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 — subjigated 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.

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 earthquakes — 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-
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 mailroom 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 approval of the American Servicemen’s Union organized 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 or the source of those Bonds, I don’t know. But then one of my sarcastic and scathing anti-war articles 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 addresses and addresses in a mere mailroom, and every one of those GIs received his copy of The Bond. And of course these copies were passed around from hand-to-hand to the various military bases, including the famous Firebase 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 CBN Evening News with Walter Cronkite about a mass

Continued on page 3

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 disproportionately shut out by cops and biotics 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 capital—profits. The wealthy workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1989, 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.org/wwp
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 Isaacs. 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. 29)

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 f—k what color Wayne Isaacs is because my black-ass brother isn’t here,” said Small’s sister, Victoria, to a multiracial crowd of more than 100 at a Union Square rally 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.”

In his closing, Victor said, the “not guilty” verdict emphasized that Small’s life — like many Black lives — didn’t matter. “That’s why we had sleepless nights and nightmares since the verdict. They also said they suffered lost wages because they sat through the two-week trial. “I’m not going to cry 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 community doesn’t win justice through elections, including the most recent one. “Ferre Mayor Bill de Blasio was re-elected. During his first term, he 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 mourned 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.

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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. 15 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 Korea, Vietnam 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 this year, Trump was met with massive protests in Hawaii, Japan and south Korea.

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Solidarity with the people of the Philippines

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


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Report and photos by Jeff Sorel

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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 WPW. Until the fall of 2008, at the age some people run from their daily jobs, Gill was still participating in anti-racist and anti-war activities and organizing support for workers’ struggles. Building on his experiences with The Bond, for decades Gill took Workers World newspapers with him on his messenger route, getting them all across New York.

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

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

Perhaps it is no coincidence that I was finishing this talk for the conference on Nov. 18, today marks the 30th anniversary of WWP comrade and transgender revolutionary communist Leslie Feinberg’s untimely death.

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

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

Webnews worker victory
Union agreement won despite layoffs

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Staff reporters and editors at news websites DNAinfo and Gothamist cele brated 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 super vision 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 em ployees, including sales, office and tech nical 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.

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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 Holcombe, who also happen to be the 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 tragedy — and it creates or the mass shooters in its very heart.

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 tragedy, 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 deep-seated symptom of the disease of capitalism?

Two instances that connect this tragedy to the capitalist system are 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 ruthless- ness; our selfishness is praised as the “American” virtue most desired of all. The wealth to all of this is deemed patri- otism. 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, emo- tionally or spiritually. It will continue to pump out mass murderers, another commodity it can profit from. This, the profits come from tragedy and rat- ing.

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 under- stand 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 im- portantly, the capitalist socioeconomic system needs to be dismantled. Its long list of abuses against the world is very ap- parent.

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.

LGBTQ liberation and global class struggle

Continued from page 4

Capitalism is at its end and survives only on the day-to-day exploited 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 intersect- ing identity, be it nationality, race, dis- ability, 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 politics over everything “are just that: Wild. False. While it is true that focusing are not the only sectors that intersect 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 transgender 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 materi- al conditions that led to the exploitation and oppression of these groups.

All oppressed and exploited groups must be represented in order for the attacks on our collectives to be fully destroyed, in order to defeat capitalism and bury it once and for all.

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

This is evidence enough that capital- ism 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 a roommate who also works, but only bare- ly, 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-paying jobs with high-tech work, it becomes harder and harder to secure a stable income or to join a union to fight for better working conditions. This is made even more difficult by the 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 homophob/homophobic, divide-and-con- quer tactics by the ruling class capitalist have tainted both union organizing and the workplace itself, causing deeper divi- sions between queer/transgender workers and cisgender, white, working-class workers. Solidarity among all workers and oppressed peoples must be built with these groups in order for all of us to be liberat- ed — and in order for socialism to be built and maintained.

Commentary

Toxic capitalist culture created Texas massacre

By Val Tannis
San Antonio, Texas

We like to think our readers value Workers World — because for 51 weeks every day we bring you news that doesn't matter.

