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Zimbabwe after Mugabe

Sovereignty vs. imperialism

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Nov. 22 — A factional struggle inside the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party has created the conditions for the Nov. 21 resignation of longtime leader President Robert Gabriel Mugabe.

Through a project lasting just eight days and entitled “Operation Restore Legacy,” the president was removed from his leadership positions as first secretary of the party and head of state of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

President Mugabe’s removal appeared on the surface to be the outcome of divisions within ZANU-PF, in which rival elements surrounding former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, on the one

side, and First Lady Grace Mugabe, on the other, reached an impasse stemming from irreconcilable differences. President Mugabe’s present term of office was scheduled to expire in mid-2018.

President Mugabe had joined the national liberation movement in his country at a young age while working as an educator and youth leader in the former settler-colonial outpost the British called Rhodesia. Then, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, he lived, worked and studied in the West African state of Ghana, which was then the fountainhead of Pan-Africanism under the leadership of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

After the British imprisoned him for a decade ending in the early 1970s, Mugabe relocated to Tanzania and Mozambique to function as a leader of ZANU.

In 1979, he played a pioneering role, alongside ZAPU-PF (Zimbabwe African People’s Union-Patriotic Front) headed by former Vice President Joshua Nkomo, in negotiations for the Lancaster House agreement that paved the way toward nonracial, democratic elections in Southern Rhodesia in April 1980.

Mugabe was elected prime minister in a coalition government, lasting five years. This government included remnants of the settler colonialists. By 1985, Zimbabwe had become a republic with ZANU-PF as the leading political party. In 1987, ZANU and ZAPU merged to form a unitary ruling party.

Recent divisions within ZANU-PF came to a head after the termination of Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa in early November following an incident

in Bulawayo when some participants at a youth interface rally booed First Lady Grace Mugabe’s talk. These firings were said to be in response to a plot to overthrow Mugabe by Mnangagwa’s faction.

Reports said that at least 100 other party officials faced possible expulsion from both ZANU-PF and the government. If the purges did not cease, Zimbabwe Defense Forces Cmdr. Gen. Constantino Chiwenga said at a Nov. 13 press conference, attended by 90 other military officers, that the army would intervene.

Tanks move into streets of Harare

The following day, Nov. 14, social media and foreign news bureaus began to report on irregular tank movements in the capital of Harare. Several hours after sundown,

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NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Message from Leonard Peltier ₃

Indigenous survival ₃



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The cutting edge *Editorial* ₁₀

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New York

Transit advocates blast MTA

By Julie Varughese
New York

The state comptroller announced Nov. 9 that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s expenditures would soon require it to raise fares in addition to the usual fare hikes every two years.

Riders are being squeezed while the 113-year-old system crumbles and remains out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Transit advocates who spoke to the MTA board on Nov. 15 said they knew where the money was being spent. “It’s going to Wall Street. It’s putting cops in the subways, arresting Black and Brown people,” said Christian Cobb, member of the People’s MTA. The PMTA advocates for 100 percent accessibility, an end to racist policing in the subways, more buses and trains, free fare, and justice and union rights for all transit workers and Transit Workers Union Local 100.

“I’m not here to speak to these people [on the board] because as we said before, they don’t give a damn. They-

don’t represent the people. These are the people,” Cobb said, pointing to members of the public who responded with applause.

From January to March, more than 26,000 people were arrested for “theft of service.” More than 91 percent of those arrested for fare evasion were people of color. (NY Daily News, June 16) The Community Service Society reports “young Black men (ages 16-36) made up half of all fare evasion arrests, but represent only 13.1 percent of poor adults” in Brooklyn. (tinyurl.com/ycc2uwpn)

Three of every four people stopped for fare evasion are simply given a summons, like a parking ticket. But they must pay a \$100 fine.

“Wall Street is looting public transportation — that’s the real theft of service,” said Tony Murphy of PMTA, who only addressed members of the public.

Mary Kaessinger, a member of Disability Pride and PMTA, asked the board to provide more buses.

Disability rights advocate Edward Yood said the MTA should add portable metal ramps in the subway system, as used by New Jersey Transit. Those ramps allow people

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in mobility devices to comfortably roll between platforms and trains, which are often not at the same level. Yood also asked for more litter baskets and more workers to get rid of the rats in the subway system, as well as inclusion of wheelchair users on the MTA board. The lack of inclusion places the MTA in violation of the ADA, he noted.

“The MTA should be a service, not a business,” Yood repeated four times to the board.

The People’s MTA will participate in the Dec. 3 action at noon in Herald Square for International Day of People with Disabilities. The group will also convene on Dec. 13 in front of MTA headquarters at 2 Broadway in lower Manhattan for a rally and news conference at 9 a.m. It will then move to the 20th floor for the 10 a.m. public comments portion of the board meeting.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it.

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

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

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

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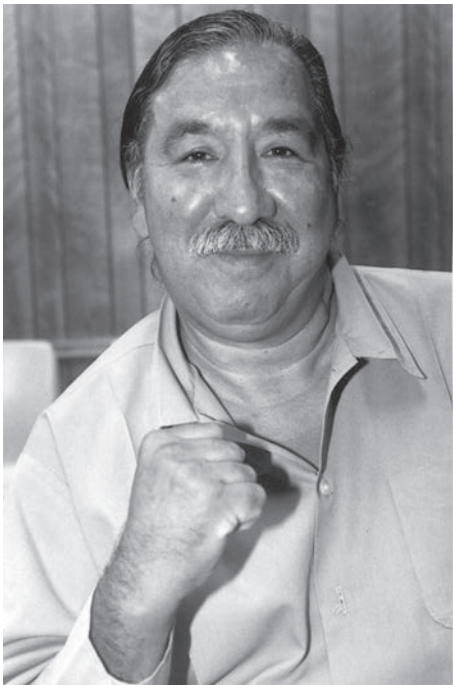
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Leonard Peltier

Statement of Leonard Peltier read by Bert Waters at National Day of Mourning, Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 23.

Greetings my friends, relatives and supporters. Once again, I can't tell you how much I am so honored that you would want to hear my words, or should I say read my words. You can't imagine the thoughts that go through my head at times whenever everything is still and quiet in the night, when I lie there staring into the dark with daydreams of how things could possibly be better.

I know I've said this once before in some past statement years back. Howev-

MESSAGE FROM PELTIER TO DAY OF MOURNING

er, it comes to my thoughts how the term "day of mourning" makes me think of a reverse, as in the morning of a new day, and how one term refers to those caught up in a deep sorrow and how the other term is a promise of a new beginning with the rising of the sun.

In our traditions and culture most tribal nations historically did a mourning period of one year for the deceased. However, for us during this point in time, we are continually losing our people, and especially our young people, and our women who continually disappear with no trace. Our lands are constantly violated. The air, the water, the soil, all of nature is screaming against the injustice that is continually perpetrated by those who worship money.

So in essence I want to say in the loudest voice and the most sincere voice I can possibly speak, we don't have a DAY of mourning. We have GENERATIONS of mourning year after year. I don't know what I can do further from where I'm at, but in whatever way possible I want to add my scream to the scream of the earth and the scream of our people for justice.

These ecological disasters caused by

the wealthy must stop. Those people who are destroying the earth must realize that they ultimately will destroy themselves also. I know many of you have taken part in the prayer vigils and stood strong in the face of wrongful beatings and shootings and various other forms of violence, and I commend you for your bravery. Having said that, I want to encourage you to move forward to a new day. With each new day we need to rise to the occasion to defend what is right and do what we can to right what is wrong.

Our enemy is not any person of particular color. Our enemy is those who are ignorant of the reality that we are all an intricate part of the circle of life. We must arm ourselves with the knowledge it takes to bring attention to the wrongness of their thinking, the wrongness of their exploitation of our mother earth, and the wrongness of their mistreatment of the Indigenous peoples throughout our lands. I would encourage you to mourn if that is your way and do whatever length of time that is required by your teachings.

However, I sincerely encourage each one of you to take it upon yourself to become a warrior of one. Educate yourself.

Find the knowledge it takes to survive and thrive in a good way. And to confront the ignorance of those who are destroying the natural. Confront them in such a way that they will come to know that to destroy the earth, to destroy our people, to continually ignore a philosophy and teachings that allowed this land to exist since the beginning of time in a beautiful natural existence, they will ultimately destroy themselves and all life.

Perhaps I've said too much. I don't know your agenda. Obviously I have more time than you. I want to say in closing, I love you, I love that you're here, I love that you want to make a difference and I will pray for you always. I further want to say you are making a difference. You have made a difference; power to the people and the earth.

If you have any questions about donations for my new legal team, please call our new office in Tampa, Fla., at 218-790-7667 and join us in the struggle for my freedom to join you here in person, a dream of mine for many years.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse
Doksha,
Leonard Peltier

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING 2017

Celebrating survival, resilience and resistance



WW PHOTO: RACHEL DUELL

Mahtowin Munro at National Day of Mourning, Nov. 23.

Mahtowin Munro delivered this talk at the National Day of Mourning, Nov. 23, in Plymouth, Mass.

Welcome to our beautiful Indigenous People who have come to National Day of Mourning today! Welcome to those who have traveled a long distance — from Labrador, from Delaware and Virginia, from Maine and Mexico and more. Thank you to the International Action Center in New York and Boston and to our friend Dahoud Andre for organizing buses. Welcome to the youth and students from many schools, and thank you to the parents who have brought babies and toddlers, too.

We send out love to everyone here today, and especially to our Black family (cuz Black Lives Always Matter), to the elders, to immigrants and refugees threatened by U.S. immigration policies, to our Muslim family, disabled family,

LGBTQ2Spirit family and not least our union family.

Workers from [UNITE HERE] Local 26 Harvard Dining Services are volunteering in the kitchen right now, and we have members of [United Steelworkers] Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers helping out with logistics. We want to give a big shout-out to the volunteer [American Sign Language] interpreters who make our program accessible to deaf people.

Sometimes, I have been asked by non-Native people why a lot of Indigenous People seem to know so much about history and are often such good speakers.

I can tell you why: We remember and we speak because we will die otherwise. Our histories and cultures would disappear if we did not do this.

Indigenous Peoples Day

I have spent a large part of the last couple of years working on Indigenous Peoples Day campaigns. I believe we need to have Indigenous Peoples Day because of our kids — no child should grow up being taught that Columbus was a hero.

It should not be so hard to make Indigenous Peoples Day a reality everywhere. Once you know the truth about Columbus, you should realize that celebrating Columbus Day is despicable. We go before cities and towns wanting to celebrate something positive in place of Columbus — to celebrate Indigenous Peoples, to teach non-Native people the truth about our past and to celebrate our survival, resilience and current resistance. Indigenous Peoples Day is a beginning point for that.

Yet when we come forward to do this work, sometimes legislators act as though we dropped in from outer space. They did not think there were any Native people in their town or in their area. Don't we all

live on reservations? They make casino jokes. Even when we explain in grim detail the barbaric acts of Columbus and his men, we hear legislators say that Columbus should be celebrated because he brought civilization to us. We hear supposedly educated people contend that millions of Indigenous humans somehow accidentally died due to disease — as though invaders, from Columbus on, did not deliberately murder, hunt, starve and dispossess us.

