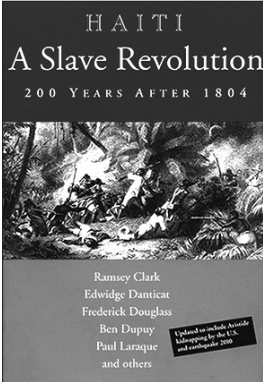
Foreign Minister Rodríguez Parrilla announced changes to Cuba's immigration policies on Oct. 28 at the Fourth National Meeting of Cuban Residents Living in the United States. These changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2018, and will help strengthen ties of Cuban emigration with the U.S.

Those attending the Howard University meeting, which included 129 Cubans from 17 states, issued a statement rejecting the Trump administration's June 16 announcements regarding its policy toward Cuba, describing those as a setback in bilateral relations of recent years. ([tinyurl.com/yb86edor](http://tinyurl.com/yb86edor))

The Trump administration's reversion to the 1960 U.S. blockade playbook ignores the new reality of Cuba's relationship to the world, as well as within the U.S.

The U.N. representative from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Rhonda King, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), pointed out the U.S. blockade was "not just as a punitive act against Cuba, but as an impediment to our shared regional development." Citing almost universal opposition to the blockade, she took notice that "[C]itizens across the United States were joining the international community by increasingly voicing their disapproval and calling for the lifting of unilateral sanctions."

King added: "Today, 73 percent of U.S. citizens and 63 percent of Cubans living in the U.S. support the lifting of the blockade." □



HAITI  
A Slave  
Revolution

Updated to include the Aristide kidnapping by the U.S. and the earthquake in 2010.

Read it online at: [iacenter.org/haiti/](http://iacenter.org/haiti/)



# U.S. escalates presence in Niger and all Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

There has been no substantive discussion within the United States corporate and government-controlled media as to why Washington is escalating its presence in the West African state of Niger. News reports about the deaths of four U.S. Green Berets center on the notions of “a war on terrorism,” which is reaching the African continent. Subsequently, the controversy moved into allegations about what was said during President Donald Trump’s phone call to the family of the African-American soldier killed, 25-year-old Sgt. La David Johnson.

White House Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly defended Trump, claiming he acted appropriately in his statements to Myeisha Johnson, the deceased soldier’s widow. Trump later insulted Florida Congresswoman Frederica Smith Wilson after she accused him of being insensitive and insincere toward the Johnson family.

Yet the never-raised overarching questions were: Why should an African American be gunned down in his ancestral homeland while conducting U.S. military operations? And why are African-American Congress members not challenging successive administrations’ militarism in Africa, which has been disastrous for the peoples of the continent and those in the U.S.?

This incident occurred amid rising racial tensions within the U.S., where Trump has denigrated professional football players who kneel during the national anthem to protest the arbitrary police and vigilante killings of African Americans. The use of lethal force against oppressed peoples routinely goes unpunished, providing incentives from the law-enforcement and judicial systems to continue racially motivated state sponsored and state condoned violence.

The prevailing situation in the U.S. morally justifies nonparticipation by African Americans and other people of conscience in Pentagon operations in Africa and other regions. The escalation of military invasions and occupations has only worsened the social conditions facing nationally oppressed communities and working people since this century began.

The role of Pentagon troops in Niger is part of the U.S. Africa Command’s (Africom) strategy to dominate the continent on behalf of Wall Street’s financial interests. Formed in early 2008 under George W. Bush’s administration, Africom was expanded during President Barack Obama’s terms.

As its first, full-blown operation, Africom coordinated the air and ground war against Libya in 2011. Thousands of sorties dropped bombs on infrastructure and residences, killing and injuring tens of thousands of people, dislocating millions and creating the region’s most

unstable state. Libya remains mired in humanitarian crises with thousands of people being trafficked monthly through the country and across the Mediterranean Sea. Following the deaths of the U.S. Special Forces soldiers in Niger, the Pentagon revealed some aspects of its military presence there. The Trump administration says its main preoccupation is with curtailing so-called “Islamic terrorism.” However, these same “extremist” groups have been enhanced, armed, trained and coordinated in Libya, Syria, Yemen and other countries experiencing similar imperialist-engineered military conflicts.

