As U.S. fires tear gas at Mexico border,

Solidarity with refugees grows

By M. Matsemela-Ali Odom
San Diego

Nov. 25 — This morning the San Diego Migrant and Refugee Solidarity Coalition held an International Day of Action in Solidarity with the Caravan and Exodus from Central America with the hundreds of migrants who have already reached the border at Tijuana, Baja California. Later in the day U.S. border police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at refugees trying to cross into the U.S.

The MRSC, a multiracial collective of grassroots and radical organizations, grew out of a coalition that has been protesting the Otay Mesa migrant detention center for many months. Union del Barrio offers key leadership to the coalition, which includes members of Colectivo Zapatista, Border Angels, American Indian Movement, Workers World Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Committee Against Police Brutality-San Diego, Palestinian Youth Movement and many other groups.

Concerned that groups from outside the San Diego area have “parachuted in” with little-to-no regard for local organizers, the MRSC issued a call focused on the needs and demands of people in San Diego and Tijuana. The group’s national call contained six demands: respect the right to asylum; process the asylum claims; acknowledge the role of U.S. intervention in Central America causing this exodus; increase international solidarity, including from the U.N. and Red Cross; release migrants in detention centers; and prosecute anyone who violates the human rights of asylum seekers.

Transnational solidarity

About 500 activists gathered at Larsen Field, a local park near the U.S.-Mexico border. There a multinational group of speakers addressed the crowd. Chicano activists expressed internationalist solidarity with Central American refugees. Members of the Palestinian Youth Movement expressed their solidarity and declared an end to all borders from Palestine to Mexico.

A moving appeal came from Mexican activists who have helped the migrants in their trek through Mexico. These leaders expressed their gratitude to the crowd for their support and dispelled myths that the people of Mexico opposed the migrants.

Following the Larsen Field rally, the crowd marched three-quarters of a mile east to the U.S.-Mexico border crossing. As hundreds of protesters walked down the Camino de la Plaza, the crowd grew and traffic stopped. Despite the solidarity march disrupting traffic headed to the Las Americas Premium Outlets, a popular destination for tourists, San Diegans and Mexican nationals, pedestrians and drivers greeted it with curiosity and support.

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Solzhenitsyn and Jordan Peterson

PART 2: Not so strange bedfellows

By John Steffan

“The Gulag Archipelago” by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is the book credited with bringing down the Soviet Union. Setting aside the fact that the situation was far more complicated, it is true that the book holds a special place in anti-communist history. Part 1 of this series drew out the similarities between Solzhenitsyn and Jordan Peterson, a well-known figure on the alt-right who wrote the new edition of Solzhenitsyn’s book. Part 2 goes into the history of how Solzhenitsyn’s work has been used by right-wing forces in the past.

Nikita Khrushchev and Solzhenitsyn

Solzhenitsyn’s rise to international fame began with the political scheming of Nikita Khrushchev, who was First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union when Solzhenitsyn published his first book, “One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,” in 1962.

At the time, Khrushchev and his circle were trying to push through reforms that would open the Soviet Union to the capitalist world. Underlying those reforms was the belief that peaceful coexistence with the imperialists was possible and the dictatorship of the proletariat wasn’t needed.

The program was controversial, and in order to implement it, Khrushchev needed allies. One of the main ways he tried to build support was by attacking Stalin, who was still very popular in the Soviet Union in the 1950s. In his “secret speech” of 1956, Khrushchev argued that all the repression of the previous 30 years was because of one man, Stalin, whose hunger for power and blood was enabled by a “cult of personality” that granted him impunity.

Whatever one thinks of Stalin and the privileged bureaucracy in the USSR, it is impossible to lay the blame for developments in the Soviet system on just one person. Khrushchev should know, since he played a big role in the purges of the 1930s. But that is beside the point.

What Solzhenitsyn’s first book offered Khrushchev was essentially the novelization of Khrushchev’s secret speech.” In fact, the author said as much in the preface to the first edition of his book.

As its title suggests, the book depicts the trials and tribulations of a day in the life of a political prisoner in the Soviet gulag system of labor camps. The story is filled with cruel guards, innocent prisoners and degrading labor conditions. These conditions were certainly present in the gulag system, but Solzhenitsyn suggests at the end that this was universal.

Critics like Robert W. Thurston have shown that conditions in the camps varied, but Khrushchev wasn’t looking for a proper appraisal. He needed those who would join him in demonizing Stalin so that he could placate the super-rich imperialists. Solzhenitsyn was the man for the job, and Khrushchev personally approved the publication of the book. Overnight, Solzhenitsyn became a household name.

To make a long story short, Khrushchev’s campaign failed and ultimately he was removed from power in 1964. Solzhenitsyn’s reputation in the Soviet Union faltered as a result, but many forces outside the USSR were eager to promote his merciless attacks on the foundations of Soviet life.

Dick Cheney and Solzhenitsyn

When Solzhenitsyn published “Gulag Archipelago” in 1974, he was already well-known outside the Soviet Union. Through Prager Publishing, the CIA had circulated Solzhenitsyn’s works in the West, and when he was kicked out of the Union of Writers of the USSR in 1969 because he refused to write one good word about the Soviet Union, the imperialists quickly awarded him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970 for his “ethical force.”

The book’s publication was his most scathing critique of the Soviet Union yet, and could not have come at a more opportune time for the imperialists.

For several years, the Soviet Union and the U.S. agreed to a period of detente, but by 1974, the situation had changed rapidly—and not in Washington’s favor. By the time “Gulag Archipelago” was published, the U.S. had officially accepted defeat in Vietnam, the Cuban Revolution had stabilized and was now supporting liberation struggles in Africa, and the struggle of the Arab people against Israel and the U.S. had generated an oil embargo that shocked the U.S. economy.

Dick Cheney, then secretary of defense under President Gerald Ford, immediately saw the potential benefits to the super-rich and their political allies of demonizing Stalin so that he could placate the right-wing forces in the U.S.

Cheney wrote Solzhenitsyn’s forward for the 1991 edition of the book. In it, he praised Khrushchev, stated that Solzhenitsyn’s “impeccable consistency” made it clear that he was right in his critique of Stalin, and went on to praise Solzhenitsyn’s work as a “brilliant and truthful” critique of the Soviet system.

Cheney was not wrong. Solzhenitsyn’s work was used by right-wing forces in the U.S. to further their agenda of destroying the Soviet Union and fighting for a socialist future. The super-rich and their political allies are still fighting for a socialist future, and Solzhenitsyn remains a household name.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

People are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multiracial, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of the people. 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.
### Car caravan demands: ‘Free Mumia’

**Philadelphia, Nov. 24**

Several cars decorated with signs to “Free Mumia” traversed multiple Black communities neighborhoods on Nov. 24 as part of a Black Saturday Car Caravan for Mumia. The event, which lasted more than three hours, included stops at busy intersections to distribute flyers and constant messaging over a loudspeaker system. Despite the cold weather, the caravan continued for over six hours.

On the microphone Pam Africa, minister of confrontation for the MOVE organization, raised that Mumia Abu-Jalal, imprisoned since Dec. 9, was a political prisoner. Africa mentioned that Mumia was convicted in a trial described as a “frame-up.”

The Oklahoma Historical Society later issued an apology for the trial. The Oklahoma legislature approved a bill to add the 1921 racist attack to the Oklahoma Historical Society’s list of historic events.

