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
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 Jamui 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 2003 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.

Berneradette 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 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 there, in 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 Coalition hosted the meeting, which Rade 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.org/USOutOfAfrica.

The video of the meeting can be viewed at tinyurl.com/ygg6v4z.

Varughese is a communications advisor to BAP.
White House wages war on reproductive justice

By Sue Davis

The Trump administration strategically announced two 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 reproduc

The U.S. Department 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 exemp

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 rule would make comprehensive contraceptive coverage from a legal entitlement to an employer's discretion." A May 2018 report by the Guttmacher Institute, which studies women's 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 applied.

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. Excep

Meanwhile, Oregon voters turned down Measure 106 prohibiting public funding for most abortions. The referendu

Two states passed referendums limiting abortion in anticipation that the Supreme Court will soon overturn its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision invalidating abortion. The Center for Reproductive Rights esti

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 invalidating 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 exemp

Are Weaponizing ‘Religious Liberty’ to Target Abortion Providers?…

A May 2018 report by the Guttmacher Institute, which studies women's health, concluded that the Affordable Care Act's 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.

As an Act. 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, an

In what ways the new rules will differ from previous ones — and survive appeals — has not yet been determined. A Nov. 8 Rewire. News article reports that these birth control rules will directly affect 8 million women and could affect more than 55 million cisgender women and an unknown number of trans and nonbinary people who depend on ACA's free contraception 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 Act. 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.

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This requirement, noted Rewire. News, would increase overhead costs for health insurance companies providing abortion coverage, which would discourage companies from offering such care for fear that customers might object to paying for the abortion-related portion of coverage — an outcome which anti-choice groups have long supported.

Dia de los Muertos in San Diego

Fallen freedom fighters, martyrs remembered

By M. Matsemela-Alì Odom

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a traditional Mexican holiday dating back to pre-colonial 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 maintain 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 struggles 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 Aztlán invited members of Workers World Party-San Diego and the Committee Against Police Brutality-San Diego to participate in the
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****” (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 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 ceremony, was an anti-racist march, 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 suffering of the people is a gross injustice.

Speaking about the hateful act, City Commissioner Jonathan Caplan, 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.”

Hatred 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 reckoning for a new era, it is vital to protect this legacy for future generations.

Cox attended the 2003 two-day re-in-terment ceremonies.

Solzhenitsyn and Jordan Peterson:
Not so strange bedfellows

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 is reminded of what the political consequences 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 forward written by alt-right celebrities — the late 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.

However, one could almost compare Peterson with Peter son — who advocates enforced monoga- my, refuses to recognize trans people and believes the eugenics lie that there are inherent IQ differences among 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. There are left and right-wing interpretations of the introductions in high school and college textbooks of this author who, of all people, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970. This part of the story will cover Solzhenitsyn’s life and his views. The next part will cover the political significance of this new edition.

Who was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn?

Solzhenitsyn, born in 1918, came from the class of rich landowners whose prop- erty was expropriated during the Rus- sian Revolution. His father, a tsarist offi- cier, took his own life when the Red Army confiscated his large estate.

Solzhenitsyn was then raised by his mother and aunt and received an ad- vanced education before being drafted into the Red Army during World War II. He was captain to captain and partici- pated in campaigns to repel the Nazi in- vasion of the Soviet Union.

As the tide of war changed and Sovi- et 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 subse- quent career as a writer was built on the idea that he was unjustly imprisoned and that his arrest was a clear sign of a des- potic 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 re- flected that, he had not organized any conspiracy, which was the main charge that led to his imprisonment. It is also clear from his later works, however, that Solzhenitsyn sympathized with Soviet citizens who collaborated with the Na- zis, as his glowing portrait of Lieutenant General Andrei A. Vlasov in “Gulag Arch-ipelago” 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 cons- sistently from the right, not the left. Crit- icisms 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 Macey, the founding chair of Workers World Party. But they cannot be found in Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn takes ad- vantage of the situation, exaggerating the crimes in many cases, in order to com- pletely discredit the idea of socialism and communism.