### Framing the Pentagon’s position to the U.S. public

Regarding the Pentagon’s official position, an Oct. 26 Bloomberg editorial provides a rationale for Africom’s operations in Niger and throughout West Africa. Under the guise of needing to stop spreading “jihadist” violence by organizations that are ostensibly influenced by al-Qaida and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Pentagon is priming people in the U.S. for yet another long-term campaign on the African continent.

The piece says Trump’s “disgraceful attack” on Myeisha Johnson’s credibility is increasing the awareness of people in the U.S. “of the expanding U.S. mission against extremist violence spreading across the Sahel region of Africa.”

Bloomberg’s post says Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Joseph Dunford explained on Oct. 23 the U.S. military’s critical role in helping nations defeat armed threats from al-Qaida and Islamic State (IS) affiliates, Boko Haram, migrant and arms traffickers, criminal syndicates and tribal rebels. The IS, “nearly wiped out in Iraq and Syria,” will likely shift much attention to Africa.

These are the same tired arguments that have been repeatedly used since the U.S. invasion and occupation of Afghanistan began in 2001. U.S. and NATO forces remain in the Central Asian state, while Trump recently announced that more troops would be deployed there.

After 16 years in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the “terrorism” which has been the reason for the U.S. occupation’s existence, remains. Therefore, this purported “war on terrorism” can only be judged as an absolute failure.

Bloomberg’s editorial instructs Congress to pass “a new war authorization to ... give a strong legal basis for counterterrorism operations far away from the original battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq.” Eventually, the facts on the Niger mission will emerge. Ideally, better strategies will develop. “But there’s no need to wait to address the danger of increasing extremism in Africa.”

What is most striking about these words is their lack of creativity. U.S.

strategic thinking is apparently a “cut-and-paste” approach where older, discredited postulations related to military policy are periodically recycled.

### Uranium, French imperialism and permanent war

Niger is the world’s fourth largest producer of uranium, a key component in nuclear technology, particularly for weaponry. Uranium resources are largely controlled by France, which colonized the territory beginning in the late 19th century during “the scramble for Africa.”

French military forces declared a war of conquest against the people of Niger in the late 1890s, but were met with fierce resistance by the non-Islamic Azna people of the Hausa, led by their warrior-queen, Sarraounia. After retreating into the forests amid heavy weapons bombardment by the French military at the Battle of Lougou, Sarraounia and her fighters continued guerrilla warfare against France for years. The colonizers never captured Sarraounia.

Areva, the French firm which coordinates uranium mining in the country, has a vested interest in maintaining its neocolonial control over Niger. The country gained its independence in 1960, but remained within France’s political and economic sphere.

Niger’s President Mahamadou Issoufou took power after a protracted political



struggle in 2011. He inherited a country devastated by neocolonial plunder, which had resulted in enormous debt to the International Monetary Fund and other Western-based financial institutions. The Economist magazine has described Issoufou as a close friend of the West.

Niger is heavily reliant on assistance from international finance capital. Consequently, the state is prone to economic, political and military interference by Paris and Washington. The U.S. is building drone stations in Niger while cooperating with France’s military operations.

As is the case with other African states, the continuing dependence on the West is at the source of the contemporary crisis. African states will never enjoy genuine independence and sovereignty until the people take control of the natural resources, land and their government’s military apparatus.

*This excerpted article appeared in full at [newsghana.com](http://newsghana.com) on Oct. 27.*

## U.S.-backed Saudis continue war on Yemen

By Randi Nord  
Editor, Geopolitics Alert

Nov. 4 — Saudi airstrikes and war crimes in Yemen have not slowed down all week. On Nov. 1, attacks on a market in Saada resulted in nearly 70 killed and many wounded. On Nov. 3, raids targeted homes in the same province, killing seven people, most of them women and children.

Airstrikes from the U.S.-backed Saudi coalition injured another 10 children, two of them critically, in al-Jouf province just north of Saada. At least 15 strikes hit various areas of Midi and Taiz today in the course of a few hours. Additional attacks in Saada province struck a farm, killing and destroying livestock.