Is "sinking Columbus" symbolic? Yes, Columbus is a hated symbol of white supremacy, the same way that Confederate flags and statues of Stonewall Jackson are. All of these symbols of white supremacy need to come down.

We won Indigenous Peoples Day in Cambridge last year; we just won in Brookline, too. An Indigenous Peoples Day push is ramping up in New York City and many other places. I hope everyone will join us in our efforts in Massachusetts by going to IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org to sign up to help.

The erasure that we encounter in so many aspects of our lives, as though we do not exist or are invisible, this non-Native choice to remain ignorant of present-day Native peoples and of our histories, this is part of the settler-colonial violence and dispossession we have endured for centuries. White supremacy, gender violence are all part of this. Settler colonialism came over in many boats, one of them being the Mayflower, and the violence from that has never ended.

In modern times, this violence has led to thousands of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. This colonial violence means many thousands of Indigenous People lack safe drinking water or a decent diet when our food sovereignty is threatened. I think especially of the pipelines and the corporate salm-

on farming destroying the salmon that Indigenous peoples have relied upon for millennia.

This violence tears apart our families generation after generation — years ago from residential schools and currently due to disproportionate numbers of our children in foster care.

We suffer the highest rates of police violence — yes, even higher than what Black people experience. Right now, people are seeking Justice for Jason Pero, a 14-year-old Anishinaabe child killed recently by police in Wisconsin. Paul Castaway, Loreal Tsingine, so many more have died this way.

Settler destruction of the land and water is well-known and is violence upon our Indigenous bodies as well. The Trump administration attacks Bears Ears and other sacred protected sites. They manipulate regulations to open up reservation lands to more mining and other devastation at sacred Apache Oak Flat in the sacred Black Hills. Sacred Mauna Kea in Hawaii is threatened by efforts to build the world's largest telescope there.

We hope that everyone will join in demanding: No KXL! No DAPL! No Enbridge, no pipelines, no mining, no fracking, no dams! Drop the charges against all our water protectors!

Decolonize!

What we face here in November 2017 could not be more serious. We all have immediate choices to make if we are to work together to save the earth. We need non-Native people to listen to us and stop shunting us to the side like quaint remnants of the colonial past. We have been trying to tell you how to save the planet, and it is not going to happen with carbon credits and other double-talk nonsense that comes out of U.N. global summits.

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Chicago Black Friday: Against racist cops

WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL



Chicago, Nov. 24 — Over 200 people rallied and marched here in a Boycott Black Friday action to demand enactment of an ordinance to ensure community control of police. The demonstrators marched down Michigan Avenue, Chicago’s toniest shopping district, picketing luxury malls and retailers along the way.

Chants and signs focused on the failure of the injustice system to try and convict racist killer cops. One of these is Jason Van Dyke, who has yet to go to trial after pumping 16 shots into unarmed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald over three years ago in what can only be deemed an execution on the streets.

The demonstrators also highlighted the long-standing practice of police torture by Chicago cops. From 1972 to 1991, hundreds of arrestees were tortured under the direction of Chicago Police Department Commander and Detective John Burge.

Most of those tortured and then convicted on

the basis of false, coerced confessions remain behind bars today. The release and exoneration of these hundreds of wrongfully convicted people are a key demand of Chicago’s growing abolitionist movement.

Protest participants also expressed outrage at the recently approved \$95 million police training academy — in a city where schools are deteriorating and youth community centers are few.

Speaking at the march was Dorothy Holmes, whose son Ronald Johnson was shot down by police just one week after Laquan McDonald’s murder, despite being unarmed and running away from police. Other speakers included Frank Chapman of the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the primary organizer of the action; and representatives from Black Lives Matter, United States Palestinian Community Network, Anakbayan, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Workers World Party and other organizations.

— Jo Manna

New tax scam shifts more wealth to wealthy

By J. White

Contrary to the lie that the Republicans are proposing populist relief for all taxpayers, an honest analysis of the proposed tax legislation reveals that the super-rich would get the greatest benefits and many U.S. workers would see their taxes increase over the long term.

On top of this, since reduced taxes would increase budget deficits, there is little doubt that all poor people and workers, who are the creators of all wealth, would lose through cutbacks and austerity measures.

The Urban Institute and Brookings Institution’s Tax Policy Center report provides the following data:

- In 2019, taxpayers would see their taxes cut by \$1,300 on average, an increase in take-home pay of 1.7 percent. The 20 percent of income earners in the middle — \$50,000 to \$87,000 a year — would get an average tax cut of \$850. But the “average” increase distorts the truth. Those who receive the top 1 percent of incomes — that is, those who get more than \$750,000 a year — would see an average cut of \$34,130.
- In 2027, when the tax bill’s provisions terminate, the proposed sunset of individual tax cuts, combined with other changes to the code, means benefits would be substantially less for middle-income people. The average cut for all would be just \$300, and 50.3 percent of households would actually see their taxes increase at this point. Those in the middle would see an average tax cut of just \$50, and 65.6 percent of this group would pay higher taxes. The top 1 percent, however, would still get an average tax cut of \$32,510. (Business Insider, Nov. 23)

Taxes fund the state: For whose benefit?

The money collected in taxes, mostly from work-

ers’ paychecks, funds the state apparatus.

When Marxists speak of the state it is not in reference to the state of New York, Ohio or California. They mean the repressive arms of the government — army, police, jails — that protect the property and interests of the rich and repress the working class. It’s the state that stops poor people in rebellion from emptying a supermarket to feed their families.

“The state, simply, as the repressive apparatus of the government — the courts, the prisons, the police, and the military — stands to maintain the social relations as they are, to protect the owning and possessing few from the exploited and oppressed masses,” as explained in the pamphlet “What Is Marxism All About.” (tinyurl.com/yd56da7h)

Most workers would go along with pooling our money to pay for subsidized housing, education, health care, good food, transportation, care for children, the elderly and disabled, and meeting human needs.

But in the capitalist U.S. most of the money taxed from workers’ pay goes to expand U.S. corporate interests through war and the military-industrial complex. Trump’s \$1.1 trillion budget outline for 2018 proposes a \$54 billion increase in military spending.

This 10 percent boost for the military is paid for by deep cuts to nonmilitary spending at the State Department, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency and dozens of federal programs that either protect consumers or provide benefits to low-income people.

While this outrageous giveaway to the rich may be stopped or modified in the following weeks, it is becoming clear that only by building a mass people’s movement to fight the cutbacks and demanding the rewards of their own labor can workers begin to create an economic system that puts people over profit. □

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Historic strike victory by Kentucky tobacco workers

When seven tobacco workers, who came from Mexico to work in Kentucky on H-2A visas, channeled their anger about wage theft into a historic strike, they won. Under federal law, these workers were supposed to be making \$10.92 an hour in Garrard County, Ky. However, their boss, Wayne Day’s farm, which sells tobacco to Universal Leaf, stole thousands of dollars from their wages over a three-year period. Workers made only \$7 an hour in 2015 and \$8 an hour in 2016 and 2017. Occasionally, the workers were paid only a piece rate, earning as little as \$3 an hour.

After reaching out to the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, the Latinx farm workers on Oct. 11 wielded the greatest weapon they had: withholding their labor. Three weeks later, on Nov. 2, they won a settlement totaling \$20,000 in back pay as well as lawyers’ fees — about half of what they were owed. (Payday Report, Nov. 10)

Striking worker Christian, quoted in Payday Report, recounts why the strike was historic: “We didn’t know we were launching the first tobacco strike in recent Kentucky history, but we got the grower’s attention by doing so, and we are glad that with the help of FLOC, he was pressured to pay us much of the wages we lost.” A strike and strong allies add up to workers’ payback!

News Guild workers battle Washington Post

Reporters, multimedia specialists and other workers at the Washington Post are ramping up their fight for a fair contract against their Goliath boss, Jeff Bezos. The Post owner and Amazon mogul is worth more than \$80 billion; he’s one of the world’s richest people and got that way by playing dirty with workers. He brings a legacy from Amazon of tax dodging, ruthless competition and anti-worker practices. One Amazon worker noted Bezos would rather “put ambulances outside its distribution centers ... than install adequate air conditioning.” (Huffington Post, Sept. 1)

Since he bought the newspaper in 2013, Bezos has slashed retirement benefits, frozen a healthy pension plan and more. (Washington City Paper, Oct. 31) Bezos’ latest offer is a scant \$600 signing bonus in the first year, followed by a \$10-per-week raise in the second year. The profitable paper also wants to cut severance pay by 80 percent and take away workers’ right to sue should they win pay discrimination cases before the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

With red balloons aloft and bolstered by a noisy rag-tag band, nearly 100 workers, represented by the Washington-Baltimore News Guild (Communication Workers Local 32035), and community members demanded a decent contract on Nov 14. Workers’ signs read “Hands off my severance” and “Equal Pay for Equal Work.” The latter sign reflects a Guild study showing that white men earn more than other workers at WaPo. (dclabor.org, Nov. 18)

Strike alert: UPS aircraft mechanics warn customers

As the holiday shipping season takes off, so does the struggle of 1,300 United Parcel Service aircraft mechanics and related workers who maintain UPS’ massive cargo fleet at 90 airports around the country. UPS is trying to drastically cut workers’ health benefits, forcing them to pay dearly for health care, and refuses to increase its contribution to pensions. Meanwhile, third-quarter earnings of UPS, which currently delivers over 15 million packages per day in 220 countries worldwide, exceeded projections by billions. However, every penny in UPS coffers derives in part from the back-breaking, round-the-clock work of aircraft mechanics amidst toxic chemicals and exhaust from jet engines and equipment. Access to affordable health care is essential when doing such dangerous jobs.

Teamsters Local 2727, headquartered in Louisville, Ky., began its campaign for fair contract terms with a strong letter to CEO David Abney on May 1, International Workers’ Day, signed by more than 900 union members. They protested UPS’ plan to strip them of health benefits and declared their willingness to fight for a fair contract. They have since voted to strike.

Local 2727’s latest fightback initiative is an advertising campaign, launched Nov. 21 and continuing through the holidays, warning customers there may be delivery delays if the workers are forced to strike. The ads run in editions of USA Today and the Seattle Times; in seven of UPS’ largest markets from New York to Los Angeles; and on Facebook and Instagram nationwide. (Teamsters Local 2727 press statement, Nov. 21) □



IN THIS SPECIAL SECTION —

WW will be reprinting substantial excerpts from speeches given in the main sessions of the national conference of Workers World Party, held Nov. 18-19 in Newark, N.J. The conference opened with a welcoming by Larry Hamm of the People’s Organization for Progress. In this issue, we excerpt from talks given in the First Plenary on “Celebrating the resistance legacies to capitalism, imperialism and white supremacy.” The full talks can be found online at workers.org and at facebook.com/WorkersWorldParty/videos.