The time of the event is to be determined. A community forum around the theme “You can look up crimes, but you can’t look up silence them” will be held Dec. 8 from 12 to 4 p.m. at The People’s Sanctuary, 5507 Germantown Ave. The event will include updates on Mumia’s case and speakers and workshops on a number of related issues, including women in prison, the school-to-prison pipeline, ending mass incarceration and e-carceral, the growing solidarity with prison struggles internationally, and more.

### Solzhenitsyn & Jordan Peterson

**Continued from page 2**

The U.S. leaned on the Soviet Union to tamp down the struggles in the Middle East, but it did not cooperate. Instead, the U.S. was losing ground to struggles for socialism and national liberation on a global scale. Most of the bourgeoisies were now of the opinion that a “defensive” and “aggressive” line was needed.

Solzhenitsyn, who was known to be against detente, became a perfect ally in this period. Not only did he receive the Nobel peace prize in 1970, but he was even invited to the White House by two young warhawks named Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney.

As with Khrushchev, however, Solzhenitsyn soon outgrew his handlers. In 1978, Solzhenitsyn was invited to give the commencement address at Harvard and was expected to praise Western values over communism and thank the U.S. for providing him refuge. This he did not do. Instead, he ridiculed the U.S. elite for their depression, passivity and lack of courage; declared that individual rights had been overemphasized; and called the West a failed model.

If he had not already been there, Solzhenitsyn now occupied a political position outside both communism and liberalism. As mentioned in Part 1, this was the year Solzhenitsyn offered his “Letter to the Soviet Leaders” recommending they dissolve the Soviet Union and form a patriarchal ethno-state of Russian nationalities.

What this history shows is that if Solzhenitsyn’s works are again on the shelf, someone wants them there.

Next: Why we’re seeing a new edition today.
Day of Mourning honored at Plymouth

By Stephanie Trombley

Indigenous people and supporters gathered for the Day of Mourning at Plymouth. The undaunted crowd included Indigenous peoples whose ancestors were murdered — Nipmuc; Mashpee, Aquinnah and other bands of the Wampanoag; Narragansett; Massachusett; Pequot and other Indigenous nations from the immediate region.

Cole’s Hill showed vibrant solidarity with flags and signs from many different Indigenous nations as well as supporters from many communities — Puerto Rican/Taino, Haitian, Palestinian, Filipino, Black, Latinx, Native, white, queer, trans, two spirit, and many others. Moonanum James, Wampanoag, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, opened the rally.

“The Pilgrims came here as part of a commercial venture. They didn’t need religious freedom — they already had that back home in England. The Mayflower Compact was merely a group of white men who wanted to ensure they would get a return on their investment. When they arrived… one of the first things the Pilgrims did was to rob Wampanoag graves at Corn Hill and steal as much of their winter provisions of corn and beans as they were able to carry…

“The first official thanksgiving did not take place in 1621 when the Pilgrims had a harvest-time meal provided largely by the Wampanoag. Instead it was officially proclaimed by Gov. Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637 to celebrate the massacre of over 700 Pequot men, women and children on the banks of the Mystic River in Connecticut.”

Winnipeg, women disappear all the time.”

“… On a more pleasant issue one of my grandchildren Ashley is in college at University of Arizona, Flagstaff, and she wants to be a Medicine Woman! How awesome is that? My baby, a doctor! Wow! How proud am I! You would not believe how much I am! I could use a little help now and then. One day, if she continues her studies to be a Medicine Woman, I know things can change as time goes by, but if she makes it, she will be an enormous help to Native Nations’ hospitals.

“James also discussed recent attacks on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. The Department of the Interior ruled that the Mashpee Wampanoag should not be able to take their own ancestral territory into trust. [...] [The] Mashpee are threatened with having their very own land ripped away from them for a SECOND time. [...] It represents an attack on the self-determination and sovereignty of all Native Nations throughout the country. [...] Stand With Mashpee and support pending legislation that would give Mashpee the right to petition for land to be taken into trust.”

James concluded, “And yet the history of the Indigenous struggles against fossil fuel pipelines and fracking and mining is that they are fought back, and they are victorious. We are then there to greet him with open arms; that he has a good safe journey to the Spirit World, and pray as hard as I can that it will happen. If not, when they bury me I want to be laid to rest face down and with a note pinned to my ass with the words in large bold letters, “Kiss my ass!!” … just in case someone wants to study my bones years from now!!!

“Ongoing genocidal attacks”

“... It doesn’t seem as if any changes for the poor underprivileged in my generation never got to experience or enjoy in their short lives.

“... It is a sad back and look at the world, and I wonder if I will ever get to see the outside world again, free from this prison cell! At 74 it is not looking too good for that to happen. But I keep my hopes alive and pray as hard as I can that it will happen. If not, when they bury me I want to be laid to rest face down and with a note pinned to my ass with the words in large bold letters, “Kiss my ass!!” … just in case someone wants to study my bones years from now!!!

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My last thoughts on this day, that we Native People call a Day of Mourning, are for my sisters’ and brothers’ family and friends, as well as for the next generation, in the Spirit World, and to them I say Lila Pilamaya, thank you for your love and work. My thoughts are also with the youth such as the Water Protectors and all people.
Marxist feminism necessary for liberation

By Zachary Richardson
Chapel Hill, N.C.

A thorough Marxist critique of class society is essential to a truly revolutionary agenda, argued members of Workers World Party at a public meeting here Nov. 10.

Organized and facilitated by Durham WWP’s Logan Emil, Meghan Watts and Taylor Cook, the meeting was held at club and event space Nightlight. Before a full room, Emil, Watts and Cook gave a materialist analysis of the systemic oppressions facing women and LGBTQ individuals. They detailed WWP’s historical role in these struggles, and then led a discussion on how to advance the causes of feminism and LGBTQ rights in the era of MeToo.

“The time was a time when patriarchy didn’t exist,” said Emil, laying out the historical development of “women” as a specific class in society as detailed by Marxists like Friedrich Engels and WWP’s Dorothy Ballan. Emil explained that patriarchy was a product of the division of labor between women and men, the development of private production and surplus value by men, and a focus on securing and maintaining familial wealth through inheritance, among other things.

Emil, Watts and Cook utilized a passage from Ballan’s groundbreaking 1971 work “Feminism and Marxism” to further their discussion:

“The conversion of social property to private property eventually meant even the conversion of humans to private ownership. … This

became transformed into its opposite, with marriage and childbearing involving and isolating women from social production, making her totally dependent on her husband, and reducing her to the role of procreator for and servant of husband.

Much of the meeting’s most engaging discussion came when the three detailed the differences between bourgeois and Marxist feminism, particularly the “white” nature of bourgeois approaches, which explicitly and implicitly center the white, monied woman’s struggle as central to the struggles of all women, including those who are subject to special oppressions due to race, gender identity and/or sexuality.

A truly comprehensive liberatory movement, they said, would incorporate a systemic analysis of who suffers most under capitalism and why. They cited WWP’s Monica Moorehead, who wrote in 2017 that the “feminization of labor manifests itself with women workers, especially the most oppressed women, Black, Latinx and Native, being in the forefront of not only economic struggles, but also leading in political struggles. Those range from the fight for $15 and a Union movement, to Indigenous water rights at Standing Rock. Black Lives Matter led by Black trans women and, of course, the struggle for reproductive justice.”

