

Fighting white supremacy is NOT a crime Durham activists keep up the struggle

By LT Pham
Durham, N.C.

Two days following the “Unite the Right” white supremacist gathering in Charlottesville, Va., the people of Durham, N.C., took bold action that reminded the anti-racist movement that the real power is in our hands.

Hundreds gathered on Aug. 14 in front of the old courthouse in downtown Durham to show solidarity with the Charlottesville community who had been terrorized and injured, left to mourn the killing of anti-fascist activist Heather Heyer.

By the end of the evening, the Confederate monument erected “In memory of the boys who wear the gray” had fallen to the ground — toppled and crumpled under the revolutionary fervor of people from all over the city. The days that followed this righteous monument takedown saw racist statues being removed and defaced all across the country.

In Baltimore, the city elected to remove all four Confederate monuments in the early hours of the morning. In Durham, just down the street from the courthouse, on the campus of elite Duke University, a statue of Robert E. Lee was removed by the administration. From Brooklyn, N.Y., to Austin, Texas, Boston to Birmingham, Ala., and all cities in between, local governments witnessed and had to answer to the power of the people who demanded that relics of white supremacy no longer be protected and preserved.

But in Durham it didn’t just stop with the people’s removal of the racist monument. On Aug. 18, when there were threats of yet another white supremacist rally there, thousands flooded the streets to run the white supremacists out of town.

Flood of support for anti-racist activists

Masses of people demonstrated at the former site of the toppled statue for hours, declaring it “Victory Square.” Many who showed up in the heat of that Friday afternoon were working-class Black and Brown people who have been steadily pushed out of center city and the public sphere — subjugated to subpar “low-income” housing, the development of a new \$71 million police headquarters, and the unending surveillance of police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Since Aug. 14, numerous arrests have been made by the sheriff’s department in an attempt to repress and intimidate the anti-racist movement in Durham that is helping to ignite action across the country.

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Durham freedom fighters and supporters affirm continuing struggle and ongoing people’s victory at Nov. 14 press conference. Farid Zaidi (at mic) expresses solidarity from the Inside-Outside Alliance.



WW PHOTO: WWP DURHAM BRANCH FACEBOOK



WW PHOTO: BOSTON BUREAU

On Nov. 15, the Boston suburb of Brookline, Mass., passed a resolution to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day. Indigenous, Black and other people of color, youth and students, labor and progressive Italian-Americans were among those who prevailed and shut down right-wing forces who tried to defend Christopher Columbus, a kidnapper, rapist and enslaver of the Taino and Arawak peoples of the Caribbean. Led in Massachusetts by IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org, United American Indians of New England and other coalition organizations, this is part of a powerful national movement to #SinkColumbus and to educate about and honor the resilience, cultures and histories of Indigenous peoples all over the world.

On the Day of Mourning Workers World Party hails Indigenous peoples

The 48th National Day of Mourning will be commemorated on Nov. 23 on so-called “Thanksgiving.” This is a day where Native people expose the myth of the benevolent Pilgrims and expose the reality of the theft of Indigenous peoples’ land, murder of their people and destruction of their culture. It is a day to remember their history and revere their ancestors and the Indigenous people living today in the U.S. and worldwide. The event will honor 73-year-old Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

This year’s observance will also honor the people of Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and Mexico, following the treacherous hurricanes and earthquake — and hundreds of years of colonialist occupation and land theft, then corporate and financial exploitation. We join our Native sisters and brothers in condemning the Trump administration’s contempt for and neglect of people of the Ca-

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Next issue: Reports on the highly successful 2017 annual conference of Workers World Party, held Nov. 18-19.

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MIKE GILL, a hero of the GI movement

against the Vietnam War



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

By John Catalinotto

Wilton “Mike” Gill, a member of Workers World Party in good standing for more than 45 years and intrepid circulator of Workers World newspaper, died on Nov. 8.

Gill’s political development began when he was in the Army facing, as millions of U.S. youth did in 1969, possible deployment to Vietnam. In the following excerpt from his report to a meeting in New York in October 2013, Gill tells the story of his meeting with The Bond, the monthly newspaper of the anti-war and anti-racist American Servicemen’s Union, a meeting that determined his life from that day on.

“As I walked into the mess hall one day in July 1969 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington where I was stationed, this GI handed me a copy of The Bond. It was illegal to distribute literature, especially anti-military, anti-war literature on an Army post. I don’t know if he was caught or not, but he defied the Brass’s rules, and I do know that he changed my life and the newspaper changed my life.

“This was a time of gigantic anti-war demonstrations, especially in Washington, and the radical underground newspapers that I and a lot of other GIs and civilians read were around, but The Bond was different. It denounced the military, the Brass, the officers and war. It was electrifying. I immediately joined the American Servicemen’s Union.”

Gill’s story illustrates how The Bond reached tens of thousands of troops during the Vietnam War, even

during months when no more than 15,000 copies were printed.

Gill, who worked much of his life as a bicycle messenger and who only rarely spoke during political discussions, revealed through his defiant story that it would have been foolish for anyone to underestimate his understanding of U.S. society or his ability to effectively resist the war machine. He continued:

“I was able to use my position delivering mail in the U.S. Army to make a contribution toward ending the war against Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to have a mail-room to run as an Army postal clerk, first at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and later in Vietnam. This gave me access to the mailing addresses of thousands of GIs in the U.S. and in Vietnam. With the help of the American Servicemen’s Union organizers in New York, I made sure each one of them received a copy of The Bond.

“The Brass must have been upset when they realized that thousands of copies of The Bond were flowing into those military mailrooms. Whether the Brass had their suspicions about me as the source of those Bonds, I don’t know. But then one of my sarcastic and scathing anti-war letters was published on June 4, 1970, in the Washington Post and signed Sgt. Wilton E. Gill, Jr., Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington. That was apparently the last straw for the Army. Some 72 hours later, I was handed written orders sending me to Vietnam.

“This served to ‘spread the disease.’ In Vietnam I was attached to an Army Post Office where I had access to far more military names and addresses than in a mere mail-room, and every one of those GIs received his copy of The Bond. And of course these copies were passed around from hand-to-hand at the various military bases, including the famous Fire Base Pace on the Cambodian border. That’s where I regularly flew in a cargo plane to deliver the mail, including copies of The Bond.

“I did not always immediately see the impact of this work. However, when I got back to the states and got my discharge and was staying with my parents that first month in October 1971, we all watched the lead story on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite about a mass

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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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness 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.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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. □

WORKERS WORLD

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Another killer NYPD cop found not guilty

By Julie Varughese
New York

A Brooklyn family devastated by the acquittal of an off-duty Black officer in the shooting death of their relative, who was also Black, said that the only race that mattered in this killing was that of their loved one, yet another victim of unrelenting police violence toward people of color.

New York Police Department Officer Wayne Isaacs, 38, was found “not guilty” Nov. 6 of killing Brooklyn resident Delrawn Small, 37. Isaacs remains on paid suspension, and could still face NYPD charges.

In a video Small was seen falling to the ground after being shot three times on July 4, 2016, in Brooklyn, after his car had been cut off on the road by Isaac. Zaquanna Albert, Small’s partner, says she was in the car with two children when she witnessed Isaacs pull out a gun to shoot Small.

The New York Times reported Attorney General Eric Schneiderman brought charges against Isaacs under an order from Gov. Andrew Cuomo to investigate when police kill unarmed civilians. “It is the first prosecution under the directive,” according to the paper. (Oct. 25)

That Isaacs is Black has raised questions about how racist the NYPD really is.

But Small’s family was clear: “I don’t give a flying f—k what color Wayne Isaacs is because my black-ass brother isn’t here,” said Small’s sister, Victoria, to a multinational crowd of more than 100 at a Union Square rally on Nov. 9. Speakers demanded the NYPD fire Isaacs.

Relatives called the rally to draw attention to the unjust, racist system that lets police officers kill on camera with impunity. To drive home the point, the crowd marched around Union Square, the site of many demonstrations against injustice. Organizations and activists who showed up to support the family included retired state Assemblyman Charles Barron, who asked the crowd to “organize for a revolution.”

Small’s brother, Victor, said the “not guilty” verdict emphasized that Small’s life — like many Black lives — didn’t matter. Family members described sleepless nights and nightmares since the verdict. They also said they suffered lost wages because they sat through the two-week trial.

“[The cop] should be in jail right now, but he’s at home with his family and we’re out here in the cold,” Victor said.

Imani Henry, Workers World Party member and activist working against gentrification and policing, said the Black

In Manhattan, more than 100 people protested yet another cop being acquitted in the death of an unarmed person.



community doesn’t win justice through elections, including the most recent one where Mayor Bill de Blasio was re-elected.

During his first term, de Blasio asked the family of murdered Staten Island

resident Eric Garner to wait for the U.S. Department of Justice to finish its investigation before any NYPD internal investigation of Officer Daniel Pantaleo. Pantaleo, who has a history of substantiated complaints against him, was seen

on video using a banned chokehold that killed Garner. Garner’s final plea, “I can’t breathe,” became a rallying cry for justice among Black Lives Matter activists.

Henry called for the abolition of the police. He pointed out that policing started as slave patrols in this country to protect wealthy white landowners’ “property.” That included African people bound into involuntary servitude until the abolition of slavery and the end of the U.S. Civil War.

“Police do nothing but murder our people, drive people out of their homes,” Henry said. “They don’t do anything but serve Wall Street.”

Video evidence has so far counted for nothing as families across the country mourn loved ones who have died at the hands of racist police forces.

The Smalls said they’ll continue their fight against the racist system and for justice for Delrawn Small. □

BAYAN-USA organizes broad coalition to #ResistUSWar

The following report is based on a press release from BAYAN-USA.

Bay Area communities turned out in San Francisco on Nov. 13 to condemn President Donald Trump’s Asia tour, in particular his three-day stop in the Philippines, where he promoted U.S. imperialism and his militarist neoliberal economic agenda in the broader Asia-Pacific region. The 300 social justice activists also protested Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s “drug war” killings.

The protest was organized under the banners #BanTrump and #ResistUSWar by BAYAN-USA, an alliance of Filipino organizations across the U.S. The BAYAN protest was joined by a coalition from Korean, Vietnamese and Pacific Islander communities. Workers World Party Bay Area branch was a sponsoring organization.

The San Francisco rally was part of #BanTrump actions scheduled Nov. 12-14 in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. These coincided with demonstrations in the Philippines as Trump arrived in Manila for the East Asia Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Earlier, Trump was met with massive protests in Hawaii, Japan and south Korea.

Bay Area

PHOTO: MEGAN ZAPANTA

“Trump’s agenda uses the Philippines as a military launching pad against his economic rival China, draining the Philippines’ natural resources and exploiting its people for cheap labor,” said BAYAN-USA spokesperson Jessica Antonio in a press statement. “The never-ending War on Terror continues to be an excuse to increase U.S. military spending, now proposed to reach \$700 billion. Meanwhile, budgets are cut for much-needed social services here in the U.S.”

