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 minister 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 un-armed 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 Arabi-an peninsula — is devastating. When the U.S. arms the Saudi monarchy against a sovereign Iran, what happens? Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says that U.S.-backed Saudi Arabia wags “wars of aggression, regional bullying, destabilizing behavior and risky provocations” and “bombs Yemen to smithereens, killing innocents, spreads cholera and famine.” (NY Times, Nov. 6)

See editorial on p. 10 on what’s involved in Trump’s visit to China.

October Revolution 1917-2017

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Clockwise from lower left, Deirdre Griswold, Taryn Fivek, Christian Cobb and Larry Holmes at Workers World Party commemoration of 1917 Revolution in New York.
John Kelly, an apologist for Robert E. Lee

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 has helped seal the deal on this issue with his comments during a Fox News interview on Oct. 30.

When host Laura Ingraham asked Kelly about the recent struggle to bring Confederate statues where honor slavery, Kelly defended them: “I would tell you that Robert E. Lee was an honorable man. He was a man that gave his country fighting for his state, 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 if and women of the opposition felt the same sentiment...”

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 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 right-wing forces violently attacked anti-racist activists. Their actions resulted in the murder of anti-fascist Heather Hayer by a neo-Nazi who drove his car into a crowd. Neo-Nazis at the same rally had meant to kill 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 were met with the police and National Guard. In northern countries, 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 form a new, more modern and technologically more advanced version of the Confederacy in Durham, N.C., New Orleans and other cities.

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and anything which is not the side of the workers and oppressed peoples.

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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. 17. She describes the incident as racially motivat ed — “flying while Black.”

Mallory held a press conference about the incident 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. Bri an 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. When the airline agent asked her if she had put her name on the wait list for a 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 media 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 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 chap ter 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 been heralded 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.

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 is that the Republican congressional majorities come up with for a tax plan is that it will show more of the nation’s wealth upward, that the math will be mostly magical thinking, and that there will be various strategies employed to keep the country from noticing the 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 $1,500 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 Politico. (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 2042 compared to the current tax law.

Running on these claims he re veals exactly what the top priority is in the House and Senate — not tax cuts, not tax cuts for working families. As the bill is written, even the poster family that Paul Ryan handcuffed 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 retirement savings plans, which many workers are forced to participate in. "In

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

The NAACP issued a travel advisory on Oct. 24, warning Black passengers about a pattern of racist incidents on American Airlines 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 airlines allege this does not tolerate discrimination, the NAACP says these events “suggest a corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possi bly racial bias on the part of American Airlines.” (Read statement at tinyurl.com/y7fc77eh)

Who does Paul Ryan represent?

Who does Paul Ryan represent?

Ryan is a big fan of the late, reaction ary author Ayn Rand, too. Like Walker, he’s a toot of the capitalist-imperialists, and very dangerous, especially when it comes to federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and wom en’s and LGBTQ rights, and union rights.

It 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 an old slogan from the Bradley Foundation, 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 debt. Not the Pentagon, whose budget keeps expanding. Congress will try to impose the cuts on poor women and chil dren, 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 is not staged by as they destroy the environment and deny the most ba sic 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 capi talism to meet human needs.

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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 turning 99 percent of 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, 49 units will be priced at $2,020 a month with another 164 units at $3,700 a month, pushing nearly all local tenants 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.

So far, Mayor Bill de Blasio, who for years has failed to denounce the displacement of low-income tenants, get the next say in the future of the property. 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 marches stood their ground to the cheers of others present. Green Party candidate Jabari Brispot was among those who were arrested. He and Joel Feingold had already been arrested at last week’s vote by the planning commission! Brispot 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 industry. These politicians boast that they have made developers agree to have 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.

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 31 workers for details.)

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 the 1930 Nickel Plate 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 hard and later, nearly impossible, to breathe. Ultimate, 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 escaped from a Union Carbide plant in Charleston, W.Va. At least 17 people died. At least 600 were injured and over 20,000 were 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 hard and later, nearly impossible, to breathe. Ultimately, many suffocated to death as a result.

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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 SFPPD weapon’s 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 testimony from municipal “experts” on Tasers, including a representative from the police union, with community anti-Taser activists, with representatives 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 SFPPD to be armed with Tasers.

Public barred from public hearing

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 SFPPD to be armed with Tasers.

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Turman reconvened the meeting in another location while community members, uniformed of the change, waited outside. Only five people at a time were allowed in the new room and only those “not involved in disruption” were allowed to be present.