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

By **L.T. Pham**

Over 400 revolutionaries met in Newark, N.J., on Nov. 18-19 for a righteous celebration of 100 years of socialist and global revolution. Over 63,000 viewers watched conference sessions via Facebook livestream. Under the banner, “Unite to smash white supremacy and capitalism! Fight for socialism!” the speakers infused the Workers World Party annual national conference with the fighting spirit needed to defeat capitalism and imperialism from the belly of the beast. They came from all across the U.S. A fascinating aspect of the conference was the large number of students and young people expressing a bold commitment to the global working class and proletarian revolution. As capitalism continues to decay, its media attempt to classify youth as apathetic and individualistic “millennials” — obsessed with technology and “political correctness” while riding on the backs of the hard-working people who came before us. No corporate media would dare tell the real story of youth who are inheriting a dying economic system, with no choice but to defy the oppressions that keep capitalism in place. The real story of young people — of young workers — is that we are coming together across the lines of race, nationality, gender, abilities, sexual orientation, migration status and more to wage a battle against the ruling class in this country and around the world. Not only are young people graduating from college

with overwhelming student debt and facing a housing market run almost exclusively by financiers, with developers and politicians in their back pockets — young people are also staring down the gun barrels in Palestine, resisting Zionism in the same way militant youth are resisting neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Va. Young people are seeing capitalist oppression push our communities toward addiction and death — and to the edges of resistance in places like Standing Rock, where the reality of Indigenous genocide continues with full consent from the state.

Young people’s struggles are the struggles of our entire working class, not just from within the U.S. but around the world. They persist — contrary to the bourgeois campaign to normalize capitalism in decay and alienate youth from other sectors of the working class.

Toward a socialist future

The WWP conference plenary sessions and workshops captured the revolutionary spirit of this upcoming generation of fighters, whose disillusionment with capitalism is pushing us toward socialist revolution as the only viable solution. Young people spoke on a wide range of topics: the emerging movement of sex workers demanding fair wages and an end to racism in the workplace; calls for the abolition of police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Pentagon by youth leaders of color in cities like Philadelphia and Durham, N.C.; the need to support and defend young trans and gender non-conforming youth barred from the workplace because

of gender oppression; and, above all, the necessity of Marxist-Leninist struggle and organization, which recognizes that only a revolutionary socialist movement can harness change to transform the world.

We are witnessing a new period of struggle. Youth are beginning to reclaim our class position as workers — whether it be through low-wage jobs, “freelance gigs” or other menial roles that ensure the bosses live comfortably. We are claiming our rightful place in the global class struggle of the oppressed versus the oppressor, and doing so unapologetically. We are introducing new strategies and tactics for organizing, while learning from the great lessons of the Bolshevik Revolution and other revolutions in China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, Cuba, across Latin America, Africa and beyond.

Despite the calculated ruling-class attempt to divert young people away from our duty as working-class revolutionaries, the hundreds who joined together in Newark refuse to idly suffer under capitalism’s chains.

At the close of the momentous weekend, we chanted Assata Shakur’s words: “It is our duty to fight. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

We returned home, armed with Marxist-Leninist theory and revolutionary optimism strong enough to break any chain, to dig any grave for the bosses, to smash white supremacy and capitalism — toward a new socialist future for humanity!

Videos of the conference can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/y7z3n52d/.

Larry Holmes *First Secretary of Workers World Party.*

We must carve out a revolutionary pole

An article in the New York Times by one of their labor writers said you don’t have to be a card-carrying revolutionary to know that global capitalism is having problems. Somebody is worried about more and more card-carrying revolutionaries. The fact of the matter is the masses are becoming more radicalized. It is definitely a phenomenon among young people everywhere. They hate capitalism. But it transcends generations and worries those in the bourgeoisie who think about the future. In our open letter calling on revolutionaries to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, we suggested using the anniversary to rededicate ourselves to the struggle for socialist revolution. It’s not going to happen tomorrow, but it is not so far off in the future that it has no relevance. Because of the capitalist crisis, more and more of our class are waking up to the fact that the next important thing humanity has to do is get rid of capitalism. Otherwise no progress can be made. This is what is holding back all progress on earth. We must feel confident as revolutionaries. There are different levels of consciousness. Some will become revolutionary, others may never. We will work with everybody as long as they respect the fact that we’re revolutionaries and will not give up our revolutionary politics. But we need to recruit revolutionaries. And we need to take their revolutionary hatred of capitalism and forge that into a Party that will help the struggle. A year ago we were still spinning from the electoral results. There was a lot of anger, hundreds of thousands of people in the streets. Remember the counter-inauguration? We were a big factor. We weren’t the only ones, but our Party was a big organizer of the

counter-inauguration. And essentially the program was socialism versus capitalism. And hundreds of those demonstrators are still facing felony charges. The next day were huge women’s marches, all over the world. And then the demonstrations at the airports in solidarity with our Muslim comrades. The resistance from the street seemed to have some steam going. But then it kind of dwindled, with the exception certainly of Charlottesville and what our comrades are doing in Durham. It seems like the Trump regime has appointed people to dismantle everything — education, housing, etc. The white supremacists, the neo-fascists, the misogynists, are a big issue. Once the street resistance sort of cooled down, the Democratic Party, with its money, structure and power — it is a bourgeois party — began saying, “Come off the street. Do something meaningful — elect the Democrats.” We understand that some people wanted anything other than this misogynist, racist monster of a billionaire. We don’t need to beat them over the head to explain the Demo-publicans to them. But we have to be honest and explain to people in the best way we can that the Democratic Party’s mission is to smash the radicalization of the working class and the oppressed. This is the purpose for their existence: to hold back the workers and oppressed, hold them hostage to the ruling class. What is coming next year? The political situation is so unstable and so wild, added by the growing instabil-



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

ity in the economic situation, anything could happen. The Democrats are going to try to make the midterm elections everything. Drop everything, we’ve got to take back Congress. Don’t care about attacks on the workers by the bosses, or white supremacy or misogyny. Don’t care about Venezuela, Puerto Rico, the DPRK, whatever. Just put all that aside, put us back in the House. That is their solution. We cannot let them sweep the independent radical mass movement off to the side. We shouldn’t wait. Let’s take the week that begins with the King holiday, Monday, Jan. 15. At the end of that week is January 20, the first anniversary of the inauguration, when we had our great demonstration. Work with everybody. As long as we can have our revolutionary politics, everybody is welcome, we don’t want to monopolize it. Think about some political themes we need. Like “Workers’ solidarity, not white supremacy.” This is the choice that Trump is giving the working class: Give up workers’ solidarity, choose white supremacy. Or take it further, “Smash white supremacy, end capitalism.” Think about Peoples Assemblies, where people organize on a local or regional basis. We have got to begin carving out a revolutionary pole for the next year of struggle so as not to be swept away by a bourgeois, phony-baloney, hypocritical Democratic Party. History is on our side. Like our comrades in Durham, we have to love each other, have each other’s back, protect each other. In this way, we will forge a revolutionary party that is central to a revolutionary movement, stronger and more determined. □

★ WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ★

SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS

The Workers World Party national conference received many messages of solidarity from revolutionaries around the world.

Some came from leading bodies of existing socialist countries: the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea); the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP); and the Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU), a group of Cuban

civil society organizations.

Stressing the inspiration given by WWP's fight against capitalism "in the belly of the beast," messages came from the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB); Partido Patria Libre of Brazil; United Communist Party of Russia; Communist Party, Donetsk People's Republic; Communist Party, Lugansk People's Republic; Communist Party of the Russian Federation; Our Home is Moldova Party (Red Bloc); Communist Party,

Switzerland; and Citizen's Pole of Panama.

WWP's uncompromising policy of anti-imperialism was especially noted in messages from the Socialist Unity Center of India; National Democratic Front of the Philippines and allied organizations, including the Communist Party of the Philippines; Anti-imperialist Camp of Austria; Union of the People of Galicia; Red Network of Spain; Union Borotba (Struggle) of Ukraine; and Popular Front for the Liberation

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Taryn Fivek

Build a Leninist party: disciplined yet adaptive

Introduction to the First Plenary.

Thousands took to the streets on Jan. 20, when Trump was sworn in as president. What has followed is a year of historic fightback.

Starting with J20, when protesters militantly raised the banner of anti-racism, anti-imperialism and anti-capitalism, we have seen our class take the streets again and again.

The JFK and Hands off Syria mobilizations are good examples. Charlottesville, Va., is a good example. Durham, N.C., is a great example. And while our presence in the streets has been militant, immediate and vanguard-like in its formation, it has not stopped the response of the state, which has likewise been forceful.

More than 200 protesters were kettled and arrested on J20. They are facing up to 80 years in jail on felony riot charges. Our comrades and friends from Jacksonville to New York were beaten and arrested for insisting that the U.S. must keep its filthy hands off Syria.

We watched bricks thrown, hammers literally falling on us, gas and a murder happen in Charlottesville.



Now they are reviving the old red-baiting tactics of the 1950s, insisting that nobody has anything to complain about in a white-settler nation founded on genocide and slavery — it must be bankrolled by Russia.

Our class struggles against gentrification, poverty, addiction, incarceration, the racist police — and things seem to get harder and harder. So what gives us hope?

As revolutionaries, we know that we will win. Revolutionary optimism is looking at the world around us and knowing for sure that this can't continue indefinitely. As dialectical materialists, we know that everything in this world is in a constant process of change, that this can't continue forever.

The challenges we face seem gargantuan. But our class has faced all this and more and achieved real victories. They have shown us the way.

When we talk about the Russian Revolution, the Haitian Revolution, the incredible Vietnamese victory

WW PHOTO, ABOVE: JOE PIETTE AND RIGHT: BRENDA RYAN

Andrew Gil

U.S. is a prisonhouse of nations

I'm here today, with this party, because before I was a Marxist and a Leninist, I was an anti-imperialist. My mother came to the U.S. from the Philippines when she was seven years old. My grandmother had met and married a U.S. soldier. They ended up in Maryland in the late 1970s.

Growing up, I didn't have an understanding of what it meant to be Filipino in the United States. My brown-ness was a subject of ridicule. The things I grew up with alienated me from my peers. But there was something much more deeply rooted, much more historical, at work here.

It wasn't until much later that I studied the Philippine-American War [of 1898], more aptly named the Philippine-American Genocide. The people of the Philippines waged a courageous, anti-colonial war to defeat Spain, which had ruled them for over 300 years. Seeing the opportunity to become the new oppressor, with unhindered access to the plentiful resources of the Philippines islands and an economic foothold in the markets of East Asia, the United States swooped in and murdered a quarter million Filipino adults and children.

To everyone in this room who's from or descended from a colonized nation, this sounds awfully familiar. So how does this keep happening? Part of how the U.S. ruling class is able to carry out their bloodthirsty imperialist wars is manufacturing the consent of our class. The state's capacity to do this is derived from the many tools available to it — its media, schools, prisons, police. It is able to propagandize. It is able to convince us that the people of any given nation are incapable of ruling themselves, or that they are biologically or culturally inferior. It is able to imprison or demonize people who dissent and organize. It will even deploy its CIA or FBI to wreck anti-imperialist movements, whether through toppling leaders of entire governments or sowing division inside anti-imperialist organizations.