Here is where the relationship between Jordan Peterson and Solzhenitsyn be- comes clear. What was Solzhenitsyn’s solution to the ills of Soviet society? Es- sentially, a patriarchal ethno-state. In his 1987 Letter to the Soviet Leader- ers,” Solzhenitsyn claimed that the So- viet Union’s commitment to communist movements abroad had come at the ex- pense 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 homog- eneous 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. “wel- fare state.”

The next part will cover how Solzhenit- syn’s critique has been used in the past by right-wing forces inside and outside the Soviet Union. It will also offer an analy- sis of how Solzhenitsyn is being used by right-wing forces today.
The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued this statement on Nov. 12.

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

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 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.

Thousands of Palestinians in Gaza take to the streets in support of the valiant Palestinian Resistance Movement.

PFLP urgent call: GAZA UNDER ATTACK!

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 — all of which is haunted by anti-immigrant bigotry.

At home, despite setbacks in the midterm elections, he still mobilizes his reactionaries.

So much about this U.S. president is hateful and needs firm opposition that people around the world from the current U.S. president were 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 far-right president, Emmanuel Macron, the “globalist.” It’s also the face of Germany’s Angela Merkel. They and their counterparts in the U.S. establishment — 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 China, Dutch-controlled Indochina, and in the many French colonies of Indo-China and North and West Africa.

The U.S., a fledgling imperialism at that point, had bloodied its hands in the slaughter of enslaved and Indigenous peoples, and of those in the Philippines, Cuba, Haiti and Porto Rico.

But during the first world war — when the 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 in a flu epidemic that spread through wartime crowding and hardships to kill tens of millions more.

Then, after years of suffering through the Great Slump, that war and 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 new one that 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.

Fordomestic Emmigrants

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, for Macedonia, for the others who 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 voter turnout in the state’s most closely contested races surpassed those in prior elections. As such, the recount was expected to last at least two weeks. Florida was one of three states whose lead had fallen to 0.41 percent. The others were Michigan and Wisconsin.

In Florida, the lead of the Democratic Party candidate Myrtle Cole, a veteran lobbyist, was made history Nov. 27 years to defeat an incumbent councilperson. Amidst this 2016 controversy, a group of the most conservative members of the House. In a TV interview during the campaign, DeSantis made a disgusting racist comment about “electing his liber- al African-American opponent.” (Miami Herald, Aug. 20)

In the Senate race, incumbent Demo- crat Bill Nelson, who has never conceded the race, trounced his Republican challeng- er Gov. Rick Scott by less than 0.15 per- cent. 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 thou- sands of voters were thrown out when poll workers claimed the original in-person signature did not match one subse- quently done by voters on a finger-touch pad — a very common problem.

The “invalid signature” rejections disproportionately happened to Afri- can-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 South Florida were made to wait in long lines for hours on Nov. 4, the final day of early voting. When printers used to gen- erate ballots failed during the last minute, people were forced to use pre- printed ballots before using the vote-by-mail ballots.

According to state elections data, hun- dreds 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 deliv- ered on Nov. 6 — election day. Yet many voters who had learned that their absentee returns had not been counted report- ed mailing them back weeks before the cutoff date.

Evidence of intentional manipulation 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 young- er and Black.

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Georgia

Black votes matter in gubernatorial election

By Mikisa Thompson

Black suffrage under the conditions of white supremacy has been an issue in the U.S. African-Americans and other peoples were traded for capital, to harvest and process crops, to build infrastructure, to mine for minerals, to provide breeding stock for horses and cattle. This labor was central to the development of the U.S. economy and society. The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1870, prohibited states from denying or limiting the right of citizens [males] of the United States to vote. However, an amendment that requires showing ID to vote. It is still unclear as to which form of ID would various states try so hard to force the Black vote to be null and void?

“Voter suppression isn’t only about black votes. 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).

In Georgia, 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 oppressed peoples, to be recognized and asserted.