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—founder of the San Francisco Community as Momma Cristina, from her role as one of the Frisco 5 Hunger Strikers—turned her talk to the press. The commission had limited each speaker to two minutes, but Gutierrez wasn’t finished after two minutes and kept talking. Authorities turn 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 SFPPD to be armed with Tasers.

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• Defense of the right of athletes to protest racial injustice
• The many ways Trump and Co. like screwing poor and working people every day
• Why defending Durham activists should be at the top of labor’s agenda
• Ending the racist death penalty, working to free political prisoners and tear down the jails
• Imperialism is expanding its military presence in Africa while China builds that continent’s infrastructure
• Why Che Guevara still lives 50 years after his death
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Why you should attend WORKERS 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 its ideological correlates had achieved what revolutionaries had hoped to achieve the counterrevolutionary globalization which socialism once promised.

However, rather than stilling the struggle, a number of socialist and radical organizations 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, a changed face of the day. 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 of 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 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 time to unite and smash capitalism and U.S. imperialism is now! The party conference is the locus of the fundamental questions of our class and oppressed struggle.

The party conference is where we can harness 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 and actions that necessitates.

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

By Deirdre Griswold

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

Maybe a little bit of “socialism” is OK in the eyes of some of them. By that meaning 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 socialist 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 development of capitalism away from 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 to prevent the dissolution of 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. In 1956, it supported the Hungarian counterrevolution 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 when the Soviet troops were pulled out of Afghanistan today is meant to promote democracy.

In supporting the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. called it the “26th of July Movement” and then a military confrontation with the U.S. — the so-called “missile crisis” — in October 1962. The Cuban economy within the U.S. government that proposed the missile strikes was called “socialist” — unvarnished. And that opened the floodgates of reaction and let capitalism be capitalized.

If capitalism remains the dominant political system, the struggle against racism, sexism, homophobia, class oppression and corporate consumerism will never be over. The U.S. armed, trained and supplied the counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan to wage war on the backdrop of the USSR — for socialism.

They do it in several ways: eliminating sex, race, class, LGBTQ and sexist mortgages in the world market. They do it by building up the supply of the capitalists’ power. They are undermining workers, whether they’ve been able to nail down a steady job or not. A large proportion are doubly or triple oppressed because of their inherent sex, color, gender and/or sexual orientation. And if they’ve tried to get a higher education or better job, the U.S. armed, trained and supplied the counterrevolutionary to wage war on the backdrop of the USSR — for socialism.

Who is this young generation who have made what the National Review calls “a Tectonic shift” in their views, compared to their elders, based on the new reality of capitalism having reached a dead end, unable to restructure the world economy?

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 sex, race, class, LGBTQ and sexist mortgages in the world market.

By Deirdre Griswold

Mond Jones, a youth leader of the Democratic Workers Party World, 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 calling 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 McKenzie, Ontario provincial leader of the Communist Party of Canada. The meeting was chaired by Clara Sorrenti, organizer of the WCL 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 KAPENICK IS RIGHT

Articles from Workers World/Mundo Obrero Newspaper www.workers.org/books

INDONESIA 1965: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century

By Deirdre Griswold

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 1866 Public Interest that was held at Columbia University.

To read a PDF copy go to: tinyurl.com/yam9b47g

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The following is part 1 of the talk given by Mond Jones, a youth leader of the United American Indians of New England (UAINE). Mond is a 73-year-old Native political prisoner and was imprisoned over 25 years for protesting the U.S. invasion of Grenada. 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 unpunished and continue to receive subsidies.

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 corporate forces 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 us to critically assess our successes and consider some 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 binary way and simplistically. See, the Bolshevik Revolution was not only the first successful socialist revolution, it was also the first revolution to successfully put the principles 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 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 histori- cal events. So right now, I want to give a little bit of insight into the genre of socialist revolution in the Soviet Union.

First, I will talk a little about the emancipation of women during the revolution. Comrades understand the role in which special oppres- sions uphold capitalism.

In 1920, the Soviet Union was the first country in the world to legalize abortion. Prior to legalization, abortions were con- ducted in secret, for large sums of mon- ey, under unsanitary and dangerous con- ditions. 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 stu- dents in institutions for higher education were women. In the same year, women women members comprised 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 prerev- olution tsarist Russia, where women had no rights and were relegated to the prop- erty of their husbands.

Lenin and the national question

There’s a trend popularized by anar- chists and radical leftists alike to portray 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 capita- lism and imperialism created the conditions for national oppression, and capi- talism and imperialism are also upheld by national oppression. Lenin favored self-determination for oppressed people, because there can be no socialism, no communist revolution, without eradicating the oppressive hierarchies capital- ism promotes.

