

Midterm elections

What moved forward,
what did not

By Monica Moorehead

The Nov. 6 midterm elections have come and gone, with some outcomes still in doubt. And while, fundamentally, political and economic conditions have remained the same, some of the outcomes are welcomed. Women, people of color, LGBTQ2S people and immigrants made history.

They were elected on a wide range of progressive issues, along with who they are.

For example, Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia are the first Latinx women to represent Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both are strong advocates of immigrant rights.

Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland became the first two Indigenous women to win seats in the House, representing Kansas and New Mexico, respectively. Haaland stated, “America isn’t broke, but we have been pillaged by billionaires and big corporations who get rich off our infrastructure and expect working people to foot the bill. No more.” (inequality.org, Nov. 7)

Ilhan Omar, a Somali, and Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian, became the first Muslim women who won House seats. Omar won her seat in Minnesota, home to the largest Somali community in the U.S. Tlaib won her seat — vacated by Rep. John Conyers, who is Black — with over 87 percent of the vote in her Michigan district. A month before the elections, Tlaib was arrested for blocking a McDonald’s demanding \$15 and a union. Both of these women ran on a platform of Medicare-for-all and debt-free college tuition.

Ayanna Pressley, a former Boston City Council member, became the first African-American woman to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. House.

Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez, a Puerto Rican, became the youngest woman to be voted into the U.S. House; she represents the boroughs of Queens and the Bronx in New York City. She has called for the abolition of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

In Colorado, Jared Polis was the first openly gay man to be elected governor of a state, while Christine Hallquist, a trans woman, got 40 percent of the votes for governor of Vermont.

These elections alone — along with progressive referendums passed allowing former felons to vote in Florida; a stop to gerrymandering in Michigan; the legalization of marijuana in Michigan, Missouri and Utah, which should lead to overturning convictions for its sale and use — represent the first progressive electoral re-

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Antiwar Autumn hits New York City

By Julie Varughese
New York City

“End the Wars at Home and Abroad” was held Oct. 31 as part of the Antiwar Autumn event series that demands those who run for office provide their position on war, militarism and imperialism. The series seeks to hold U.S. electoral candidates accountable for the imperialist wars raging around the world and domestically. The panel discussion at the Solidarity Center here drew a standing-room-only crowd.

The continuous U.S. wars abroad are inextricably linked to the militarization of U.S. borders and the repression of oppressed U.S. communities.

“What is going to put a break on war abroad?” asked Black Alliance for Peace (BAP) National Organizer Ajamu Baraka. “It is the people here.”

“The imperialism we see globally is the flip side of the repression we deal with domestically,” Baraka said. Democrats overwhelmingly supported the 1033 Program that transfers military-grade weapons and tanks to state and local police departments.

“The Democrats and the Republicans are both equally pro-war,” said Lisa Davis of the People’s Organization for Progress and the Black Is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations (BIB). Davis criticized elected elites in Congress for supporting Trump’s \$717 billion military budget. These same elected officials approved the Blue Lives Matter bill that makes it a federal crime to assault a police officer.

Davis insisted that the anti-war movement support a military draft as a tool to raise awareness and end the wars.

Bernadette Ellorin of BAYAN spoke about how the Philippines had been exploited by first Spain and, since 1898, by the United States. Ellorin explained that the Mutual Defense Treaty allows the U.S. military to rotate its



Solidarity Center in NYC hosts meeting to ‘End the Wars at Home and Abroad’ on Oct. 31. WW PHOTO: JULIE VARUGHESE

presence among 20 ports in the Philippines. It is the fifth most mineral-rich country, a food basket for the Asia-Pacific region, and the United States has exploited its position among Japan, China and southeast Asia.

“You will never understand anti-imperialism in the Philippines without understanding the land question,” Ellorin said.

Attendees applauded both the cohesiveness of the talks as well as the diversity of the speakers. Davis said she was happy to see unfamiliar and young faces in the audience. “It is so important to take what is going on personally, to take it literally, and to walk like the world depends on you,” Davis said.

Other speakers included Maurice Carney of Friends of the Congo and Joe Lombardo of the United National Antiwar Coalition. Richard Kossally of the Peoples Power Assembly opened the meeting, which Sade Swift chaired.

The event was sponsored by the PPA, BAP, BIB and UNAC.

Attendees were encouraged to pick up a copy of BAP’s 4-page booklet on U.S Africa Command (AFRICOM) and read and sign a petition to shut it down. The online petition, as well as printable petition sheets to circulate in your communities, can be found at blackallianceforpeace.com/USoutofAfrica.

The video of the meeting can be viewed at tinyurl.com/y9jgjbvz.

Varughese is a communications advisor to BAP.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered 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 neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth

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and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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White House wages war on reproductive justice

By Sue Davis

The Trump administration strategically announced three new rules about birth control and abortion coverage on Nov. 7. Women's health advocates saw the timing the day after the election as a renewed attack in Trump's war on reproductive justice.

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury and Labor jointly announced two newly revised rules for nonprofits and some businesses to apply for religious or moral exemptions to the Affordable Care Act's birth control mandate. The ACA requires that contraceptives, defined as preventive care, be provided without a co-pay. Some rules are already on the books due to Supreme Court rulings beginning in 2014 that affirmed such exemptions.

Federal attacks on contraception access

The misogynous, anti-abortion Trump cabal, catering to its evangelical base, has twice before tried to expand the exemptions. Two federal district courts ruled against them. A judge in Oakland, Calif., wrote in December 2017: The rules would "transform contraceptive coverage from a legal entitlement to an essentially gratuitous benefit wholly subject to their employer's discretion."

A May 2018 report by the Guttmacher Institute, which studies women's health care, succinctly sums that up in an article titled: "In Bad Faith: How Conservatives Are Weaponizing 'Religious Liberty' to Allow Institutions to Discriminate."

In what ways the new rules will differ from previous ones — and survive ap-

peals — has not yet been determined.

A Nov. 8 Rewire.News article reports that these birth control rules will directly endanger health care for more than 55 million cisgender women and an unknown number of trans and nonbinary people who depend on ACA's free contraceptive care.

"These rules threaten to erode decades of progress in increasing women's [sic] reproductive autonomy," said Dr. Lisa Hollier, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She added that the final rules "follow an alarming pattern of medically unnecessary decisions in health policy that, together, undermine access to care and advance harmful, medically inaccurate rhetoric about women's [and gender nonconforming people's] health."

As an Oct. 30 New York Times article observed: "The Obama administration cited studies showing that as the use of contraceptives went up, the rate of unintended pregnancies came down. But the Trump administration said these studies did not prove a causal link." That's yet another example of the current administration thumbing its nose at science.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a division of HHS, announced a new rule that would require ACA health insurance plans in 2019 to separate out any portion of premiums that would apply to abortion care and bill customers separately for it. That means customers would have to pay the abortion care premium out-of-pocket. Until now, the payment was separate, but the bill was not.

This requirement, noted Rewire.News,

would increase overhead costs for health insurance companies providing abortion coverage, which would discourage companies from offering it. And customers might object to paying for the abortion-related portion of coverage — an outcome which anti-choice groups have long supported.

News from states and other developments

Two states passed referendums limiting abortion in anticipation that the Supreme Court will soon overturn its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. The Center for Reproductive Rights estimates that access to abortion would be at high risk in 22 states if Roe is overturned.

Alabama passed a constitutional amendment declaring state policy is to "support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children" and "not protect the right to abortion or require funding for abortion." There is no exemption in case of rape, incest or endangerment to the health or life of the mother. The amendment has been nicknamed the "personhood amendment," and will be challenged in court.

West Virginia approved a measure that strips away any protection in the state constitution for abortion rights. It also cuts any Medicaid funding for abortions (exceptions are rape, incest and maternal health) and sets a jail sentence of three to 10 years for anyone who performs or receives the procedure. Given that state laws criminalizing abortion are exceedingly rare, this measure will be appealed.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed one of the country's most restrictive abortion

bills on May 4. The so-called "heartbeat" law bans abortions once a fetal heartbeat has been detected at about six weeks. Exceptions allow for cases of rape, incest and medical emergency. The law is being challenged in court, while Reynolds was reelected.

Meanwhile, Oregon voters turned down Measure 106 prohibiting public funding for most abortions. The referendum sought to overturn the state's Reproductive Health Equity Act passed last year. It guaranteed everyone access to abortion and other reproductive health services at no cost.

Three states, Idaho, Utah and Nebraska, approved ballot measures to expand Medicaid under the ACA. That will ensure 330,000 poor people — many Black and Brown individuals, single mothers, youth and gender nonconforming people — will have access to free or low-cost health care, including birth control.

A new study published in the May issue of Journal of Medical Internet Research reports there are 27 U.S. "abortion deserts" — major cities where pregnant people have to travel more than 100 miles to reach an abortion care facility. For example, a person living in Rapid City, S.D., has to drive 318 miles to reach the nearest provider in Billings, Mont.