Io Sunwoo of HOBAK (Hella Organized Bay Area Koreans) was also quoted in the statement: “Trump is nothing more than an arms dealer, a war profiteer. Our fight is for all of us under the stars, and as long as we have love for our people and a deep belief in our future, we will never give up our struggle for peace and self-determination.”



Leslie Tran of VietUnited, a progressive Bay Area organization, was also quoted: “As the 1.5 and 2nd offspring generation of Vietnamese refugees and immigrant parents fleeing war, we live as proof that the U.S. war machine is a dark evil with violent impacts lasting for generations. Under the Trump administration, communities of color are targeted more shamelessly than ever before. In this moment, we come together to condemn the massive violence this country has placed on our ancestors, our people living in the U.S., and our communities abroad.”

For more details on future actions, go to bayanusa.org.

Solidarity with the Philippine people

¡Mike Gill Presente!

Continued from page 2

mutiny at Fire Base Pace, where dozens of GIs refused orders to go out on patrol.”

When Gill left the U.S. Army, he moved to New York City to work with the ASU and later with WWP. Until the fall of 2016, at the age some people retire from their day jobs, Gill was still participating in anti-racist and anti-war activities and organizing support for workers’ struggles. Building on his experience with The Bond, for decades Gill took Workers World newspapers with him on his messenger route, getting them around New York City.

Mourned by his family and his comrades, Gill played a vital role in the GI movement against the war and in organizing for a socialist future. His contributions live on. □

Chicago, Nov. 14 — Dozens of people rallied in front of Trump Tower here to protest the imperialist, racist Donald Trump’s stop in Manila last week. The demonstrators expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Philippine people for freedom and self-determination, demanded an end to the brutal repression being imposed on them by the Duterte regime, and called for an end to U.S. military support for that regime.

Speakers explained that Duterte’s so-called “war on drugs” already has claimed the lives of 14,000 Filipinos, while his supposed “war on terror” has uprooted and dislocated 400,000 Muslim Filipinos from their homes. They also noted that Trump seeks an expanded U.S. military presence in the Philippines to promote U.S. military power against China. They emphasized that Trump hopes to enlist the Philippine govern-

Katherine Cavanaugh of Workers World Party speaks in solidarity.



ment as a proxy in a planned U.S. war against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The action was organized by Anak-bayan Chicago. Supporting speakers represented the Chicago Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, Chica-

go Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Gay Liberation Network, Workers World Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Fellowship for Filipino Migrants, and other organizations.

— Report and photos by Jeff Sorel



LGBTQ liberation and global class struggle

By Devin Cole

This talk was presented on Nov. 18 at the 2017 Workers World Party conference in Newark, N.J.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that I was finishing this talk for the conference on Nov. 15. Today marks the third anniversary of WWP comrade and transgender revolutionary communist Leslie Feinberg’s untimely death.

In the last section of Leslie’s 1992 publication, “Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come,” Leslie closes out with these words:

“The institutionalized bigotry and oppression we face today have not always existed. They arose with the division of society into exploiter and exploited. Divide-and-conquer tactics have allowed the slave-owners, feudal landlords and corporate ruling classes to keep for themselves the lion’s share of wealth created by the laboring class. Like racism and all forms of prejudice, bigotry toward trans-



Comrades Minnie Bruce Pratt and Devin Cole (right) in Evergreen, Ala., October 2016.

gender people is a deadly carcinogen. We are pitted against each other in order to keep us from seeing each other as allies.

“Genuine bonds of solidarity can be forged between people who respect each other’s differences and are willing to fight their enemy together. We are the

class that does the work of the world, and can revolutionize it. We can win true liberation. The struggle against intolerable conditions is on the rise around the world. And the militant role of transgender women, men and youths in today’s fightback movement is already helping to shape the future.”

In northwest Florida, where I live, I lead an organization called Strive, or Social Trans Initiative. We are a grass-roots organization of working-class, multinational, multigender people who provide many services to the transgender people of northwest Florida and some surrounding areas.

Among these services are emergency housing, payment allocations for HRT (hormone replacement therapy), food and transportation. We are the only organization in the area that handles these types of situations. We do not receive any federal assistance. This need for basic supplies for transgender people was born out of the material oppression of trans-

gender people — the majority of transgender people are working class, poor, and all are oppressed.

Queer and transgender oppression is born out of capitalist exploitation and white supremacy. Though white transgender people can and do still derive relative benefit from white supremacy, it is crucial to understand that anti-queer and anti-trans attitudes and behaviors are also born of white supremacy.

Putting this into historical context, we understand that in prefeudal times, queer and trans identity was not only accepted, but often celebrated. Then, with the creation of private property, with the seizing and sectioning off of previously communal, public land by ruling-class families, the oppression of queer and transgender people began.

Homosexuality or any sexual leanings away from “heterosexual sex only for reproductive reasons” was seen as a threat to land inheritance and thus to the con-

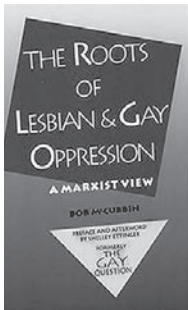
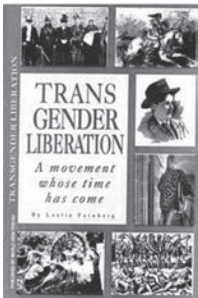
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Leslie Feinberg’s 1992 “Transgender Liberation: A movement whose time has come.”

The first paragraph says: “This pamphlet is an attempt to trace the historic rise of an oppression that, as yet, has no commonly agreed name. We are talking here about people who defy the ‘man’-made boundaries of gender. Gender: self-expression, not anatomy.”



The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression – a Marxist view

First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement. Bob McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how lesbian and gay oppression developed.



Leslie Feinberg’s series on LGBTQ history, “Lavender & Red,” appeared in Workers World newspaper in 2004-2008.

Webnews worker victory Union agreement won despite layoffs

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Staff reporters and editors at news websites DNAinfo and Gothamist celebrated a union victory after voting to join the Writers Guild of America, East on Oct. 26. But that victory was short-lived.

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO, WGAE represents “writers in motion pictures, television, digital media, and broadcast news.” DNAinfo and Gothamist websites pulled millions of readers each month.

The struggle originated in New York when 25 editorial staff voted to join WGAE, with only two dissenting votes. The vote was conducted under the supervision of the National Labor Relations Board. Then the real fight started.

Owner Joe Ricketts shut down the websites on Nov. 2. As a result, 115 employees, including sales, office and technical workers in New York and at the sites’ sister publications in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, were laid off. Ricketts also removed the sites’ online content. That hindered the news staff’s ability to apply for future jobs because their portfolio items were inaccessible to potential employers.

The callous moves on Boss Ricketts’ part were excused by the greedy capitalist talking point: “the bottom line.” Ricketts is the founder of TD Ameritrade, owns the Chicago Cubs and donated \$1 million to Donald Trump’s presidential



Webnews workers and supporters of their struggle to unionize rally at New York City Hall Park, Nov. 6.

campaign. He said in a public statement: “At the end of the day, a business is a business, and businesses need to be economically successful if they are to endure.” He unsuccessfully argued that “business wasn’t sufficient to continue.” (New York Times, Nov. 2)

Gothamist journalist Scott Heins countered Ricketts’ claim: “The union drive did not kill Gothamist and DNAinfo. We did not even get a chance to make it to the bargaining table. Joe Ricketts made the decision to shut this down before we even got to present a list of demands.” (Labor Press)

Despite his rhetoric, it is clear that Ricketts, who once wrote the editorial “Why I’m Against Unions at Businesses

I Create,” wanted to punish his staff for organizing a union.

In response, WGAE hosted the “Rally to Support DNAinfo and Gothamist” at New York’s City Hall Park on Nov. 6. At the gathering, more than 300 people joined the “fight against the billionaire war on journalism.”

New York City Council’s Progressive Caucus and representatives from the New York Central Labor Council, Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA), Service Employees Local 32BJ and the National Writers Union, United Auto Workers Local 1981 showed solidarity with the fired media workers.

WGAE wins severance agreement

A victory came on Nov. 13 when the DNAinfo/Gothamist bargaining committee, led by WGAE, announced they had negotiated “an agreement that includes substantial gains beyond the initial offer made by management.” The terms of agreement for all the laid-off workers include what amounts to four months’ severance pay with full benefits. And the writers have the right to use their published work and to create new work based on that. There was no nondisparagement clause. (WGAE press release)

After outrage and outcry, the writers’ articles have been archived online. WGAE’s Director of Communications Jason Gordon told Workers World, “We

are having conversations about maintaining availability in the future. The union committee has made it clear that this is important, and I believe management understands.” Ricketts’ company also confirmed in writing that it “will not remain in business” and will not “create any neighborhood news media website for at least two years.”

WGAE’s Executive Director Lowell Peterson stated in the release: “The reporters at DNAinfo and Gothamist stayed strong despite the vocal hostility of management (especially owner Joe Ricketts), and their solidarity proves the value of collective bargaining. They identified the real needs of the entire unit and achieved the best shutdown agreement possible under the circumstances.”

Peterson added: “We have learned the importance of building a collective voice in digital media. And we have learned how important it is not to permit ideologically driven billionaires to control our media.” As the DNAinfo/Gothamist bargaining committee also noted in the release: “[W]e hope that our experience underscores the importance for writers and journalists everywhere to unite and stand up for their rights.”

This struggle highlights how union busting conducted by the capitalist billionaire class is an assault on the right to organize, as well as on freedom of the press and free speech. □

Commentary

Toxic capitalist culture created Texas massacre

By Val Tannis
San Antonio, Texas

A small town and a national tragedy. Twenty-six people have been killed in a small church in rural south Texas.

Sutherland Springs is a quiet town about 30 miles south of San Antonio. It also happens to be extremely close to my own hometown of Floresville. Nine of the victims are Holcombes, who also happen to be kin to my best friend of more than 10 years.

According to Gun Violence Archive, there have been 308 mass shooting incidents reported and verified this year alone in the U.S. as of Nov. 5, the date of the Sutherland Springs shooting. (gunviolencearchive.org)

‘Symptom of the disease of capitalism’

Where do we go from here? We live in a country that glorifies violence in the media, in our pop culture and even in some of our popular religions. Two questions come to mind when pondering this horrific but, sadly, not surprising tragedy.

Why is this happening in the U.S.? What can we do about this uniquely U.S. problem?

As per usual, the media talking heads, as well as political puppets, are the first on the case to place blame anywhere they

can: mental illness, movies, video game violence, an overabundance of guns, and so on. There is no subtlety to their solutions. Failing to recognize the complex character of these events, they seek to place a bandage over a proverbial bullet hole.