We in this room have a great responsibility, now more than ever. In a historical period in which the ruling class's imperialist sabers are rattling, in which this president and every president before him have put any nation that will not kneel to the U.S. in its crosshairs, we have an urgent and undeniable responsibility to show the ruling class that our class does not consent —

to show that we practice international solidarity and we will not put up with the death and destruction of our class in any nation. It is our responsibility to organize ourselves and show the ruling class that there will be no peace — that we will shut shit down whenever they're up to no good. Here, in the belly of the imperialist beast, it is our responsibility to organize our class to confront the U.S. war machine and take it down.

Workers World Party, from its very inception, has taken the position that international working-class solidarity is a priority. Since the founding of the party, we have taken to the streets on the correct side: in defense of the oppressed nations and against U.S. imperialism.

We must remember the United States is itself a settler-colonial state that has accomplished what it has via the extermination of Indigenous people and the enslavement of Black and African people. But this is not an aberration or particularly grotesque form of capitalism — it is capitalism carried out to its logical end. What we have here is not a broken system. It is a capitalist system working exactly as it should.

The U.S., having uprooted people from all over the world, is a prison-house of nations, in which oppressed nations and communities are segregated, policed, incarcerated and surveilled. And this is exactly why we cannot rely on politicians for the liberation of the working class and oppressed — because electoral politics are not democratic politics. Electoral politics in the U.S. are colony politics. They are the means by which the ruling class ensures the colonial domination of the workers and oppressed in the U.S. They are the means by which Democrats and Republicans, the left and right wings of the bourgeoisie, ensure the brutal exploitation and suppression of poor and working people. They are the means by which imprisonment and war remain profitable.

This is why we raise the question of liberation — because we do not fight for the representation of oppressed people in the white supremacist, settler-colonial political system. Instead, we fight for the destruction of the system that does everything in its power to suppress the self-termination of these nations and communities. □



over U.S. imperialism, Mao winning after decades of struggle, Fidel arriving in Havana victorious, the Soviet flag hoisted over the Reichstag during the liberation of Berlin, we are talking about family history.

How did our forces win the sweetest of victories in 1917?

It was because they were organized. They were a tightly disciplined and yet totally adaptive organization, a Leninist party — the first — led by the best and brightest of the working class and oppressed. They smashed through whatever the ruling class put in their path because the Soviet Union was a revolution whose time had come.

It's only through organization, through the party form, that we can accomplish our history's most necessary task: smash white supremacy, abolish capitalism and implement socialism.

They've been telling me that socialism is dead since the collapse of the Soviet Union, but we see quite clearly in 2017 that the very idea of socialism still invigorates our class and strikes terror into the hearts of our enemies.



We must take ourselves and our task seriously. The incredible growth of this party in this phase is a vindication and affirmation of our line on the national question and special oppression, our analysis of capitalism at a dead end and our culture of consultation. Every new candidate, every new friend, every new subscriber or reader of our newspaper is a vote of confidence from our class.

I look at the incredible caliber of my comrades who have been in this struggle for decades or just a few months and I feel confidence. We are an educated, dedicated, loving, contemplative and militant cadre.

I look at the hundreds of thousands who have taken to the streets against white supremacy with love and hope. On the anniversary of the centennial of the Russian Revolution, looking at their conditions and ours, I believe we are again coming up on a turning point in history.

As Comrade Larry said at the last conference, this Trump presidency has really ripped the mask off capitalism. The youth distrust and hate this death machine. We may indeed have the opportunity to avenge Fred Hampton, but only if we organize to build a revolutionary, combat-ready party. The future is ours to win. □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

★ NOV 2017 NEWARK NJ ★

of Palestine (PFLP), as well as the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) of the U.S.

The militancy of WWP comrades in confronting racism and fascism, especially the Durham action when a Confederate statue was toppled, was praised by the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (SPB), Revolutionary Communist Group (Britain), the Fronte Popolare of Italy and Communist Revolutionary Action of Greece.

WWP’s determined defense of the working class was lauded by both Brazil’s Landless Movement (Movimento Sin Terra) and Colombia’s Sinaltrainal (National Union of Food Industry Workers).

The Aurora Women’s Club of Donetsk People’s Republic thanked WWP’s weekly newspaper for providing web articles on anti-racist, women’s and labor struggles in the United States. From the U.S., the Freedom Road Socialist Organiza-

tion gave appreciation for the “concrete solidarity” it has received from WWP.

They all reflect the solidarity indispensable in the fight against global capital and the building of interconnections necessary for a socialist world.

The messages to the WWP conference can be read in full at workers.org/wwp/2017conference/solidarity-statements/

— Minnie Bruce Pratt

John Parker

China’s role in African development

China is using so-called market socialism models in its Silk Road initiatives in Asia, Africa and Latin America, sending some state-owned enterprises, but also private Chinese capitalists, abroad to set up companies engaged in building infrastructure.

The capitalists are motivated by profit, not social justice. However, unlike Western imperialist investors who are given free rein by their countries of origin to do whatever makes a profit, the Chinese capitalists are under the control of the Chinese government — a government whose major financial, utilities, oil, commercial and transportation industries are state owned.

China’s so-called market socialism is really a partial ideological retreat. It comes from imperialism’s constant military threats and economic war against both China and the former USSR.

But our movement must recognize the difference between China’s engagements with Asia, Africa and Latin America versus the Western imperialist engagements there. China and the U.S. have irreconcilable differences in relation to which social classes they represent.

It’s not only the hundreds of billions of dollars being invested, but the type of investment. China’s investments allow for the development of infrastructure and a real improvement in the economies of these countries.

Any improvement in the economy that affects the living standards of the people, that helps remove the stifling, debilitating, oppressive cloud of extreme poverty, is key to building self-determination and liberation.

In reporting on China’s role in Africa, the bourgeois media scour the continent to find the most egregious examples of Chinese company injustice, hoping to paint all Chinese relations in Africa with the same brush. They especially like to talk about the Chinese privately owned Collum coal mine in Zambia, although the top four copper mining companies in Zambia are from Canada, Switzerland and India.

Deirdre Griswold

A victory for Korea’s right to self-determination

From 1950-53, under both Democrats and Republicans, U.S. imperialism waged a horribly destructive war against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

In that war, both People’s China and the USSR supported the DPRK. A son of Mao Zedong was killed in the war — one of the million Chinese soldiers who fought on the side of the DPRK.

The Trump administration has recently become obsessed with Korea. The Bully-in-Chief has even threatened a nuclear war against the socialist northern half.

But even though U.S. ships, submarines and planes continue to threaten the DPRK, the screaming headlines have tapered off.

What has happened? Well, all the bluster and threats didn’t work. The DPRK has not agreed to give up its nuclear defense.

As long as the U.S. maintains its huge arsenal of nukes, capable of blowing up the world many times over, countries the imperialists target for regime change have the right to defend themselves by any means necessary!

After Trump went to Beijing and met with Xi Jinping, all the talk about China helping the U.S. disarm the DPRK suddenly evaporated.

This is really a victory for the Korean people’s right to self-determination.

The Koreans have been a distinct people for thousands of years, united by language, culture and geography. But since 1945, Korea has been divided between a capitalist south and a socialist north. How did this happen?

Let’s go back to when all Korea was invaded and colonized by imperialist Japan in 1910.

Japan became an ally of the U.S., Britain and France in World War I. These imperialists held a so-called Peace Conference in Paris in 1919. It was meant to divide

Little is said about Canadian-owned First Quantum Minerals, one of Zambia’s top four mining companies.

From 1980 on, Zambia was unable to fight strong-arm tactics by Canada, the IMF and the World Bank regarding First Quantum Minerals. Economic aid essential for Zambia’s survival was threatened. So in 1990, the country was forced to privatize its nationalized copper mines and companies like First Quantum could buy them cheaply. The country was also forced to let a former vice president of the Bank of Canada become governor of the Bank of Zambia.

Colonial or imperialist relationships are about politically and economically controlling a country to steal its resources and deny its ability to develop independently.

Some privately owned Chinese companies may exhibit chauvinism and even different forms of exploitation towards their workers in Africa. This does not automatically equate to colonialism, especially when it does not continue and create the underdevelopment that African scholar Walter Rodney exposed in 1968 with his groundbreaking and authoritative book: “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa.”

Rodney wrote: “In the first place, the wealth created by African labor and from African resources was grabbed by the capitalist countries of Europe; and in the second place, restrictions were placed upon African capacity to make the maximum use of its economic potential — which is what development is all about.”

U.S. military moves in Africa since 2008 are definitely part of its neocolonial plans and also threaten naked colonialism.

In a 2015 Black Agenda Report, Nick Turse of Tom-Dispatch wrote: “In remote locales, behind fences and beyond the gaze of prying eyes, the U.S. military has built an extensive archipelago of African outposts, transforming the continent, experts say, into a laboratory for a new kind of war.”



WWP PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

China’s engagement is of a different nature. Zimbabwe Herald reporter Lovemore Chikova wrote about 2015 and 2016 loan packages negotiated between China and Zimbabwe.

They included \$5 billion for free aid and interest-free loans. China would train 200,000 technical personnel and provide 40,000 training opportunities for African personnel in China.

In addition, the aid prioritized modernizing agriculture with technological expertise, machinery, training and teams of experts.

As Walter Rodney pointed out, increasing technology in agriculture is one of the most essential prerequisites for development in Africa.

I spent a few weeks in Sudan and Egypt. In Sudan, I saw an area for refugees that was many acres wide and long, as far as I could see. Families were living in mud huts in over 110 degree temperatures with no electricity, hospitals or stores in sight.

When we’re talking about development, it’s not about getting the latest consumer goods or trendy stuff or incorporating a Western lifestyle — we’re talking about attaining the basics for survival. Basics whose denial, as Walter Rodney illuminated, was not a lifestyle choice of African people, but a derailment of their natural progress by European colonialism. □



The Korean movement for independence by this time had been deeply influenced by both the Soviet victory and the ongoing Chinese Revolution. Those who based the struggle for national liberation on the workers and peasants eventually won out over the bourgeois nationalists.

It was a Korean communist liberation army, led by Kim Il Sung and reinforced by troops from the Soviet Red Army, that in 1945 marched into Korea from rear bases in both China and the Soviet Union. They began to liberate the Korean working people from the Japanese colonial rulers and their Korean collaborators.

This liberation army was greeted with tremendous support from the masses. One of its first moves was land reform — freeing the peasants from the hated landlords.

But another huge imperialist power stood in the way. The U.S. ruling class was determined to pick up the pieces of Japan’s former empire, while containing the Soviet Union and sending a warning to the communists fighting to liberate China. The Truman administration rushed troops to the southern part of Korea. It was a U.S. Army colonel, Dean Rusk, who drew a line on a map dividing Korea along the 38th parallel.