In its 2017 report released May 8, the National Abortion Federation noted that trespassing at abortion clinics has tripled since Trump took office — from 247 incidents in 2016 to 823 in 2017. Such invasions violate an individual's right to safely and privately secure an abortion. NAF asserts the Trump administration encouraged such offenses. □

Dia de los Muertos in San Diego

Fallen freedom fighters, martyrs remembered

By M. Matsemela-Ali Odom
San Diego

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a traditional Mexican holiday dating back to precolonial history before the Spanish colonization in the 1500s. The currently celebrated Dia de los Muertos is an acculturated practice syncretizing elements of Indigenous culture and Mexican-Catholic traditions.

A moment of remembrance, prayer, processions and altars are generally organized in recognition of family and friends who have died.

Dia de los Muertos maintains a crucial importance throughout what some call Mexico de Afuera, the Mexican diaspora. This is certainly true in San Diego where Dia de los Muertos plays an important role in remembering the history of struggle by Chicanx people for dignity and self-determination.

In San Diego, the Dia de los Muertos procession, organized by a collective of organizers at the Sherman Heights community center, honors family and friends and also remembers the multinational history of struggle in San Diego's barrios, namely the conjoined struggle of Black and Brown people.

Cultural resistance

This year members of San Diego's chapter of Brown Berets de Aztlan invited members of Workers World Party-San Diego and the Committee Against Police Brutality-San Diego to participate in the



WW PHOTO: M. MATSEMELA-ALI ODOM

The altar for Pablo Aceves in San Diego.

Procesion de Muertos on Nov. 2.

Procesion de Muertos is a 1.5-mile walk from the Sherman Heights Community Center southwest to Chicano Park. This is the public space below the Coronado Bridge established as the result of a protracted struggle waged by Chicanx activists in opposition to the creation of a police station and the redistricted, gentrified "development" of the area, Logan Heights/Barrio Logan.

On Nov. 2 thousands of Chicanx and Latinx families attended the gathering in Chicano Park. Brown Berets, Union del Barrio, an Aztec dancer and community activists participated in the procession to the park. There was even a delegation of Indigenous activists from South America, who were in town for a plenum be-

ing held at El Centro Cultural de la Raza. This is an affiliated community center a few miles north of Chicano Park in San Diego's cultural hub of Balboa Park.

The pillars holding up Coronado Bridge, which hovers over Chicano Park, are painted with a variety of heroes of Mexican, Chicanx and Latinx history, from Frida Kahlo to Che Guevara. On Nov. 2, these pillars, the center stage and most of the benches and plots in the park were adorned with altars to many who had fallen in a life of struggle.

One altar recognized four victims of a 2016 car crash. There was public recognition of Brown and Black people killed by state violence. The altar to the fallen leaders of Union del Barrio stood out. Two of those remembered leaders were founding member Ernesto "Neto" Bustillos and the recently deceased Pablo Aceves.

Chicanx activist remembered

Aceves died on Sept. 29 at the age of 50. A stalwart fighter for social justice in San Diego, Aceves dedicated 31 years of his life to Union del Barrio. The longest serving member of UdB at the time he died, Aceves was a member of its Central

Committee. A friend of WWP-SD and CAPB-SD, Aceves was unwavering in his support for all oppressed people and a serious proponent of Black-Brown unity.

The author of this article remembers Aceves' leadership in the San Diego No More Prisons Coalition as well as the struggle against police killing of unarmed Black and Brown people in the region. With a commitment by his family, friends and comrades to annually remember him with their altars on Dia de los Muertos in Chicano Park, Aceves will not be forgotten. □

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Another ‘Trumpian’ racial incident

By Dolores Cox

Amid the spate of hate crimes in the U.S., on Nov. 1, in broad daylight in New York City, the African Burial Ground National Monument was defaced with the racial epithet “kill the N*****s” (the N-word) written across it. The burial ground is a sacred resting place of enslaved Africans.

New York was the second-largest U.S. slaveholding city — enslaved Africans built the city. For centuries the remains of thousands of enslaved and free Africans were entombed underneath the city. They were not allowed to be buried in white-only church graveyards or within the boundaries of the European settlements.

The 300-year-old grave site was discovered in 1991 when archaeologists unearthed hundreds of skeletal remains that they sent to Howard University in Washington, D.C., for examination. In 1993, the burial ground was designated a NYC Historical Landmark.

On Oct. 1, 2003, the remains were returned to NYC and re-interred in the African Burial Ground at the former slave market site near Wall Street. Their return was marked by a two-day ceremony, where tributes were paid to the ancestors.

In 2013, a second New York City African Burial Ground was uncovered, recognized and honored in East New York.



In 2006, the African Burial Ground was declared a National Monument. It is the oldest and largest African burial ground in the U.S.

Within days of the Nov. 1 desecration of the monument, outraged activists, civic leaders, and state and local elected officials held a press conference to condemn the racist vandalism. They called for the

mayor and governor to make an official statement denouncing the incident.

They insisted that police precinct and federal officials do a full investigation and called for the immediate release of security camera videos and arrest of the suspect. Overall, they demanded respect for African-American people and their ancestors, stating that ignoring the suf-

fering of the people is a gross injustice.

Speaking about the hateful act, City Councilperson Jumaane Williams, said, “The African Burial Ground stands as a reminder of the racist history of our city that we might otherwise too easily forget, of an entire people enslaved and subjugated even in death. These things and these issues have never gone away. But we are at a time where it is at a fever pitch. It shows that we have not moved as far past that history as many would like to believe.

“Hatred and bigotry have never been erased from our country or city, only re-treating into the shadows at times. I call on members of all communities to stand together in condemnation and defiance of hatred and the forces that propel it.” Hate is still much alive!

The African Burial Ground stands as a tribute to those who were enslaved. It serves to educate current and future generations about the extreme sacrifices and profound contributions made by enslaved African-American descendant communities to the building of NYC and the entire country. In the face of current and future challenges, it is vital to protect this legacy for future generations.

Cox attended the 2003 two-day re-interment ceremonies.

Solzhenitsyn and Jordan Peterson: Not such strange bedfellows

Part 1

By John Steffin

A new edition of “Gulag Archipelago” by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was published earlier this month. Whenever one of Solzhenitsyn’s books is rolled out, one must ask what the political reasons are for doing so. The publishing history of Solzhenitsyn’s work is closely tied to major historical developments of the last half century, and this new edition is no different.

Peculiar to this moment is a new foreword, written by alt-right celebrity Jordan Peterson. This may come as a surprise to some. When it was first published in 1973, and still to this day, many on the left thought that “Gulag Archipelago,” which claims to document life in the Soviet labor camps during the Stalin period, played a progressive role in exposing the undemocratic nature of the Soviet Union.

How, then, could someone like Peterson — who advocates enforced monogamy, refuses to recognize trans people and believes the eugenicist lie that there are inherent IQ differences along racial and ethnic lines — also claim Solzhenitsyn as his own? What could Solzhenitsyn and Peterson have in common?

A lot, actually.

To understand the political significance of this new edition, it is necessary to go over the details of Solzhenitsyn’s life, many of which are left out of the introductions in high school and college textbooks of this author who, of all people, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970. The first part of this series will cover Solzhenitsyn’s life and his views. The second will analyze the political significance of the new edition.

Who was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn?

Solzhenitsyn, born in 1918, came from

the class of rich landowners whose property was expropriated during the Russian Revolution. His father, a tsarist officer, took his own life when the Red Army confiscated his large estate.

Solzhenitsyn was then raised by his mother and aunt and received an advanced education before being drafted into the Red Army during World War II. He was promoted to captain and participated in campaigns to repel the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

As the tide of war changed and Soviet forces moved swiftly through Poland toward Berlin, KGB officers discovered documents on Solzhenitsyn suggesting he was part of a conspiracy to subvert the war effort. Solzhenitsyn, throughout his life, denied this. In fact, his whole subsequent career as a writer was built on the idea that he was unjustly imprisoned and that his arrest was a clear sign of a despotic regime.

Later biographers corroborate Solzhenitsyn’s claim, insisting that while he was deeply critical of the Soviet Union and the evidence found by the KGB reflected that, he had not organized any conspiracy, which was the main crime that led to his imprisonment. It is also clear from his later works, however, that Solzhenitsyn sympathized with Soviet citizens who collaborated with the Nazis, as his glowing portrait of Lieutenant General Andrei A. Vlasov in “Gulag Archipelago” indicates.

Whatever the case, Solzhenitsyn was sentenced to eight years in a political labor camp, or gulag as it later became known, and upon release never ceased to criticize the Soviet Union.

What many leftists don’t understand, however, is that this criticism was consistently from the right, not the left. Criticisms of the excesses of the dictatorship of the proletariat during the Stalin period

are certainly merited. The best of them can be found in Trotsky, Che and Sam Marcy, the founding chair of Workers World Party. But they cannot be found in Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn takes advantage of the situation, exaggerating the crimes in many cases, in order to completely discredit the idea of socialism and communism.

This is where the relationship between Jordan Peterson and Solzhenitsyn becomes clear. What was Solzhenitsyn’s solution to the ills of Soviet society? Essentially, a patriarchal ethno-state.

In his 1978 “Letter to the Soviet Leaders,” Solzhenitsyn claimed that the Soviet Union’s commitment to communist movements abroad had come at the expense of “national interest.”