By Mikisa Thompson

Black suffrage under the conditions of white supremacy has been an issue in the U.S. African-Americans and other peoples were traded for capital, to harvest and process crops, to build infrastructure, to mine for minerals, to provide breeding stock for horses and cattle. This labor was central to the development of the U.S. economy and society. The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1870, prohibited states from denying or limiting the right of citizens [males] of the United States to vote. However, an amendment that requires showing ID to vote. It is still unclear as to which form of ID would various states try so hard to force the Black vote to be null and void?

“Voter suppression isn’t only about black votes. 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).

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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 — Coo- deca), one of the organizations that has led the struggle against the government of President Jimmy Morales.

The party 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 consumers, and organizing the whole country into communities for the recovery and defense of dignity and plurinational sovereignty to build good living.” (Contacto, 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 financial ing), 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 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 future of Guatemala.

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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 thou-sands 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 Donets and Lugansk.

Transnistria’s people proclaimed independ-ence from the former Soviet re-public of Moldova in 1992, when they re-jected the capitalist counterrevolution in their republic. With 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.

For its part, the court did not stint on punishment. Horzhan’s imprisonment is another sign of the authorities’ will to maintain their power and control.

According to the “victims,” 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.

Despite the harsh, politically motivat-ed 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 after-ward. His lawyers, in turn, announced that in the near future they would appeal the unjust sentence.

Grigori Petrenko, leader of the com-munist 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 mafia 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 histori-cal justification.

“Today, Ukraine leads the way on this path, where communists are under an ac-tual 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 persecu-tion of the communists!”

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

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 occupies 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 October, 12 million people were killed in the streets. They fired guns, burning tires, 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 Oct. 25 by police and soldiers. Among the dead was Alexis，a journalist and Saudi citizen killed Oct. 2 — the same day, the progressive German publication Junge Welt reported in the Nov. 7 edition of the pro-ťt Kale political party heads Haiti’s government. — GID. 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 our goal. Millions of people inside the country will be brought to a standstill, until this ends.” Gede is the Voodoo day of the dead, corresponding to Halloweek.
End the U.S. blockade of Cuba!

The U.S. president has, in effect, suspended the right to seek asylum in the U.S. now. He has made a proclamation that asylum can only be applied for at an “official port of entry.” This proclamation negates longstanding laws that allow asylum requests, regardless of immigration or entry status.

Trump invoked “national security” to justify this new “America First” action. He also sent 5,000 U.S. troops to the border with Mexico. He is ordering them to point their guns at the human beings now in the refugee caravans travelling out of Honduras, through Guatemala and Mexico, toward the U.S. border. More than three caravans of over 30,000 people are currently in transit — in a collective mass migration. These are refugees seeking asylum from U.S.-instigated and -orchestrated economic and political coups in their own country.

These are people, including whole families, desperately fleeing from the catastrophic, violent conditions induced by capitalism and by U.S. imperialism’s violent intervention in their homeland.

In many cases, during their journeys, including clandestine state violence, murder, “disappearance” and sexual violence against women and gender non-conforming people.

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

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

His white nationalist, anti-immigration sentiments, which could enable him 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 over the last 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, months, 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 Leslie 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 other people’s future is our future.

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

Support the refugees!

By Shelley Ettinger

At a moment when the U.S. head of government spouts blatantly racist vitriol criminalizing people for their nationality, it is heartening to hear, 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 Nazis’ anti-Jewish laws had been put in place starting in 1933. By 1938 life had become very hard for German Jews. Those who could already had fled. Those who remained were under increasing anti-Jewish laws and restrictions.
First imperialist world war ends, November 1918

Workers and soldiers councils seize German cities

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 were bloody clashes in Italy that brought death to 20,000 Italian people. The major states on both sides of the 1914-19 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.

The topic of subscription to the German workers’ movement in 1918, 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 Democrat,โป้ and writer 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 events that revealed the heroism of the mutinous sailors.