Nearly 30,000 U.S. troops are still in the south, despite much popular opposition, and the U.S. carries out massive military exercises every year threatening the socialist DPRK. In the last few years, these exercises have included thousands of troops from Japan, the hated former colonial overlord.

This small country has set a great example of courage in standing up to imperialism! Long live the DPRK! □

Berta Joubert-Ceci

Puerto Rico: A crisis of U.S. occupation

If any place has an urgent need to look beyond bleak existing conditions and see a horizon of socialism, it is my country, Puerto Rico. The cruelty of the most despicable imperialist domination is being exercised now in this colony of the United States.

Last year, the U.S. Congress imposed a fiscal control board to make Puerto Rico pay an illegitimate public debt of \$74 billion — a debt that U.S. banks created in the first place! This board imposed a neoliberal austerity program, cutting pensions, closing schools, drastically cutting the budgets of PR's 78 municipalities.

Then came Irma and María, two hurricanes in just two weeks. Thousands of houses were completely demolished; roofs blown off. Wind and water caused tremendous damage everywhere. Vegetation was flattened; gone were the banana and coffee plantations. Most cattle farms, gone. Country and mountain roads, gone. Bridges collapsed. Entire communities became isolated. The whole electrical system broke down; there was no telephone service. Suddenly, Puerto Rico was pushed back 100 years.

Now, two months after María, the situation is not much different. In spite of a virtual U.S. military occupation, most people in the mountains have not seen them. The infamous Federal Emergency Management Agency has wasted millions of dollars in contractors and consultants of all types. The people of Puerto Rico are still suffering and dying. The majority have no electricity, no hot meals, no ventilation, no lifesaving machines.

But if the hurricane was a catastrophe, nothing equals the catastrophe of the so-called reconstruction. It should be called instead “real destruction.” María has served Puerto Rico on a silver platter to U.S. capital.

Privatization pushed

The privatization of public services — particularly electricity and education — is being pushed very rapidly, taking advantage of the lack of communication.

The corruption inherent to capitalism is being ex-

posed. Obscene multimillion-dollar contracts are being authorized. One example is the Whitefish contract. Puerto Rico is bankrupt, but the Ricky Roselló government signed a \$300 million contract to repair the whole electric system with an unknown company from Montana that had only two employees. Whitefish chief executive officer Andy Techmanski is a friend of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in the Trump administration.

Also targeted for privatization is the electric service. Tired of not having electricity for the most basic needs, many people are already saying that they do not care who provides the service, they just want it re-established.

The U.S. government has also prevented Puerto Rico from getting help from Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico. The union of electrical workers in Mexico offered a brigade of skilled workers. Cuba offered a mobile hospital staffed with 35 doctors and another brigade of electrical workers. Venezuela offered a ship loaded with much-needed diesel fuel for generators. But the colonial ruler rejected all these offers.

The other sector targeted for privatization is the education system. The current governor contracted a Philadelphian, not a Puerto Rican, to be secretary of education. A promoter of charter schools, she is carrying out an aggressive plan preventing the opening of schools in the island. As a consequence, thousands of families are leaving Puerto Rico for the U.S. just to enroll their children in school.

Parents, teachers react

Her justification for not opening



the schools is that they are not in operable condition after María. But parents, teachers and even the students are cleaning up debris and painting. The movement to open schools now in Puerto Rico is a wonderful development. It is a community-based effort where parents and teachers all over the island hold assemblies to plan the course of action.

Defying the secretary's orders, they hold press conferences, daily picket lines and fundraisers involving the community. Already many schools scheduled for closure have been re-opened due to this pressure.

The U.S. government has an obligation to the Puerto Rican people for all the crimes committed: the invasion in 1898; the repression and persecution of independentistas; the destruction of our agriculture; the forced sterilization of women; the contamination of Vieques and Culebra by the U.S. Navy; the contamination of soil, water and air by pharmaceutical and petrochemical plants; the imposition of a Jones Act that makes shipping the most expensive in the world; the forced migration that is leaving the island depopulated; above all, for the crime of denying the people of Puerto Rico the right of sovereignty and independence.

What Puerto Rico needs now is not charity but justice and solidarity! □



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

Fred Goldstein

Dead-end capitalism and revolutionary opportunities

Message read to the conference.

Greetings to the 2017 annual conference of Workers World Party. I want to especially greet all the new comrades, candidates and friends who have come to participate with the party in evaluating past struggles and planning future struggles against capitalism and to build the fight pushing back exploitation and oppression of all types. We are here to chart a path to eventual socialist revolution. There will be ample time to discuss and thrash out the way to go forward.

Trump and his administration are hell-bent on bringing more suffering to the masses on every front and further enriching the already obscenely wealthy ruling class. They are fanning the flames of white supremacy, ravaging health care, workers' rights, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, carrying out witch hunts against undocumented workers, unleashing the police and fascist forces on oppressed communities, enabling the polluters to destroy the environment, and the list goes on.

They are also unleashing the military, escalating drone attacks, and Trump threatens nuclear war against the DPRK [the Democratic People's Republic of Korea] almost weekly. Of course, Trump is an authoritarian reactionary, racist bigot, but the rise of Trump can be laid directly at the feet of the previous administrations. Both imperialist parties, the Democratic and the Republican parties, aided and assisted in the breakup of the unions and played key roles in the deteriorating conditions for the masses.

I want to call attention to the fact that this conference coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It is important for new comrades and friends to know that our party traces its roots back to that revolution. The revolution was carried out by the

Bolsheviks under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin. This revolution sent tremors of fear through the propertied classes of the world and especially the ruling classes in the imperialist countries, for it was the first time that an enslaved class, an exploited class, a downtrodden class seized and held state power.

It took the property of the bankers, the capitalists and the landlords and proceeded to construct a planned economy against all odds. The revolution went through many trials and tribulations, advances and setbacks until it was finally overcome 74 years later.

It is crucial to study the history of this revolution for its relevance to the struggle today. But what I want to stress here is that the Russian revolution was the opening shot, the very first stage, in the world historic transition from capitalism to socialism and communism.

It took place during World War I, the first major breakdown of the world imperialist system. There were revolutions and uprisings at the end of the war involving millions all throughout Europe and in the colonies. But under these conditions, it was only the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, who were prepared to take advantage of these events and overthrow the hated czarist and capitalist regime.

This revolution was forced to survive alone for decades in a world dominated by hostile imperialist powers. But the fact that the counterrevolution eventually prevailed in the USSR in no way negates the historical significance of this opening stage of the world socialist revolution.

In looking back, we want to reiterate that the socialist revolution in the USSR and the succeeding revolutions in Korea, Vietnam and China all arose out of the breakdown of the world imperialist system as well.

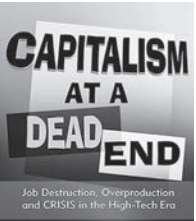
Fast forward to the present. ...

Beginning in 2007, with the world financial and economic crisis, imperialism entered into a new stage, a stage of capitalism at a dead end. The capitalist system as a whole could no longer overcome its crisis of overproduction and has condemned more and more workers to unemployment, underemployment and poverty. This dead-end capitalism is also low-wage capitalism. The bosses have created a global race to the bottom for the workers while they rake in huge profits.

This new phase of imperialism will inevitably open up revolutionary opportunities for the working class and oppressed. And just like in 1917, we must build the party in the spirit of Lenin, which is ideologically, strategically, organizationally and tactically prepared to take advantage of the revolutionary opportunities that are sure to come.

Let us be that party, like Lenin's party, the party that its founder Sam Marcy sought to build, that will be ready for the coming crisis of world imperialism and U.S. capitalism, that is prepared to lead our class to victory.

Build Workers World Party. Down with capitalism and imperialism. Long live socialism. □



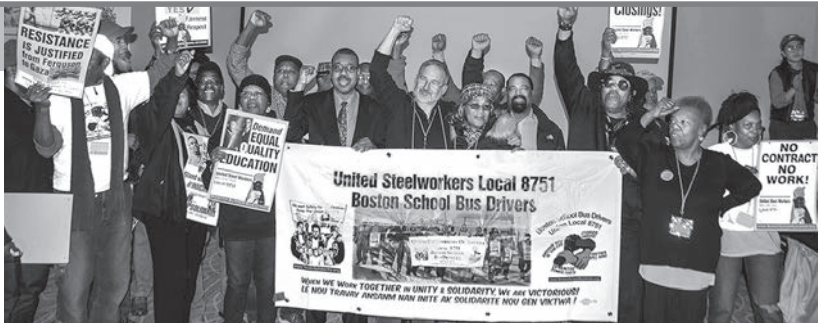
Capitalism at a Dead End
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era



El Capitalismo en un Callejón sin Salida

For other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com
Available at major online bookstores.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

Teresa Gutierrez

Peoples' power will defeat the system

It is an understatement to say that the glorious Cuban Revolution is a major accomplishment. We owe this mainly to Fidel Castro Ruz — a genuine communist, an exceptional Marxist-Leninist and a staunch anti-imperialist. To live in the time of Fidel was a privilege — like living in the time of Lenin.

Fidel built a movement that was able to wrest a nation away not only from its own capitalist class but from imperialism as well. Right under imperialism's nose, Fidel built socialism.

Where Fidel stands for hope, for struggle, for equality, Trump represents the sick and rotten stench of capitalism. Trump is a white supremacist, a misogynist, anti-immigrant narcissist. Fidel unites, Trump divides. Fidel strives for peace, Trump pushes for war.

But what can our hero tell us about how to deal with our enemy? Simply this: It is our duty to find the ways to fan the flames of mass struggle. To find the ways to open a national revolutionary struggle against Trump, Pence and all the rest.

It is our responsibility as revolutionary socialists to widen the struggle against white supremacy, to bring out the masses, to organize the fight like never before as it enters this new, heightened stage.

Here is one way NOT to. The Democratic Party has coopted the term "resistance." Hillary Clinton, a resister?

The day after Charlottesville, the movement, including our comrades in Durham, joined a protest organized by liberals to mourn the life of Heather Heyer. We asked to speak. After all, we had been in Charlottesville. What did these so-called "resisters" do? They called the cops on our comrades!

Democratic Party liberalism is a challenge and a block to struggle. For example, the unity between some

Republicans and Democrats sows nothing but confusion. How can sanitizing warmongers and racists like George Bush and John McCain be helpful?

One of the important pillars of Fidel's work was building unity. Before 1959, Fidel worked to bring together many social forces to defeat Batista, including reactionaries.

But of course it takes more than that. He embraced and led 10 million people to victory.

When hundreds or sometimes thousands are marching at actions called by the Democratic Party, do we ignore them, just let the liberals influence them? I don't think so. For at that protest might be a 16-year-old who is OUR Fidel, or Fidela or Fidelx.

We will go, but we will not unite with those who want to defeat Trump on an anti-Russian basis. Trump, Pence and all the rest must be defeated because of their white supremacist, anti-immigrant, sexual-predator views.