Not only did he advocate abandoning the global proletariat, but he envisioned Russian nationals within the Soviet Union splitting off to form their own homogeneous ethno-state. He argued that the republics and autonomous regions of the Soviet Union — the “Central Asian underbelly,” as he called it — were living off the hard work of the Russian people. This parallels right-wing lies accusing immigrants of leeching off the U.S. “welfare state.”

Women and the patriarchal ethno-state

He also had much to say on women’s role in this new society. Instead of “financing South American revolutionaries,” he advocated that the Soviet Union use that money to ensure that women wouldn’t have to work — since their “natural” place is in the home. He thought that the workers’ state was merely a substitute for the family, the natural unit of society, and that the degeneration of Soviet society resulted from the breakup of the family.

This vision, of a patriarchal eth-

no-state, is the exact same idea promoted by the alt-right, including Jordan Peterson. That Peterson was asked to write the introduction should come as no surprise to those familiar with the real Solzhenitsyn.

For the most part, Peterson fails to bring out this side of Solzhenitsyn in his forward. Instead, he zeroes in on Solzhenitsyn’s attack on socialism. He invokes the slander that “100 million people or more” were killed by communism, even though historians have disproved this number, and asks why expressing admiration for Marx and professing socialism is still acceptable in polite company.

Of course, Peterson can’t help but try to slip in some eugenicist racism for good measure. Toward the end, Peterson invokes Solzhenitsyn’s own belief that perhaps inequality is intrinsic to all social orders — that some people will always be more able and more wealthy.

In his time, Solzhenitsyn used this idea to question the merits of universal suffrage. Today, Peterson uses his belief in inequality to criticize “social justice warriors” who don’t buy into his racist rant that whites are a biologically superior race.

Suffice it to say, that if we are to build a revolutionary socialist movement in the U.S., the left would best be served by learning the lessons of previous struggles. But we have to be careful about who we draw those lessons from. A proper analysis of what happened in the Soviet Union is in order, but the right wing never had this.

The next part will cover how Solzhenitsyn’s critique has been used in the past by right-wing forces inside and outside the Soviet Union. It will also offer an analysis of how Solzhenitsyn is being used by right-wing forces today. □

PFLP urgent call: GAZA UNDER ATTACK!

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued this statement on Nov. 12.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine calls an urgent action for the friends of Palestine, movements for justice and liberation, and the Palestinian and Arab communities everywhere in the world to stand with Gaza under attack at this critical moment.

We issue this call in honor and mourning for our two heroic comrades, Mohammed al-Tatari and Mohammed Odeh, martyred today [Nov. 12] by Zionist occupation forces, who attacked them as they fought for the freedom of their land, Palestine, and all of its people.

This murder at the hands of the colonial forces comes after an attack yesterday, in which Zionist forces sought to invade the Gaza Strip in an undercover operation to kidnap or assassinate leaders of the Palestinian resistance. They killed seven Palestinians who died fighting to defend their land — but the Palestinian resistance did not let them get away with their crime. The resistance has held fast, fighting heroically against one of the most heavily armed powers in the world and striking powerful blows against the assassins and murderers.

Tonight, the bombs are once again striking Gaza. Zionist forces are shell-

ing and bombing television stations and universities, and they are threatening to begin once more attacking hospitals. This comes as the latest, vicious military assault directed against Palestinians in Gaza, after the wars of 2009, 2012 and 2014 and countless bombing raids and assassinations, amid 11 years of a brutal and relentless siege.

This attack is an attempt to suppress the achievements of the Great March of Return, in which thousands of Palestinians in Gaza have demanded their fundamental right to return and to break the siege. Against this popular movement, the Zionist forces have unleashed their snipers, taking the lives of over 200 Palestinian demonstrators. Despite all of these assaults, the Palestinian people of Gaza remain committed to the resistance, refuse to relinquish their defenders, and are steadfast in the struggle for return and liberation.

Palestinians in Gaza are not alone! And they must not be left alone. This attack is not only carried out by the Israeli occupation, but by the imperialist powers like the United States, France and Britain that arm and support the settler-colonial racist state to the hilt. The reactionary



Arab regimes that plot how to dismantle Palestinian rights and existence while raining destruction and death on Yemen are also complicit in this onslaught.

Now is the time to act. Take to the streets and the squares, organize, demonstrate, protest and mobilize to stand with the Palestinian people in Gaza under at-

tack, yet who continue to resist despite all odds. Build the boycott of Israel and confront imperialism everywhere it exists.

Stand with the Palestinian people, the Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian cause — the struggle for return and the fight for liberation, from the river to the sea! □

Trump in Paris Two faces of world imperialism

WW COMMENTARY

By John Catalinotto

In Paris, on the weekend of the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended the first devastating imperialist world war, the current overlords of world imperialism showed both their faces. Both were ugly and dangerous, although one was covered with more deceptive smarm.

The visible danger was the current U.S. president, though at the Paris meetings he appeared moody and isolated. Unfortunately for the world, he still has powerful allies inside and outside the U.S. ruling class.

He has been speaking up for “nationalism” lately — meaning racist, white nationalism. This accompanies his anti-immigrant rants and constant insults toward women.

While he seemed sullen in Paris, even skipping some of the usual ceremonies, he has like-minded “nationalist” thinkers in Poland, Hungary, Ukraine; in the ultra-right parties like the National Front in France and the AfD in Germany; and even in the current Italian coalition regime that is a hotbed of anti-immigrant bigotry.

At home, despite setbacks in the mid-term elections, he still mobilizes his reactionary base.

So much about this U.S. president is hateful and needs fierce opposition that people might underestimate the dangers coming from the overlords in Europe and the rest of his class in the U.S.

The other face of imperialism

At the Paris meeting, another face of imperialism was personified by the French banker-president Emmanuel Macron, the “globalist.” It’s also the face of Germany’s Angela Merkel. They and their counterparts in the U.S. establishment — who mostly, but not all, are among the leaders of the Democratic Party — say they are against nationalism.

They look to World War I as a lesson in the dangers of nationalism — that is, the dangers to the ruling classes they represent.

Before that war, mass slaughters initiated by imperialism and capitalism had taken place mostly in the colonies. Tens of millions died in British-controlled India, Belgian-controlled Congo, German-controlled Namibia, Dutch-controlled Indonesia, and in the many French colonies of Indochina and North and West Africa.

The U.S., a fledgling imperialist power at that point, had bloodied its hands in the slaughter of enslaved and Indigenous peoples, and of those in the Philippines, Cuba, Hawai’i and Puerto Rico.

But during the first world war — when the big imperialist powers fought each other for the nationalist aim of controlling more colonies — tens of millions died in Europe itself. War and oppression came home to them, including a flu epidemic that spread through wartime crowding and hardships to kill tens of millions more.

Then, after years of suffering through the Great Slaughter that was World War I, the war was ended by the Russian Revolution. This workers’ and soldiers’ revolt not only deposed the old tsarist empire, it ushered in a socialist revolution and seized the property of the ruling class in Russia.

Revolutionary movements also seized power for a short time in Hungary and in parts of Germany. They were defeated with blood and iron by the old rulers, but they left the capitalist ruling classes of those countries and all their neighbors terrified of what the workers could do. From 1917 to 1991 that changed history.

So when today’s “Great Powers” hold a so-called peace conference in France, it is the utmost of hypocrisy. The “globalist” forces have no intention of allowing peace for the oppressed nations and peoples of the world — for Yemen, for Syria,

for Libya. Macron, Merkel and the others may look better than Trump, but their message is really this:

“One hundred years ago, we, the rulers, learned that if we are too nationalist we can wind up fighting each other, and the workers and peoples we oppress can take advantage of that. They might even overthrow us. So we have to work out among us how to peacefully divide what we steal from the masses of people of the world.”

Both the nationalist and globalist factions within the world’s ruling classes are enemies of the people.

As we mobilize against Trump and the ultrarightists who support him, we must remember that the enemy is the entire possessing class of global billionaires and multimillionaires and their paid agents and representatives.

This entire class, including Trump, must be stopped. They must be countered at every opportunity. □

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Florida

Historic recount challenges vote repression

By Betsey Piette

In an historic first for Florida on Nov. 10, just days after the general election, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner ordered voting machine recounts in contests for senate, governor and agricultural commissioner.

The action was mandatory after vote tallies from 67 counties left contests too close to call. Margins separating the candidates in the three races had fallen below the 0.5 percent difference that automatically triggers a recount.

If not resolved by Nov. 15, or if margins fall below 0.25 percent, a hand recount would have to be conducted.

In the race for governor, after the recount was launched, Democrat Andrew Gillum withdrew an earlier concession he had made to Republican Ron DeSantis, whose lead had fallen to 0.41 percent.

Gillum, the first Black gubernatorial nominee in Florida and son of working-class parents, would be the state's first Black governor if he won. Currently the mayor of Tallahassee, Gillum ran on a progressive platform calling for Medicare-for-all and a \$15 minimum wage.