Yemen’s resistance has drastically increased their military capabilities as a defensive tool against this type of aggression. This includes manufacturing Yemeni-made long-range ballistic missiles and anti-air sniper rifles. The Sana’a-based forces have also increased maritime and special operations capabilities.

In retaliation for the ongoing airstrike campaign and siege, Yemen’s resistance struck the King Khalid International Airport in Saudi Arabia with a long-range ballistic missile the morning of Nov. 4. Mainstream news outlets like CNN quickly (and incorrectly) reported that Saudi forces had intercepted the missile. Video from the ground proves otherwise. Flight

data also shows that the event impacted travel and delayed flights for hours.

### War crimes include famine and cholera

In early October, the United Nations re-added Saudi Arabia along with their coalition to a censure list due to their devastating military and airstrike campaign, which explicitly targets Yemeni civilians, hospitals, markets and homes.

Last year, the U.N. removed Saudi Arabia from this same list after facing financial extortion and other threats from Riyadh. Apparently, this censure list holds no significant value because the Saudi-led airstrikes and war crimes in Yemen have not stopped.

Well over 10,000 people have lost their lives from air strikes or military operations since Saudi Arabia and allies launched their war against Yemen in 2015. Tens of thousands more have been killed as a result of the ongoing Saudi-imposed siege and blockade.

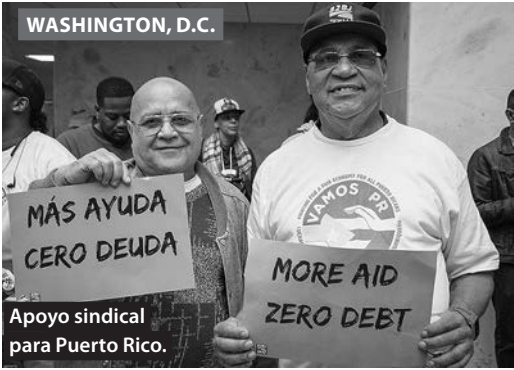
Due to restricted imports, nearly 7 million Yemenis face famine and 17 million face food insecurity. The lack of access to medical equipment and sanitation supplies has triggered a globally unprecedented cholera outbreak claiming the lives of over 3,000, with numbers reaching 1 million infected by the end of the year. The siege also restricts government salaries for health care workers, sanitation workers and other public jobs. □



## WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders [PentagonAchillesHeel.com](http://PentagonAchillesHeel.com)  
*“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”*  
– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.  
Available at online booksellers.





# Imperialismo petrolero de EE.UU. amenaza a Iran con buques de guerra

Por Kathy Durkin

El jefe imperialista en la Casa Blanca está aumentando la hostilidad contra Irán. Está amenazando de sacar a Estados Unidos del acuerdo nuclear del 2015 entre ese país soberano y los P5 + 1 países, miembros del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas más Alemania.

El Plan de Acción Integral Conjunto requiere que Irán retrase su programa nuclear a cambio de poner fin a algunas, pero no a todas, las sanciones impuestas por EE.UU./U.N.

Según las reglas emitidas por el Congreso, la administración Trump tiene que volver a certificar el 15 de octubre que Irán está cumpliendo con el PAIC. Pero debido a que fue un acuerdo patrocinado por los EE.UU., en realidad no requiere la ratificación del Congreso. La Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica tiene la responsabilidad exclusiva de validar el cumplimiento de Irán.

El AIEA ha certificado ocho veces que Irán está cumpliendo con sus obligaciones en virtud del acuerdo. Los otros signatarios del pacto han estado de acuerdo.

Pero Trump ha denunciado repetidamente el acuerdo y en agosto impuso nuevas sanciones contra Irán. Si el no vuelve a certificar que Irán está cumpliendo con los requisitos del pacto, entonces Washington puede imponer sanciones económicas más horribles a los 80 millones de habitantes de Irán.