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• The many ways Trump and Co. like hate groups
• Why defending Durham activists should be at the top of labor's agenda
• Ending the racist death penalty; work- ing to free political prisoners and tear down the jails
• How imperialism is expanding its mil- itary presence in Africa while China builds that continent's infrastructure
• Why the Chi Guevara still lives 50 years after his death
• Fighting for worldwide socialism means plenty for all workers and the oppressed

How can you show your gratitude for what WW newspaper gives you every week? One way in this capitalist nation is with a subscription to Workers World.

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Disaster capitalism and socialist planning

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 wrought by human-made climate change.

But there is nothing natural about the destruction that follows in a hurricane’s wake. Not the destruction that dominates the headlines. 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. Human-made disasters are often prolonged because there are plenty of people who make a profit from them.

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¡Viva Fidel! ¡PRESENTE!

"We defend that socialist revolution with the same courage with which our antimperialist artillery fired the attacking planes with bullets yesterday! We do not defend it with merce-
naries; 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")

"Are they the hands of workers, are they not the hands of the rich?" (Shouts of "No")

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

"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 Caiminó, 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 Pioneers’ 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. Delegations from the Chicago, Albany, N.Y., and Washington, D.C., Cuba Coalitions in the U.S., and standing banners from Chile, 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 against Cuba! Long Live the Guevara-Castro 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.

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 the 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-oat-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.

Viewing Cuba through a Detroit lens

By Mike Shane

When the “In the Footsteps of Che International Bri-

gade” traveled in Cuba Oct. 1-15, several Workers World Party delegates from Detroit participated, including this writer. Among the many activities, including participa-
tion in the ceremony commemorating Comandante Che in Santa Clara on Oct. 8, where the revolutionary inter-
nationalist 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 de-

partment, 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 Detroit about 250 children are subjected to cruel humiliation at school for being unwashed and for wearing unkempt clothing. In addition to 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 resi-
dential blocks where water shutoffs have occurred.

Conversations with Cubans, on the other hand, re-

vealed that their residential water service costs only two pennies per cubic meter and that the water fee was im-
plemented 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 build-

ing. The typical home water tank holds about 600 gal-

lons. 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.

Privatization of water is not an option considered to make sure their water tanks are completely filled, since the electric power plants are shut down in order to prevent electro-
cutures and damage to equipment, which would cause sources may become contaminated. This also redu-

ces the likelihood of plastic water tanks being blown off roofs by hurricanes.

No water shutoffs, no evictions

In another contrast, since 2005 Detroit has experi-
enced more than 65,000 mortgage foreclosures and an estimated 100,000 property tax foreclosures of residen-
tial 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 tacked onto their property taxes. Evictions are rampant.

These crimes against the people happened as the re-

sult of racist predatory loans, excessive property tax as-
sessments in violation of the state constitution, and cor-
porate privatization of public services.

In contrast, evictions do not occur in Cuba. While thousands are homeless in Detroit, there is no homeless-
ness 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 communism over in any U.S. city.

The achievements of the Cuban Revolution are tru-

ly incredible, especially considering the U.S. blockade, which prevents 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 Bolshe-
vik Revolution as a Nov. 11 community dinner, followed by compelling discus-
sion chaired by Sharon Feldman and led by comrades Kris Hamel, Tom Michalak, Dete
Drude Griswold and Mond Jones.

Comrade Hamel opened with a pre-
sentation on how and why the Bolsheviks were able to achieve military success as well as the support of the diverse, mul-
tinational oppressed classes in Russia. Hamel highlighted the Bolsheviks’ un-
wavering commitment to dismantling feudal autocracy and the capitalist sys-
tem and their staunch stance against opportunism in the social democratic move-
mant of the era.

A presentation by comrade Tom Mi-
chalak explored the many successes of the Bolshevik Revolution and the Soviet project. He covered a breadth of informa-
tion, from the harrowing sacrifices that led to the defeat of fascism in World War II, to an incredible increase in life expec-
tancy under the counterrevolution in the 1980s and 1990s.

Founding member and comrade De-
tre Drude Griswold, of the New York City branch of WW, 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 re-
sult of 74 years of unyielding aggression from the United States and its imperialist partners.