His opponent, three-term member of the U.S. House Ron DeSantis, was endorsed by Trump. DeSantis is a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, a group of the most conservative members of the House. In a TV interview during the



Protest from over a year ago bore fruit in Florida.

campaign, DeSantis made a disgustingly racist comment about “electing his liberal African-American opponent.” (Miami Herald, Aug. 29)

In the Senate race, incumbent Democrat Bill Nelson, who has never conceded the race, trailed his Republican challenger Gov. Rick Scott by less than 0.15 percent. Scott also received strong support from Trump. Even before the recount was announced, the Nelson campaign had filed a lawsuit against Detzner over the state's process for validating vote-by-mail ballots.

On election day, the ballots of thousands of voters were thrown out when poll workers claimed the original in-person signature did not match one subsequently done by voters on a finger-touch pad — a very common problem.

The “invalid signature” rejections

disproportionately happened to African-American and younger voters.

Evidence of wider vote repression

Other attempts at voter repression in Florida have been reported.

Before the Nov. 6 general election, voters in largely Black neighborhoods in North Miami were made to wait in long lines for hours on Nov. 4, the final day of early voting. When printers used to generate customized ballots failed by early afternoon, people were forced to use pre-printed ballots until those too ran out.

According to state elections data, hundreds of thousands of absentee ballots that were mailed out were not returned, especially in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Over two-thirds of the 265,687 ballots not returned in those counties were from registered Democrats.

The data also revealed that election supervisors failed to send out more than 20,000 requested ballots until after the Oct. 31 legal cutoff. Some were even delivered on Nov. 6 — election day. Yet many voters who had learned that their absentee returns had not been counted reported mailing them back weeks before the cutoff date.

Evidence of intentional misplacement of absentee ballots surfaced on Nov. 9 when it was learned that around 40 boxes of absentee ballots were sitting in a U.S. Post Office distribution center in Opa-locka. Statistically, a majority of voters casting absentee ballots tend to be younger and Black.

Victory for 1.4 million disenfranchised Floridians

Whether the recount results in a reversal of the outcomes from the Nov. 6 election, the passage of Florida Amendment 4 (Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative) has ended one of the harshest voting restrictions in the U.S. and a legacy of Jim Crow.

Florida, Iowa and Kentucky remain the only three states preventing people with felony records from voting. Over the last 20 years, California, Alabama, Maryland and Virginia have enacted similar reforms.

In Florida any crime over \$300, and even driving three times with a suspended license, could result in a felony conviction. While those being Black of voting age were disproportionately impacted by the ban, the fact that 70 percent of those convicted of felonies in Florida were not African-American may account for the bipartisan support for the measure, which passed by a margin of 64.53 to 35.47 percent.

The amendment, which takes effect in January 2019, will allow an estimated 1.4 million people to exercise their long-denied right to vote.

Additional electoral victories included passage of Amendment 3, preserving the Seminole gaming monopoly and keeping casinos out of the hands of wealthy Florida real estate developers; Amendment 11, overturning a Jim Crow era ban on immigrants owning property; and Amendment 9, banning off-shore oil drilling. □

San Diego:

People’s victory in City Council win

M. Matsemela-Ali Odom
San Diego

Monica L. Montgomery, an African-American woman and American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, made history Nov. 6 when she won the City Council District Four seat in San Diego. With her defeat of Democratic Party candidate Myrtle Cole, Montgomery became the first person in 27 years to defeat an incumbent councilperson in the city. She was also likely the first candidate to ever defeat a sitting council president here.

Over 22,000 residents went to the polls in Southeast San Diego, the city's historic Black enclave, where Montgomery surpassed Cole by nearly 3,000 votes. Leaders in the Democratic Party, Labor Council, business community, and Republican Mayor Kevin Faulconer had all supported Cole.

Community activists countered this by organizing a grassroots campaign to defeat Cole. While Montgomery had gained the support of community activists with her principled actions over the past years, Cole's ousting was a referendum against San Diego's conservative elite and reactionary racial politics.

Cole blamed Black people for police violence

In July 2016, Myrtle Cole provoked a vehement response from the grassroots Reclaiming the Community coalition of Black, Brown and Asian activists in Southeast San Diego. Former police officer Cole has justified police violence against Black people in response to local concern about police abuse. She said, “Be-

cause Blacks are shooting Blacks, [police] are not going to stop a white male or a Hispanic male or Asian. They're going to stop an African American because those are the ones who are shooting.”

Cole's slander engendered an immediate response from local activists. This writer attended a strategy meeting of dozens of young activists as they began to organize against Cole in a campaign they dubbed “Resign or Else.”

Activists from young to old filled City Council meetings to demand Cole apologize for her comments and leave office.

Cole also failed to support local efforts against biased policing, namely the defense of the San Diego 33, a grouping of young men unjustly charged with criminal conspiracy for crimes the district attorney admitted they had not committed.

Studies showed that Cole, who had only recently moved into the district, held some of the lowest office hours of any councilperson. Amidst this 2016 controversy, Montgomery resigned her position as a staffer in Cole's office in solidarity with the protesters.

Activism accelerated

During the summer and fall of 2016, Black radical grassroots politics accelerated in San Diego. This author was a part of a core group of activists who mobilized by organizing regular political education classes in Southeast San Diego, in a sustained part of the Reclaiming the Community movement.

Officially begun in 2014, but with origins as far back as 2011, RTC is unique in seeking to mobilize against police abuse



WW PHOTO:

Movement grew against pro-cop Council head in San Diego.

and mass incarceration while also challenging the horizontal violence in Southeast San Diego. The movement grew following the murder of Alfred Olango at the hands of El Cajon Police Officer Richard Gonsalves in September 2016.

Continued efforts at political education, consciousness raising, cop watches, prisoner solidarity, restorative justice programs, cultural work and participatory defense clinics have generated a serious collective of Southeast San Diego grassroots activists. When Montgomery announced her candidacy, the network threw its support behind her.

Neither RTC nor any other of these community efforts was created with the expressed goals of electoral politics. Still, they view Cole's defeat and the Montgomery win as a moment of power and dignity for the many whom mainstream politics have discarded.

As one lead activist noted in his public correspondence: “I want to give a special

shout out to the forgotten and the dismissed. Y'all did this. We did this. And because we did this, THE COMMUNITY WON. Before the election results had been turned in, we knew that we had won. Not because Monica L. Montgomery had been elected. We won because it was clear that we were reclaiming our power.

“Last night was an important step in what will be a long road toward reclaiming our community, our voice and our dignity. But for now, those of us who refused to be dismissed will live, we will embrace each other, and we will celebrate. RTC, we did that! The Community did that. And we will not be stopped.” □

Midterm election

Continued from page 1

buke to white supremacist, misogynist Trumpism.

These midterm elections, like so many prior ones, can serve as a political barometer on the mood of the masses, showing who the masses want out, as opposed to who the masses want voted in.

What hasn't changed

Despite any progressive victories, the fundamental class features of U.S. bourgeois elections have not changed. One important feature is voter suppression based on inherent inequality steeped in white supremacy and other class bias against people who are indigent and working class. This is especially true for sectors of the

Georgia

Black votes matter in gubernatorial election

By Mikisa Thompson

Nov. 12 — Given a tight race in Georgia for the position of governor, the outcome was not decided on election day, Nov. 6. This is an historic and significant race. Why? Because for the first time in U.S. history, a woman of African descent, Stacey Abrams, is making a serious bid for the governorship. The race was so close that her political team is demanding a recount.

Stacey Yvonne Abrams is a lawyer and novelist who served as minority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017.

Her white opponent, Brian Kemp, is a former Georgia secretary of state, who fended off accusations that he had used his position to make it harder for Black people and other disenfranchised seg-



ments of the population, including the working-class poor, to vote.

Kemp recently resigned due to his abuses of power as head of the Georgia Board of Elections, including deleting over 1.5 million voters from the rolls for various made-up offenses. However, his official reason for the resignation is to transition into the office of governor of Georgia.

Currently, Kemp is reportedly ahead by an estimated 60,000 votes, and has already declared himself the victor, even though all the votes haven't been counted. A candidate has to receive more than 50 percent of the votes in order to win the election. Even if he ends up with more votes than Abrams, if he falls short of 50 percent, there will be a runoff on Dec. 4.

Stacey Abrams is being called out for not conceding defeat. This call is racist in itself, because rich white males are telling a Black woman to sit down and shut up.

Trump had the white supremacist gall to say on his Twitter feed: “@BrianKemp-GA ran a great race in Georgia — he won. It is time to move on!”

However, Stacey



Abrams remains optimistic in her bid for governor. “I want to say this: If I wasn't your first choice or if you made no choice at all, you're gonna have a chance to do a do-over,” Abrams said during a speech to supporters, alluding to a potential recount.

She went on to say, “Our democracy should work for all of us, regardless of political leanings, race, income, or region. Voting is a right, not a privilege. It is fundamental to our democracy and to our Georgia, and I will fight every single day until our government — a government of the people, by the people, and for the people — works for all of us.”

Oprah Winfrey backs Abrams

Oprah Winfrey did some door knocks and campaigning in Georgia, and we all know the power of O. Winfrey is such a powerful Black woman that the white supremacists seized on the moment to

attack her and Stacey Abrams with robocalls to voters. They carried this disgusting, racist message while impersonating the voice of Winfrey: “This is the magical negro, Oprah Winfrey, asking you to make my fellow negress, Stacey Abrams, the governor of Georgia. Years ago, the Jews who

own the American media saw something in me — the ability to trick dumb white women into thinking I was like them, and to do, read, and think what I told them to. I see that same potential in Stacey Abrams.”