Ahora, los intransigentes de EE.UU. están tratando de evitar que Irán desarrolle incluso los misiles convencionales, un tema que no está cubierto en el PAIC relacionado con la capacidad nuclear. Gholamali Khoshroo, embajador de Irán ante la ONU, escribió en un artículo publicado por The New York Times el 8 de octubre: “Mi país no está tratando de desarrollar o adquirir armas nucleares.” En el artículo el hace hincapié de que la PAIC, que prohíbe que Irán fabrique misiles

balísticos para lanzar armas nucleares, “No nos impide desarrollar tecnología de disuasión militar convencional que muchos otros países poseen”.

## Solidaridad con Irán es necesaria

¿Dónde deberían mantenerse firmes los activistas contra la guerra y otras fuerzas progresistas defender el derecho de Irán a desarrollar armas defensivas? En el punto crucial de la cuestión es donde radica el derecho de la nación, rica en petróleo, a la soberanía y proteger a su pueblo de la agresión imperialista, ya sean sanciones económicas, ataques políticos o acciones militares.

Mientras los halcones derechistas en Washington suenan cada vez más belicosos y se dirigen a países específicos, incluido Irán, con amenazas crecientes, como la acción militar, una breve mirada a la intervención estadounidense en Irán muestra por qué se debe apoyar el derecho del país a defenderse.

La CIA de EE.UU., Junto con la inteligencia británica, derrocó al primer ministro iraní Mohammed Mossadegh, elegido democráticamente, en 1953. El nacionalizo la industria petrolera del país, un acto intolerable para los capitalistas estadounidenses y europeos.

Luego los imperialistas instalaron al notorio tirano Shah Reza Pahlevi. Desnacionalizó la industria petrolera, con el 60 por ciento de las ganancias enriqueciendo a las empresas estadounidenses. Los gobiernos de EE.UU. y Europa se mantuvieron en silencio sobre los asesinatos de miles de iraníes orquestados por el Shah que se oponían a su régimen.

Después de la revolución de 1979 en la que el pueblo iraní derrocó al odiado Shah, el gobierno de EE.UU. impuso y luego intensificó las sanciones económicas contra Irán, supuestamente debido al programa de desarrollo nuclear del país. En el año 2006, Estados Unidos impuso nuevas sanciones y más tarde fortaleció la guerra económica contra Irán.

Mientras tanto, el ex presidente George W. Bush, que llamó a Irán parte de el “eje del mal”, amenazó con usar la fuerza militar contra el país.

La Quinta Flota de la Armada de Estados Unidos, con base en Bahrein, ha colocado dos grupos de batalla navales en el Golfo Pérsico frente a la costa oeste de Irán. Liderados por dos portaaviones cargados con millones de libras de misiles y bombas, estos incluyen 20 barcos, 130 aviones de combate y 20.000 infantes de marina y marineros. Los buques de guerra estadounidenses lanzan con frecuencia disparos de advertencia contra los barcos iraníes en el Golfo y en el Estrecho de Hormuz, a través de los cuales pasa un tercio del petróleo del mundo transportado por mar.

Después de que un barco de la Armada de los Estados Unidos disparara bengalas contra barcos iraníes en abril, el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Irán, Mohammed Javad Zarif, tuiteó: “Rompiendo: Nuestra armada opera, —sí, correcto,— en el Golfo Pérsico, no en el Golfo de México. La pregunta es, ¿qué estaba haciendo la Marina de los EE. UU. A 7.500 millas de casa?” (Guardian, 26 de abril)

Dado que Estados Unidos ha instalado un poderío militar fuera de la costa de Irán, y dado el belicismo de la Casa Blanca, el derecho de Irán a defender a su pueblo debe contar con un fuerte apoyo.

Hoy, a medida que la hostilidad de extrema derecha de Washington se intensifica contra Irán, las fuerzas progresistas en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo deben unirse para decir: “EE.UU. manos fuera de Irán!” □

## El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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



# La lucha gana cambio de nombre racista

Por Eddie Barrera  
San Antonio

Los residentes de San Antonio, Texas, finalmente ganaron después de casi tres años solicitando y pidiendo a la junta escolar local del Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Antonio North East (NEISD) que cambiara el nombre de Robert E. Lee High School. Están pidiendo un nombre que refleje valores e historia que no celebra dos siglos de racismo y prejuicio racial.

El arduo trabajo comenzó con una estudiante valiente y determinada, Kayla Wilson, hoy una alumna de esa escuela.