The danger of a bourgeois/white approach to feminism and its “white savior” ideology provides false expectations, they stated, to focus on efforts to “shatter the glass ceiling rather than the structures that created it.”

Rewire quoted the statement of the National Center for Transgender Equality: “Transgender people know all too well the experience of having our stories put on trial, our experiences disbelieved and our suffering ignored. If adopted, this rule will add even more barriers between transgender survivors and justice.”

Statistics published Nov. 16 by the Center for American Progress confirm that. Campus sexual assault is a widespread problem, but women and LGBTQ women and men report some form of sexual assault during college. Women of color join LGBTQ students in having higher rates of sexual assault than others.

“Out of fear of retaliation or privacy issues, 80 percent of students choose not to report abuse.”

Send comments to stop proposed changes

But the DeVos regulations are not yet final. There will be a 60-day comment period when all institutions and individuals are invited to respond to the proposed rules, or explains why they’ve ignored the element of sexual harassment from “unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex” “to unwelcome conduct by sex,” which is supposed to make changes reflecting that feedback. But before the comment period begins, the revised regulations must be officially listed on the Federal Register. As of Nov. 27, they had not been, although a DOE staffer told this reporter that they were supposed to be registered before the “Thanksgiving” holiday.

Some pro-survivor groups are noticing that the length of the comment period is shorter than the more frequently used 90-day period — perhaps to limit responses during finals and semester break. A Nov. 21 blog on the National Women’s Law Center website (nwlc.org) stresses that the DOE cannot be finalized or implemented until the DOE “reviews each comment and either makes changes to the rules, or explains why they’ve ignored the element of sex in the list.”

The NWLC notes that the link to submit comments on the DOE website hasn’t been posted yet, so it provides detailed instructions on how and where to submit written comments by mail. While stating that the center will also help survivors and allies submit electronic comments, it reports: “[L]egible handwritten messages are often especially effective at persuading public officials … particularly when received in large numbers.”

Part 2 will detail how the proposed Title IX regulations are anti-survivor and pro-predator.

No to DeVos’ proposed Title IX regulations!

By Sue Davis

U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos ran a touchdown Nov. 16 for her predatory-in-chief coach Donald Trump — when she introduced a revised proposal for Title IX regulations addressing sexual violence and misconduct in K-12 schools and colleges and universities that receive government funding.

Sexist sororities and fraternities, women’s and LGBTQ rights organizations, and educational and legal groups quickly united to oppose the new rules. Not only do the rules fundamentally misunderstand the nature of misconduct, decrease schools’ jurisdiction and liability, and promote “due process” for attackers, but predictions are that these rules will discourage students from reporting abuse and often lead them to drop out.

One of the major changes in Title IX is that the standard needed to convict an accused will change from “preponderance of evidence” to “clear and convincing evidence.” The bar will also be raised for what counts as sexual harassment from “unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature” to “unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person access to the school’s education program or activity.”

This is just another plank in the anti-woman, anti-LGBTQ agenda of the viciously misogynous, totally reactionary Trump administration.

Title IX is the landmark civil rights law, passed in the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs, including sexual assault, rape and sexual harassment, that would limit or deny students access to education. Title IX is often used to demand women have equal access to sports.

One of the first changes DeVos instituted after she took office in early 2017 was to ditch the more survivor-friendly Title IX rules of the previous administration. Then in July she made a show of meeting openly and individuals are invited to respond to the proposed rules, or explains why they’ve ignored the element of sexual harassment from “unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex” “to unwelcome conduct by sex,” which is supposed to make changes reflecting that feedback. But before the comment period begins, the revised regulations must be officially listed on the Federal Register. As of Nov. 27, they had not been, although a DOE staffer told this reporter that they were supposed to be registered before the “Thanksgiving” holiday.

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Know that we’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future!
Workers strike at Amazon in Germany, Spain

By John Catalinotto

More than 600 workers walked out of Amazon’s buildings in Bad Hersfeld and Rheinberg, Germany, on Black Friday, Nov. 23. The Verdi service workers’ union represents the Amazon workers, who are asking for higher wages and better working conditions. Amazon has a reputation for pressuring workers horribly, especially during the peak retailing season starting now.

In Spain, according to UNI Global Union, workers at Amazon’s Madrid-area San Fernando de Henares facility, where 1,800 workers are employed, also stopped work that day. They were last on strike during Amazon Prime Day, July 16-17. That day is another major shopping day at Amazon.

On a picket line, 38-year-old employee Eduardo Hernandez said, “Black Friday” is one of the days that Amazon has most sales, and these are days when we can hurt more and make ourselves be heard because the company has not listened to us and does not want to reach any agreement.” (AP, Nov. 23)

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos was recently named the richest person in the world. His value gives him bragging rights among other top exploiters of the world’s workers, like Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and Mark Zuckerberg. It also eliminates any chance he can plead poverty if the more than half million people who work for Amazon decide to fight for higher wages. That’s just what happened on Nov. 23.

According to GMB Union officer Mick Rix, about 500 workers in Britain also demonstrated at five Amazon warehouse buildings. “What we’re saying in Jeff Bezos, namely that we need the wealth and ability to make sure your workers are treated with respect and dignity,” Rix said. (TeleSur English, Nov. 23)

There are more worker actions in Europe than in the U.S. because more workers are unionized there. None of Amazon’s U.S. warehouse workers are represented by unions. That doesn’t mean there is no U.S. organizing. A group of Somali Muslim women workers at Amazon’s Shakopee, Minn., warehouse are planning a job action in December over workplace conditions and religious accommodations. The workers have held meetings with Amazon management protesting speed-ups and the inability to take breaks from work in order to pray.

The women in Minnesota are the first in the U.S. that has made some headway organizing against the powerful company. They voted to stage a large protest and walkout on Dec. 14, in the thick of the holiday season, according to the Nov. 20 New York Times.

The giant company has 110 warehouses across the U.S. The one in Shakopee needed 1,000 workers when it opened in 2016. Workers at Whole Foods, which is owned by Amazon, have also recently begun talks of organizing.

Oakland action supports refugee caravan

By Judy Greenspan

A community rally was held at Fruitvale Station in the heart of East Oakland, Calif., on Nov. 25, led by young Central American migrant activists to show solidarity with the caravan of Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. Organized by Pueblo Sin Fronteras, today’s event was called to support the international Day of Solidarity with the migrant caravan.

Chris Lopez, a Honduran immigrant with Pueblo Sin Fronteras, welcomed everyone to today’s protest: “We are here today in solidarity. We are here to support the rights of all migrants to seek asylum.”

A major emphasis of today’s protest was Honduras and the repressive regime that has created the conditions leading migrants to seek refugee status in the U.S. Honduran flags were prominent in the crowd.

Christian Pineda, a University of California-Berkeley student who came through Mexico in 2016, spoke about poverty, violence and corruption in his country. “More than 56 percent of the people live in poverty,” Pineda stated. “I would see dead bodies on the way to school. People are suffering from malnutrition because the Guatemalan government will not let them grow their own food. ‘Poverty is political,’ she added. “We have the wealth and ability to make sure the people of Guatemala supported the caravan and give them rice and food. Later, Guatemalans joined the caravan in Mexico because of extreme hunger and racism,” said Jàcome.