This is clear evidence that, yes, the Black vote does matter, including adding progressive referendums and amendments to state constitutions. Why else would various states try so hard to force the Black vote to be null and void?

“Voter suppression isn't about blocking the vote: It's also about creating an atmosphere of fear, making people worry that their votes won't count,” said Abrams. (New York Times, Nov. 3)

By not conceding, Stacey Abrams shows respect for the process of voting until every vote is counted. Win or lose, Stacey Abrams wants the will of the masses, especially Black and other oppressed peoples, to be recognized and asserted. □

BLACK SUFFRAGE: The ongoing struggle for the right to vote

By Mikisa Thompson

Black suffrage under the conditions of white supremacy has been an issue in the U.S. Africans and other peoples were traded for capital, to harvest and process mainly cotton, rice and sugar cane in the Southern states for profit. Slavery system profits were so extremely large that the Civil War was fought over the many states seceding from the Union to preserve the right to own and profit from human labor.

Georgia was unique initially, as in 1735, two years after the first white settlers arrived, the state House of Commons passed legislation prohibiting slavery in Georgia in response to Spanish-controlled Florida offering slaves freedom in exchange for military service. (“Slavery in Colonial Georgia,” georgiaencyclopedia.org)

However, slavery was demanded in Georgia by a band of settlers, including Patrick Tailfer and Thomas Stephens,

who led campaigns to force the trustees to bend to their will so settlers wouldn't have to do the work of clearing the land of forests and the brutal removal of Indigenous Nations.

Lifting of the trustees' ban opened the way for Carolina planters to expand their slave-based rice economy into the Georgia Low Country. The planters flooded into Georgia with their slaves and soon dominated the colony's government. In 1755, they replaced the slave code agreed to by the trustees with one virtually identical to South Carolina's. This code was amended in 1765 and again in 1770.

By the 1880s, as federal intervention diminished after the Civil War, most Southern states prevented Black men from voting by using a combination of laws and violence, most notably lynchings. On Easter Sunday, 1873, more than 100 Black men were gunned down in Grant Parish, La., for daring to assert their right to vote.

(“Reconstruction and Black Suffrage: Losing the Vote in Reese and Cruikshank” by Robert M. Goldman, 2001)

Most Black people in the South only regained real access to the polls in 1965, when Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. This act is generally considered the end of the Jim Crow era, along with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that legally ended segregation.

The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, passed in 1870, said: “The right of citizens [males] of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

The amendment went on to state: “The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.” (History.com)

However, many states such as Georgia and North Carolina still have an abun-

dance of racially charged laws to keep the Black vote low or nonexistent. North Carolina just voted in a constitutional amendment that requires showing ID to vote. It is still unclear as to which form of ID would be needed, but these types of measures are enacted to deter Black, immigrant and working-class voters.

“In addition to voter ID laws, Georgia has implemented a program called “exact match,” which a judge had previously ruled was racially discriminatory. Nonetheless, it was reborn with all its defects by the Georgia Legislature and is in full operation in 2018.

“This voter registration program was its own literacy test, as it requires information on the voter registration card to be an exact mirror image of that stored in a state database or Social Security office.

“Former Minority Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives Stacey Abrams, an African-American woman, ran against Brian Kemp in this year's race for governor and has challenged Kemp's claim to have won the election. Abrams says Kemp had trapped 53,000 voter registration cards using “exact match,” so that some 70 percent of applicants kicked into electoral purgatory were Black.” (“Stacey Abrams, Brian Kemp and Neo-Jim Crow in Georgia,” op-ed by Carol Anderson, New York Times, Nov. 7)

The tactics change, but the message is abundantly clear: Voter suppression of Black people will continue to be steeped in white supremacy.

Black people's right to vote has been hindered by voter purges, property tests, grandfather clauses, all-white primaries, disenfranchised incarcerated felons and poll taxes. However, a Florida referendum passed in this election restores future voting rights of 1.5 million convicted felons. Although the majority of them were not Black, the law disproportionately affects mostly Black people's right to vote. □

s: What moved forward, what did not

WW COMMENTARY

working class who are of African descent, immigrant, Indigenous and young. And the state — which includes the police, laws, courts, prisons, etc. — is used as a repressive instrument to reinforce this inequality.

Voter suppression remains acutely widespread in the deep South, where Black people won the right to vote a mere 53 years ago. It is also an issue in North Dakota, where an estimated 5,000 Indigenous people who live in rural areas have post office addresses. A federal judge at the end of October refused to overturn a new election ruling that requires a street address, thus barring thousands of Native people from voting.

The right of the most oppressed to vote must be defended by the movement as

an act of anti-white-supremacist, pro-working-class solidarity, first and foremost. That is why the candidacy of Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman candidate to run for governor in a former slave state, Georgia, should be supported, no matter her political affiliation. As of this writing, thousands of votes still remain uncounted in that state.

While the now Democrat-controlled House of Representatives has more people of color and women, the Republican-controlled Senate is known as the millionaires' club, a majority of cis white males unapologetically tied to corporate interests.

Currently, there are 23 women senators, including four of color, out of a total

of 100. There are two senators from each state, no matter the population, large or small, which is undemocratic and unrepresentative, even under bourgeois norms.

The bottom line is that elections, even under a bourgeois democracy, cannot overturn class relations of any kind, even when progressive candidates and popular reforms are front and center. There still remains intact a small elite ruling class, which owns and controls the vast wealth of the world's resources and is the oppressor of the global working class.

Until a revolutionary process overturns those class relations, elections will continue to be just a barometer, not a game changer for workers and oppressed peoples. □

New party in Guatemala advances interests of the masses

By Sam Ordóñez

The Movement for the Liberation of the People was formally registered in Guatemala as a new political party on Nov. 7. It represents an electoral vehicle for the Peasant Development Committee (Comité de Desarrollo Campesino — Co-deca), one of the organizations that has led the struggle against the government of President Jimmy Morales.

MLP was registered to participate in the 2019 general elections after reaching the minimum number of members needed. Its stated objectives as a political party include: “nationalizing all goods and services privatized in the country, promoting the process of a popular and plurinational constituent assembly, building the plurinational state from the Indigenous autonomous areas, recovering lands, territories and water for cultivation and national consumption and organizing the whole country into communities for the recovery and defense of dignity and plurinational sovereignty to build good living.” (publinews.gt, Nov. 7)

The formation of the MLP comes in the

context of a struggle against the impunity of corrupt politicians representing the oligarchy and the failure to prosecute them. The Morales government recently provoked major protests when it attempted to suspend the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).

Although the masses and the Constitutional Court rejected the president’s attempt to protect himself from CICIG investigations, Morales has effectively prevented the head of CICIG from returning to the country.

But some victories have been won. At the time of this writing, three political parties have been suspended since 2015 for illegal activities (mainly illegal financing), including the Renewed Democratic Freedom party, the party with the most seats in Congress, and the Patriot Party. The PP is the party of former President Otto Pérez Molina, who resigned before the last elections amid an investigation by CICIG.

Both were part of the governing coalition. Two other coalition members, including Morales’ FCN-Nación, are in the



Guatemalans march against corruption and impunity, Sept. 12, 2017.

process of being suspended. Four opposition parties are also in the process of suspension.

With the corrupt politicians on the defensive and the formation of a new grassroots political party focused on structural reform, the 2019 elections could be important for the country. □



Migrant caravan passes through Honduras after starting in Guatemala on Oct. 13.

Free Oleg Horzhan! Communists defy ban after leader jailed in Transnistria

By Greg Butterfield

On the morning of Nov. 7, dozens of communists — young and old — gathered to lay flowers at the monument to V.I. Lenin in Tiraspol, Transnistria, to mark the 101st anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the world’s first successful working-class socialist revolution.

Similar activities were held in thousands of cities throughout the countries of the former Soviet Union. But the gathering in Tiraspol had special meaning, and for its participants took special courage.

Just five days earlier, the leader of the Communist Party of Transnistria, Oleg Horzhan, was sentenced by the republic’s Supreme Court to 4 1/2 years in prison and a hefty fine. The authorities then banned the traditional Revolution Day rally and march in the capital’s central square, where Lenin’s statue stands watch. Revolution Day, Nov. 7, is still an official holiday in Transnistria.

Transnistria (also known as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic) is an “unrecognized” state in Eastern Europe, much like the nearby Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Transnistria’s people proclaimed independence from the former Soviet republic of Moldova in 1992, when they rejected the capitalist counterrevolution in the USSR and the abandonment of Soviet economy and culture. The Communist Party of Transnistria has been a leading political organization in the republic since its founding.

Despite their heroic determination, the people of this small, isolated state could not on their own ward off the ravages of capitalist encirclement and the counterrevolutionary tide. The republic

was forced to make major political and economic compromises to maintain its existence. It has had to rely on military protection from capitalist Russia to ward off repeated threats from neighboring Moldova and Ukraine.

Forces openly representing capitalist oligarchs seized control of the state in 2016.