As well as abolishing the anti-gay leg- islation 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 invit- ed 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 their home country. Paul Robeson a Black activist, commu- nist and singer/actor from the U.S., stat- ed 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 prejudices like in Washington. It was the first time I felt like a human being.”

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

Race is a social construction 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.

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 6 a.m. sharp at Plymouth Rock and march through the town’s his- toric 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 pro- gram and march, there will be a potluck social.

United American Indians of New En- gland 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.” (UAINE.org)

This year, UAINE says, “We will show up and make our presence known.” The struggle against the destruction of the earth through the capitalist system is of utmost urgency. We must join together in solidarity and protect the earth for future generations.

A special message will be given from UAINE News Editor Leonard Peiter. UAINE points out: “Thanksgiving is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native Americans and the profit-driven destruction of the earth.” Since 1950, the organization has planned the National Day of Mourning commemoration on that day. Participi- ants 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 against racism and white supremacy. Inde- nitive Native people continue to experience.”

This very important annual day of soli- darity draws Native and non-Native indi- viduals from throughout Massachusetts, other New England states and beyond. Here is information on buses traveling to Plymouth from Boston and New York City.

BOSTON: UAINE 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 5 p.m. Tickets: $15 (below cost). Buy tickets at evenlater at tinyurl.com/y9q52tze.

NEW YORK: The International Action Center is sending a bus to Plymouth. Meet at the International Action Center, 147 W. 24 St., 2nd floor, in Manhattan. The bus will return from Plymouth to New York City about 9:30 p.m. Purchase bus tickets in advance at the Solidarity Center for $30-$45; sliding scale. Tickets go fast! Buy your tickets now! For information, call 212-653-6646. (See IACenter.org)

A bus leaving from Brooklyn is be- ing organized by Erypte Pupa Desalain. It will leave at 6 a.m. from Radyo Pa Nou, 1685 Nostrand Ave. (between Bever- ly and Cortelyou roads). Tickets: $30. For information, call Daoudre Andre at 347-770-1620 or email erryptpupa@ hotmail.com. Tickets are available online at UAINE.org and tinyurl.com/y8zcecgz.

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 peoples throughout the world, and echo our related commitments to communities in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and Mexico suffering from hurricane and earthquake devastation compounded by colonialism.
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 Presi- dent Jovenel Moïse imposed in July, 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.

The National Organization of Workers (FTL) of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the breakaway Dessalines Children Platform (PDD) of Moïse Jean-Charles have played leading roles in many of these protests. It appears that a very loose grouping, the Coalition of Demo- cratic Organizations (COD), has been is- sues for protests.

Even when Haitian police called off a protest, alleging there had been some vio- lence, 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-Gaïvte, Saint Marc, Cayes, Jacmel, Cap Haitien and Oua- naminite on October 5, 7, 10, 12, 14 and 17. (www.loophaiti.com)

The Moïse government has stepped up repression against the protesters and attempted to bring in its supporters in the Balled Headdress Haitian Party.

Haiti’s top officials have also asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to extend the Temporary Protective 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 Domini- can Republic, mostly agricultural work- ers — a policy which has been strongly opposed by Haitians.

Haït’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 fam- ily 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.
When the U.S. delegation head led by President Donald Trump visits People’s China from Nov. 8 to 10, there will be publié statements and the highest level of closed meetings on trade, security and relations with other countries.

Big corporate interests that control the U.S. Congress has been closely following the trade and financial issues discussed and the agreements that are made. They have just begun to maximize the profits of U.S. billionaires, but any economic deals will be explained to U.S. workers as creating jobs here and abroad for their employers.

The policy of the Chinese govern- ment 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 900-million-member Communist Party makes policy. For almost 40 years now, it has implemented a strategy of allow- ing capitalist entities to exist alongside the government of what will further strengthen the state-owned enterprises, the nationalization of capital, and promotion of the rule of law.

This followed a tumultuous period in which the party was divid- ed. They knew how hard it was for China to overcome its severe underdevelopment in a world dominated by imperialism. Those who advocated using the capitalist market to create a powerful China agreed. But 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 tre- mendous growth followed. Hundreds of millions of people overcame poverty, but the reforms also created several hundred Chinese billionaires. In 2017, the 20th and final speech given at this year’s Party Congress, CPC leader Xi Jinping pointed 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. Bethany downtown tenn is an effort to help them.

Behind the friendly tone of U.S. politi- cians, 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. China’s DPRK relationship shows that 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 di- saster. If they couldn’t bring the Korean people to their knees then, how can they believe that is possible to drive the DPRK to strengthen its defenses by building nuclear weapons?