The young activist pointed out that the Indigenous people are suffering from malnutrition because the Guatemalan government will not let them grow their own food. “Poverty is political,” she added. “We have had decades of U.S. intervention that has caused both this poverty and racism. When people say they are hungry, we need to give them asylum.”

Organizers urged everyone to attend upcoming local events to build support for the Caravanistas and their fight for political asylum.

Solidarity with refugees grows

Continued from page 1

Once the marchers reached the border crossing, speeches and chants resumed. In a volume surely loud enough to be heard across the wall in Tijuana, protestors shouted, “Let them in! Let them in!” “Hey, hey! Ho! ho! This border wall has got to go!” and other messages of solidarity.

It became evident that the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol intended to ramp up their maneuvers even before skirmishes occurred on the Mexican side of the border.

The MRSC march was held in concert with an even larger action across the border in Tijuana. As many as 1,800 workers are employed, also mobilized in opposition.

Over the past month, the refugees had begun to arrive. Many of the earliest arrivals consisted of people of European descent and refugees who had faced state-sponsored repression and sexual assault in their home countries and later by Mexican authorities.

By many accounts, the Tijuana working class has been gracious in its reception of the Central American asylum seekers — just as many had earlier been for Haitian migrants to the city. However, reactionary forces have also mobilized in opposition.

Highly unpopular Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastélum, of the far-right National Action Party, has instigated local panic and even begun toewear a red baseball cap inscribed “Make Tijuana Great Again” — taking his cues from Trump’s bombasties.

CBP fires upon asylum seekers

Some have wondered whether the U.S. president’s approval of the use of force against the asylum seekers was mere hyperbole. Reports have noted that many of the troops deployed are unarmed and their numbers seemed to be decreasing. However, the CBP’s use of force this past Sunday underscores the seriousness of Trump’s words.

As a group of about 500 refugees and activists began to approach the border crossing, things got very tense. CBP fired tear gas into the group in an attempt to clear the area. A young girl was seriously injured. In their eagerness to repress, CBP agents were witnessed speeding down Camino de la Plaza so fast that they almost broadsided a car leaving the shopping center.

The Mexican Interior Ministry has said it would deport the people detained for rushing the border. The refugee conflict presents the incoming government of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador with a crisis, since most of Lopez’s voters are sympathetic with the refugees, while Washington will demand that he repress them.

The protests on both sides closed the border for five hours to pedestrians and auto, disrupting the regular flow of business. Las Americas Premium Outlets was also forced to shut down. While people on social media company. They voted to stage a large protest and walkout on Dec. 14, in the thick of the holiday season, according to the Nov. 20 New York Times.

The giant company has 110 warehouses across the U.S. The one in Shakopee needed 1,000 workers when it opened in 2016. Workers at Whole Foods, which is owned by Amazon, have also recently begun talks of organizing.

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The plight of home care workers

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

In the United States, over 2 million home care workers are paying the price for the greed of the few.

Home care workers help people with “disability, aging, or health-related needs, including home care assistants and direct support professionals.”

The release of a Disease Control and Prevention found 4.9 million adult patients received some form of home health care in 2013. As the senior population continues to grow, so will the demands for home care services. Current projections indicate that as of 2022, with 1 million jobs to be added by 2026.

While one cannot put a price tag on a human life and the quality of that life, the home care industry does so under the banner of capitalism. Home care health is dominated by for-profit agencies. CDC data from 2014 indicates that of the 12,400 home care agencies operating in the U.S., 80 percent of them were for-profit organizations, with the remaining nonprofit or government-owned.

As with other health care entities—pharmaceutical companies raise costs to unhealthy proportions and health insurance companies raise premiums—these for-profit agencies will continue to overcharge clients and underpaying home care workers.

Hourly wages for home care workers have “barely risen” over the past decade, according to a Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute study “Home Care Workers: Key Facts.” (phinational.org, Aug. 2019). In 2017, the median hourly wage for home care workers was $11.03 in 2017 compared to $10.66 in 2007.

In many cases, workers have to shoulder the burden of on-the-job costs without compensation. For example, many agencies do not provide company vehicles for direct support professionals, forcing them to drive their own cars, pay for their own gas and pay for repairs.

For many, it is not only that care workers have lower job stability, shorter working hours and are less likely to have fringe benefits than those working in hospitals and nursing homes. As a result, over 20 percent of home care workers live in poverty.

Besides the financial toll, these jobs also take a physical and mental toll on these workers.

In 2017, a study from the American Journal of Public Health concluded “Workers jobs affect their health-related quality of life.” AJPH ranked home care aides (along with nursing and psychiatric aides) among the occupations “reporting the most cases of workplace injuries and illnesses.” (tinyurl.com/ybshkssn)

One BMC Nursing review found that home care workers were at “higher risk impact of ergonomic strain and licensed practical nurses.” (tinyurl.com/ y8uq995w)

The stress of the job combined with financial insecurity are responsible for the high turnover rate in this field. BMC Nursing even fears there might be a shortage of home care aides in the future.

Home care health services are a necessity, as are the workers providing them. But with mass privatization and cuts to home care services from the New York City and California agencies, these services are treated as a luxury and the workers are treated as expendable.

Home care workers, along with the people they help, will continue to suffer financially, mentally and physically under the attacks of management owned.

The strikers’ loud and spirited chants over the beats of maskshift drums, 12 hours a day, at seven hotels in bitterly cold temperatures, traveled up to penthouse suites and into corner offices blocks away. Gentrifiers filed noise complaints, pricey downtown hotel rooms had to be deeply discounted, and the Nov. 6 Wall Street Journal reported “weaker demand” impacting Marriott’s bottom line. Inside, service standards plummeted. But street action was only part of the picture — the tip of an enormous iceberg of working-class power underneath.

Because of decades of workers’ organization, Marriott was forced to concede on wages, benefits, healthcare and workplace demands, with mostly immigrant women of color leading the way and setting a new standard for U.S. workers.

Many lessons from this momentous strike will inspire and guide working-class organization for years to come.

More and more workers are facing struggles that are both offensive and defensive. Increasingly polarized times have intensified attacks on the working class by an emboldened bourgeoisie. But workers with nothing to lose but their chains are rediscovering the strike — with a world to win.

Childs is chief steward, Harvard University Dining Services, UNITE HERE Local 26.
China’s growth into the world’s second-largest economy is being evaluated by all the corporate media, reflecting debates in ruling circles and the U.S. top military command. They are forced to admit that most of their hopes and dreams that the Chinese government could be easily overwhelmed, and that Wall Street would find an open road into China, are now dashed by the reality of a stable government that seems to have wide mass support and growing prosperity.

The New York Times Sunday edition ran a 20-page special supplement titled “China Rules” on Nov. 25. It begins with the admission: “The West was certain China would fail. Government-controlled economies crush growth. Propaganda smoothers innovation. The Internet is an unattainable force. A middle class will demand a vote. None of these proved true. China has risen, and it is soon surpassing the United States. This is the story of how it got there.”

Of course the whole supplement is full of self-congratulatory myths about the “democracy and freedom” of imperialist countries. But there is also recognition of a profitable era of uninterrupted growth in China and that the country is on track to become the world’s largest economy.

“Economic growth in China has been ten times faster than in the U.S. and it is still more than twice as fast,” the Times states. It is an incredible accomplishment! More than 800 million workers have been pulled out of dire poverty. This is a measure without precedent in modern history. The rate of extreme poverty in China is down from 40 percent to less than 1 percent, according to World Bank studies. Yet China remains a developing country, because its per capita income is still a fraction of that in “advanced” countries.