In the fight against white supremacy, let us turn to the working class. Go to every housing project, union hall, prison and city corner and urge on the fight against capitalism. Our founder Sam Marcy often said that we fight for socialism, but we must also be the best fighters for a street light.

Fight for everything from education to health care, to defend and expand the Americans with Disabilities Act, to jail every goddamn killer cop — we must push the struggle further and further.

Fidel once said that fascism would never take hold



in the U.S. He had confidence in the working class of this country. And he's right. This is the class that gave the global working class May Day and International Working Women's Day. That produced Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Emma Tenayuca and John Brown. That helped defeat the U.S. war in Vietnam, apartheid in South Africa and so much more. That gave us the glorious Stonewall Rebellion.

And it is youth, here in the belly of the beast, who take the question of gender identify and LGBTQ oppression to a whole new level.

We have a party like no other in the world, steeled in the national question and defense against imperialism. Class is primary, but racism is not secondary.

Our party at moments of great peril rose to meet the challenge, organizing mass mobilizations to fight back. Workers World initiated and built the coalition that brought out 100,000 people on May 3, 1981, in the first great national demonstration against Reagan. Workers World built the large Peace for Cuba rally in New York in 1992 to drive back U.S. moves to tighten the blockade.

We, the communists, the party of the workers and the oppressed, the queers, the Black and Brown, Native, Asian and Arab, women, disabled — we're the ones who can and must step up to organize the great mass resistance.

Fidel, Che, Sam, Harriet, Malcolm, Jiang Qing, Lolita, Amilcar, Ho, we hear, we see you.

And Cuba, you are right: Socialism or death! Si se puede! Abajo con el capitalismo! □

Joe Mchahwar

The path to liberation, from Petrograd to Syria

The Bolshevik Revolution was the greatest anti-colonial revolution up to that point in history, in terms of both scale and accomplishments.

The revolution transformed the "prison house of nations," an empire where the oppressed nations were flagrantly denied fundamental rights, into a union of equals where every people could develop and prosper along their own path. Pivotal to this development was the Soviet of Nationalities, a wing of the Soviet Union's bicameral legislature that granted equal representation to every nation.

The tremendous battle against colonialism waged by the revolution spread far beyond the borders of the Soviet Union. In one of the first acts of the revolution, the Bolsheviks called for a just and democratic peace to end the first world war. The revolution continued to expose the imperialists by publicizing secret treaties they had written. This included the Sykes-Picot agreement, a conspiracy between the French and British empires to divide West Asia between them.

The Soviet Union grew into a center of organizing and support for people fighting colonialism around the planet. Through offering solidarity with education, diplomacy, trade, training and arms, the USSR became the midwife to an era of national liberation. Their fates were inextricably linked, something we saw clearly after the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union.

On the heels of the counterrevolution, the imperialist bourgeoisie led by the United States began the most genocidal colonial campaign since the 19th century. Under the ridiculous pretexts of a "war on terrorism," "humanitarian intervention" and "regime change,"



the imperialists marched forward on a scorched-earth offensive. Entire regions were stocked with occupation forces and whole states were liquidated. New bourgeois terminology such as "failed states" came into being as a means of explaining away the massive destruction.

In West Asia a new Sykes-Picot was in development. Contrary to the popular notion that the war

against Iraq, the destruction of Libya and the war on terror were failures, these wars and their so-called failed states were a long-contrived means to redivide the region. Each war fed into another; counterrevolution against the remnants of national liberation was consciously fomented within the destruction.

This strategy culminated in the completely genocidal war against Syria. Syria is and was the most powerful bastion against imperialism in the Arab world. It was a long-time ally of the Soviet Union and the very foundations of its society are pluralism, secularism, pan-Arabism, Arab socialism and independence.

Syria consistently defended Palestine with diplomatic and material support. Part of its land has been occupied by Zionists for over 40 years, but it has never made peace with them. It was key to facilitating the axis of resistance, an alliance among anti-imperialist forces in West Asia. All these factors made Syria the biggest obstacle to imperialist plans for a new Sykes-Picot.

The imperialists invaded Syria utilizing counter-revolutionaries they had been fostering for decades. The U.S. and its allies hoped they could weaken Syria enough to come to the aid of counterrevolutionaries, as they had in Libya. Pressure from the masses and

other world powers, such as Russia, was great enough to avoid this disaster. The imperialists increased their support for the various death squads in the country and used them as a pretext, as they have in many other places, to begin bombing and sending soldiers. Their bombing campaign worked in tandem with the contra forces, destroying more of Syria every day.

Did the Syrian people or the state they labored so hard to maintain make any concessions in vain hopes of easing the pressure? No, they did the opposite. The new constitution of 2012 doubled down on their core principles. Part of the preamble reads: "Syria has occupied an important political position as it is the beating heart of Arabism, the forefront of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and the bedrock of resistance against colonial hegemony on the Arab world and its capabilities and wealth."

This understanding lives in the hearts of the Syrian people. They fought for decades against imperialist-sponsored reaction to maintain the culture, unity and prosperity of their people and the peoples of the Arab world. That is why Syria today stands near complete victory over counterrevolutionary forces. That isn't to say Syria's allies weren't instrumental. The solidarity of the axis of resistance, Hezbollah and the Islamic Republic of Iran has been imperative.

We can't deny the importance of Russia's support either, which has a dual character. Syria is Russia's only direct access to the Mediterranean Sea. A new Sykes-Picot and the transformation of Syria into a breeding ground of reaction would have catastrophic consequences even the imperialists can't foresee.

Imperialism is in a struggle to the death against contraction and must expand. Even capitalist countries like Russia must begrudgingly confront it or be consumed.

The battle cry of Lenin lives on in our struggle today: "Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!" □

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

Closing the
consciousness gap

Social consciousness often lags behind reality. Things change, but our understanding of them is hampered by old conceptions, born out of previous conditions.

And then, when the gap becomes utterly preposterous, there can be great leaps forward as consciousness overtakes reality in what seems like a dizzying whoosh.

Marxists have long understood that societies progress not evenly or in a straight line, but by what some call “combined and uneven development.” Lenin wrote about the extremely rapid capitalist development of Germany and Japan in the era of imperialism, when they caught up to and even surpassed some of the more established European colonial powers in a few decades.

What is true of material development is also true of consciousness. It progresses not slowly and evenly, but by leaps forward — and sometimes backwards — as conditions change.

Are we seeing the beginnings of a broad and deep change in consciousness inside the U.S.? There are many reasons to think so.

First, of course, is the emergence into prominence of popular movements that have long been suppressed. The ongoing struggles of Black and Brown people against racism and national oppression, of women against the patriarchy, of LGBTQ people against queer bashing, all continue, for these conditions are reinforced by both the state and the way capitalism functions. Yet the consciousness of tens of millions has been changed by these struggles, to the point where capitalist liberalism has to make itself appear to be on the side of justice.

Alongside this are the many polls in recent years showing that capitalism has become a dirty word. Why else would a demagogic but calculating billionaire politician like Trump talk so much about workers? He is trying to refurbish the image of capitalism by linking it to “good jobs,” blaming other countries for “stealing our jobs.”

At a time in history when automation, robots, self-driving trucks and a zillion other labor-saving innovations are dazzling the owners of capital with the promise of shedding workers so they can rake in even bigger profits, Trump’s tweets are bound to wear thin.

Right now, young workers are on the cutting edge of consciousness. We saw some of them on Nov. 18-19 in Newark, N.J., at the Workers World Party national conference. Proudly multigendered and multinational, they did a splendid job of defending and explaining the need for revolutionary change in this country. And they weren’t afraid of making it known to the whole world — via social media. What a change from the days when progressives feared being hounded and isolated!

This struggle is only beginning. But already the outlines of an immeasurably better future are clear. We humans have progressed in our knowledge to the point where we have the means to end backbreaking labor so everyone can have what they need without being worked to death. An increasingly smaller class of increasingly richer individuals stand in our way.

Wrap your head around that, and revolutionary consciousness is sure to follow. □

700,000 women farm
workers say: ‘Us too’

PHOTO: GREEN LEFT WEEKLY
National Alliance of
Women Farmworkers at
the ‘Me Too Survivors
March’ in Hollywood,
Nov. 12.

By Kathy Durkin

Organizers of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas spoke movingly to a crowd of thousands of participants at the #Me Too Survivors March on Nov. 12 in Hollywood, Calif. At the rally, they read a letter of solidarity from 700,000 women farm workers to the courageous women who have spoken out publicly about their experiences of sexual harassment and abuse in Hollywood. The national alliance is comprised of current and former women agricultural workers and their relatives.

Their statement reads, in part, “We write on behalf of the 700,000 women who work in the agricultural and packing sheds across the United States. [W]e have watched and listened with sadness as we have learned of the actors, models and other individuals who have come forward to speak about the gender-based violence they have experienced at the hands of bosses, co-workers and other powerful people in the entertainment industry. Sadly, we are not surprised because it’s a reality we know far too well. Countless farm worker women across our country suffer in silence because of the widespread sexual harassment and assault that they face at work.”

It continues, “We do not work under bright stage lights or on the big screen. We work in the shadow of society in isolated fields and packing houses that are out of sight and out of mind. Our job nourishes the nation with crops that we plant, pick and pack. Even though we work in different environments, we share a common experience of being preyed upon by individuals who have the power to hire, fire, blacklist and threaten our economic, physical and emotional security.”



Standing up publicly to denounce sexual assaults in agribusiness shows great courage, as the farm workers reveal: “Complaining about anything, even sexual harassment, is unthinkable because too much is at risk, including the ability to feed our families.”

In conclusion, the women stress, “We understand the hurt, confusion, isolation and betrayal that you might feel,” and the shame and fear. “We know that it is not our fault. The only people at fault are the individuals who abuse their power to harass, threaten and harm us, as they have harmed you. ... As you cope with scrutiny and criticism because you bravely chose to speak out against the harrowing acts that were committed against you, please know that you are not alone. We believe and stand with you.”

Hundreds of thousands of women, mostly Latinx immigrants, many undocumented, work in U.S. agricultural fields. Sexual violence is so rampant that a woman farm worker in Iowa remarked, “We thought it was normal in the United States that in order to keep your job, you had to have sex.” (New York Times, Jan. 19, 2016)

Government regulations prohibit legal aid groups from representing undocumented people. Moreover, Washington’s war on the undocumented creates a climate of fear of detention or deportation for women immigrants who report incidents of abuse.

This urgent situation must be taken up by unions and by women’s and other progressive organizations.

This open letter was originally published in Time magazine on Nov. 10.

Zimbabwe after Mugabe: Sovereignty vs. imperialism

Continued from page 1
stories emerged claiming that the ZDF had seized the national Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation television station.

In the early morning of Nov. 15, Maj. Gen. S.B. Moyo went on television saying that there had not been a military coup, that President Mugabe remained head of state and that security for the leader and his family was guaranteed. Moyo noted that the ZDF was only targeting “criminals” surrounding the president in order to prevent a further deterioration of the social situation.