New authorities ban May Day

The new authorities banned the traditional May Day demonstration this year. In response, communist leader and parliament member Oleg Horzhan called for a protest rally in the central square of Tiraspol on June 2. The government organized provocations and arrested many people.

Horzhan went to the police station to demand the release of those arrested. There he was roughed up and threatened by the cops. On June 6, Horzhan was stripped of his parliamentary immunity and arrested. He was held in jail for five months throughout his trial.

In its statement on the verdict, the Communist Party of Transnistria said: “Despite the fact that the judges were forced to admit the majority of the acts which Horzhan was accused of were lies of policemen or fabrications of the employees of the Investigative Committee, they sentenced the Transnistrian Communist leader to almost the maximum possible.

“The order of the authorities to eliminate their political opponent obviously had to be carried out, and therefore, the court did not stint on punishment, although the only fault of Oleg Horzhan was that he bumped into a police officer who suddenly got in his way on the prem-

ises of the police department.

“According to the ‘victim,’ he experienced ‘physical pain,’ although no injuries were found in his forensic examination. It was this episode that the court regarded as ‘violence against a representative of the authorities’ and imposed a sentence of 4 years 6 months of imprisonment in a penal colony.

“Despite the harsh, politically motivated decision of the court, Oleg Horzhan told his supporters that the authorities would not succeed in breaking him, and he would continue the fight against the anti-people regime both in prison and afterward. His lawyers, in turn, announced that in the near future they would appeal the unjust sentence.”

Grigory Petrenko, leader of the communist Our Home Is Moldova party, called for freedom for Horzhan, whom he called “brave, principled, a real fighter.”

Petrenko was jailed along with several of his comrades in 2015-16 after leading an anti-oligarchy protest in the Moldovan capital, Chisinau. He and his family were later forced to seek asylum in Germany.

“Today’s regimes in Transnistria and Chisinau are twins,” Petrenko said. “Both are ruled by oligarchic mafias that interact perfectly with each other. ... The status quo provides them with uninterrupted work for their joint business projects.”

“Horzhan’s imprisonment is another link in the chain of persecutions of the communists of Transnistria,” declared the United Communist Party of Russia, ... using anti-communism and wiping the Soviet period from human memory to



serve the purposes of their own historical justification.

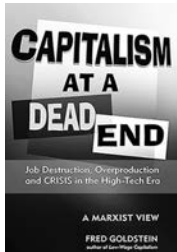
“Today, Ukraine leads the way on this path, where communists are under an actual ban. It is shameful that the Transnistrian leaders copy the worst examples of the political practices of their neighbors.

“The United Communist Party calls upon fraternal communist parties, and all progressive organizations that stand for democracy and social justice, to express solidarity with the communists of Transnistria.

“Free Oleg Horzhan! Stop the persecution of the communists!” □

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era



For more information on other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to

LowWageCapitalism.com

Available at online booksellers.

Millions take to Haiti’s streets

By G. Dunkel

Three million Haitians throughout their country of 11 million hit the streets Oct. 17 to protest the government’s corruption and its waste of billions of dollars of aid from Venezuela.

Cops broke up these protests by firing into the crowds and using massive amounts of tear gas. People in the streets responded by throwing rocks, building barricades of burning tires and running but not dispersing until they made their political points over poverty wages and government corruption.

On Oct. 31, a funeral was held in Port-au-Prince for seven mostly young protesters killed by the cops: Jean Kenson Rosier, Dieubéni Casimir, Francky Duval, Junelson Pierre, Jhonny Mervil, Christelle Alexandre and Mercurieu Baptiste. The cops attacked mourners gathered outside the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help with tear gas and ammunition.

When the funeral service restarted, attendees learned that cops had killed two mourners outside the church. The crowd grew so angry that they decided to take the caskets and march to the Champ de Mars, the site of the presidential palace which was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake.

People blocked streets and set up burning barricades. It took the cops hours to disperse the protest, which disrupted Port-au-Prince for much of the day. During these protests nine people were shot and wound up in the hospital, according to André Michel of the Democratic and Popular Sector.

‘We’ll mobilize in the whole country and the diaspora’

Millions of Haitians have taken to the streets, but with little coverage in the press or even YouTube about exactly why they have come out so massively and militantly and how they feel about the current situation.

The progressive Haitian newspaper *Haiti-Liberté* published a statement Nov. 7 from the assembly of mass organizations. Here are some excerpts:

“The Assembly of Political, Labor Union, and Popular Organizations denounces with all its strength that the Haitian government has sent police bandits to carry out repressive acts against the people. We recall that on Oct. 17, 2018, about three million people nationwide took to the streets to demand the departure of the group in power along with the arrest of the thieves of the PetroCaribe fund.

“Before Oct. 17, President Jovenel

Moïse visited several police stations to encourage police officers to repress the population. And just as the indicted president wanted, during the Oct. 17 mobilization, police assassins fired on the people in several departments. More than seven demonstrators died and more than 50 compatriots were wounded by the bullets of police bandits.

“Once again, during the funeral of our compatriots in Belair, the police’s criminal mercenaries struck again. Several comrades were injured by gunshots and tear-gas. The criminals didn’t even spare people inside the church from tear-gas. Even the priest who was presiding over the funeral had to leave the church to escape from the gas.

“While saluting the courage of our compatriots who took the lead, the Assembly of Political, Labor Union, and Popular Organizations condemns with all its might the repression carried out by Jovenel Moïse and the CSPN [High Council of the National Police] by sending police criminals against demonstrators. In this sense, we call on the victims to take to court the indicted Jovenel Moïse and



the entire CSPN.

“This repressive and anti-democratic conduct shows clearly that the Tèt Kale snake is far from dead ... The remedy to the Tèt Kale snake is constant mobilization [Tèt Kale political party heads Haiti’s government. — GD]. These repressive acts don’t scare us. We’ll continue mobilizing everywhere in the country and overseas to crush the head of the snake and achieve the arrest and judgment of all the thieves who stole PetroCaribe funds.

“That’s why on Nov. 2, we’ll warm up with a Petro Gede mobilization. On Nov. 18, we’ll mobilize in the four corners of the country and in the diaspora. On Nov. 19 and 20, there will be a PetroBlockage, the country will be brought to a standstill, until this ends.”

Gede is the Voodoo day of the dead, corresponding to Halloween. □

Even as Pentagon tries to duck responsibility No end in sight for disastrous war on Yemen

Editor’s note: Since 2015 the Pentagon has provided refueling for Saudi planes that kill Yemeni civilians and fighters. It has also provided satellite information on what to target and “elite U.S. forces” to work with the Saudis. (Wall Street Journal, June 12) The immense humanitarian disaster this caused has brought criticism of the U.S. role. This Nov. 11, the Saudi-led coalition of Gulf monarchies — upon hearing that the U.S. would stop the refueling — has said the coalition will do it themselves.

This is just the latest sign of problems between Washington and Riyadh. Others include a scandal over the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, a Washington Post journalist and Saudi citizen killed Oct. 2 in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, which has been condemned by the Turkish government. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia still collaborate on economic and military maneuvers aimed against Iran.

The article below, which first appeared in the Nov. 7 edition of the progressive German publication Junge Welt, gives more detail on the suffering Riyadh continues to impose on the Yemeni people. Translation is by WW Managing Editor John Catalinotto.



Sunday, Cappelaere recalled the 7-year-old girl Amal Hussein, to whom the New York Times had previously dedicated a cover story. Amal died of malnutrition on Nov. 1.

In the last days before her death, the child had been fed in an infirmary, but could no longer keep down any food. To make room for other patients, Amal was discharged from the clinic and her parents were advised to take her to an aid organization 15 kilometers away. But the parents brought the child home to a straw hut in a refugee camp. They had no money for the trip.

Every year 30,000 children die because they do not get enough to eat; due to malnutrition they are also susceptible to diseases, said Cappelaere. There is not just one Amal in Yemen, “there are many thousands.”

In Yemen, 1.8 million children suffer acute malnutrition and 400,000 face death daily. Forty percent of them live in the province of Hodeida and in neighboring regions, where the war is raging at its worst. According to the UNICEF coordinator, only one hospital is still in operation there. The Al-Thawra hospital is less than two kilometers (1.24 miles) from the front.

The city of Hodeida, in the west of the country on the Red Sea, is the only port for bringing relief supplies to Yemen. According to Cappelaere, up to 80 percent of the Yemeni population of around 25 million depend on this port. An attack on Hodeida, as planned for a long time by the Saudi-led war alliance, would stop all aid deliveries to the country’s war zones.

Not only are the children suffering. Eight million people are dependent on emergency aid, according to the U.N. emergency aid program OCHA. This figure could quickly rise to 14 million if the war is not stopped soon. But a ceasefire would not be enough — Yemen would need a comprehensive aid program for reconstruction.

People weakened by hunger also lack health care, sanitation and clean water. Since 2016, the number of cholera cases in Yemen has increased dramatically.

According to OCHA, 3 million internally displaced people live mostly in poorly equipped camps. According to the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, some 900,000 people have returned to their

original homes despite being damaged or destroyed and uninhabitable.

Yemen is regarded as the poorhouse of the Arab world. Hunger has been part of everyday life for decades, especially for the rural areas, which are home to around 80 percent of the population.