While opening the country to foreign capital investment, organized and centrally planned attention was focused on raising the economic level of the whole population, especially in rural and most underdeveloped areas.

From an illiteracy rate of more than 80 percent at the time of the Chinese Revolution in 1949, illiteracy is now totally gone. This is a day when far more graduates in science and engineering are being moved into place.

U.S. demands

Under the screen of diplomatic negotiations, just what are the fundamental changes in China’s policies that U.S. corporations want?

The Trump administration — and other major imperialist powers — want to fundamentally overturn China’s industrial and development policies. Their terms seem abstract.

Ease restrictions on market access, end forced technology transfers for corporations setting up factories in China, respect intellectual property and patents, and weaken currency controls.

For example, Trump accuses China of running an unfair trade surplus in order to boost its export industry. The value of Chinese currency, the yuan, is largely shut off to foreign speculators. Interest rates are set to help guide the economy.

The hostility is sharpening. It is an all-out effort to fundamentally overturn Chinese economic policies put in place starting in 1978.

Market socialism: a compromise

Market socialism, or “socialism with Chinese characteristics,” is the compromise that President Xi Jinping’s plan is building on. The economy is being pulled up a market economy. It is described in China as a primary stage of developing socialism in an underdeveloped country.

Since 1978 China has experimented with ways of attracting foreign investment and different forms of integration into the global capitalist market. They made deals with many Western corporations, while maintaining centralized control of the state apparatus. They also continued many forms of public, cooperative and social ownership.

Special economic zones were established in the late 1970s with Western technology. These zones, with thousands of labor-intensive factories and millions of workers earning low wages, were centers of capitalist exploitation that reaped enormous profits for the U.S. and other global capitalists. Privately owned SOEs were sold. The communes were broken up and land was leased. Many forms of small businesses were forced to close. The Peking’s arrogant demands that diplomats could not even issue a closing statement.

The Nov. 30 meeting of the Group of 20 in Argentina under a cloud of uncertainty. Remembering past Western domination and humiliation, China is determined to continue, both economically and now militarily. China has imposed its own tariffs on U.S. products. Confrontations are accelerating with U.S. warships confronting Chinese fishing boats in the South China Sea.

The pivot to Asia is a major military reorientation of the Pentagon war machine to focus on China. Aircraft carriers with nuclear weapons, destroyers, nuclear submarines and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile batteries are being moved into place.

State-owned enterprises predominate

What frustrates the capitalist class, far more than China’s incredible growth, is that the top 12 Chinese companies on the Fortune Global 500 list aren’t Walmart, Amazon, Google, Facebook and YouTube.

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This is sheer hypocrisy! The largest U.S. corporations and military contractors with billions in federal subsidies, but super-rich investors reap all the profits. Privately owned U.S. agribusiness has received decades of subsidies. Privately owned Wall Street banks received U.S. federal bailouts, a giant subsidy totaling $6 trillion, in the 2008 global financial crisis.

It was during the 2008 crisis that the difference in who controls the state stood out in sharpest contrast. China saved and further strengthened its state-owned enterprises, while letting the privately owned and foreign-owned corporations fend for themselves.

China’s internet is way ahead

An expectation of big capital globally that the ownership of the Internet would forcibly pry China open to Western pressure, ideas and propaganda. But China is allowing the Internet to innovate in setting up privately owned but monitored internet companies. Today Alibaba, Tencent, Weibo, ByteDance, the mobile messaging app.

Tencent, with 647 million active users, is the world largest online community. Alibaba is the largest e-commerce platform in the world.

Smartphone payments in China are yet another example. Private companies operate a cyberspace of creative short videos, podcasts, blogs and streaming TV. For example, WeChat has 1.1 billion active users, enabling online shopping, online games, pay bills and buy tickets all from the mobile messaging app.

National laws on sexual harassment, workers’ rights

The social gains in China are monu-mental. Women’s rights, no education and no standing for women, and no rights for any workers or peasants, before the Chinese Revolution. As in every country, social gains, espe-

cially for women, are uneven and in con-

in renewed. The inclusion in China’s civil code of laws to curb sexual harassment in the workplace is ahead of what exists in the U.S. and most other countries.

Included in the draft of the new civil code, presented to the National People’s Congress Standing Committee on Aug. 27, management and employers are responsible to take measures to prevent, stop and deal with complaints about sexual harassment. Victims can also petition courts for “civil liability” for committing sexual harassment through words or actions or by exploiting some other close relationship. (reuters.com, Aug. 27)

The China Labour Bulletin states: “China has a comprehensive legal framework that gives workers a range of entitlements and protects them from exploitation by their employer. Workers have the right to be paid in full and on time, a formal employment contract, a 40-hour working week with fixed overtime rates, social security covering pen-

sions, healthcare, unemployment, work injuries and maternity leave, severance pay in the event of contract termination, equal pay and protection against workplace discrimination.

“Workers also have the right to form an enterprise trade union and the enterprise union committee has to be consulted by management before any major changes to workers’ pay and conditions.” (clb.org.hk)

Belt and Road Initiative

President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative provides infrastructure loans, equipment and training to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America for a net-

work of trade routes, with new rail lines, ports and roads, oil pipelines, water infras-

tructure facilities and energy centers linking countries on four continents. It includes financing to promote urban planning, potable water, sanitation and food development. China is calling it the “plan of the century.” It is projected to be twice as big as the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt Western Europe after World War II.

Many economic observers say the biggest problem with this initiative is that many of the countries that have signed up for the project are too poor to pay back the loans.

Imperialism is worried that China’s huge investment in the Belt and Road Initiative could challenge the U.S.-led world order.
By this time 1918, World War I — fought mainly among the imperialist powers of Europe and rightly called “The Great Slaughter” — was finally drawing to a close, its end accelerated by the 1917 Russian Revolution a year earlier. There was a likelihood that this war was about to end with the death of 20 million people. The major states on both sides of the 1914-18 war were Germany and Austria-Hungary — were all oppressor nations, as was the United States, which did not enter World War I until April 1917.

This article focuses on developments in Germany, especially the events in the first nine days of November 1918, when an estimated 1.5 million people on the North Sea Fleet ended the war and forced the German ruler, the Kaiser, to abdicate. The efforts of the German sailors to take control of the fleet, which was part of the German Reich, Bavaria had the structure of a separate kingdom. There, as early as Nov. 3, a mass demonstration at key points in the city was continuing the war freed political prisoners from Stadelheim prison.

On Nov. 5, at a mass anti-war demonstration in Munich, both the Social Democratic Party and the more leftist Independent Social Democrats called for a meeting of the entire population without giving an order to fight. The next morning, Saturday, Nov. 9, 1918, workers spontaneously began a general strike, shutting down the city. There was no resistance from the old government.

With the empire vanished, two diverse political leaders each declared a republic — really two different kinds of republic. Karl Liebknecht, recently released from prison for his anti-war agitation and a co-leader with the still-imprisoned Rosa Luxemburg of the Spartacist League, declared a socialist republic in the afternoon.

Later that day, buffet, who had rushed to beat Liebknecht to the punch, had declared a democratic (capitalist) republic two hours earlier. The two declarations signaled the differences and antagonisms.