Capitalism promotes a culture that is completely devoid of meaning and care for each other. That leaves us to process so many of these tragedies on our own or through the mainstream media, which serves only to benefit the ruling classes. Capitalism is characterized by the senseless violence inflicted on its victims, whether through the wage-slave labor it creates or the mass shooters in its very belly. We have been victimized by the very system that is supposed to be taking care of us.

While the world will move on to the next thing, the families of these 26 people are left to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. We must ask ourselves: What drives a person to commit such acts? Does this really have to do with how many guns are around? Or is this a deeper symptom of the disease of capitalism.

This culture of emotional isolation is derived from a competitive economic system that pits worker against worker and refuses to provide the care necessary for a society to function properly.

Instead, we are rewarded for ruthlessness; our selfishness is praised as the “American” virtue most desirable of all. Obeisance to all of this is deemed patriotism. We are forced to work endlessly at jobs we don’t want and to pay for things we cannot afford but which are actually necessary, like health or car insurance.

Capitalism has no mercy for those that are suffering — whether physically, emotionally and/or spiritually. It will continue to pump out mass murderers, another commodity it can profit from. This time, the profits come from tragedy and ratings.

What can be done?

We have seen time and time again that the U.S. government is unwilling to do anything of any significance to help understand why this is happening, let alone anything to stop it.

Workers World Party does not say that disarming the general population is a necessary or desirable action. Most importantly, the capitalist socioeconomic system needs to be dismantled. Its long list of abuses against the world is very apparent.

How can we expect a stable society when nearly 82 million people in the U.S. have inadequate or no health coverage? And that number is continually rising.

When the U.S. has some of the worst maternity leave policies among all the developed nations? When the U.S. ranks in the top 10 countries with the highest rates of depression and anxiety? When the U.S. has invaded 10 different countries in the last 30 years?

Let us be clear: The United States has created an empire based on the exploitation of the labor and resources of other countries and of its own population. It has created a toxic environment that glorifies war and violence while simultaneously feigning utter amazement at the mass shooter phenomenon.

The government sends soldiers to kill and die in foreign countries for profit and power without a second thought about how it is affecting the families who live in those countries. However, when we witness a tragedy such as the Sutherland Springs shooting on U.S. soil, human life supposedly has meaning again.

We must continue to fight against the unrelenting and uncaring monstrosity of capitalism. We must fight to create a better, more caring world for everyone. A world where tragedies like this are not and should not be the new normal.

If you would like to help the Holcombe family through this horrific time, you can make a donation at gofundme.com/texasshootingfamily. □

LGBTQ liberation and global class struggle

Continued from page 4

tinuation of private property. Because of this, trans people began to be demonized and shamed, and homosexual people began to be heavily persecuted.

Thus began the system of exploitation by the white, European ruling class that continued throughout the centuries until the colonization of the so-called “New World” and the subsequent slaughter of the Indigenous people, who celebrated gender variance with identities such as Two-Spirit. This is the connection between white supremacy and queer/transgender oppression.

Capitalism is at its end and survives only through continued imperialist war and exploitation of the masses. Queer and transgender people are no exception, and in fact we are thoroughly part of the oppressed masses. And every intersecting identity, be it nationality, race, disability, citizen status, etc., includes queer and transgender people.

Therefore, the wild accusations that Marxist-Leninists are putting “identity politics over everything” are just that: Wild. False. While it is true that focusing too deeply on a single identity in terms of political struggle can put us onto an incorrect path toward liberalism, we must

also look at how each of these oppressed identities interact and intersect with each other and apply those insights to the struggles of the working class.

And, yes, queer and trans people fit into every sector of oppression, but these are not the only sectors that intersect and overlap. Black and Brown women and undocumented migrants are two other groups that face heavy oppression. To fail to acknowledge any oppressed groups in order to “avoid identity politics” is to willfully deny the historical and material conditions that led to the exploitation and oppression of these groups.

All oppressed and exploited groups

must be represented in order for the atrocities of capitalism to be fully destroyed, in order to defeat capitalism and bury it once and for all.

Finally, the exploitation of queer and trans workers must be discussed. Transgender people specifically face high amounts of unemployment and even once in the workforce, face discrimination from both other workers and management. In northwest Florida, we find ourselves assisting transgender people who work, either full or part time, with basic needs such as housing and medication.

This is evidence enough that capitalism is an inefficient and outdated system: full-time workers are still struggling for basic needs. I am presently a full-time worker myself and still struggle to pay monthly rent and bills. I share with a roommate who also works, but only barely, because she is also transgender and is also subjected to anti-trans prejudice in relation to work.

Due to the decline of heavy industry and the replacement of many already low-wage jobs with high-tech equipment, it becomes harder and harder to secure a stable income or to join a union to fight for better working conditions. This is merely another function of capitalism’s inevitable decay and affects trans workers disproportionately to most in the workforce.

As unions, which were created to build solidarity among workers, have declined, the homo/transphobic, divide-and-conquer tactics by the ruling class capitalists have tainted both union organizing and the workplace itself, causing deeper divisions between queer/transgender workers and cisgender/heterosexual workers.

Solidarity among all workers and oppressed peoples must be built with these groups in order for all of us to be liberated — and in order for socialism to be built and maintained. □



We like to think our readers value Workers World — because for 51 weeks a year we bring you news that doesn’t appear in the corporate media through a working-class lens. And our Marxist analysis of both national and international issues can’t be found anywhere else in the progressive U.S. press.

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- Why WWP sides with People’s Korea against U.S. warmongering
- Defense of the right of athletes to protest racist injustice
- The many ways Trump and Co. like screwing poor and working people every day
- Why defending Durham activists should be at the top of labor’s agenda
- Ending the racist death penalty, working to free political prisoners and tear down the jails
- How imperialism is expanding its military presence in Africa while China builds that continent’s infrastructure
- Why Che Guevara still lives 50 years

after his death

- Fighting for worldwide socialism means plenty for all workers and the oppressed

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FIDEL'S 'SOCIALIST AND DEMOCR

Disaster capitalism and socialist planning

Lesson from
CUBA

By Nathaniel Peters

So far this year, three Category 4 or 5 hurricanes have made landfall in the Caribbean or southern United States: Harvey, Irma and Maria. It's commonplace to speak of these storms as natural disasters. After all, they are natural events, albeit abetted by human-made climate change.

But there is nothing natural about the destruction that follows in a hurricane's wake. Not in these times, when the dangers of hurricanes can be observed, predicted and communicated days in advance of landfall.

Nowadays, hurricanes are a human-made disaster, because the extent of their damage is determined based on the principles by which the societies they affect are organized.

Hundreds of people, perhaps more, have died in Puerto Rico in Maria's aftermath. Harvey and Irma killed at least 160 people in the continental U.S., including 12 left to die in a Florida nursing home across the street from a functioning hospital. Why did more people die in that nursing home than in all of Cuba during Hurricane Irma?

Cuba safely and efficiently evacuated over a million people before hurricanes Ivan and Dennis in 2004 and 2005, while over 100 people died during the 2005 Houston evacuation ahead of Hurricane Rita.

The Puerto Rican and Cuban electrical grids were both completely shut down by recent hurricanes. The vast majority of the Puerto Rican people are still without electricity at this moment. Yet the Cuban electrical grid was 70 percent restored within a week and fully restored within three.

Why is the U.S., the wealthiest country in the world, with all its infrastructure, industry and communications technology, unable to deal with hurricanes, while Cuba, a small island with a fraction of the wealth, a fraction of the infrastructure, a fraction of the industrialization, is able to respond so well?

The answer is in one word: Socialism!

Cuba is a country organized under socialist principles for the benefit of its people and led by a Communist, Leninist Party. The U.S. is a capitalist, imperialist country, run by and for the bourgeoisie, their banks and their profits, with Puerto Rico, held as a U.S. colony, run by the banks through a Fiscal Control Board.

It's all well and good to say socialist principles are why Cuba responds so well to hurricanes. But what I had the opportunity to learn in Cuba is how socialism enables Cuba to respond so effectively.

Cuba's socialist defense against disasters

An hour's drive from the north-central Cuban coast, where the impact of Irma was greatest, our delegation visited the University of Sancti Spiritus. There we met officials from Cuban National Civil Defense and representatives of the students and administration to learn about their response to hurricanes.

National Civil Defense is an integrated system, mobilizing all of Cuba's response to protect its people, economy, social institutions and natural resources from both climate change and war.

That's right, Cuba explicitly frames hurricane response as defense against climate change — a dramatic difference between Cuban and U.S. approaches.

In the revolution's early years, Civil Defense concentrated on preparing the Cuban people to defend themselves against foreign military intervention. But Hurricane Flora, striking Cuba in 1963 and killing more than 1,200 people, showed painfully the need for disaster preparation, now the Civil Defense's main focus.

Every Cuban adult goes through a civil defense training program preparing them to assist during evacuations. Since 1986, National Civil Defense has organized a yearly, nationwide, two-day hurricane preparedness drill. In every part of Cuba, evacuation and shelter plans are in place. When a hurricane arrives, people carry out what they have already practiced.

Stores of building materials, medications, tents and other supplies are strategically maintained across the island. Before Hurricane Harvey, Houston officials said it was impossible to organize an evacuation with just a few



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

WWP Che Brigadistas from New York City at Nov. 11 reportback.

days notice. Exactly! You have to plan beforehand.

When hurricanes are imminent, a four-phase Cuban plan is set in motion:

1. Inform: Media begin broadcasting warnings. Students and members of mass organizations go door-to-door so everyone knows about the danger.

2. Alert: Evacuations begin. Those living in sturdy homes take in neighbors. Large buildings like churches and universities serve as shelters. Unions, the University Students Federation, the Young Communist League and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution are mobilized under the leadership of the National Civil Defense.

Civil defense relies on pre-existing communication and coordination plans within the mass organizations and does not have to create an ad-hoc communication network with every emergency.

Cubans are evacuated along with their belongings, pets and whatever tools and equipment they need for work. Elderly and sick people are looked after. Everyone is accounted for and no one abandoned. Evacuation plans include contingencies to protect farm animals, machinery and other means of production to minimize economic losses. All these measures require extensive planning, and everyone is encouraged to participate.

The U.S. approach could not be more different: No mechanism is in place to mobilize people in a coordinated fashion, there are no large-scale hurricane response drills, and people are abandoned, left to organize their own evacuation, so that poor, infirm and elderly people are often unable to leave.

3. Alarm: The hurricane arrives. Civil Defense works to maintain communication, and national media broadcast information about the storm. The Federation of Amateur Radio Enthusiasts provides communication if phone lines are lost.

4. Recover: Damage is assessed and rebuilding begins. Unions mobilize skilled workers from across the island to travel to affected areas. Cuba's system of reservoirs traps rainfall for use during drier times. Neighborhood committees are set up to distribute building materials directly to the people. Depending on a family's financial means, people receive free materials, a subsidy, a loan, or they purchase materials at cost.