Comrade Mond Jones, youth member and final speaker, emphasized the im-
portance of commemorating, commemorating and reflecting on the Bolshevik Revolu-
tion. He condemned the conditions the global masses face living under capital-
ism 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 Revolu-
tion gives us a template for implementing solu-
tions.”

As comrade Hamel suc-
cinctly put it into words, the Bolshevik Revolution guar-
antees a lifetime of study. The discussions that took place on Nov. 11. were
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!

Bolshevik Revolution, Part 3
Lessons and going forward

The following is Part 3 of the talk giv-
en by Mond Jones, a youth leader of the Detroit branch of Workers World Party, to a meeting commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Bolshe-

vnik Revolution, held in London, Ontario, Canada, on Nov. 4. The meeting was organized by the London chapter of the Young Com-

munist League.

An important lesson to be learned from the Bolshevik Revolution is that the revolution does not end with 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 coun-
terrevolution was the Soviet Union hav-
ing to maintain a military counterpart to U.S. imperialism in an economy one-
third its size.

Because the class struggle is height-
ened, the communist party must be extra

vigilant and strategic in consolidating the

wins of the revolution. When certain con-

cessions are necessary, there must be an

active program to prevent the formation of a bureaucracy and to prevent revision-

ism in the revolutionary movement. We

appreciate the revolutionary character of the Cuban Communist Party today in being clear and forthright with the mass-

es and urging them to defend the revo-

lution even as some capitalist measures are

introduced to facilitate the growth of the

economy in the face of the con-

tinuing blockade. We believe Mao’s cul-

tural revolution, with its successes and shortcomings, shows us sometimes set

back. However, it is important to ac-

knowledge that the fall of the Soviet Union

proves the necessity for a continu-

ation of the revolution, even during times of victory.

Tasks as revolutionaries

in the imperialist centers

Now here is the big question: As rev-

olutionaries in the imperialist centers,

how do we build for revolution? How do

we keep the legacy of the Bolshevnik Rev-

olution alive; how do we take it further than commemorations and conferences and

meetings?

Today capitalism is at a dead end. Ev-

ery gain in the productive forces in this era of high technology leads to more pov-

erty, unemployment and low wages, rathe-

r than gaining in the productive forces in this era of high technology leads to more pov-

erty, unemployment and low wages, rathe-

r than gaining.

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 to

understand this revolutionary his-

tory, so that we can share it with others.

We have to share the history and success-

ses 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.

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We have to share the history and success-
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 Bolshevist 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 nearly island of Kronstadt, as well as Lenin Trotsky and others from the national Bolshevik headquarters in the city center. Bolshevist leader V.I. Lenin and Grigory Zinoviev fled to Finland, where they stayed in hiding for fear of assassination. The Bolshevist 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 revolution. In 1917, nearly all the leaders of the Bolshevik Party mobilized a delegation from Petrograd to defend Petrograd. There was a strong即时 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 flocked to the Petrograd garrison. As happened so often in those days, all of the officers of the Petrograd garrison declared their intention to protect the government.

From the “July Days” to the workers’ revolution

The Bolsheviks were exempt from conscription. The Bolshevist N. N. Sukhanov wrote in his book, “Revolution of 1917: a Personal Record,” 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 workers who controlled the bridges, the Baltic Fleet sailors 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 workers who controlled the bridges, the Baltic Fleet sailors as Red Guards and revolutionary sailors seized postal and telegraph offices, electric works, railroad stations and the state bank.

Then a new turn came up in the Petrograd garrison. 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 commander in chief, but the garrison as a whole, 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 Soviets. 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 Bolshevist 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.

The Bolsheviks freed from prison

Bolshevik headquarters was seized by the Provisional Government. 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 revolution. Without troops to do the fighting, most of the officers that Kornilov had recruited fled to the Petrograd garrison. As happened so often in those days, all of the officers of the Petrograd garrison declared their intention to protect the government. As happened so often in those days, all, it took was contact with the revolution.

By John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings the national story of the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74. Available at online bookstores.
On the Day of Mourning

WWP hails Indigenous peoples

Continued from page 1

ribbeus 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 endangered the water supply used by millions of Dakota Sioux Nation, fought to stop the pipeline's expansion. In 2016 for this sacred, historic site.