Following a conversation by telephone that morning, President Jacob Zuma, in the neighboring Republic of South Africa, relayed in an interview over the South African Broadcasting Corp. that President Mugabe had said he was confined to his residence in the capital. He told Zuma that no harm had been done to him or his family.

As chair of the regional 15-member Southern African Development Community, Zuma deployed South African Minister of Defense Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula on Nov. 16 to sit in on mediation talks between Mugabe and the military.

By Nov. 19, the international media sent out dispatches saying the ZANU-PF Central Committee had voted to recall

the president from leadership, and consequently as head of state, and First Lady Grace Mugabe was being expelled from the party.

Party and war veterans
call for Mugabe’s removal

These same articles reported that Mugabe had until Nov. 20 to step down from office. Though in an address to the nation and world on Nov. 19, the president acknowledged the factional conflict within the ZANU-PF party, he did not resign then. He implied that he would even preside over the party’s upcoming special congress.

In an earlier press conference on Nov. 15, the Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association said they supported the actions taken by the military leadership, and would hold a demonstration on Nov. 18 in Harare. Spokespeople for the group also accused leading ZANU-PF and government officials associated with the party faction aligned with First Lady Grace Mugabe of being criminals and even CIA operatives.

On Nov. 20, party members in Parliament threatened to raise impeachment resolutions. On Nov. 21, Sen. Monica Mutsvangwa of Manicaland Province

accused the president of several constitutional violations.

The impeachment resolution read by Mutsvangwa said in part: “President Mugabe is old and he needs to be handed. As such, he is no longer fit for office. ... The President has abrogated his constitutional mandate to his wife who makes public utterances on issues of government like the appointing and dismissal of government ministers and senior civil servants. ... The charges are (a) serious misconduct; (b) failure to obey, uphold or defend this Constitution; (c) willful violation of this Constitution; or (d) inability to perform the functions of the office because of physical or mental incapacity.”

Later, debate on the impeachment resolution was terminated after House Speaker Jacob Mudenda read out a letter, said to have been from Mugabe, tendering his resignation.

International media outlets showed scenes of jubilation for several hours in the streets of Harare.

International implications
of ‘Operation Restore Legacy’

Judging from the response of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the government in London was delighted with

the removal of Mugabe from the leadership of ZANU-PF and the Zimbabwe state. However, the former colonial power was quick to advise the new government in Harare on how it should proceed.

British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said in a Twitter post that he did not regret Mugabe’s downfall, calling the resignation “a moment of hope for the people of Zimbabwe.” This echoed the remarks of British Prime Minister Theresa May, who said that the sudden removal of Mugabe would “forge a new path free of the oppression that characterized his rule.” (Al-Jazeera, Nov. 21)

A BBC article arrogantly inquired on Nov. 22: “So, will Emmerson Mnangagwa be able to take Zimbabwe’s economy off life support and at least start to put it on the road to recovery? Analysts are very skeptical that a quick solution is even feasible. ... In 2009, Mr. Mugabe signed the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act into law, which aimed to place 51 percent of companies into the hands of Black Zimbabweans.”

The IEAA was a response to the domination over Zimbabwe’s economy by British settlers and foreign corporations. A land redistribution program enacted

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Trump lied

U.S. to end legal protection of Haitian migrants

By G. Dunkel

Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Elaine Duke announced on Nov. 20 that 59,000 Haitians would lose their Temporary Protective Status July 22, 2019, and would have to then return to Haiti.

Beyond all the human emotional losses, disrupted families and lost jobs, Haiti faces a serious economic loss: remittances from the 59,000 Haitians living under TPS in the United States make up 15 percent of Haiti's gross domestic product.

If this denial of TPS is upheld, Haiti faces a disaster imposed by U.S. imperialism.

TPS allows foreign nationals from countries where there have been political, economic or physical catastrophes, like earthquakes or hurricanes, to live and work legally in the U.S.

Some unions, with the assistance of the national AFL-CIO, had already opened up a campaign to preserve TPS. On Nov. 16, UNITE HERE, Painters and Allied Trades, Bricklayers, UFCW and the Iron Workers publicly launched Working Fam-

ilies United, an immigrant worker advocacy coalition that plans a major campaign to extend TPS.

The Service Employees Union, which represents a large number of Haitian workers in health care, has sponsored or participated in protests to preserve TPS in Boston, New York and Florida.

Trump and his entourage were due in Mar-a-Lago, Trump's luxury resort, on Nov. 21. UNITE HERE paid for buses from all over south Florida to bring workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors as close as the Secret Service would permit. They chanted "Shut it down," played drums and cymbals and made their militant presence known.

Hundreds of articles, statements and editorials in the corporate media — even an editorial in the New York Times — challenged the reasoning of DHS. The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti stated, "DHS could not overcome the mountain of evidence establishing that Haiti has recently endured precisely the extraordinary blows contemplated by the TPS statute, specifically an unchecked

cholera epidemic and October 2016's Hurricane Matthew." The DHS ignored facts on the ground to attempt to justify its anti-immigrant agenda.

During Trump's presidential campaign meeting at Miami's Little Haiti Cultural Center on Sept. 16, 2016, he said that conditions in Haiti were still terrible six years after the earthquake of 2010. He then promised, "I really want to be your greatest champion, and I will be your champion."

Like most of his promises, it hasn't been and won't be kept.

'Down with the army!'

In Cap-Haïtien, Haiti's second largest city, teachers haven't been paid for two months. When students took to the streets, piling up desks and chairs to block the main routes leading north and south out of the city, cops opened fire and used tear gas to drive demonstrators off the streets.

Students chanted, "Down with the army, long live education, long live schools!" (Vant Bèf, Nov. 15). Cap Haïtien administrators plan to fire all teachers

who aren't working because they haven't been paid and replace them with members of the Bald-Headed Haitian Party (PHTK), which is currently running the government.

Haitian President Jovenel Moïse used the commemoration of the battle of Vertières to mark the re-establishment of the Haitian army, which was disbanded in 1995, by holding a parade.

The battle of Vertières was the concluding battle of the Haitian revolution in November 1803, when its revolutionary army seized the hills around Cap Haïtien, forcing the French occupiers to surrender to a British fleet blockading the port.

François Duvalier, a dictator who ruled Haiti as president between 1957 and 1971, was the first to use this commemoration to glorify Haiti's bourgeois army. This army's origins go back to the armed forces set up under the 1915-1934 U.S. occupation.

Opposition to the re-establishment of the repressive army was a major issue raised in the massive demonstrations that shook Port-au-Prince and other large Haitian cities in November. □

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING 2017

Celebrating survival, resilience and resistance

Continued from page 3

When hurricanes or earthquakes strike, it is not only the effects of climate change that are the problem, as we see in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean right now. Yes, the hurricanes caused immense damage. But that damage has been magnified a hundredfold due to colonialism and the centuries-long extraction of resources and debt forced upon these islands. The U.S. response — the criminal and genocidal response in Puerto Rico in particular — demonstrates the need for massive systemic changes to deal with the impacts of climate change.

When I look at the earthquake devastation in Mexico or the suffering in Puerto Rico, I say that we cry from each other's

eyes, the bonds of solidarity are so strong.

For centuries, we have lived under settler colonialism and allowed ourselves to be divided and brainwashed by it. We need to decolonize. Every aspect of what we do and think needs to be decolonized — especially treating the earth like a commodity, consuming resources and seeking profit instead of balance.

The way we think, what we think we know, the names of the cities and towns — all of this is colonized. This should be Patuxet we are in right now, not Plymouth named for some faraway English town. We need to decolonize culture, we need to decolonize education and how we treat our children. We need legal systems that

reflect Indigenous law and understandings. The settler courts occasionally make a decision in our favor, but too often they uphold settler values, as when they say the Ramapough in New Jersey do not have a right to erect temporary structures such as teepees on their own land. Or when the courts say the Penobscot Nation does not have inherent rights to make decisions about the Penobscot River. As Indigenous humans, whether in Bolivia, Nova Scotia or Massachusetts, we need to be able to make the decisions about all the lands and waterways where our ancestors have always been. That is decolonization, too.

When we come together at times like this year's National Day of Mourning,

here above the Plymouth rock shrine to settler colonialism, we get a glimpse of what all our lives could be like if we decolonize.

No matter what the U.S. and other governments have done, our fundamental relationship as Indigenous Peoples with the land, through bones and blood and culture and ceremony, is not reduced.

Today you will learn about many aspects of Indigenous struggles. Don't just listen. Act. When you leave here, think about what you really know and what you don't know.

Think about what is dividing us. And then work to support Indigenous resistance and decolonize every little thing. □

Continued from page 10

in 2000 had set off even deeper international sanctions against Harare because the ZANU-PF government sought to give the land back to its rightful owners — the African people, who had been victimized by the onslaught of British imperialism in the late 19th century.

Relating to the role of the U.S. government in the recent developments in Zimbabwe, the Voice of America acknowledged in a report published on Nov. 21 that the State Department has been conducting what it described as "behind the scenes talks" with officials of the ZANU-PF government and Western-backed opposition forces inside the country.

The article outlines some of the preconditions Washington set down for lifting sanctions on this southern African state, which has relied on the Republic of South Africa, the regional Southern African Development Community, the Republic of Mozambique, the People's Republic of China and other fraternal states in order to stave off an already dire economic situation imposed by imperialism.

Nike Ching of VOA writes: "The way for Washington to lift sanctions is for Harare to carry out the due process, to respect human rights, and to give the opposition

a genuine opportunity to form a government, said [Donald] Yamamoto [U.S. undersecretary for African affairs]. 'What we don't want is a manipulation by the government or by the ruling ZANU-PF party — holding rush elections, not taking into consideration a lot of the reform issues that the opposition wants to implement; also, not giving political space for the Zimbabwe people to express what they want to see in a new government,' he said. U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe Harry Thomas has been meeting with officials from the ZANU-PF party and the opposition party behind the scenes to try and help push the political process forward."

Both the SADC and the African Union have expressed concerns over events in Zimbabwe emanating from "Operation Restore Legacy." Zimbabwe under Mugabe had been an ideological and political base for Pan-Africanism and anti-imperialism on the continent.

The above-mentioned report in Al-Jazeera also stated: "Alpha Conde, president of Guinea and African Union chief, said it is 'a shame' Mugabe 'has to leave through the back door.' He added, however, that he was 'very pleased' with Mugabe's decision to resign, noting that the AU had warned against a coup in Zimbabwe.

Hailing Mugabe's role in Zimbabwe's fight for independence, Conde called Mugabe 'an African hero.' 'Mugabe will never be forgotten, he was a great fighter,' he was quoted as saying by Guinean media."

Western-backed entities emerged on the streets of Harare during the demonstrations on Nov. 18, carrying signs attacking both the AU and SADC.

Critical issues for Zimbabwe's future

At least four important aspects of ZANU-PF's domestic and foreign policy will be significant in the days and weeks to come in order to assess the Mnangagwa government's direction.

First, the land reform program, popularly referred to as "the Third Chimurenga," has been a cornerstone of domestic policy since 2000. Will the land redistribution project be maintained, moderated or reversed?