Disaster capitalism and socialist planning

The day after Irma hit, the price of all construction materials in Cuba was halved. This is the difference between disaster socialism and disaster capitalism. Under capitalism, needed products become fabulously more expensive, and the capitalists make super-profits off people's suffering.

But in Cuba the prices fall, because that's what the people need. This happens despite the fact that building materials are one of the most difficult products for Cuba to purchase because of the U.S. blockade.

At the meeting we brigadistas attended, university students and administration representatives described their personal experiences with hurricane response.

In addition to the school providing civil defense courses, students regularly visit coastal fishing villages to develop relationships essential in an emergency. As Irma approached, students traveled to Yaguajay, a nearby town, to inform people of the need to evacuate. At least 1,000 Cubans from the coast were sheltered at the University of Sancti Spiritus ahead of Irma.

University staff lived on site and provided beds, food and also cultural activities, which are viewed as an essential need. Medical care, as always in Cuba, was available and free.

The report by Nathaniel Peters was adapted from a Workers World Party talk given Nov. 11 after the "In the Footsteps of Che International Brigade" returned from Cuba. Over 200 people from over 20 countries traveled with the brigade to show solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Che Guevara's death.



Comandante Fidel Ca

We mourn his loss. We remember, we celebrate and we seek to emulate his revolutionary life and leadership. Fidel lifted the banner of socialist revolution on April 16, 1961, at the funeral for the martyrs of the bombing that preceded the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba by the U.S. To an assembled crowd, which was armed, Fidel said:

"What the imperialists cannot forgive us is that we are here. What they cannot forgive us is the dignity, the determination, the courage, the ideological firmness, the spirit of sacrifice and the revolutionary spirit of the Cuban people, and the fact that we have undertaken a socialist revolution. And that socialist revolution we defend with these guns!"

After the hurricane, students returned daily to Yaguajay and the surrounding areas to help with repairs, provide information about the rest of the country and eventually redecorate the community. Again, the arts are not seen as a luxury or bourgeois decadence: The community's cultural decoration is seen as a basic material need.

Under long-term planning that is characteristic of socialism, Cuba acknowledges the tragic reality that many coastal villages will eventually be lost to rising sea levels because of climate change. Rather than abandoning these communities, the university helps them gradually relocate their homes to higher ground. The U.S. could not be more different: Consider the recent boom in high-priced high-rise construction along the Miami waterfront.

The speed of repairs in Yaguajay, and in Havana where the storm surged 6 meters, was incredible. Some damage was still visible when we were there, but daily life, both economic and social, had resumed. Contrast that with the U.S., where New York City is still repairing subway damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and Puerto Rico is a massive humanitarian disaster.

One of the tragedies of hurricanes is their predictability. Year after year they come, and each time Cuba admirably provides for its people, while the capitalist world abandons its masses to their fate.

Lives are saved under socialism in Cuba, while people are left to die in the U.S. Why is capitalism utterly unwilling to respond to hurricanes?

Because under capitalism, the lives of the working and the oppressed are worth only the surplus value, otherwise known as profit, that can be extracted from them. In the era of capitalism at a dead end, when the crisis of overproduction is a continuous state of affairs, when the reserve army of labor is large and always growing, workers are easily replaced.

The death of hundreds and the displacement of millions isn't seen as much of a problem for the capitalist class. Just the opposite! Disasters are a fantastic investment opportunity for capitalists, stimulating demand and increasing prices.

But what is the lot of our class, the lot of the the workers and the oppressed, under disaster capitalism? Exploitation, poverty, displacement, death.

If I can bring back one lesson from Cuba to you, it is that revolution IS possible. We can and must win.

Let us today, 50 years after Che's death, and 100 years after the October Bolshevik Revolution, consider and draw strength from what Che said to us in the United States in 1964, borrowing from Cuban hero Jose Marti: "You North Americans are very lucky. You are fighting the most important fight of all — you live in the heart of the beast."

Let us consider the awesome responsibility with which his words charge us.

Let us not shirk from the task before us, but go forward, confident in ourselves and our class. Venceremos! Hasta la Victoria Siempre! □

RATIC REVOLUTION' LIVES TODAY



¡Viva Fidel! Castro Ruz, ¡PRESENTE!

"We defend that socialist revolution with the same courage with which our antiaircraft artillery force riddled the attacking planes with bullets yesterday! We do not defend it with mercenaries; we defend it with the men and women of our people!"

"Is it the millionaires who have the weapons?" (Shouts of "No!")

"Is it the children of the rich who have the weapons?" (Shouts of "No!")

"Is it the foremen who have the weapons?" (Shouts of "No!")

"Who has the weapons?" (Shouts of "The Cuban people!")

"Whose hands are those raising those weapons?" (Shouts of "The people!")

"Are they the hands of the rich?" (Shouts of "No!")

"Are they the hands of the exploiters?" (Shouts of "No!")

"Whose hands are those raising those weapons?" (Shouts of "The people!")

"Are they not the hands of workers, are they not the hands of peasants, are they not hands callused by work, are they not creative hands, are they not the humble hands of the people?" (Shouts of "Yes!")

"And who makes up the majority of the people, the millionaires or the workers?" (Shouts of "The workers!")

"The exploiters or the exploited?" (Shouts of "The exploited!")

"The privileged or the humble?" (Shouts of "The humble!")

"Are the privileged the minority?" (Shouts of "Yes!")

"Are the humble the majority?" (Shouts of "Yes!")

"Is a revolution democratic when it is the humble who have the weapons?" (Shouts of "Yes!")

"Comrades, workers and peasants: This is the socialist and democratic revolution of the humble, by the humble and for the humble!" (Applause and shouts of "Long live the Commander in Chief!")

"And for this revolution of the humble, by the humble and for the humble, we are willing to give our lives!"

These words were included in the speech delivered by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz in Havana on April 16, 2001, on the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the Cuban Revolution.

Day one in revolutionary Cuba

By Basmah Gregg

Oct. 2 — The first full day of the 2017 "In the Footsteps of Che Guevara International Brigade" began with more than 250 delegates from 21 countries enjoying a well-prepared breakfast in the dining hall of the Julio Antonio Mella International Camp near Caimito, Cuba. As the morning progressed, many of the delegates slowly drifted away from the dining hall to explore the surrounding scenery of the camp before the start of the day's activities.

In the first item on our agenda, we marched to the monument of Julio Antonio Mella, a young revolutionary killed by the Batista dictatorship, for whom the camp is named. Upon our arrival at the site, a floral wreath was laid at the monument, and touching words were spoken by a Pioneer elementary school student in memory of Mella and the legacy he left behind.

Delegations from around the world held banners, signs and flags to show their solidarity with the Cuban people. Banners from the Chicago, Albany, N.Y., and Washington, D.C., Cuba Coalitions in the U.S., and stunning banners from Chile and Greece, were joined by two handpainted Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero banners. Both had portraits of Che Guevara and the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

The bilingual banner demanded "End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba/Fin al Bloqueo Contra Cuba." The other echoed Cuba's internationalism by opposing the U.S. war against Venezuela, Syria, Iran and the DPRK as well as demanding an end to the economic war on Cuba. A



WW PHOTO: CHRISTIAN COBB

delegation of Puerto Ricans held a banner calling for an end to PROMESA, the bankers' colonial financial control board, designed to squeeze the last cent out of the island's working class.

Walking where Che walked

As we returned to the camp, the air was filled with enthusiastic cheers, "Viva Cuba! Viva Che! Viva Fidel! Viva Mella!"

Following the brief ceremony, the brigadistas congregated in the camp's theater to watch a beautiful slideshow about Che Guevara. The song "Che Comandante" was the background music, and overwhelmed by emotion, everyone began to sing along, echoing the happiness felt in our hearts for the legendary man who fearlessly helped lead the Cuban Revolution.

We were greeted by Fernando Gonzalez Llort, the president of Cuba's Institute of Friendship. One of the legendary Cuban Five, Gonzalez Llort was imprisoned in the U.S. for over 15 years for defending his country against a right-wing overthrow. We also listened to inspiring stories from four of Comandante Che's former associates.

The day ended with a hearty dinner of rice, beans, chicken and ox-tail, followed by more music, singing and dancing at the Noche Cubana as we became acquainted with representatives of the global movement in solidarity with socialist Cuba. Indeed, a beautiful ending to a beautiful first day, a beautiful beginning to the brigade's visit. For the next two weeks we lived, worked and traveled together, walking where Che walked. □

End the blockade of Cuba now!

The U.N. General Assembly on Nov. 1 voted overwhelmingly against the U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba by a vote of 191 to 2. It was the 26th consecutive year that the world has decisively rejected the blockade. In Washington, D.C., supporters of revolutionary Cuba demonstrated their solidarity in front of the White House. Similar demonstrations of support for Cuba took place in many cities across the U.S. and Canada. #unblockCuba

-- Report and photo by Sharon Black



Viewing Cuba through a Detroit lens

By Mike Shane

When the "In the Footsteps of Che International Brigade" traveled in Cuba Oct. 1-15, several Workers World Party delegates from Detroit participated, including this writer. Among the many activities, including participation in the ceremony commemorating Comandante Che in Santa Clara on Oct. 8, where the revolutionary internationalist is buried, the brigade had the opportunity to meet with Cubans in several cities and villages.

Viewing the gains of the Cuban Revolution through a Detroit lens offered an illuminating comparison between a capitalist and a socialist society. In Detroit the basic necessities to live as a human being are being denied to many poor and working people, while billions of dollars in public funds are funneled to the rich.

In Detroit about 100,000 shutoffs of residential water service have occurred since 2014, while the water department, ostensibly a publicly owned utility, refuses to implement a moderate water affordability plan shown to work in other cities.

Families lacking water service are subject to having their children seized by Child Protective Services, and children are subjected to cruel humiliation at school for being unwashed and for wearing unkempt clothing. In addition, a preliminary study of Henry Ford Hospital patients, by the Henry Ford Global Health Initiative in collaboration with community partners, documented a 50 percent increase in water-associated illnesses in residential blocks where water shutoffs have occurred.

Conversations with Cubans, on the other hand, revealed that their residential water service costs only a few pesos per month. The negligible water fees were implemented to discourage wasteful water usage. When asked if the water service is shut off if a water bill is not paid, Cubans responded, "Of course not," followed by a perplexed look, as if wondering, "What kind of question is that?"

Cubans explained that there is no governmental policy to deny Cubans access to water. The water distribution system includes a large concrete or plastic water tank, typically on the roof of each home or apartment building. The typical home water tank holds about 600 gallons. Water is delivered to the tank as needed, usually at night, by electric pumps or pressure created by gravity. In the event that the water pipe to the home fails, a truck delivers the water until the pipe is repaired.