Since 1990, the country has been at the lower end of the Human Development Index. The HDI assesses three central achievements of human existence: a long, healthy life; access to education; and a good standard of living. In the United Nations Report on Poverty, at the bottom of the list are Yemen and African states. More than 20 percent of those under 25 years of age can neither read nor write, and more than 60 percent of the population live below the poverty line.

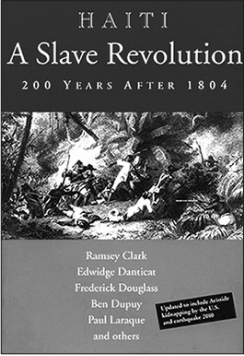
Around 10,000 people have been killed since the beginning of the war in 2015 and around 40,000 injured. Attacks by the Saudi war alliance have repeatedly bombed civilian assemblies such as weddings, funerals, school trips and markets. Dozens of people — all civilians — were often killed on the spot.

For more background on Yemen, see tinyurl.com/y7ea4hzi.

By Karin Leukefeld

Nov. 7 — This week, as before, the war in Yemen is not on the agenda of the U.N. Security Council. At the internet portal Relief Web, an information service of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the war-torn country only makes it to sixth place on the “hit list” of international crises and disasters.

According to UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere, Yemen is a “hell for children.” At a press conference of the U.N. Children’s Fund in Amman last



HAITI
A Slave Revolution

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



A section of the 1930 painting
‘Los Repatriados: Exiles from the Promised Land’
by Nora Chapa Mendoza. tinyurl.com/ydbdo7ov

End the U.S. blockade of Cuba!

Opinion polls said it. Now the Florida midterm elections show it.

Two of three South Florida representatives to the U.S. House who had prioritized hostility to socialist Cuba lost their seats. Ileana Roz-Lehtinen’s hand-picked replacement couldn’t win her former congressional seat; Carlos Curbelo lost, too.

Although this change was not reflected in the Senate race in Florida, even the Miami Herald speculated on Nov. 8: “Makeup of new Congress could create a different dynamic on Cuba policy.”

Let’s call “Cuba policy” by its right name — BLOCKADE. Travelers may be able to book direct flights on most airlines from many U.S. airports to destinations in Cuba, but four Indian banks have refused to complete financial transactions to sell antibiotics to Cuba. And that’s just one example of the U.S. blockade in action.

But don’t depend on the new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives to change anything. So far it is agricultural states in the U.S., which are drowning in unsold soybeans, milk and

other produce, that strongly want restrictions lifted. Many of these states lean Republican.

Democratic President Bill Clinton formalized the blockade into law by signing the Helms-Burton Act in 1996. Even the actions by former Democratic President Barack Obama to re-establish diplomatic relations, direct flights and mutually respectful discussions with Cuba on many issues, were aimed at a broader, unspoken “regime-change” agenda. The plan was — and still is — to find a way to reassert U.S. domination in Latin America and the Caribbean. U.S. targets include not only Cuba, but Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, as well as Latin America’s largest economy, Brazil.

It is up to revolutionaries, progressives, Cuban-Americans and the million or more U.S. residents who have traveled to Cuba and seen it for themselves to make and enforce this demand on the U.S. Congress:

End the U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba! □



The morning after Kristallnacht.

Anti-Semitism, racism and the anniversary of Kristallnacht

By Shelley Ettinger

At a moment when the U.S. head of government spouts blatantly racist vitriol criminalizing people for their nationality, claims “they” don’t belong here, says “they” don’t understand “our” way of life, mobilizes the military to deport “them” and sets up concentration camps in the Southwest desert for adults and children — the meaning of “Kristallnacht” takes on special significance.

November 9 was the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Crystal Night, also known as Night of the Broken Glass. On this night in 1938 in Germany and Austria, Nazis carried out the single biggest pogrom ever known up to that moment.

Pogroms were anti-Jewish riots staged on behalf of the ruling classes in Eastern European countries. A series of pogroms in the late 1800s and early 1900s had driven a mass wave of Jewish immigration to the United States.

Bad as those earlier pogroms were, Kristallnacht was different — in scale and significance.

The Hitler regime’s anti-Jewish laws had been put in place starting in 1933. By 1938 life had become very hard for German Jews. Those who could had already fled. Then came Kristallnacht.

The Nazi holocaust against the Jewish people — the organized, centralized,

methodical program of expulsion and extermination — began in earnest on the Night of the Broken Glass.

On Kristallnacht, Nazi youth joined brownshirted storm troopers rampaging through the streets beating Jewish people and smashing property. Jewish homes, hospitals, synagogues, schools, stores and vehicles were attacked, vandalized and ransacked, demolished with sledgehammers.

Two hundred sixty-seven synagogues were destroyed. So many windows were smashed that next morning city streets were strewn with broken glass. Hundreds of people were killed, and thousands more injured.

The next morning, 30,000 men were rounded up, arrested and deported to concentration camps. Their crime: being Jewish.

Kristallnacht was always a bitter history lesson. Now it is a chilling, timely warning.

Perhaps David Glosser put it best. In a Nov. 2 CNN interview, Glosser harshly repudiated his own nephew, Stephen Miller, White House adviser and architect of Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign. Glosser pointed out that their family — his and Stephen’s — had fled European pogroms and would have perished under

the Nazis if they had not been able to enter the U.S.

Glosser said of the refugees currently walking in a caravan through Central America: “They are just like our family. We needed to come here. We needed to find someplace to go, and those that couldn’t suffered the consequences.”

He added that Trump “is happy to condemn these people who are like our family, like my family.” □

Thursday, November 22
12 Noon – Cole’s Hall
(above Plymouth Rock) Plymouth, Mass.

Since 1970, Indigenous people have gathered at Cole’s Hill in Plymouth, Mass., to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. so-called “Thanksgiving” holiday, to honor their ancestors and to support the struggle of Native people to survive today in the face of continuing racism and oppression.

United American Indians of New England, the event organizer, says: “Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous people 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.”

►Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!

►We defend Indigenous sovereignty in all territories, from Mashpee to Maya and Mapuche lands.

►We welcome all our Indigenous relations who have been crossed by the U.S. border and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ing toward the United States, an oppressor country, which they believe is a place they can live with less fear for their lives and their futures.

Trump’s proclamation against the heroic caravan marchers is yet another of his consistently, rabidly, white supremacist official acts.

His white nationalist, anti-immigration, racist, sexist program already makes him eligible for instant membership in any Ku Klux Klan klavern. His backing of “American values” and “Christian morality” through administrative appointments is a camouflage for anti-worker, anti-woman, anti-LGBTQ and anti-disability programs pursued in over a hundred years of Klan violence.

“Make America Great Again” is a 21st century update of the old KKK pledge to “purify” the U.S. — a nation founded on theft from and massacre of Indigenous peoples and the enslavement of African people!

Meanwhile, as the refugee caravan trudges laboriously, tenaciously through days, weeks, miles, the people of Mexico are embracing the marchers. As they pass through each small town, the refugees are fed, clothed, sheltered. Communities are ready, offering tables of medical supplies, free food and bottled water to the refugees as they pass through.

Their Mexican supporters understand the poverty and violence from which the refugees are fleeing. Said Lesbia Cinco Ley, 70 years old, “Today it’s them. Tomorrow it could be us.” (Washington Post, Oct. 26)

Today, within the U.S., the violence of the right-wing agenda is already wreaking brutal havoc on the lives of many, many people, including migrants and refugees already within these borders.

Wherever we are in the U.S., we cannot wait until tomorrow to mobilize — for others, for ourselves, for a different path to the future. Now is the time for specific, coordinated, militant actions in every sphere against extremist right-wing agendas.

Now is the time for solidarity between all progressive and justice-seeking people — to rise up in renewed struggle. □

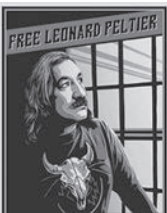
Buses from NYC to Plymouth

Manhattan: The International Action Center will send a bus to Plymouth, leaving at 6 a.m. sharp from the Solidarity Center at 147 W. 24th St., second floor, in Manhattan. It will depart from Plymouth at 4:30 p.m. same day and return to New York at about 9:30 p.m. Purchase tickets in advance at the Solidarity Center from 2 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets cost \$30-\$45/sliding scale. Buy your tickets now! For information, call 212-633-6646.

Brooklyn: Eritye Papa Desalin is organizing a bus, which leaves at 6 a.m. from 208 Parkside Ave., between Flatbush and Ocean avenues. Tickets cost \$30. Contact Dahoud Andre at 347-730-3620 or email erityepapadesalin@gmail.com.

For more information/orientation and flyers at uaine.org, info@uaine.org Facebook.com/events/2105455459507095 #NDOM2018 #NoThanksNoGiving IACenter.org

FREE
LEONARD
PELTIER



There will be a special message to the **Day of Mourning** Observation from 74-year-old Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier.



First imperialist world war ends, November 1918

Part 2

By this time 100 years ago, World War I — fought mainly among the imperialist powers in Europe and rightfully called “The Great Slaughter” — was finally drawing to a close, its end accelerated by the 1917 Russian Revolution a year earlier. There was no “good side” in this war that brought death to 20 million people. The major states on both sides of the 1914-18 war — Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary — were all oppressor nations, as was the United States, which did not enter World War I until April of 1917.