Workers World hails 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. 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 stand against 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 in Nov. 16 when 240,000 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 #DAPL water protectors. A growing mass campaign is pressuring North Dakota authorities to drop #DAPL Charges and #Free Red Fawn.

Additional Big Oil aims to privatize 56 million acres of Native land in their quest for fossil fuels. On their behalf, #43 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! □

Continued from page 1

But at every turn, when the sheriff’s department and puppet politicians demanded the people get back, we proudly continued the fightback. Thousands signed online petitions demanding that the charges against Durham arrestees be dropped. Youth and students 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 Sprigner 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, Rafig Zaidi with Inside-Out-Side 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 Rogers-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

The Indigenous-led pipeline struggles inspire millions as they fight for the justice and freedom of all peoples against the state and its racist sense of 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 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 by Durham arrestees, includes 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 negligence, 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...
Pentagon covers up escalating presence

By Abayomi Akizie
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 Pentagons 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 repeatedly 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 (Guardian, Nov. 4) 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 ex- would have been killed on one category, in Al- bates to confront the threats of ISIS, al-Qaida and Boko Haram.”

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” pro- grams by the Department of Homeland Security, have cost $8.5 trillion, accord- ing 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 Pen- tagon and associated departments since 2001. “The war on terror” created 18 million jobs. If that money had instead been spent on vitally needed education, 98 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 Afghan- istan. 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 “secret- ary” 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 people have been forced to flee their homes. All of this has sparked fires 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 thou- sands 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 Ber- nie 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 busi- ness at the expense of the “middle class.” True enough.

But on Sept. 18, by an overwhelming margin of 89-4, the Senate passed a $80 billion Pentagon budget bill, surpassing even what Trump had requested. Nearly all the 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 es- sential to some of the largest banks and corporations in the country. And the lead- ers of both parties are all in favor of impe- rialist war.

These well-heeled senators and con- gressmembers would have the workers and poor fight over the leftover scraps af- ter 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 move- ment 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.

Durham activists

Continued from page 10

real needs of all humanity and does not prioritize the interests of a small subset of the population along with the military on the one side which allows the working class to be the true arbiters 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 remo- val of racist statues but for the complete destruction of white supremacy and all its chal- lenges to the racial capitalist social order.

The movement will not stop until all charges are dropped; all monuments to racism have been removed; all people are able to live free from racism and oppression.

We will continue to claim victory for the thousands who have taken to the streets; for the rights of LGBT youth, women, people of color and the entire working class; for uniting our class to say that “enough is enough” and that Heath- er Lodge’s killers of four members of our freedom fighters have not happened in vain.

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

U.S. aviators from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, prepare to convey to an airfield near Agadez, Niger, Aug. 13, 2016.

By Warren Olney
Nov. 29, 2016

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 implemented through successive adminis- trations both Republican and Democrat- ic. The destruction of Libya, Ivory Coast and Sudan all occurred during the adminis- tration of President Barack Obama.

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

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Resistir a Trump y construir una alternativa

By Alex Anfruns
12 de noviembre de 2017

Hay pasado un año desde que Donald Trump asumió el cargo de presidente de Estados Unidos. Para tener una idea de cómo se dirige la administración Trump y cómo se puede construir una alternativa progresista, investiga el movimiento contra Trump y cómo se puede desempeñar un papel significativo en los asuntos clave. En el sector de la clase obrera que se opone a Trump y quiere alejarlo de la raza dominante, es perfecto. Les permite movilizar fuerzas contra Trump sin adoptar una posición política. Si se movilizan contra el Partido Demócrata, ¿estos gobiernos pueden desempeñar un papel significativo en los asuntos clave?

12 de noviembre

¿Cómo analiza la histeria que Trump ha despertado poca oposición pero también una preocupación por la inmigración desde América Latina. ¿Cómo se está desarrollando este movimiento antifascista y en todo lo que se opone a Trump y quiere alejarlo de la raza dominante, es perfecto. Les permite movilizar fuerzas contra Trump sin adoptar una posición política. Si se movilizan contra el Partido Demócrata, ¿estos gobiernos pueden desempeñar un papel significativo en los asuntos clave?

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