Prior to a hurricane, everyone is advised to make sure their water tanks are completely filled, since the electric power plants are shut down in order to prevent electrocutions and damage to equipment, and because water sources may become contaminated. This also reduces the likelihood of plastic water tanks being blown off roofs by hurricane winds.

No water shutoffs, no evictions

In another contrast, since 2005 Detroit has experienced more than 65,000 mortgage foreclosures and an estimated 100,000 property tax foreclosures of residential homes. In nearby Flint, thousands of families are

actually facing loss of their homes due to unpaid bills for water poisoned by corporate wrongdoing, with the amount owed tacked onto their property taxes. Evictions are rampant.

These crimes against the people happened as the result of racist predatory loans, excessive property tax assessments in violation of the state constitution, and corporate privatization of public services.

In contrast, evictions do not occur in Cuba. While thousands are homeless in Detroit, there is no homelessness in Cuba.

There was similar dramatic contrast in education and the conditions of children. In Cuba, quality education is a right for all. Class size is typically limited to 20 students. When a North American asked if Cuban children can walk to school without adult escorts, the response was an emphatic, "Of course, why wouldn't they?" Compare that to common occurrence in any U.S. city.

The achievements of the Cuban Revolution are truly incredible, especially considering the U.S. blockade, which prohibits importing everything, even aspirin, from the U.S.

With planning based on socialist principles, Cuba, an economically poor country, has managed to create a society where housing, access to water, jobs or income, medical care and education are guaranteed for all.

The way for poor and working people in Detroit, throughout the entire U.S. and across the capitalist world to achieve the same guarantees for the essentials of life is to overthrow capitalism and build a socialist society. □

Detroit

Celebrating 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution

By Workers World Detroit bureau

Workers World Detroit branch commemorated the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution with a Nov. 11 community dinner, followed by compelling discussion chaired by Sharon Feldman and led by comrades Kris Hamel, Tom Michalak, Deirdre Griswold and Mond Jones.

Comrade Hamel opened with a presentation on how and why the Bolsheviks were able to achieve military success as well as the support of the diverse, multinational oppressed classes in Russia. Hamel highlighted the Bolsheviks' unwavering commitment to dismantling feudal autocracy and the capitalist system and their staunch stance against opportunism in the social democratic movement of the era.

A presentation by comrade Tom Michalak explored the many successes of the Bolshevik Revolution and the Soviet

project. He covered a breadth of information, from the harrowing sacrifices that led to the defeat of fascism in World War II, to an incredible increase in life expectancy undone by the counterrevolution in the 1980s and 1990s.

Founding member and comrade Deirdre Griswold, of the New York City branch of WWP, called in to speak about what led to the dismantling of the USSR. She detailed the conditions experienced by those living in the Soviet bloc as a result of 74 years of unyielding aggression from the United States and its imperialist partners.

Comrade Mond Jones, youth member and final speaker, emphasized the importance of celebrating, commemorating and reflecting on the Bolshevik Revolution. He condemned the conditions the global masses face living under capitalism at a dead end. He brought further attention to capitalism's many contradic-

tions and to the associated struggles facing workers in Detroit and abroad.

"These may be obvious problems," said Jones, "but the Bolshevik Revolution gives us a template for implementing solutions."

As comrade Hamel succinctly put into words, the Bolshevik Revolution warrants a lifetime of study. The discussions that took place on Nov. 11 made one thing perfectly clear: The horrors of capitalism and imperialism can, and will, be defeated through the revolutionary struggle for socialism. Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! □



WW PHOTO: KRIS BALDERAS HAMEL

Tom Michalak speaks at Detroit commemoration of the Bolshevik Revolution, Nov. 11.

Bolshevik Revolution, Part 3

Lessons and going forward



WW PHOTO: KRIS BALDERAS HAMEL

Mond Jones speaks at Detroit commemoration of the Bolshevik Revolution, Nov. 11.

The following is Part 3 of the talk given by Mond Jones, a youth leader of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, to a meeting commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, held in London, Ontario, Canada, on Nov. 4. The meeting was organized by the London chapter of the Young Communist League.

An important lesson to be learned from the Bolshevik Revolution is that the revolution does not end after the initial fighting; the revolution is not over during socialism or while a country is building socialism. On the contrary, the revolution and the antagonisms between the ruling class and the oppressed are amplified as long as world imperialism still exists.

One of the factors that led to the counterrevolution was the Soviet Union having to maintain a military counterweight to U.S. imperialism in an economy one-third its size.

Because the class struggle is heightened, the communist party must be extra

vigilant and strategic in consolidating the wins of the revolution. When certain concessions are necessary, there must be an active program to prevent the formation of a bureaucracy and to prevent revisionism in the revolutionary movement. We appreciate the revolutionary character of the Cuban Communist Party today in being open and forthright with the masses and urging them to defend the revolution even as some capitalist measures are introduced to facilitate the growth of the economy in the face of the continuing blockade. We believe Mao's cultural revolution, with its successes and shortcomings, was an attempt to purge revisionism and reaction from the party, though we firmly rejected its ultimate characterizations of the Soviet Union as social-imperialist.

We are not idealists. We understand that alliances and coalitions have to be made, that concessions sometimes set us back. However, it is important to acknowledge that the fall of the Soviet Union proves the necessity for a continuation of the revolution, even during times of victory.

Tasks as revolutionaries in the imperialist centers

Now here is the big question: As revolutionaries in the imperialist centers, how do we build for revolution? How do we keep the legacy of the Bolshevik Revolution alive; how do we take it further than commemorations and conferences and celebrations?

Today capitalism is at a dead end. Every gain in the productive forces in this era of high technology leads to more poverty, unemployment and low wages, rather than liberating humanity as it should be doing.

The very survival of the planet is at stake, as witnessed by the disastrous consequences of climate change as the capitalists destroy the Earth in their drive for profit. The export of capital pits worker against worker on an international scale, driving down wages for the entire working class and destroying the aristocracy of labor that the capitalists relied on for social peace in the imperialist countries

while superexploiting developing nations around the globe. The system is overripe for socialist transformation.

First and foremost, we have a responsibility to the people. Meeting the people where they are, stepping outside of our circles of activists and academics, integrating with the people and making this revolutionary history accessible. In Detroit, our party has been a leader in the fight against foreclosures, water shutoffs and plant closings and against the Detroit bankruptcy itself. We bring a revolutionary anti-capitalist program to the masses by raising transitional demands like a Moratorium on Foreclosures or canceling the debt to the banks to guarantee pensions for the workers — demands that attempt to move the workers in the direction of challenging the system.

Who's going to want to fight a seemingly unwinnable battle? It's important for us to understand this revolutionary history, so that we can share it with others. We have to share the history and successes against capitalism and imperialism to show that although it's a big fight, it's been won before. If it's been done before, it can be done again. And historically, across the world, it has been done.

Self-determination and working-class solidarity

We have to build solidarity among the working class! We must build solidarity between white workers and workers of oppressed nationalities! There is no way for any of us to be free if we all ain't free. Lenin understood this concept, which is why we have the concept of "oppressed nations' right to self-determination." Unity can only be achieved based on the workers recognizing and fighting for this principle.

Solidarity is built through the struggle, and solidarity between white and colonized workers will only be built through the fight against colonialism, racism and imperialism. And this also means uplifting the Indigenous struggle for decolonization of this continent. How do you build socialism on stolen land?

We must oppose imperialist war and intervention all over the globe. Our par-

ty proudly defends the DPRK against the Trump war threats and defends their right to develop whatever weapons they deem necessary for their preservation against the Pentagon war machine. It is the U.S. which is the only country to drop a nuclear bomb.

We stand with the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela. We defend Revolutionary Cuba and call for an immediate end to the blockade. We say U.S. hands off Syria and Iran. U.S. troops out of Afghanistan. Remove U.S. forces from Africa and dismantle AFRICOM. Long live the Palestinian struggle against Zionist apartheid Israel and its U.S. imperialist backers.

We support the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and for an end to U.S. colonial domination. We demand all aid necessary for the people of Puerto Rico to rebuild their island and the cancellation of the massive illegal debt to the banks.

We say stop the U.S. war on immigrants, whether they are Muslim, from Latin America, Africa or Asia. There are no borders in the workers' struggle. And we recognize the so-called war on terrorism as nothing but an excuse for racism and war. The U.S. is the real terrorist and we are for dismantling the Pentagon war machine.

How do we plan on keeping the legacy of the Bolshevik Revolution alive if we can't understand the basic concept of self-determination? What did we learn from Lenin's teachings if not how to oppose imperialism in all its forms?

The Russian Revolution showed us victory and provided a framework for successful revolutions across the globe. If we understand this, and we study the science of Marxism-Leninism, and we put theory into practice, we will defeat this capitalist beast and see a new, and free, socialist world.

The time is ripe for all communist parties to put their differences aside and fight for a new unity in the Communist movement, based on adherence to Marxism-Leninism.

Proletarii vsekh stran, soyedinyaytes! Workers of all countries unite! □



Red Guards and sailors storm Winter Palace in 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

From the ‘July Days’ to the workers’ revolution

By John Catalinotto

At the end of the abortive workers and sailors’ uprising in Petrograd (St. Petersburg) in July 1917, nearly all the leaders of the Bolshevik Party were in prison or in hiding, slandered as agents of German imperialism. Yet within months the same Bolshevik party was poised to seize power for the working class.

These prisoners included the sailors Raskolnikov and his comrade Semyon Roshal from the hotbed of revolutionary fervor on the nearby island of Kronstadt, as well as Leon Trotsky and others from the national Bolshevik headquarters in the city center. Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin and Grigory Zinoviev fled to Finland, where they stayed in hiding for fear of assassination. The Bolshevik headquarters was seized by the Provisional Government.

The Bolsheviks’ real crime, of course, was not that they served the German Kaiser, but that they stood with the revolutionary proletariat in Russia instead of abandoning it. The Bolsheviks did this during the “July Days,” when a large section — but still a minority — of the working class went into the streets against the Provisional Government. This provisional bourgeois regime continued to force the Russian Army to fight in World War I despite the hatred of the masses for that war.

Then came another turnaround that not only would lead to freeing the revolutionaries from prison, but also would put the Bolsheviks in a position to lead an insurrection.

Czarist General Lavr Kornilov, in a conspiracy with the leaders of the provisional government, that is, Prime Minister Alexander Kerensky and other pro-bourgeois forces, promised to lead troops against Petrograd to carry out a coup against the left forces. It soon became apparent that these counterrevolutionary officers intended not only to arrest and kill Bolsheviks, but also to

eliminate the entire provisional government that issued from the revolution that overthrew the monarchy in February and March.