While there may be a need for di- plomacy by soft words, there is no imperialist threats, it is in the interests of China and all who want peaceful de- velopment 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.

When there is a need to attack the DPRK, the imperialists’ threats, it is in the interests of China and all who want peaceful de- velopment 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.

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 93rd member countries of the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 1.

Many people, including Cuban American residents, registered in the U.S. gal- lery in solidarity with socialist Cuba. The audible applause and cheers of observers, and of U.N. delegations representing every corner of the world, punctuated the pre- sentation of Cuba’s Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla.

No one was surprised by the final vote of the 192 member states of the U.N. and its client state Israel opposed ending the unilateral, genocidal and extraterritorial U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Rodríguez Parrilla sharply rebutted the “disrespectful, offensive, and inter- ventionist statements” of U.S. Ambassa- dor 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. Con- gress 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 Min- ister Rodriguez Parrilla said before the General Assembly what the world knows: “The United States, where flagrant viola- tions of human rights are committed, of deep concern to the international com- munity is not a member of the human rights organiza- tion to criticize Cuba, a small, country characterized by its solidarity, with an extensive, recognized interna- tional record; an honorable, hard-work- ing, 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-
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 media about the policy reasons as to why Washington is escalating its presence in the West African state of Niger.

News reports about the deaths of four U.S. and South Korean soldiers, including that of a war on terrorism, which is reaching the African continent. Subsequently, the controversy moved into international negotiations 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 actuated appropriately in his statements to Myeshia Johnson, the deceased soldier’s widow. Trump later insulted Florida Congresswoman Frederica Smith Wilson after she accused him of being insensitive and insinicate 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 designated 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 people routinely goes unpunished, providing incentives from the law-enforcement and judicial systems to continue racially motivated state-sponsored and state-connived violence.

The prevailing situation in the U.S. morally justifies non-participation by African Americans and other political scientists in Pentagon operations in Africa and other regions. The escalation of militarization and U.S. occupations has 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 General George W. Bush’s administration, Africom was expanded during President Barack Obama’s term.

As its first, full-blown operation, Africom coordinated the air and ground war against Libya in 2011. Thousands of sorties dropped bombs on infrastructures and residences, killing and injuring tens of thousands of people, dislocating millions and creating the region’s most unstable state. Libya remains mired in human crises with thousands of people being trafficked monthly through the country and across the Mediterranean Sea.

Still during the deaths of the U.S. Special Forces soldiers in Niger, the Penta- gon revealed some aspects of its military presence there. The Trump administra- tion says it maintains a preoccupation 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 posi- tion, an Oct. 26 Bloomberg editorial pro- vides a rationale for Africom’s operations in Niger and throughout West Africa. Un- der 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), Africom 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 Myeshia Johnson’s credibility is increasing the awareness of people in the U.S. “of the expanding U.S. mission against terrorism operations far away from the original battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq.” Eventually, the facts on the Niger mission will emerge. Ideally, better strat- egies will develop. “But there’s no need to wait to address the danger of increasing extremism in Africa.”

What is most striking about these lives is their lack of creativity. U.S. strategic thinking is apparently “out- of-date” approach where older, discred- ited postulations re- lated to military pol- icy are periodically recycled.

Uranium, French imperialism and permanent war

Niger is the world’s fourth largest pro- ducer of uranium, a key component in nuclear technology, particularly for weap- onry. Uranium resources are largely con- trolled by France, which colonized the ter- ritory beginning in the late 19th century during “the scramble for Africa.”

French military forces declared a war of conquest against the people of Ni- ger in the late 1890s, but were met with fierce resistance by the non-Islamic Aarna people of the Hausa, led by their war- rior-queen, Sarranoua. After retreating into the forests amid heavy weapons bombardment by the French military at the Battle of Lounou, Sarronua and her fighters continued guerilla warfare against France for years. The colonizers never captured Sarronua.

By the French, the “war for control” varies uranium mining in the country, has a vested interest in maintaining its neocolonial control over Niger. The coun- try gained its independence in 1960, but remained within France’s political and economic sphere.

Niger’s President Mahamadou Issou- fou 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. Con- sequently, the state is prone to econom- ic, political and military interference by Paris and Washington. The U.S. is building drone stations in Niger while cooperating with France’s military op- erations.

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 gen- uine 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 newsongo.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 hundreds 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 over 10 children, two of them critically, in al-Jouf province just north of Saada. At least 15 strikes hit various areas of Madi 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 in- creased their military capabilities as a defensive tool against this type of aggres- sion. This includes manufacturing Yeme- nis-made long-range ballistic missiles and anti-air sniper rifles. The Sana’a-based forces have also increased maritime and special operations capabilities.