Second, the indigenization policy is important for all postcolonial states in Africa, due to the dominance of foreign capital over the national and regional economies. Neocolonialism has failed to provide genuine independence, sustainable growth and development across the continent.

Third, another major question is whether Zimbabwe can maintain its

commitment to regional integration and industrialization, both within SADC and the AU. Mugabe served as chair of the AU in 2015, advancing the cause of economic integration and independence from Western capitalist states. Just this year, the Zimbabwean president presented a \$1 million fundraising check to the AU, setting an example for individual state commitment to the continental body.

Fourth, Pentagon military involvement in Africa has grown substantially over the last decade with the formation of the U.S. Africa Command (Africom). The Mugabe government kept Africom out of Zimbabwe.

The presence of Africom in Somalia, Niger, Mali, Nigeria and other AU member-states has not resulted in greater security and social stability. Quite the opposite has occurred, with burgeoning instability, economic crises and population displacement.

Ultimately, it is up to the Zimbabwean people themselves to chart a future course. Despite the apparent errors in the recent period, the legacy of Robert Mugabe and ZANU-PF remains a sterling example of national liberation, Pan-Africanism and struggle against imperialism throughout the world. □



WW/MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

Sobre la crisis de Puerto Rico: ‘Extender la visión a un horizonte de socialismo’



Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta charla fue presentada el 18 de noviembre en la Conferencia Nacional del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero.

Gracias a la revolución bolchevique, sabemos que una vida digna es posible bajo el socialismo. Que no es un sueño o una utopía. Para vivir en un hogar que sea asequible y esté en buenas condiciones. Para no tener que preocuparse porque se necesita ver a un médico y no se tiene seguro. Que usted o sus hijas/os puedan estudiar sin tener la carga de decenas de miles de dólares en deudas. Que las industrias pueden ser controladas por las/os trabajadores para el beneficio de la comunidad, y no para Wall Street. Y que todos los servicios y utilidades necesarias se ejecuten, no para obtener beneficios para unos pocos, sino para mejorar la calidad de vida de todas/os.

Si hay un lugar ahora donde hay una necesidad urgente de mirar más allá de las sombrías condiciones existentes y extender la visión a un horizonte de socialismo, es en mi país, Puerto Rico. La crueldad de la dominación imperialista más despreciable se está ejerciendo ahora en esta colonia de los Estados Unidos.

¿Qué está pasando? El año pasado, el Congreso de los EUA aprobó una ley llamada Promesa para imponer una junta de control fiscal que haría que Puerto Rico pague una ilegítima deuda pública de \$74 mil millones. ¡Una deuda que los bancos de EUA crearon en primer lugar! Esta junta comenzó a imponer un programa de austeridad neoliberal, recortando las pensiones, cerrando escuelas, recortando drásticamente el presupuesto de los 78 municipios del archipiélago puertorriqueño. Debemos señalar que los municipios son los responsables de las operaciones cotidianas de las ciudades, por lo que, sin suficiente dinero, están obligados a cortar servicios esenciales.

Luego vinieron Irma y María, dos huracanes en sólo dos semanas. María particularmente devastó las islas habitadas de Culebra, Vieques e Isla Grande (Puerto Rico). Miles de casas fueron completamente demolidas; techos volaron. El viento y el agua causaron un tremendo daño en todas partes. La vegetación se había cercenado, aplastada; se fueron las plantaciones de plátano y café. La mayoría de las granjas ganaderas desaparecieron. Caminos de campo y montaña, desaparecieron. Puentes colapsaron. Comunidades enteras quedaron aisladas. Todo el sistema eléctrico se averió;

no había servicio telefónico. De repente, Puerto Rico fue retrasado 100 años.

Hoy, a los 58 días - dos meses - después de María, la situación no es muy diferente. A pesar de una ocupación militar virtual de los EUA – que envió tropas, supuestamente para ayudar en la reconstrucción – las personas, principalmente en las montañas, no los han visto; a pesar de la infame Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias, FEMA, a pesar de los millones de dólares desperdiciados en contratistas y consultores de todo tipo, el pueblo de Puerto Rico todavía sufre, sigue muriendo. La mayoría del pueblo no tiene electricidad, y eso significa que no hay comidas calientes, ni ventilación en un clima de 90 grados, ni máquinas que salven vidas. Los hospitales pequeños tuvieron que cerrar.

Pero si el huracán fue una catástrofe, nada equivale a la catástrofe de la llamada reconstrucción. Debería llamarse en su lugar “destrucción real”. María ha servido Puerto Rico en bandeja de plata al capital estadounidense. El capitalismo en esta etapa de decadencia ya intentó durante varios años dismantelar y reestructurar Puerto Rico para satisfacer sus necesidades actuales. María le ha dado al imperialismo una oportunidad de oro.

Se empuja la privatización

La privatización de los servicios públicos, en particular la electricidad y la educación, se está impulsando muy rápidamente. Están moviendo su agenda velozmente para aprovechar la falta de comunicación consistente. Debido a que hay muy poca comunicación y la gente no puede mantenerse al día con las noticias y los desarrollos a través de la televisión o la radio, el movimiento progresista no puede responder como las circunstancias lo requiere.

Todavía es difícil hacer una llamada a un teléfono celular, por ejemplo. Cuando la compañía telefónica fue privatizada a fines de la década de 1990, las redes del sistema que instalaron eran muy inferiores y más débiles que las de la compañía telefónica nacional anterior. Definitivamente no fueron construidas teniendo en mente a una isla propensa a tormentas.

La corrupción inherente al capitalismo está siendo expuesta. La ráfaga de contratos multimillonarios que se están autorizando es obscena. Un ejemplo es el contrato de Whitefish. Puerto Rico está en bancarrota, pero el gobierno de Ricky Roselló firmó un contrato para reparar todo el sistema eléctrico en toda la isla con una empresa desconocida de Montana, de dos años, que solo tenía dos empleados, ¡por \$300 millones! La parte interesante es que el director ejecutivo de Whitefish, Andy Techmanski, es amigo del Secretario del Interior Ryan Zinke en la administración de Trump. ¡Zinke también es de Whitefish, Montana!

Luego, debido a que hubo una gran cantidad de críticas, principalmente de los medios de comunicación estadounidenses e internacionales, que retrataban a Puerto Rico como el hazmerreír mundial, el gobernador decidió cancelar el

trato.

Al mismo tiempo, se informó que la American Public Power Association, con sede en Washington, publicó que el gobierno puertorriqueño no había pedido la activación del acuerdo de ayuda mutua que habría ayudado al sistema a recuperarse de una manera más rápida y económica. Esta es una asociación de todas las compañías públicas de energía en los EUA.

El verdadero propósito de este fracaso es hacer que el pueblo acepte la privatización del servicio eléctrico. Cansadas de no tener electricidad para las necesidades más básicas, muchas personas ya están diciendo que no les importa quién brinda el servicio, solo quieren que se restablezca.

Para hacer que la situación sea más grave, el gobierno de los EUA también ha impedido que Puerto Rico reciba ayuda de otros países. Por ejemplo, los EUA han rechazado la ayuda ofrecida por Cuba, Venezuela y México. El Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas, el sindicato de trabajadores eléctricos en México, había ofrecido una brigada de trabajadores calificados. Cuba ofreció un hospital móvil con 35 médicos, enfermeras/os y otras/os trabajadores de salud y otra brigada de electricistas. Venezuela ofreció un barco cargado con el combustible diesel muy necesario para los generadores. Pero el gobernante colonial rechazó todas estas ofertas.

El otro sector objetivo de privatización es el sistema educativo. No es coincidencia que el actual gobernador contrató a una mujer de Filadelfia, Julia Keleher, no puertorriqueña y desconocedora de nuestra cultura y tradiciones, para la secretaría de educación. Ella es una promotora de escuelas tipo charter y ahora está llevando a cabo un plan agresivo que impide la apertura de escuelas en la isla. Como consecuencia, miles de familias están saliendo de Puerto Rico para llegar a los Estados Unidos sólo para tener la posibilidad de inscribir a sus hijas/os en la escuela.

Madres, padres, y maestras/os reaccionan

Su justificación para no abrir las escuelas es que no están en condiciones operativas después de María. Pero madres, padres, y maestras/os, e incluso las/os estudiantes se han volcado en sus escuelas limpiándolas de escombros, pintándolas y reacondicionándolas en general. Quieren que sus escuelas se abran y están trabajando firmemente para ese fin.

El movimiento para abrir las escuelas ahora en Puerto Rico es un desarrollo maravilloso, lleno de promesas. Es un esfuerzo basado en la comunidad donde madres, padres y maestras/os celebran asambleas para planificar el curso de acción. En cierto modo, podría ser un empujón de una formación tipo soviets. Están sucediendo en toda la isla. Y se están organizando de forma independiente, ya que todavía hay falta de comunicación. El aglutinante que les mantiene unidos es su voluntad de mantener la educación gratuita, de abrir sus escuelas.

Algunas/os están desafiando las órdenes de la secretaria y comienzan sus labores. Celebran conferencias de prensa. Tienen líneas de piquetes diarias frente a sus escuelas. Organizan recaudaciones de fondos. El resto de la comunidad en muchos lugares está involucrada. La Federación de Maestros de Puerto Rico junto con otras organizaciones acaba de entablar una demanda contra la secretaria y ya se han abierto muchas escuelas programadas para su cierre debido a la presión de estas acciones.

La defensa de las escuelas públicas en Puerto Rico podría convertirse fácilmente en la defensa del país.

Un último aspecto que quería tocar es la llamada ayuda pos huracán María.

Hay muchos llamados de ayuda y asistencia a las víctimas del huracán. Por supuesto, todo es necesario. La carestía es enorme. Pero una cosa debe quedar muy clara: el gobierno de los EUA tiene una obligación con el pueblo puertorriqueño.

El llamado no debe ser para ayuda o caridad. Estados Unidos le debe al pueblo puertorriqueño todos los crímenes cometidos: por la invasión en 1898; por la represión y persecución de independentistas; por la destrucción de nuestra agricultura; por la esterilización forzada de mujeres; por la contaminación de Vieques y Culebra por parte de la Marina de los Estados Unidos; por la contaminación del suelo, agua y aire por plantas farmacéuticas y petroquímicas; por la imposición de una Ley Jones que hace que el envío sea el más caro del mundo; por la migración forzada que está dejando la isla despoblada; por tantos otros crímenes; y, sobre todo, por el delito de negar al pueblo de Puerto Rico el derecho a la soberanía y la independencia.

Puerto Rico está sufriendo, la nación está siendo destrozada, las familias están desmembradas. ¡Pero lo que Puerto Rico necesita ahora no es caridad, es justicia y solidaridad!

- ¡Cancelar la odiosa deuda!
- ¡Abrir las fronteras a la solidaridad internacional!
- ¡Revocar las leyes Jones y Promesa!
- ¡Fuerzas armadas de EUA y FEMA, fuera de Puerto Rico!
- ¡Poder para el pueblo!
- ¡Por un Puerto Rico libre y soberano! □

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

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