The only defense possible was one that depended on the masses, in particular the armed units of workers called the Red Guards. The parties in the government that feared a czarist counterrevolution absolutely needed the Bolsheviks to organize a defense because the revolutionary workers and sailors would follow orders only from the Bolsheviks. In return, the Bolsheviks would organize the defense of Petrograd only if the government freed their leaders and supplied them with arms for the workers.

Bolsheviks freed from prison

Faced with the danger from czarist reaction, the government allowed the local soviet, now led by Bolsheviks, to take leadership of the Military Revolutionary Committee to defend Petrograd. There was still a threat of czarist reaction, but the Kornilov uprising itself had already collapsed for the same reason that czarist forces were incapable of suppressing the earlier revolution: The rank-and-file troops would not follow the orders of the czarist officers.

Without troops to do the fighting, most of the officers that Kornilov had recruited found excuses to stay away from battle.

In his book, “Kronstadt and Petrograd in 1917,” Fyodor Raskolnikov gives an example of how this happened with the “so-called ‘Savage Division,’ a cavalry division of volunteers from the (mainly Muslim) peoples of the Caucasus, who were exempt from conscription. The Bolshevik Party mobilized a delegation of Muslim notables who visited the advancing troops and explained that they had been misled as to the real situation in Petrograd.”

As happened so often in those days, all it took was contact with the revolution-

ary workers of Petrograd to convince the troops to turn the guns around on their officers.

By mid-October the Bolsheviks were a majority of the Petrograd Soviet and directed the Military Revolutionary Committee. The revolt of the troops against the Czar during the earlier “February Revolution” had been mostly spontaneous, with the troops changing consciousness as a result of contact with the striking workers of Petrograd, many of them women.

Using the freer access to the soldiers they won in this revolution, the Bolsheviks carried on agitation and organization of the troops not only in Petrograd but also at the front. Troops formed their own organization, electing representatives to the Soviet of Workers and Soldiers, effectively breaking the chain of command.

Meanwhile the sailors of Kronstadt and the Baltic Fleet were solidly with the revolution. On some ships hundreds of sailors had joined the Bolsheviks and were urging the soviets to take power in the name of the working class.

The soldiers too were determined not to keep fighting the war against Germany. In his detailed memoir, “The Russian Revolution of 1917: a Personal Record,” the left-Menshevik N. N. Sukhanov wrote how representatives of regiments came in one by one to tell the Military Revolutionary Committee that they did not trust the Kerensky government and would rise up at the first call to overthrow it.

By Oct. 21 (Nov. 3 according to the Western calendar), this included the Petrograd garrison, with its hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Petrograd and Russia were moving inexorably toward a second revolution.

Troops change sides

Then a new crisis came up in the Petrograd Soviet. The army commandant of the Peter-Paul Fortress, most likely a pro-czarist officer, refused to recognize the commissar assigned to the fortress from the Military Revolutionary Committee and threatened him with arrest. This strategically important fortress inside Petrograd was essential to the victory of the planned uprising. But to attempt to take it by force was risky, an act of war. Sukhanov wrote:

“Trotsky had another proposal, namely, that he, Trotsky, go to the Fortress, hold a meeting there, and capture not the body but the spirit of the garrison. ... Trotsky set off at once, together with Lashevich. Their harangues were enthusiastically received. The garrison, almost unanimously, passed a resolution about the Soviet regime and its own readiness to rise up, weapons in hand, against the bourgeois government. ... A hundred

thousand extra rifles were in the hands of the Bolsheviks.”

The national Congress of Soviets had been set for Oct. 25 (Nov. 7) in Petrograd. It would be a perfect time for this body to deliberate about taking state power. But the Provisional Government could still surround the congress with reactionary troops and arrest the Soviet.

The Bolshevik leaders considered it more prudent to move first. No street clashes were necessary. All the street fighting had already happened in February (March). And it was no secret coup. The mainly Bolshevik leaders of the Military Revolutionary Committee openly declared their intention to protect the Congress of Soviets.

The sailors of the Baltic Fleet, the workers who controlled the bridges, the Petrograd garrison, the soldiers at the Peter-Paul Fortress — all had already joined the revolution. Under orders of the Soviet’s Military Revolutionary Committee on the night of October 24-25 (November 6-7), armed workers known as Red Guards and revolutionary sailors seized postal and telegraph offices, electric works, railroad stations and the state bank.

That night at 9:45 p.m. a blank cannon shot rang out from the Cruiser Aurora, whose sailors were loyal to the Bolsheviks, anchored nearby in the Neva River. At this signal, thousands of sailors and Red Guards stormed the Winter Palace. The Provisional Government collapsed.

Exhausted workers, soldiers and Bolshevik leaders crowded the Congress of Soviets that had been scheduled for Oct. 25 (Nov. 7). After word came that the Winter Palace was taken, people rose, filling the hall with shouts and cheers. Lenin came to the podium and proclaimed, “We shall now proceed to construct the socialist order.”

This was just the beginning. To sign a peace with Germany took months. There followed a long struggle and civil war before the Soviet Union could even be established. The Baltic Fleet sailors and armed workers of Petrograd became the shock troops of the Red Army, and many of these heroes, who were the driving force of the Russian Revolution, lost their lives in the costly civil war and invasion by Japan, Czechoslovakia, Britain, France, the United States and other capitalist countries that lasted until 1922.

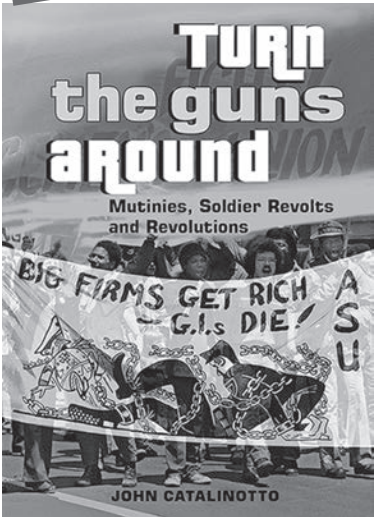
Nevertheless, the experience of 1917 in Russia showed that the interaction between the revolutionary workers and the soldiers of the Petrograd garrison as well as the decisive actions of the sailors of the Baltic Fleet made the success of the revolution possible.

Adapted from a chapter of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

NEW



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.

“If schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto’s ‘Turn The Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants know more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

— Pvt Larry Holmes GI resister and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74.

Available at online booksellers

WORKERS WORLD editorial

On the Day of Mourning WWP hails Indigenous peoples

Continued from page 1

ribbean and its outright racist hostility to the people of Mexico from the first day of Trump's election campaign. While the imperialist U.S. and their allies exploit the peoples of these countries for profit, they ignore them during crises and constantly whip up bigotry against them.

Native activists ask that their struggles today not be forgotten — but are raised at activities across the country. There is a high rate of unemployment, poverty and hunger among Native families. Amid the rampant police violence meted out against people of color, it is a fact that police kill Indigenous people at three times the rate of whites. In a senseless act, police killed 14-year-old Jason Pero, of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe, on Nov. 8. See #justiceforjason.

Protectors of the Earth

Workers World hails Indigenous people in the U.S. and worldwide who are leading the struggle to save the planet from capitalist profiteers who wreak destruction in their mad drive for superprofits, regardless of the damage to human, animal and plant life. Their determined resistance inspires millions as they fight for the future of planet Earth itself.

The victorious life-and-death fight by Native activists and their allies stopped construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in 2016, and won global support. Courageous water protectors, led by the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, fought to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, which endangers the water supply used by millions of people. Their struggle is having a global impact, as their slogan "Water is life!" reverberates worldwide. Also, First Nations in Canada are strongly fighting the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline, a means to transport tar sands across Western Canada.

The Indigenous-led pipeline struggles are now at a different phase, but they go on. Standing Rock water protectors and the Keystone encampments have inspired anti-pipeline movements countrywide. Both heroic protests have impacted varied organizations and demonstrations,

which now honor Standing Rock and Keystone fighters and address the need to confront environmental racism.

The profiteer in chief in the White House did a favor for his Big Oil cronies when he overturned the peoples' victory and approved the 2,600 mile-long Keystone XL pipeline in March. But its opponents were validated on Nov. 16 when 210,000 gallons of oil dangerously leaked from the first Keystone pipeline in South Dakota, just days prior to Nebraska's decision on its expansion.

The months-long #NODAPL encampment brought out thousands of supporters in a massive show of solidarity. Now, with a pro-Big Oil cabal in Washington, the oil is flowing. But Native and environmental activists have taken the fight to the courts. Reactionary politicians threaten to use "domestic terrorism statutes" to prosecute 84 DAPL water protectors. A growing mass campaign is pressuring North Dakota authorities to #DropDAPL-Charges and #Free Red Fawn.

#StandwithBearsEars

Additionally, Big Oil aims to privatize 56 million acres of Native land in their quest for fossil fuels. On their behalf, #45 plans to vastly shrink Utah's 1.3-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument. Five Indigenous nations fought for decades to finally win protected status in 2016 for this sacred, historic site. Congressional right-wingers are pushing legislation to allow the president to reduce Bears Ears so the energy industry can plunder these lands for oil, gas and minerals. The fight against this theft is on — and it has massive public support.

Workers World hails the movement to remove monuments to slavery and colonialism in the Americas — to eradicate statues of those who set off the "conquest of the Americas" and the terror against Indigenous peoples. We stand with Native peoples and their allies in the struggle to win commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day in place of Columbus Day. So far, they have won this demand in five states and in dozens of cities and towns. The struggle is on! □



PHOTO: UNITED AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND

Day of Mourning 2016, Plymouth, Mass.

STOP THE MURDER OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
Philadelphia, Saturday, DEC. 9 at 11 a.m.
Gather at Frank Rizzo Statue, Philly Municipal Services Bldg. 1401 JFK Blvd.
For information and tickets on NYC - Newark Bus email: infomumia@gmail.com

Fighting white supremacy is NOT a crime Durham anti-racist activists keep up the struggle



At the toppled Confederate statue with LT Tran, A.A. Jones and Takiyah Thompson on Sept. 12 in Durham, N.C.
WW PHOTO

Continued from page 1

But at every turn, when the sheriff's department and puppet politicians demanded the people get back, we have boldly continued the fightback. Thousands signed online petitions demanding that the charges against Durham arrestees be dropped. Youth and students all across the country, on numerous campuses, participated in a widely endorsed national Day of Action to Topple White Supremacy on Sept. 12 when Durham arrestees returned to court to face felony and misdemeanor charges.

Because of this show of power and outpouring of solidarity, all charges were dropped against three of the arrestees, Aaron Caldwell, Myles Sprignor and Taylor Cook, who expressed continued solidarity with the remaining arrestees and the broader struggle to tear down white supremacy.

Though charges still remain against nine arrestees for the actions on Aug. 14 and against three arrestees who aided community self-defense on Aug. 18, the Durham defendants are still showing up strong and with plenty of community backing.