For the next 34 days, the ongoing airstrike campaign and siege, Yemen’s resistance strung the King Khalid International Air- port in Saudi Arabia with a long-range ballistic missile the morning of Nov. 4. Mainstream news outlets like CNN quick- ly (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 devastating campaigns and to the censure list due to their devastation, masses and humanitarian situa- tion, which explicitly targets Yemeni civilians, hospitals, markets and homes.

Last year, the U.N. removed Saudi Arabia from this same list when it ceased 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 slowed.

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

Due to restricted imports, nearly 7 million Yemenis face famine and 17 mil- lion face food insecurity. The lack of ac- cess to medical equipment and sanitation supplies has triggered a globally unprec- edented cholera outbreak claiming the lives of over 3,000, with numbers reach- ing 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.
¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países unios!

Pero Trump ha denunciado repetida mente el acuerdo en y agosto impuso nue vnas sanciones contra Irán. Si no vuelve a certificar que Irán está cumpliendo con los requisitos del pacto, entonces Washington puede imponer sanciones económicas más hirrientes a los 80 mi lones de habitantes de Irán.

Ahora, los intransigentes de EE.UU. están tratando de evitar que Irán desar rolle 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 publi cada por The New York Times el 8 de o tubre: “Mi país no está tratando de desar rolar o adquirir armas nucleares.” En el artículo el 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 dere cho de Irán a desarrollar armas defen sivas? En el punto crucial de la cues tión es donde radica el derecho de la nación, rica en petróleo, a la soberanía y a proteger a su pueblo de la agresión imperialista, ya sean sanciones económicos, ataques políticos o acciones militares.

Mientras los balcones derechistas en Washington suenan cada vez más beli cosos y se dirigen a países específicos, incluido Irán, con amenazas crecientes, como la acción militar, una breve mirada a la violencia colonial nacida en Irán muestra por qué se debe apoyar el dere cho del país a defenderse.

Por Kathy Durkin

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

La junta escolar solicitó que se cambiara el nombre de Robert E. Lee Memorial a cambio de poner fin a algunas 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 histórico monumento significó una forma de recordar hace más de 200 años de injusticia racial.

Los residentes de San Antonio, Texas, finalmente ganaron después de casi tres años solicitando y pidiendo a la junta es colar del Distrito Escolar Independi ente de San Antonio North East (NEISD) que cambiara el nombre de Robert E. Lee High School. Están pidiendo un nombre que se sienta bien con los que no cele bra dos siglos de racismo y prejuicio racial.

El arduo trabajo comenzó con una estudiante valiente y determinada, Kayla Wilson, quien había hecho el hincapié.

En 2015, Wilson, entonces un estudiante de último año, comenzó a petición solicitando un cambio de nombre para la escuela. Su petición fue motivada por co mentarios del ex alcalde de San Antonio, fue erigida en 1900 y pagada 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 como una persona o un tema que celebra valores más progresistas e inclusivos. Algunos los consideraban vestigios del pasado, y se preguntaban por qué el distrito estaba lento pero inexorable. Este 1 de septiembre vio la eliminación de otra estatua en el distrito.

Los residentes de la Alemania del siglo XXI sienten así su herencia de las atrocidades fascistas y racialmente motivadas por el nazismo? ¿Deben las ban deras nazis y las estatuas de Adolf Hit ler o Heinrich Himmler retenir lugares preeminentes en la imagen 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 de “Robert E. Lee” por “Junta de Síndicos de NEISD”. 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 celebrara valores más progresistas e inclusivos. Algunos dijeron que el nombre era un recordatorio de los más de 200 años de esclavitud y el tratamiento como una persona o un tema que celebraba valores más progresistas e inclusivos.

Progreso lento contra la injusticia racista

El progreso en los estados del sur ha sido lento pero ineludible. Este 1 de septiembre vio la eliminación de otra estatua confederada en San Antonio: el monumen to 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, Patri cia 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 ofensiva. Nues tros monumentos y estatuas confederadas y estadounidenses. Nosotros, como organización, no juzgamos ni impone mos los estándares del siglo XX 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 el nazismo? ¿Deben las banderas nazis y las estatuas de Adolf Hitler o Heinrich Himmler retenir lugares preeminentes en la imagen 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 de “Robert E. Lee” por “Junta de Síndicos de NEISD”. 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 celebrara valores más progresistas e inclusivos. Algunos dijeron que el nombre era un recordatorio de los más de 200 años de esclavitud y el tratamiento como una persona o un tema que celebraba valores más progresistas e inclusivos.

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