On one side, Ebert and the conservative Majority Social Democrats defended the rule of the capitalist ruling class of Germany, but without the Kaiser and eventually without any trace of the monarchy. On the other side was the Spartacist League, which was to develop into the Communist Party of Germany. The Independent Social Democrats, whom Luit referred to as playing a role in the November revolution, held an intermediate position.

In the first months the Majority Social Democrats did all they could to restrain the revolutionary workers from taking over the government. In mid-January 1919, they made a desperate and brutal move. They collaborated with the military officers and workers’ councils — officer-led organization of military revolutionary group — to execute the leaders of the Spartacist League.

The Spartacist group was too small and weak to seize power on its own, as the Bolsheviks had done in Russia. The Independent Socialists vacillated and refused to challenge the Majority Social Democrats. Consequently, the German working class was unable to take advantage of the now-revolted sailors and workers to take power in its own name and smash the old state.

Who led? Workers or sailors?

Lt. Cmdr. Von Forster made an important assertion in his pamphlet: that the rebellion came not from within the fleet but was brought in from the outside by social-democratic organizers. Von Forster refused to believe the impulse came from the sailors themselves. Perhaps, since he was a subma- rine captain, he imagined the relations of the officers to the entire force. There was no resistance from the old government.

For the sailors, everything was an immediate question of life and death. Also, the sailors’ living conditions on the fleet mirrored that of workers in factories, only under more repressive conditions.

Hands off China!

Big debates will continue within the progressive U.S. working-class movement on the social character of the Chinese empire and how to defend the Chinese revolution. It is valuable to study the impact of the global and international capitalist market and its effects on labor in China. The forms of socialist planning in the economy and in the culture hold lessons for the many developing countries.

The social weight, legal status and inheritance rights of the millionaire, and now even billionaire, capitalists in China should be evaluated.

The Chinese working class now numbers 623 million people. Its social weight and political consciousness is growing. Thousands of strikes and job actions have consolidated new gains in pay and working conditions. Its capacity to organize all future socialist society will decide.

There is much we don’t know about the ownership of the productive forces in China — by the state, by Chinese and foreign capitalists, and about the many forms of collective ownership of small industries at the provincial, city and township levels. A lot is in rapid transition.

But in the final analysis, clarity and militant working-class solidarity are essential in opposing all threats to China from U.S. imperialism and its giant military machine.

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First imperialist world war ends, November 1918

US threatens China as new superpower

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Moreover, China has so far only visited a number of projects by Chinese capitalists who were seeking ways to move their profits outside of Chinese government controls through exploitative foreign investment schemes.

Sometimes all it took was a group of armed sailors to land, and the workers would join them and change who runs the city.

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Political changes among the old ruling struc-

tures. — This is essential — the sailors were armed. After the first repres- sion in Kiel, they distributed tens of thousands of weapons and ammunition. This meant they could march into city after city, connect with strikers and workers and place a tacit ultimatum before the mili- tary authorities and, more importantly, before the rank-and-file soldiers: Either join us or we fight! Once discussions began, the troops on land could see that if they joined with the sailors and workers in solidarity, they would represent the new power in that city and could reach out to city until they took Berlin.

Again in history, the collapse of the capitalist military forces — albeit a tem- porary collapse — opened the door to a successful popular uprising, dissolving the prior-existing structure and opening the path to a possible socialist revolu- tion. Unlike in Russia a year earlier, however, the German working class and its disparate parties were unprepared to seize this opportunity to take power and wield it in their own class interests.

Ernst Toller, whose book is quoted in Parts 1 and 2 of this article, served for six days in April 1917 as president of the socialist Bavarian state and was jailed when the counterrevolu- tion won. The class battle continued for 14 more years of the Weimar Republic and ended in the defeat of the workers in 1933, when Adolf Hitler’s Nazis took power.

This failure to seize power eventually had tragic results for humanity. But this does not negate the historic lessons of the heroic revolt of the sailors of Germany’s North Sea Fleet.

To read all three parts of Chapter 16, “The Revolt of the Kaiser’s Blue Yachts,” subscribe to “Turns the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions” by John Catalinotto, go to workers.org.

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In all the dire news about the increased severity of climate change and its cataclysmic effects, the most important element is not just downplayed—it is missing entirely.

For example, in a report issued Oct. 8, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that as soon as 2040, rising world temperatures will bring inundated coasts, intensifying droughts, worsening food shortages and wildfires, and a mass die-off of coral reefs (“IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”).

This stunning report, prepared by more than 200 scientists around the world, quantifies the costs of damages to the world economy at $34 TRILLION, but doesn’t even attempt to put a number on the loss of lives.

This means that a 3-year-old today could face a terrifying world when they reach 25.

Can anything be done to avert this staggering prediction? The cause of global warming and climate change is not that any scientist can explain. The accumulation of heat-trapping carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere, resulting mainly from burning fossil fuels, is an inescapable fact. The scientists say that “it is technically possible to achieve the rapid changes required to avoid 2.7 degrees (1.5°C) of warming, they concede that it may be politically unlikely.” (New York Times, Oct. 7)

So the science and the technology DO exist to avoid this catastrophe. Shouldn’t that mean a worldwide mobilization to make sure it gets done?

Yet it is “politically unlikely.” If anyone thinks that means we just have to get rid of Trump and his cronies, think again. U.S. administrations have been warned about this problem since the 1980s. Both Democratic and Republican administrations decisively rejected the advice of the scientists. (“Losing Earth: The Decade We Got It Wrong, Decade We Got it Right,” New York Times Magazine, Aug. 1)

Global warming is not a problem of science and technology. It’s a problem of class relations. It demonstrates, in the most urgent way, that private ownership of the means of production stands in the way of carrying out rational decisions about the economy.

While climate change most damages the people who have the least, it affects all of society. Given what we now know, turning back this catastrophe should be at the top of everyone’s agenda. Instead, the big corporations and banks are totally involved in doing whatever turns a profit for them. And they can’t do otherwise because capitalism is a dog eat dog society in which cooperation for the common good has no place.

In early human society, when people lived communally and shared what they had, it was to everyone’s benefit to work together to solve problems. Even with limited technology, humans were able to accomplish daunting projects think of the huge stone statues on Easter Island and the massive circles of Stonehenge. What sacrifices they made to demonstrate their ability to literally move mountains!

Class society changed all that. The interests of those owning property in the form of enslaved people, land and finally capital became antagonistic to the interests of those doing the work. Human solidarity was destroyed. Greed triumphed over the common good.

For human society to be sustainable, there must be solidarity. It was no accident that the early anthem of the workers’ movement in the U.S. was “Solidarity Forever.”

Capitalism breaks down solidarity. It pits boss against workers, worker against nation against nation; it divides us by gender and sexual expression, by our place of birth, by our hair and skin color, by language, by religion, by nation. Right now, Indonesia is at the epicenter of countries releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. From 2007 to 2014, vast tropical forests were leveled at the rate of three acres every minute to make way for palm oil plantations. In 2015, fires set to then clear the land raged out of control. NASA satellites detected more than 120,000 hot spots. All this was the direct result of supposedly environmentally friendly legislation in the U.S. promoting biofuels over coal. Big U.S. investors like Black Rock were in on the deal. (“Palm Oil Was Supposed to Help Save the Planet. Instead It Unleashed a Catastrophe,” New York Times Magazine, Nov. 20)

How did U.S. corporations get such influence in Indonesia? Through a military coup and massacre of a million Indonesians in 1965 that destroyed solidarity by decimating the once-powerful Communist Party there. (Read “Indonesia 1965: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century” at workers.org/books.)