At the most recent court appearance on Nov. 14, the Durham community organized a powerful rally and press conference that drew speakers and statements of solidarity. Among the speakers were former mayoral candidate Pierce Freelon, Rafiq Zaidi with Inside-Outside Alliance, Reverend Curtis Gatewood with Stop Killing Us, Elijah Pryor with Changing Colors Changing Lanes, and Laila Nur with Durham for All. Solidarity statements were read from Jewish Voice for Peace-Durham and Durham's People's Alliance. A member of the Durham Human Relations Commission, which passed a resolution in support of dropping felony charges against the arrestees and removing all statues and memorabilia paying undue homage to the Confederacy, was there.

Leading up to the rally was a national call-in day organized by the NC Public Service Workers Union, United Electrical Workers Local 150, calling on labor and all those on the side of justice to flood the phone lines of District Attorney Roger Echols to demand that all charges be dropped. Hundreds of people called in and also called upon North Carolina Senate President Berger to repeal the law General Statute 100-2, passed in 2015 to prevent local governments from removing Confederate monuments.

Though charges still remain against the Durham freedom fighters, the movement has progressed by leaps and bounds in the past several weeks with anti-racist organizers putting up a tireless battle against the state and its racist sense of "justice." The movement has won by its

refusal to back down — whether it be to elected officials and sheriffs or to white supremacist vigilantes.

A people's victory, a People's Tribunal

District Attorney Echols has informed the arrestees' lawyer that he will not proceed on the felony charges. However, he has not formally dismissed the charges, and when asked by the press for information, he has refused to say that he is dropping the charges.

Regardless of the legal formalities and the district attorney's hesitance to choose a side, we claim victory! The consensus is clear from all across the country: It is not a crime to tear down white supremacy. We will not stop until all charges are dropped.

The arrestees also announced on Nov. 14 the formation of a Durham People's Tribunal and Commission of Inquiry to launch an independent investigation into the real crimes being committed in Durham.

The tribunal will challenge the crimes by the state's General Assembly, by the sheriff's department and by other state actors who thwart the will of the people and act to enshrine and preserve white supremacy and to aid this murderous system in its perpetual aim toward profit and wealth for the few, at the cost to and death of the entire working class.

The initial tribunal charges brought against the General Assembly and the sheriff's department, in reply to charges faced by Durham arrestees, include: obstruction of justice and conspiracy, because the General Assembly and its elected officials passed G.S. 100-2 to thwart the will of the people; collusion, when the sheriff's department and elected officials pursue actions that result in continued terrorism of communities of color, like the General Assembly allowing reactionary think tanks to draft legislation to profit off the exploitation of poor communities of color; and negligent homicide, to hold Sheriff Mike Andrews responsible for the numerous deaths in the Durham County Jail.

The community of Durham, through the People's Tribunal and Commission of Inquiry, will have the opportunity to bring attention to the criminal activity being wreaked by those in power. And the community of Durham will decide which side of history it chooses to be on.

On the side of justice and liberation

If the actions of the past several weeks have taught the anti-racist movement anything, it is that when oppressed people are confronted with opposing sides of history, they will choose the side of justice and liberation; the side which serves the

Continued on the next page



Pentagon covers up escalating presence

By **Abayomi Akiziwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Almost on a daily basis, the U.S. re-counting of circumstances involved in the killing of four U.S. Green Berets in the West African state of Niger has shifted.

Even senior members of the U.S. Senate have stated that they had no idea that Pentagon troops were conducting offensive operations in the country. Niger, a former French colony, is ranked as the world's fourth largest producer of uranium, a fact that has been interestingly omitted from the limited discourse on the deaths of the troops deployed under the banner of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

A Nov. 10 report published in the Washington Post claims that the only African-American soldier in the group of dead troops, Sgt. La David Johnson, had been kidnapped and killed execution style. Purportedly, people living in the area where Johnson's body was discovered indicated that his hands were bound behind his back and there was a gaping wound in the rear of his head.

Other reports say that the Nigerian troops, who were ostensibly on a patrol mission with the AFRICOM forces, fled while the Green Berets stood and fought the alleged assailants. Who these "hostile elements" were has still not been clearly defined. What has been mentioned is that they are somehow affiliated with ISIS (the Islamic State group). (Guardian, Nov. 4)

AFRICOM, in a statement issued on Nov. 12, said it was investigating the incident in order to report its finding to the family of the slain soldiers. Nonetheless, Johnson's family complained about what they described as the insensitive nature of a phone call received from President Donald Trump in the aftermath of the

news reports of the Green Beret's death. Family members of Johnson also noted that they were prohibited from viewing what was said to have been the remains of the African-American soldier. They, along with Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson of Florida, have expressed their dissatisfaction with the response of the White House, particularly the subsequent utterances of Gen. John Kelly, administration chief of staff, who came to Trump's defense, saying the president's actions were appropriate.

U.S. military misrepresents African interventions

A report published on the AFRICOM website dated Oct. 23 uses what many may consider to be racist terminology in regard to the character of Niger and other African states. This attitude was echoed by members of Congress as well as the White House.

The article, by AFRICOM writer Jim Garamone, said: "ISIS seeks to survive in the dark corners of the world where local inhabitants lack the power and expertise to control the violent group, Dunford [Pentagon chair] said. ISIS operates where it can exploit weaknesses in local government and local security forces, he added. Libya, Somalia, West Africa, certain places in Central and South-east Asia are places where ISIS and like groups choose to operate." (tinyurl.com/yayk82ux)

Later in this report Garamone again quotes the Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Marine Corps Gen. John Dunford: "Our soldiers are operating in Niger to build the capacity of local forces to defeat violent extremism in West Africa. Their presence is part of a global strategy."

The article goes on: "The United States is working with nations around the world to improve their military capabilities and capacities, Dunford said. U.S. troops have been working with forces from Niger for 20 years, the general said, training more than 35,000 soldiers from the region to confront the threats of ISIS, al-Qaida and Boko Haram."

Yet the Boko Haram insurgency, which originated in neighboring Nigeria, only began in 2009, after the country's military attacked the headquarters of the organization in Maiduguri city in Borno state in the northern region. Prior to this, Boko Haram had largely functioned as an aboveground group focused on its own notions of the Islamic religion.

ISIS arose during the last six years after the collapse of the Pentagon occupation strategy in Iraq, as Washington has sought to curtail growing Iranian influence in the region. Even al-Qaida had not been cited as an existential threat in West Africa prior to recent years. This was clearly not the case in 1997, as Dunford asserted.

Pentagon grows in Africa

Moreover, what is never addressed is the supposed strategic and security interests of the U.S. in Niger, West Africa and the continent as a whole. The presence of Pentagon military forces in Africa has rapidly grown over the last decade.

These policies have been consistently

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Cost of the 'war on terror'

The so-called "war on terror" that the Pentagon has waged since Sept. 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria, along with "terrorism prevention" programs by the Department of Homeland Security, have cost \$5.6 trillion, according to a study published by the Watson Institute at Brown University on Nov. 8. This is more than twice the amount that the Pentagon had announced.

Besides the wars mentioned above, another \$10 trillion has gone to the Pentagon and associated departments since 2001. The "war on terror" created some 18 million jobs. If that money had instead been spent on vitally needed education, 38 million good-paying jobs would have been created. (thebalance.com, Aug. 10)

Instead: "[In 2015] the Pentagon spent \$43 million on one gas station in Afghanistan. Two contract psychologists were paid \$80 million for designing the CIA's torture program. After 15 years, the only winners in the war on terror have been the contractors." (theintercept.com, Sept. 10, 2016) According to the Watson study, this spending is largely funded through supplemental appropriations rather than the direct military budget and is "secretly" added to the national debt.

What have these fantastic sums of money bought for the poor and working people of the world? At least 1.3 million people have died as a result of this "war on terror," and more than 10 million have been forced to flee their homes. All of this has sparked firestorms of anger and rage that have spawned directed and uncontrolled attacks on innocent people around the globe.

Yes, the 9/11 attack was a terrible event. Its stated motive was the removal of thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed in Saudi

Arabia. Why would waging imperialist wars around the globe, whether directly or by proxy, lessen the threat to workers and oppressed people in the U.S.?

The decay of the imperialist system has created a new wave of mass anger in the U.S. Both the Trump regime and Bernie Sanders hope to harness that anger in their movements. Sanders even talks about socialism and the working class. The leaders of the Democratic Party are railing against the Republican tax cuts as a bonanza for the wealthy and big business at the expense of the "middle class." True enough.

But on Sept. 18, by an overwhelming margin of 89-8, the Senate passed a \$700 billion Pentagon budget bill, surpassing even what Trump had requested. Nearly all Democrats in both the House and the Senate voted for the bill. Even Elizabeth Warren, a so-called "progressive," voted for it.

Why? Because this influx of cash is essential to some of the largest banks and corporations in the country. And the leaders of both parties are all in favor of imperialist war.

These well-heeled senators and congressmembers would have the workers and poor fight over the leftover scraps after the Pentagon and its backers get their share. Health care, education, disaster relief, all that and more take a back seat to more ships, more bombs, more tanks, more drones and more money for the rich.

Only by building a revolutionary movement strong enough to shut down the Pentagon can the workers and oppressed get our fair share of the immense wealth that we produce — which is ALL of it. Money for jobs and human needs, not war and profit! □



U.S. aviators from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, prepare to convoy to an airfield near Agadez, Niger, April 29, 2016.

implemented through successive administrations both Republican and Democratic. The destruction of Libya, Ivory Coast and Sudan all occurred during the administration of President Barack Obama.

Obama continued to prop up the Western-oriented regime in the Horn of Africa state of Somalia, where genuine stability and security remain elusive. Constructing drone stations in Niger is part and parcel of a broader U.S. strategic plan to further dominate Africa militarily and economically.

The Sahel region of West Africa is a treasure trove of valuable minerals and other natural resources, including oil, gold, uranium and natural gas. Though U.S. military occupations are said to be

based on cooperative efforts between the host governments and Washington, clearly the Pentagon represents the interests of international finance capital based on Wall Street.

Statements are made in the Western press that the intervention of AFRICOM follows the request of regional states. These governments, however, are not in any position to refuse Pentagon interference in their internal affairs. If they dare to challenge the purported authority of the White House to send special units of the U.S. military into their countries, they of course will face concerted efforts to remove their administrations from office.

Azikiwe's article was excerpted from the Nov. 14 Ghana News.

Durham activists

Continued from page 10

real needs of all humanity and does not prioritize the greed of a small handful; the side which allows the working class to be the true arbitrators of what constitutes a crime; the side which demands that those who dominate through the misery of our class should start counting down the days to their removal from posts of power.

The struggle continues in Durham and across the country, not just for the removal of racist statues but for the complete destruction of white supremacy and all its chokeholds under the capitalist system.