Kuttner’s facts were verified in another pamphlet that described the same events, but with added details, by a naval officer, Lt. Cdr. Baron Georg von Forstner. He was a submarine commander whose description of the rebellion was made in coding, excoriating them for “cowardice.” These two contrary evaluations of the Kiel sailors’ rebellion nevertheless corroborate the main 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 of this, there were often active trade union members, this meant they had the habits of unionists and often had contact with the Social Democratic Party. In this way the 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 great deal of heavy work had to be done by steel floors and gates. As Kuttner describes it, the big warships were a crossroads of dying stopped the ships. More to the point than their physical courage, however, was their political consciousness.

Kuttner wrote: “But the first experiences 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 work stoppage. At noon on 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 military 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 or closing roads — made more sailors aware of the revolt and forced them to choose side.

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 were held in the harbor rather than leave. 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.

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 counter-signed 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 Sailors’ Council negotiated the takeover of Wilhelmshaven with the station chief. The revolt spread. The navy opening 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 in to 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 essential to any revolt. It was the navy [to be precise, the rank-and-file sailors’ revolt — JC], which destroyed the imperial rule in Northern Germany.


To read all three parts of Chap -

Part 2

Workers and soldiers councils seize German cities

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.

To read all three parts of Chap -


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Historia oculta de guerra en Yemen

Por Deirdre Griswold

10 de noviembre de 2018

Hay un gran vacío en todos los in- formes occidentales sobre la horrible tra- gedia que se está desarrollando en este momento en Yemen, donde la mitad de la población sufre de hambruna después de años de brutales bombardeos por parte de Arabia Saudita utilizando aviones y mecanismos satelitales de observación estadounidenses. 

Esto se debe en gran medida a que los medios corporati- vos ignoran la exitosa historia anterior de la revolución socialista en la mitad sur de Yemen, un momento de gran esperanza para las/os trabajadores, especialmente para las/os jóvenes y las mujeres. 

La República Democrática Popular de Yemen duró desde 1967 hasta 1990. Hizo grandes avances en la organización del pueblo de este pequeño país en el ex- tremo sur de la Península Arábiga para superar la pobreza y el subdesarrollo. Bretaña se había apoderado de la es- tratégica ciudad portuaria de Adén en 1839 y la mantuvo firmemente en su enorme red colonial durante más de un siglo. Pero en la década de 1960, los movimientos revolucionarios en mu- chas naciones anteriormente colonizadas lucharon para liberar sus economías de la dominación imperialista y empoderar a las masas populares. El optimismo que existió en el sur de Yemen durante ese período revolucio- nario es desgarrador leerlo hoy, cuando las esperanzas del pueblo por un cambio social y mejoramiento en un creciente mar de sangre. 

Las siguientes descripciones de la his- toria de la RDP provienen de dos fuent- es burguesas. La Enciclopedia Británica en línea es- crive: “A principios de la década de 1970, el gobierno del sur había nacionalizado casi toda la tierra y la vivienda, junto con la mayoría de las empresas bancarias, in- 

dustriales y otras empresas comerciales del país; a partir de entonces, todas las industrias y negocios nuevos de cualqui- er tamaño fueron propiedad del estado y operados por el estado. ...”

“En el norte de Yemen, las mujeres en las ciudades y pueblos usaban un con- junto de sharafl, falda negra, bufanda y velo que cubre todo el cuerpo. En el sur de Yemen, el régimen que sucedió a los británicos después de 1967 se opuso enérgicamente al código de vestimenta para las mujeres, y esta oposición prevaleció especialmente en los pueblos y ciudades ... 

“La decisión ... fue diseñado para hacer que Yemen sea económicamente viable en una era posterior a las remesas y más atractivo para los inversores extranjeros en una economía internacional cada vez más globalizada. ”

“Las reformas, que incluyeron la elimi- nación de los subsidios para muchas necesidades básicas, recortes en los déficits presupuestarios y revisión del tamaño del gobierno y del sector públi- co, fueron dolorosas para muchas/os y generaron un descontento generalizado y una ‘gente pública’. 