Nothing about climate change is inevitable. It’s all connected to the class struggle to take the means of production, as well as science and technology, out of the hands of capitalist exploiters and use it, not for the profits of the few, but for the common good. Which is another way of saying we urgently need to ramp up the struggle for socialism.

Haitians strike on Verrières

By G. Dunkel

It’s an uprising. Some 80 percent of Haitians went on strike for days after massive protests throughout the country on Nov. 18. That date marked the anniversary of the battle of Vertières near the Musée du Panthéon National Haitien, 100 yards from the presidential palace, where President Jovenel Moïse was scheduled to deposit the wreath at a memorial to the heroes of Vertières near where he was killed.

The protests on Nov. 18 started out in Port-au-Prince neighborhood of La Saline, where a police raid killed at least 15 people and dumped their bodies in garbage pits, according to a report by the newly founded Open Eyes Foundation.

Pressure on Haitian government to resign

The protests on Nov. 18 started out in Port-au-Prince, with marchers chanting and dancing to bands marching along with them. When the marchers confronted the police, however, the tone changed. Videos show cops clubbing the streets, rifle or gun in hand, throwing tear gas grenades. Protesters built barricades of tires and other trash, which they set on fire from time to time.

The Haitian National Police claimed that three people were shot dead. A major opposition group, the Democratic and Popular Sector, an alliance between the various major opposition groups, said that three people were shot dead and 40 injured.

The Haitian Police force, which is supposed to be “advising” the various Haitian police forces sent U.N. patrol cars surveying the action.

While the protests began over the PetroCaribe corruption, the attacks on the opposition and the Haitian Catholic Haitian Catholic and Marxist-Leninist movements, the יכול to literally move mountains!

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The Haitian government is currently under tremendous popular pressure to resign. However, the U.S. embassy in Haiti issued the following statement:

The United States supports the human rights of people everywhere to freely express themselves and peacefully protest, and supports the Haitian government as it safeguards both those rights, and the security of public and private property." This has to be seen as interference in another country’s internal affairs. Haiti has every right to make its own decisions without any U.S. intervention.

The Haiti protests were the result of a long history of occupation and resistance. The Haitian government is currently under tremendous popular pressure to resign. However, the U.S. embassy in Haiti issued the following statement:

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France: Mobilization of ‘Yellow Vests’ marks new stage of struggles

By Rémy Herrera
Paris, France

Nov. 22 – A profoundly new mass mobilization has emerged in recent weeks in France: that of the “yellow vests.” That’s the name and color of the high-visibility jacket that every motorist is supposed to have in their vehicle to use, for their safety, if necessary. It was, as a uniform of common struggle, by human activist collectives expressing their disapproval of President Emmanuel Macron’s actions.

This is a new mobilization in terms of its origin, scale and forms of popular rebellion. It all started at a small scale on the end of October with a simple citizen petition, without any party or union affiliation, without leaders or organizations, posted on social networks. It called for the cancellation of the fuel tax increase recently approved by the government.

A few days later, nearly a million people had signed it, and / or began to mobilize. For the “yellow vests.”

This protest movement initially concerned the price of gasoline and the high taxes. It quickly included “the high cost of food,” “low purchasing power” and a “boycott of the big department stores” before it finally focused on one clear slogan: “In each town.”

The common point of these confrontations, which were everywhere in the country, was to express a general malaise, “a rejection of the system” and a rejection of the social inequalities caused by the application of Macron’s neoliberal program.

The spark was reached Nov. 17: Some 280,000 yellow vests (according to police figures), scattered over 2,000 rallies throughout France, blocked access to key roads, motorway tolls and supermarkets.

Most of the groups were inexperienced and spontaneous in the streets. Many people were taking part in their first political protest. Fewer than 10 percent of the demonstrations were registered with the police force in a district (préfecture), which is the usual procedure.

In almost all regions of France, the people continued to carry out blockades: In Toulouse, around Lyon, Bordeaux, Il de- France, Vaucluse, Normandy, Brittany, in the north of the country, in Corsica, and as far away as French overseas territories. On Réunion Island (more than 5,800 miles from Paris in the Indian Ocean) where social inequalities are blatant, protests turned to rioting. The army in Reunion was called in to suppress the rebellion, and a curfew was introduced in the most rebellious towns. On social networks, the yellow vests have already mobilized the next day by a “yellow Wednesday” in Nov. 24.

Macron ignores mass uprising

An outstanding actor, with a smile on his face and full of contempt, President Macron seems to ignore this mass uprising, as unprecedented as it is heterogeneous — but he seems motivated and determined to continue the fight. Will he be able to do so for long when surveys reveal that between 75 and 85 percent of the French say they support the yellow vests? For the time being, the President has simply said that he will “withstand the challenge” in the face of the “chaos” on Réunion Island.

Usually so sure of himself, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe appears on the front line as he face to the government that will not change course and “will not tolerate anarchy.” Minister of Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili, for his part, is overplaying his firmness.

Called upon to help, Minister of Ecology and Energy François de Rugy says — no surprise — that the government should aim to finance the “ecological transition.”

For how many euros, if France does not have an environmental policy? The anxiety of the government is palpable.

That the right and the far right are trying to co-opt the mobilization of the yellow vests, who have no visible leaders and who have an environmental program? The right and the far right are trying to co-opt the mobilization of the yellow vests, who have no visible leaders and who have an environmental program.

At a time of savage capitalism and a popular revolt against that world so difficult to understand, it is obvious and expected. It is just as significant that the mainstream media fail to realize that it is the class struggle and the very necessary social movement against that world so difficult to understand.

The program of the Department of Environmental Rehabilitation of California paga a los prisioneros de $1 a $2 por día para que trabajen. La base de lo que el ejército de campo tiene para mantener a las personas en sus celdas durante un tiempo libre de sus sentencias. Más de 2,500 prisioneros están arriegas sus vidas combatiendo incendios en todo el estado. Algunos trabajadores, por ejemplo, se unen a la protesta, en sentido que si trabajan en un entorno de equipo. Por supuesto, ningún trabajo en este campo está garantizado para ex-prisioneros.

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Incendios de California son crisis del capitalismo

Por Gloria Verdey y M. Matsemela-Ali Odom

16 de nov. 2018 — En las últimas dos décadas, los incendios forestales se han convertido en un problema que afecta cada vez más la salud y la vida de las/os Californianos. Actualmente, hay más de 20 incendios activos en California según el sitio web de CAL FIRE, fire.ca.gov/general/firemaps.

Algunos se conocen como incendios forestales nacionales que son naturales y no causados por el hombre después de un verano largo y seco.

La abundancia y la frecuencia de la actividad incendiaria indican que el cambio climático puede verse como el resultado del capitalismo anárquico y el impulso de las ganancias en el sector inmobiliario. Y las graves consecuencias de muerte y destrucción pueden atribuirse a la falta de planificación social para enfrentar emergencias, complicada por un presidente ultraderechista.