The movement will not stop until all charges are dropped; all monuments to racism have been removed; all people are able to live without fear and repression. We will continue to claim victory for the thousands who have taken to the streets; for the bold leadership of LGBTQ youth, women, people of color and the entire working class; for uniting our class to say that "enough is enough" and that Heather Heyer's death and the brutalization of our freedom fighters have not happened in vain.

Drop the charges! Tear 'em all down! Black Lives Matter! No justice, no peace, no racist police! The whole damn system is guilty as hell! □

Resistir a Trump y construir una alternativa

By Alex Anfruns
12 de noviembre

Ha pasado un año desde que Donald Trump asumiera el cargo de presidente de Estados Unidos. Para tener una idea de hacia dónde se dirige la administración Trump y cómo se puede construir una alternativa progresista, investi-gation.net habló con el autor y activista socialista John Catalinotto, uno de los directores del periódico Mundo Obrero/Workers World.

Hace un año, usted expresaba serias dudas sobre la idea de que la política exterior estadounidense se volvería menos agresiva. En cambio, hemos visto una multiplicación de amenazas explícitas contra Venezuela, Irán o Corea del Norte. Esto confirma su evaluación

En este momento, el Pentágono está asentado firmemente en la Casa Blanca. Tres generales están manejando el espectáculo. Es posible que los generales no puedan controlar lo que Trump twittea, pero tienen carta blanca para hacer su política militar sin consultar a los civiles.

Han intensificado el numero de tropas en Afganistán y la activa intervención militar en África, y además de lo que usted mencionó, apoyan a Arabia Saudita en Yemen. El trabajo de Trump es vender armas fabricadas en Estados Unidos a Japón, Corea del Sur y Arabia Saudita.

La amenaza del imperialismo estadounidense pone de relieve la necesidad de construir un movimiento contra la guerra, como hemos visto en otros contextos históricos como la década de 1960. ¿Cómo se está desarrollando este movimiento? ¿Cuáles son sus principales obstáculos?

En lugar de ser antiguerra, el movimiento anti-Trump está mucho más orientado a resistir su racismo, su misoginia, sus políticas antiinmigrantes y últimamente sus amplios ataques contra la clase trabajadora – lo cual incluye el ataque fallido contra “Obamacare” y un nuevo plan de impuestos que ayuda a los súper ricos y promete agotar los servicios para los pobres.

Las fuerzas antiguerra han estado organizándose, han realizado manifestaciones y convocado conferencias. Se oponen a las amenazas contra la Corea Popular, Venezuela e Irán. Una manifestación en las calles sobre estos temas despierta poca oposición pero también poco interés entre las masas. En el amplio movimiento anti-Trump, hay mucha menos actividad en el frente antiimperialista. Temen lo que pueda hacer Trump, temen que pueda twittear a su estilo hacia una guerra nuclear. Pero no están preparados para protestar contra esta posible guerra en las calles, por lo menos no es el caso todavía.

Un obstáculo es que – aparte de las declaraciones más violentas de Trump – la clase dominante de EE. UU. apoya las aventuras imperialistas de Washington. El Partido Demócrata es tan pro-

imperialista como los republicanos; los Demócratas simplemente afirman que sus intervenciones son “humanitarias.”

¿Cómo analiza la histeria mediática actual sobre los supuestos vínculos entre los miembros de la administración Trump y Rusia?

Para el sector de la clase gobernante que se opone a Trump y quiere alejarlo o al menos controlar su administración, atacarlo sobre la base de vínculos reales o presuntos con Rusia es el problema perfecto. Les permite movilizar fuerzas contra Trump sin adoptar una posición progresista. Si se movilizaran contra el racismo o en defensa de un salario mínimo más alto, podrían aprovechar un movimiento de masas que causaría problemas a los intereses de la clase dominante.

En su lugar, recurren a la mentalidad de la Guerra Fría alimentada por la confrontación de clases de los Estados Unidos con la URSS y que aún motiva a secciones del Departamento de Estado y el Pentágono, aunque la Rusia actual sea un rival capitalista y no un enemigo socialista.

No me sorprende que el New York Times y el Washington Post y los políticos del Partido Demócrata impulsen la conexión con Rusia. Su posición siempre fue anti-URSS y quieren un gobierno ruso completamente subordinado al imperialismo estadounidense, como lo fue el de Yeltsin.

Entonces podemos decir que los medios están reciclando sus propios cuentos de hadas contra los rusos. ¿Cómo deberíamos reaccionar a esta propaganda?

Lo que es un problema para nosotros en la izquierda, es cuando la oposición masiva socialdemócrata a Trump, ataca a Trump por querer llegar a un acuerdo con Rusia. Lo que debería hacer es luchar contra él por su racismo, sus ataques contra las mujeres, los mexicanos, los musulmanes o sus ataques contra la clase trabajadora en general.

¿Dónde están actualmente las fuerzas progresistas?

Primero definamos a qué nos referimos con fuerzas progresistas. Voy a dividir esas fuerzas en dos grupos, que fueron definidos por las dos manifestaciones en el momento de la inauguración de Trump. El 20 de enero, un movimiento radical formado por fuerzas antifascistas, orientadas tanto por anarquistas como por comunistas, combatió en las calles de Washington y fue atacado por la policía. El 21 de enero, la marcha de las mujeres fue mucho más amplia, pero su política estaba mucho más cercana al Partido Demócrata.

Este grupo más amplio, aunque era principalmente femenino, probablemente estaba más cerca de Bernie Sanders que de Hillary Clinton en sus políticas. Yo diría que millones de personas se han vuelto políticamente activas para trabajar contra Trump. Es un fenómeno nuevo en los Estados Unidos. Medio en broma se llaman a sí mismos “la Resistencia”, ya que gran parte de su trabajo se limita a lograr que los demócratas sean

elegidos y reemplacen a los republicanos en el Congreso y en las oficinas estatales y locales.

Más allá de las limitaciones del partido Demócrata, ¿estos grupos pueden desempeñar un papel significativo en los asuntos clave?

Sí. En realidad, también emprenden acciones independientes del Partido Demócrata, por ejemplo, la defensa de los derechos de los inmigrantes que el gobierno intenta expulsar del país. También se mostraron muy activos apoyando la Ley de Asistencia Asequible, conocida como Obamacare, y ayudaron a evitar que el Congreso aprobara severos recortes a la atención médica. Algunas de esas fuerzas son desviadas por quienes se centran en la supuesta intervención rusa en las elecciones estadounidenses como arma legal contra Trump.

Aunque este amplio grupo anti-Trump tiene algo así como lo que en Europa se consideraría una política socialdemócrata (es decir, antes de que todos los partidos “socialistas” europeos se identificaran con la economía neoliberal), su actividad continua crea un gran espacio para más intervención radical en la lucha, porque alimentan la ira contra el presidente. Esta ira puede volverse contra la clase dominante en su totalidad. Trump, después de todo, representa a esta clase dominante, pero lo hace de una manera tan descarada que cualquier persona decente en los Estados Unidos que no sea racista puede verlo claramente.

El lado malo de que Trump sea un monstruo es que, al expresar abiertamente su racismo, chovinismo y misoginia, ha abierto un espacio para que elementos supremacistas y fascistas blancos hablen y se movilicen pública y abiertamente. Lo vimos el fin de semana del 12 de agosto en Charlottesville, Virginia.

En respuesta, el ala más radical de las fuerzas anti-Trump ha comenzado a enfrentarse a los fascistas, a luchar contra los fascistas en las calles. Entre ellos hay muchos que se han convertido en anticapitalistas y un número menor que son prosocialistas, procomunistas, que comienzan a leer a Marx y a Lenin y buscan una respuesta revolucionaria.

¿Podrán construir una alternativa?

Te daré un ejemplo de mi propio partido, Workers World Party. Durante la mayoría de los 26 años transcurridos desde la desaparición de la URSS, apenas pudimos reclutar nuevos camaradas jóvenes. En los últimos dos años, hemos duplicado en tamaño, con la mayoría de los jóvenes que han estado activos en el movimiento Black Lives Matter, en el movimiento antifascista y en todo lo opuesto a Trump.

Este crecimiento está ocurriendo entre todas las tendencias políticas a la izquierda de Sanders. La izquierda revolucionaria aún no puede jugar un papel estable en el movimiento anti-Trump más amplio que describí antes. No es porque sea un error hacerlo, sino porque todavía somos demasiado pequeños para influir



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en este movimiento, excepto en los momentos clave.

Por ejemplo, en Boston, en agosto, algunos tipos fascistas que pretendían ser “de ultraderecha” (alt-right, ndIR) intentaron organizar una manifestación pública y decenas de miles de personas marcharon y los detuvieron. La gente de Black Lives Matter y los movimientos LGBTQ lideraron la marcha.

Hay un número considerable de personas latinoamericanas en los Estados Unidos. Trump hizo declaraciones muy hostiles contra los trabajadores latinos y juró expulsarlos al otro lado de la frontera ... Estas declaraciones tenían el objetivo de movilizar a un grupo de trabajadores contra otro, basado en una visión étnica. ¿Le ha funcionado?

Trump fue elegido en base al racismo y la misoginia, junto con un creciente desencanto hacia los políticos del establishment. Aunque ha seguido perdiendo apoyo general en la actual atmósfera política -su índice de votos es del 38 por ciento.

Cuando insulta a los mexicanos, ataca a los inmigrantes e insulta a los puertorriqueños (que son ciudadanos estadounidenses), está reforzando el racismo de su base política y utilizando el racismo para reforzar su apoyo hacia él. Lo mismo es cierto cuando ataca a los musulmanes o prohíbe la inmigración desde países mayoritariamente musulmanes.

Hace un año, usted mencionó que hubo un notable aumento en la violencia policial contra las comunidades negras. ¿Cómo ha evolucionado esto después de los años de Obama?

La violencia policial ha continuado al mismo ritmo aun cuando la resistencia ha continuado. La policía ve a Trump como un aliado. La comunidad Negra y la resistencia radical lo ven como un enemigo.

El racismo en los Estados Unidos está estrechamente relacionado con el color de la piel debido a la historia de la esclavitud y la continua opresión de los afroamericanos. Entonces, cuando Trump tuitea ataques contra los atletas que “se ponen de rodillas” durante la emisión del himno nacional para protestar por la brutalidad policial, Trump marca un punto directo en dirección de quienes están infectados con esa ideología racista. En efecto, polariza a la sociedad estadounidense al tratar de mantener a los racistas movili-zados detrás suyo.

En las elecciones de 2017, las llamadas elecciones “fuera del año” (“off-year”, ndIR) porque pocas son para puestos importantes, los demócratas ganaron el puesto del gobernador en Virginia y Nueva Jersey. Hubo algunas otras elecciones que mostraron un modesto giro respecto a Trump.

La entrevista en total: tinyurl.com/y85w6m3r.