This article focuses on developments in Germany, especially the events in the first nine days of November 1918, when an uprising of sailors of the North Sea Fleet ended the war and forced the German ruler, the Kaiser, to abdicate. The text is from the book: “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto.

Erich Kuttner, an anti-war Social Democratic Party member and organizer who had been wounded at the front and, like Ernst Toller, a writer, described the sailors’ rebellion. By Nov. 20, just three weeks after the rebellion had broken out, Kuttner, a sympathetic participant, had written a 30-page pamphlet about the spread of the revolt and the heroism of the mutinous sailors.

Kuttner’s facts were verified in another pamphlet that described the same events, but one that was written by a naval officer. Lt. Cmdr. Baron Georg von Forstner was a submarine commander whose description was hostile to the rebellious sailors, excoriating them for “cowardice.” These two contrary evaluations of the Kiel sailors’ rebellion nevertheless corroborate the external facts described here.

Unlike the infantry, which recruited heavily from among the millions of German farmers, the navy needed able sailors with experience using modern machinery. For this reason it recruited from the working class in the industrial cities. Because they had been workers who were often active trade union members, this meant they had the habits of unionists and often had contact with the Social Democratic Party. While this party’s majority leadership was still cooperating with the war effort, many members had turned against the war.

Also, work on ships was difficult, exhausting and stressful. Combat was deadly. There were 14-hour shifts where a sailor’s whole life was surrounded by steel floors and gates. As Kuttner describes it, the big warships were a cross between factories and prisons. There was little human contact between the overworked sailors and the privileged officers, who, like civilian bosses, ate separately with much better food. Officers’ orders allowed no questioning; they only demanded obedience.

On Oct. 28, the admiralty issued orders to Adm. von Hipper to proceed with the fleet to the Belgian coast. This move was allegedly an attempt to use the fleet to relieve German land troops in a battle in Flanders. But the sailors didn’t trust the naval command. The admiralty was a hotbed of ultrapatriotic “Pan-German” officers. This group had always been the most aggressive, pushing for war. They also refused to admit Germany’s defeat.

Whether these ultraright officers really had ordered a suicide mission on Oct. 28 was unclear. Von Forstner denied it. Kuttner wasn’t sure. Whatever the reality, the sailors knew their superpatriotic officers were intransigent and believed them capable of sending the fleet on a suicide mission. And the sailors had no wish to commit suicide.

Sailors reject suicide mission

Otto, a sailor in the North Sea Fleet, on Nov. 2, 1918, wrote to his father, a Social Democratic representative in the German Reichstag: “We shook each others’ hands heartily with the words, ‘Victory down the whole line.’ ... I must share this with you, that if the armistice isn’t signed

soon, that the most awesome military revolt will break out here and we will be forced to make our way back to our homeland with weapons.” (Kuttner)

Otto also wrote that the sailors believed this was an order for a suicide mission. Rejecting suicide, the sailors refused to hoist the anchors on some ships. On others, the stokers put out the fires that created the steam that drove the ships.

When sailors on Otto’s ship heard of these refusals, his crew decided to act in solidarity with their fellow sailors and join the movement. Faced with growing insubordination, the officers kept postponing the hour for the ships’ sailing: first, from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., then, to 8:15 a.m. In the end, no ships sailed toward Flanders.

When the ships all returned to German ports, some to Kiel on the Baltic Sea in Schleswig-Holstein, others to Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea in Lower Saxony, the naval authorities in Wilhelmshaven arrested 600 of the sailors who had taken part in the work stoppage, with focus on the leaders, calling the rebellion a mutiny. Von Forstner called all the rebellious sailors “cowards” whose fear of dying stopped the ships. More to the point than their physical courage, however, was their political consciousness.

Kuttner wrote: “But the first experience of struggling together successfully had made the sailors aware of their strength and their feeling of solidarity grew extraordinarily. The sailors of the Third Squadron in Kiel demanded the release of their imprisoned comrades, and, when this was refused, they called for a protest assembly on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the union hall. By now this not only would make demands for a release of the comrades, but would protest the entire system of bad treatment on board the ships and the inadequate food and accommodation.”

The authorities ordered sailors taking part in the protest to go nowhere near the union hall. This order only got the sailors angrier. They called a mass demonstration that reached beyond the fleet to Kiel’s working class. Each step the officers took to stop the protest — like ringing alarms — made more sailors aware of the revolt and forced them to choose sides.

Officers fire on demonstrators

Some 3,000 began to march through the barracks, calling on more sailors to join them. Then they ran into a roadblock of naval officers — 48 mates and trainees — on the way to the military prison. The mates fired on the demonstrators, first a salvo of blanks and then lead. They killed eight demonstrators and wounded 29, including some from worker families.

Some sailors, too, were armed. They fired back, severely wounding the lieutenant commanding the mates. Kuttner: “Taking their cue from the Russian Revolution, the troops elected a soldiers’ council, which ordered and carried out the general arming on the morning of Nov. 4, when 20,000 rifles with 60 cartridges

Workers and soldiers

councils seize

German cities

each were distributed.”

That same morning, the ships of the fleet flew red flags, wrote Von Forstner, “their officers surprised and pushed overboard.”

The military command then sent four infantry companies from the Kiel battalion against the sailors. Instead of shooting at the sailors, the infantry companies negotiated with their leaders. Three infantry companies joined the rebellion. The other allowed itself to be disarmed.

Kiel’s organized working class joined the general strike. Without another shot being fired, the city was in the hands of the workers’ and soldiers’ council, elected by the sailors, infantry and organized workers.

The sailors knew the only way they could escape severe punishment was to spread the rebellion far beyond Kiel. Commandeering the ships in the fleet, they moved the struggle along Germany’s northern coast. Wherever the sailors landed, organized workers went on strike and joined them.

Army troops join movement

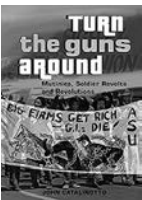
The generals sent the army out to crush this movement of sailors and workers. Before shooting, however, the army troops held discussions with the sailors — and then joined the movement:

“It was revealed how rotten the old system had become. Often all it took was the landing of a small unit of armed sailors to bring large and important cities into the hands of the revolution within a few hours.” (Kutter)

By Nov. 6, the harbor cities of Cuxhaven, Rendsburg, Brunsbüttel and Warnemünde-Rostock, among others, were in the control of workers’ and soldiers’ councils. On the same day, the movement won an outstanding victory. In Hamburg, the second-largest city of the German Empire, which happened to be near the coast, workers laid down their tools on the docks and in many factories. Ships in the harbor raised the red flag. On the streets, patrols stopped the officers and disarmed them.

The rebellious sailors presented an ultimatum on Nov. 6 to the military authorities with the following 14 points:

1. The release of all those arrested and all political prisoners.
2. Complete freedom of speech and press.
3. Abolition of censorship of sailors’ letters.
4. Appropriate treatment of the sailors by their officers.
5. Sailors return to ships and barracks without punishment.



TURN THE GUNS AROUND
Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions
by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

MAP: JOHN CATALINOTTO

It took only nine days for the uprising of the North Sea sailors to reach Berlin and end the Kaiser’s rule on Nov. 9, 1918.



6. Prohibition under all conditions that the fleet should set sail.
 7. Take all preventive steps to avoid bloodletting.
 8. Withdrawal from Kiel of all troops not in the Kiel garrison.
 9. Sailors’ Council has the authority to protect private (personal) property.
 10. When off-duty there is no recognition of superior officers (no saluting, saying “sir”).
 11. Unlimited personal freedom for all enlisted men off duty.
 12. Officers who accept the authority of the sailors’ Council are welcomed; the others are dismissed without claim to compensation.
 13. Members of the Council are exempt from any service.
 14. All future orders must be countersigned by the Council.
- All these demands must be recognized as general military orders.
- On the same day in Wilhelmshaven, more than 60,000 sailors and shipyard workers demonstrated. What was now called the Soldiers’ Council negotiated the takeover of Wilhelmshaven with the station chief. The revolt spread. The naval uprising to stop the fleet from sailing to war had turned against the Kaiser and any remnants of the German monarchy. What had begun as a sailors’ revolt turned into a political revolution.
- U.S. Military historian Ralph Haswell Lutz wrote: “Although the Independent Socialists had in many instances planned uprisings for later dates, the sudden arrival of armed revolutionary soldiers and sailors furnished the leaders and the dramatic moment so essential to any revolt. It was the navy [to be precise, the rank-and-file sailors’ revolt — JC], which destroyed the imperial rule in North Germany.”
- Part 3: Revolution sets up Bavarian Soviet Republic, seizure of Berlin.
- To read all three parts of Chapter 16, “The Revolt of the Kaiser’s Blue Youths,” reprinted from “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto, go to workers.org.

Available
at online
booksellers

Por Deirdre Griswold
10 de noviembre de 2018

Aunque las masas y la Corte Constitucional rechazaron este intento del presidente de protegerse de las investigaciones de la CICIG, el jefe de ésta no ha