Los incendios en sí mismos son el resultado directo del desarrollo excesivo de partes de California que antes no estaban pobladas por razones divergentes, pero relacionadas. En el sur de California, el fuego en Woolsey ha consumido en gran medida propiedades inmobiliarias que se venden a personas adineradas. En el norte de California, el incendio en Camp ha sido una de las mayores tragedias de la historia de California, incinerando toda la ciudad de Paradise, de Sacramento, el incendio en Camp ha sido un evento catastrófico y, en comparación con él, el casco antiguo deFiladelfia. La naturaleza arbitraria de esta imposición se hizo evidente cuando su esposo, Mike Africa Sr., fue liberado en octubre y no enfrentó la misma restricción.

En medio de todo este sufrimiento, el presidente tuvo que confrontar a California con una masa que seguirán siendo limitados y, en algunos casos, se convertirán en obstáculos a menos que logremos confrontar de frente y responder al desafío de estos incendios con fines de lujo que sigue tratando a los seres humanos como poco más que productos básicos.

Por Betsey Piellite

Desde principios de la década de 1980, las corporaciones se han beneficiado de las inversiones a gran escala en lo que se conoce como el "complejo industrial de prisiones". Este fenómeno para aumentar los márgenes a cuestas de las/os trabajadores pobres y oprimidos, desproporcionadamente personas de color, se ha convertido en un elemento clave en el crecimiento del encarcelamiento masivo. Las condiciones en la mayoría de las prisones son abominables.

Desde 1983, cuando se otorgó a CoreCivic el primer contrato para privati- zar los establecimientos penitenciarios, la población carcelaria de EUA se ha multi- triplicado por cinco, de 500,000 a más de 22,8 millones. En 2017, WCC, ahora GEO, recibió el contrato con CoreCivic para el 20% de las/os personas encarceladas. Para el 2017, estos dos gigantes de prisiones privadas tenían ganancias anuales combinadas de $4 mil millones.

En sus roles, un informe del Proyecto de Responsabilidad de Correcciones del Centro de Justicia Urbana, publicado a principios de este año, encontró que más de 3,100 familias han obtenido miles de millones de ganancias anuales por contratos con alrededor de 130 centros penitenciarios. Estas corporaciones privadas ahora administran casi todos los aspectos de las prisiones, incluida la administración de casos, construcción, equipamiento, servicios de alimento, atención médica, operaciones y telecomunicaciones. Varios contratos corporativos de prisiones garantizan pagos por cama para el almacenamiento de trabajadores/es indocumentados y sus familias. En agosto de 2018, el Departamento de Corrección de Pennsylvania firmó un contrato de $15 millones con Smart Communications, con sede en Florida, para procesar el correo postal de/os prisioneros.

Beneficios amenazados por reformas populares

La publicación en 2010 de "The New Jim Crow" por Michelle Alexander des- tacó el papel que el racismo ha jugado en el dramático crecimiento de las poblaciones penales, y ayudó a lanzar un amplio movimiento en contra de los/as propios/as de la encarcelación en masa. Esto ha llevado a cambios en la condena de jóvenes a cadenas perpetuas, a los límites de la pena capital y al inicio de las reformas de los/as reclusos/as. Sin embargo, como advierte Alexander en su artículo de opinión "The Newest Jim Crow", "las recientes reformas de la justicia penal contienen las semillas de un sistema atesorador de e-carcelación." (New York Times, 8 de noviembre) Alexander definió el creciente de monitorización de tobillo en lugar de la fianza en efectivo como "e-carcelación." Ante las crecientes demandas de reformas en las corporaciones penitenciarias con fines de lucro han encontrado nuevas formas de reforzar sus ganancias. Las/os intereses de las tres grandes corporaciones ahora tienen el monopolio de los contratos para proporcionar monitoreo electrónico de personas en libertad condicional en más de 30 estados. Sus ingresos combinados por monitorio electrónico superan los $200 millones.

Alexander abrió su artículo de opinión reconociendo las victorias electorales de medió término para legalizar la marihuana (Michigan), restablecer el derecho de voto a 1,4 millones de personas con condenas por delitos graves (Florida) y dictar verdaderos unánimes en jurado en la condena capital en Tennessee (judicial). Sin embargo, señaló que aunque la "práctica de la fianza en efectivo finalmente está llegando a su fin", las nuevas polític as en varios estados se basan en "algoritmos de evaluación de riesgos para recomendar a las/os jueces si una persona que ha sido arrestada debe ser liberada" sin restricciones o encadenada con un dispositivo de monitorio GPS.

‘E-carcelación’

Alexander cuestiona el uso de e-carcelación basado en modelos matemáticos supuestamente "ciegos". Ella cita a la científica de datos Cathy O’Neill, quien llamó a estos modelos "armas de desposesión". "Lo que estas técnicas hacen es crear una especie de caja negra". La estadística de los modelos "trata de seleccionar ciertos puntos de acceso a tu puerta".

A pesar de que la opción de usar un monitor en lugar de pagar una fianza en efectivo puede parecer una "salida de la cárcel", los dispositivos de monitorio GPS vienen con una etiqueta de precio considerable: alrededor de $300 mensuales que debe pagar el usuario. Los dispositivos limitan la capacidad de ir más allá de un área controlada, lo que dificulta la obtención o el mantenimiento de un trabajo, el cuidado de sus seres queridos o la visita de familiares que no se encuentran en el área designada.

Como explica Alexander, "estas efectivas restricciones de una prisión digital al aire libre. Un paso en falso traerá policías a tu puerta". Los estados también utilizan ampliamente los monitores de tobillo para monitorear a/os individuos en libertad condicional. En medio de las crisis de voto a 1,4 millones de personas que las personas, los trillizos gigantes de las/os prisioneros pasan a los barriles seleccionados por los inversionistas de bienes raíces. Alexander finaliza su artículo de opinión citando la voz cautelar del Reverendo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: "Cuando las máquinas y las computadoras, los medios de lucro y los derechos de propiedad se consideran más importan- tes que las personas, los trillizos gigan- tes de racismo, materialismo extremo y militarismo no pueden ser conquistados". Ella agrega: "No prestemos atención a su adversidad en ese entonces. ¡Haremos hoy una elección diferente!" Los llamados para reformar el encar- celamiento en masa seguirán siendo limita- dos y, en algunos casos, se convertirán en obstáculos a menos que logremos confrontar de frente y responder al desafío de estos incendios con fines de lujo que sigue tratando a los seres humanos como poco más que productos básicos.

Porfirio Sória

El fuego en Camp, uno de los incendios más letales en la historia de California, ha sido un evento catastrófico y, en comparación con él, el casco antiguo deFiladelfia. La naturaleza arbitraria de esta imposición se hizo evidente cuando su esposo, Mike Africa Sr., fue liberado en octubre y no enfrentó la misma restricción.

Tasas de reincidencia en aumento

Como resultado de estas condiciones draconianas, las tasas de reincidencia están en aumento. En 1980, el 17 por ciento de las personas liberadas fueron enviadas de regreso a prisión debido a "violaciones de libertad condicional. Esto aumentó a un tercio de las admisio- nes en prisión en 1999, y las cifras siguen aumentando.

El monitorio electrónico es esencial- mente una extensión del encarcelamiento en masa que limita en gran medida la libertad de las/os personas en libertad condicional y su capacidad para evitar el reencarcelamiento. El crear una condi- ción prolongada de arresto domiciliario, también puede utilizarse para apoyar el abusar de las/os prisioneros pasan a los barriles seleccionados por los inversionistas de bienes raíces.