La Encyclopedia.com reconoce que la RDYP “avanzó en la reducción de la brecha entre Adén y el resto del país, logró objetivos sociales con cierto éxito e hizo un buen uso de los limitados recur- sos en los esfuerzos por desarrollar a un país muy pobre. A pesar de las presiones para que se fragmentara, especialmente a instancias de Arabia Saudita ... el sur de Yemen se mantuvo unido durante dificiles tiempos políticos y económicos. Esto fue en gran parte resultado de la voluntad política, la agitación y la organización.” 

“La brecha entre la ciudad y el campo siguió siendo una preocupación constan- te del liderazgo, y se avanzó en la exten- sión de la educación, la atención médica y otros servicios sociales más allá de Adén y los otros centros urbanos. Además, se emprendió una campaña para extender los derechos de las mujeres y otras ideas e instituciones progresistas al campo. Se eliminaron las grandes diferencias en riqueza y propiedad, y la economía se or- ganizó de acuerdo con líneas socialistas, especialmente en términos de una varie- dad de colectivos y cooperativas agrícolas y de pesca. ... El régimen permaneció relativamente comprometido, igualitario y libre de corrupción”.

Un excelente y detallado relato por testigos oculares de los retos y logros de Yemen del Sur, “La revolución socialista en Arabia”, fue publicado por el MERIP Report en marzo de 1973 y se puede en- contrar en tinyurl.com/ybcdnglr. 

¿Cuál diferente sería la vida hoy para el pueblo de Yemen si los imperialis- tas y sus secuaces en Arabia Saudita no les atacaran para destruir esa valiente revolución?”

Nuevo partido en Guatemala

Por Sam Ordóñez

11 de noviembre 2018 – El día 7 de noviembre quedó formalmente inscrito en Guatemala un nuevo partido político, el Movimiento para la Liberación de los Pueblos (MLP). Representa un vehículo electoral para el Comité de Desarrollo Campesino (Cocheco), una de las organi- zaciones que ha liderado la lucha contra el gobierno de Jimmy Morales. 

MLP fue inscrito para poder partici- par en las elecciones generales de 2019 después de pasar el mínimo de afilia- dos. Sus objetivos como partido político incluyen “nacionalizar todos los bienes y servicios privatizados en el país, im- pulsar el proceso de una asamblea constituyente popular y plurinacional, combatir la explotación de las autonomías indígenas, recuperar las tierras, los territorios y agua para el cultivo y consumo nacional, y organizar a todo el país en comunidades para la recuperación y defensa de la dignidad y soberanía pluriinacional para constru- ir el bien vivir.” (publinewsgt, 7 de noviembre)

La formación del MLP viene en el con- texto de una lucha contra la impunidad de los políticos olímpicos. El gobierno de Morales recientemente provocó grandes protestas cuando intentó suspender la Comisión Internacional Contra la Impu- nidad en Guatemala (CICIG). Aunque las masas y la Corte Con- stitucional reclamaron este intento del presidente de protegerse de las investiga- ciones de la CICIG, el jefe de esta no ha podido regresar al país. Aún así, se han ganado algunas victorias.

A la hora de escribir, desde 2013 se han cancelado 3 partidos políticos por actividades ilegales (principalmente el financiamiento ilícito), incluyendo Lib- ertad Democrática Renovada (LIDER), el partido con más escaños en el Congreso, y el Partido Patriota (PP), el partido del ex- presidente Otto Pérez Molina que había renunciado antes de las elecciones en me- dio de una investigación de la CICIG. 

Ambos formaban parte de la coali- ción gobernante, y dos otros miembros de la coalición, incluyendo el partido de Morales, FCN-Nación, se encuentran en proceso de cancelación. 

Los partidos cancelados y los que se proponen en proceso de cancelación son ciertos en la oposición que están en proceso de cancelación.

Nuevos partidos en la de- fensa y la formación de un nuevo parti- do político de base popular en la reforma estructural del país, las elec- ciones de 2019 podrían ser muy impor- tante para el país.”