En 2015, Wilson, entonces un estudiante de último año, comenzó una petición solicitando un cambio de nombre para la escuela. Su petición fue motivada por comentarios del ex alcalde de San Antonio, Julian Castro, después de que Kentucky retirara un monumento confederado a Jefferson Davis del Capitolio estatal.

Poco después, las solicitudes de Wilson de cambio de nombre a la escuela fueron rechazadas por residentes, en su mayoría blancos y latinos, diciendo que este movimiento fue la venganza de un estudiante solitario y que no hay ninguna razón para cambiar la historia de la ciudad debido a que un solo estudiante se ofendiera por el nombre. Sin embargo, ignoraban las casi 11.000 firmas en dos peticiones en dos años y el hecho de que la escuela secundaria ha tenido una población estudiantil negra más baja que la mayoría de las otras escuelas en el distrito.

Otros opositores han ido tan lejos como para afirmar que la solicitud de un cambio de nombre es un esfuerzo deliberadamente divisivo para aumentar las tensiones raciales en la escuela y el dis-

trito. Dicen que la escuela siempre ha sido un “lugar seguro” para personas de todos los orígenes étnicos. Afirman que históricamente no ha habido tensiones raciales en la escuela, aunque esto pasa por alto que la mayoría de los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria Robert E. Lee son blancos.

Para los estudiantes negros, el nombre es un recordatorio constante de los más de 200 años de esclavitud y el tratamiento de Jim Crow de sus antepasados. Se especula que esta es la razón de la baja tasa de estudiantes afroamericanos que van a la escuela, en comparación con otras escuelas en el distrito.

Otros residentes mostraron su apoyo. Algunos dijeron que hasta hace 30 años se preguntaban por qué el distrito estaba glorificando a un general confederado en lugar de a una persona o un tema que celebraba valores más progresistas e inclusivos. Algunos llamaron al miembro de la junta de NEISD, Edd White, que es afroestadounidense, por su silencio sobre las múltiples solicitudes de cambio de nombre realizadas durante un período de tres años.

## Progreso lento contra la injusticia racial

El progreso en los estados del sur ha sido lento pero inexorable. Este 1 de septiembre vio la eliminación de otra estatua confederada en San Antonio: el monumento de Travis Park a los “muertos confederados”. A menudo citada como la primera estatua conmemorativa en San Antonio, fue erigida en 1900 y pagada por las Hijas de la Confederación.

En una reciente declaración, Patricia M. Bryson, presidenta general de las United Daughters of the Confederacy,

dijo: “Nos entristece que algunas personas encuentren algo relacionado con la Confederación que sea ofensivo. Nuestros antepasados confederados fueron y son estadounidenses. Nosotros, como organización, no juzgamos ni imponemos los estándares del siglo XXI a estos estadounidenses del siglo XIX”.

¿Los residentes de la Alemania del siglo XXI sienten así su herencia de las atrocidades fascistas y racialmente motivadas por los nazis? ¿Deben las banderas nazis y las estatuas de Adolf Hitler o Heinrich Himmler retener lugares prominentes de la vida pública porque es su herencia e historia?

Algunos residentes de San Antonio pueden sentir que la eliminación de estos monumentos y cambios de nombre es un ataque a su herencia e historia. Es fácil pasar por alto cuando su herencia es la del opresor y no la de los oprimidos. La Junta de Síndicos de NEISD finalmente acordó el 29 de agosto cambiar el nombre a raíz de la violencia de motivación racial que estalló en Charlottesville, Virginia. Ese incidente provocó una conciencia nacional sobre la presencia de monumentos confederados en muchos estados.

Las peticiones para el nuevo nombre de la escuela fueron aceptadas hasta el 25 de septiembre. La junta escolar solicitó que “el nombre refleje una idea, no una persona”. “También declaró que preferiría un nombre que sea “íntegro” y “receptivo e identificable para el público en general”.

Aplaudimos a Kayla Wilson y sus compañeros residentes por su determinación de no permitir que estos monumentos al prejuicio racial conserven su prominencia y nos solidarizamos con su lucha contra más de 200 años de injusticia racial. □