

# Led by Black community Alabama bigot booted

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

People far and wide celebrated the defeat of arch-bigot Judge Roy Moore in Alabama's Senate race on Dec. 12. A Facebook message that night crowed: "I just got the good news on my cell phone here in Bolivia!" The next day the president of an elite Massachusetts college began his faculty meeting: "Let's take a moment to thank Alabama for that victory."

African-American people, especially Black women, led a grassroots mass movement against racism and misogyny. Soundly trouncing Republican Moore, they voted in a former federal prosecutor, Doug Jones, the first Democrat elected to national office from Alabama in 25 years.

Stopping Moore was indeed a huge win over a monster of bigotry. It's hard to imagine a more despicable political candidate or person.

With his "Onward, Christian Soldiers" ideology and President Trump's support, Moore was headed for the Senate and perhaps for the high-level Bible study group where Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry attend classes run by Ralph Drollinger, a well-known Christian nationalist. (tinyurl.com/y76on9w2)

Chosen for the Senate instead was Doug Jones, who led the prosecution and conviction in 2002 of two Ku Klux Klan members for the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. There, four young Black girls died and 22 other people were injured.

As U.S. attorney for Alabama's Northern District, Jones also built the case against Eric Rudolph, the 1998 bomber of the New Woman All Women Health Care Center in Birmingham. Rudolph had committed a series of anti-abortion and anti-gay-motivated bombings across the South between 1996 and 1998.

Most of the corporate media lauded Jones' election win. They urged the national Democratic Party to take tips from him on building a winning coalition. Republican Trump took 62 percent of Alabama's vote in 2016.

## Organized mass resistance

Behind the Alabama vote, however, was an undying, fierce tradition of organized resistance to racism and right-wing bigotry built in Alabama long, long before Doug Jones' arrival on the political scene.

In only one historic example of thousands, in Lowndes and Montgomery counties in 1861, a hundred enslaved people of African descent, together with "poor whites of the country," planned a rebellion to redistribute the "land, mules and money" of plantation owners. Twenty-five Black and four white insurrectionists were executed on discovery of their plot. (Herbert Aptheker, "American Negro Slave Revolts," 1943) (For more on that resistance history in this issue, see Devin Cole's article, Part 1, on "Hammer and Hoe.")

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## BEARS EARS Theft and genocide

Massive protests streamed through Salt Lake City, Utah, on Dec. 4 in response to the Trump seizure of Indigenous land in Bears Ears National Monument.

More on this Indigenous struggle, page 8.

PHOTO: WTOP.COM



WW PHOTO: J CATALINOTTO  
 Marie-Claude Manga

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PHOTO: MALLORY GIORDANY



WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL

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# Congolese women fight 'invisible hands' of exploitation

**Workers World staff  
New York**

Marie-Claude Manga, social worker, pastor and fighter for the rights of oppressed women, brought the story of the plight of women in her original home, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to a meeting here on Dec. 16, along with the story of their struggle.

Her presentation focused on what the women were able to accomplish in their day-to-day work with the aid of women's organizations on an international scale.

The DRC is an enormous country of 900,000 square miles, with extensive mineral resources, inhabited by 87 million people and governed by a weak central authority that leaves its mineral wealth up for grabs by armed forces in the service of transnational corporations.

"The DRC is a real geological scandal," she said. "Its subsoil is full of minerals of all kinds. Every day, huge amounts of these minerals are mined and sold around the world by Western and Eastern transnational corporations. These mining regions are regions of endless wars."

Manga pointed out: "Militias are formed and supported by 'invisible hands' (actually by transnational corporations with economic interests) to maintain a level of insecurity and especially to discourage all those who might try to put an end to this crisis."

"The endless armed conflicts that have plagued eastern DRC for 20 years, which have left millions dead and displaced, which have caused an unprecedented humanitarian disaster, are closely linked to the exploitation of mineral resources, particularly the mineral called coltan, a black or red-brown ore from which niobium and tantalum are extracted." Coltan is an essential component in computers and cellular phones.

Manga explained how "rape is used as a weapon of war, a weapon of mass destruction. I call it this because socially and culturally the woman is the nurturer of the community and the guarantor of its values. To attack a woman in this way is to destroy her integrity and, through

that, to destroy the structure of the entire community."

Manga visited parts of the DRC where mining was being carried out in June 2013. On that trip, she met and got to know "children who worked in mines and escaped" and "women and girls who had been torn from their parents, from their families, to be turned into sex slaves."

After meeting and working closely with women in the DRC who were determined to keep on fighting for their rights, whatever the consequences, Marie-Claude Manga decided she would have to work on their behalf. She would bring their story to others around the world.

The meeting was organized by the International Working Women's Day Coalition and the International Women's Alliance. Others on the panel included Vijou Bryant of GABRIELA New York, who chaired; Monica Moorehead, who presented Manga with gifts;

Brenda Stokely, who linked the struggle against sexual exploitation abroad to current events in the U.S.; and Paddy Colligan, who translated the speaker's remarks from French to English. □



WW PHOTOS: JOHN CATALINOTTO; G. DUNKEL

Left to right: Brenda Stokely, Paddy Colligan, Marie-Claude Manga, Monica Moorehead and Vijou Bryant

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### We're taking a break!

Workers World publishes 51 issues a year and takes one week off. Next week's the week! We'll see you again with our issue of Jan. 4.

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## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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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# 'JERUSALEM IS PALESTINE'

## Oppression, resistance — In Atlanta and Palestine

Over 200 demonstrators, a majority Palestinian, rallied and marched in Atlanta on Dec. 16 to oppose U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The demonstration, organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, was supported by Students for Justice in Palestine, the International Action Center and the International Socialist Organization. Speakers denounced the oppression of Palestinians, the role played by the U.S., and supported the need for international solidarity against racism and imperialism.

Oppression in Palestine and Atlanta are intimately connected. Through the

Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program, Atlanta police officers learn repressive police tactics used by Israel against the Palestinian people. The police then use these tactics against communities of color in Atlanta.

Outside CNN headquarters, protesters drew attention to the central role major U.S. news outlets play in covering up the daily brutality Palestinians face. They charged the city's powerful in the crime of Palestinian oppression. In response, CNN guards threatened to call the police on protesters.

— Report by Chris Coughlin



WW PHOTO: HANNAH ALEXANDER

## Indianapolis for Palestine



PHOTO: STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE- IUPUI, INDIANAPOLIS

An emergency rally Dec. 10 in downtown Indianapolis denounced the Trump administration's attack on the Palestinian people when he declared Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. Called by Students for Justice in Palestine at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, the action featured speakers from Muslim Student Association groups at Butler University and IUPUI, Jewish

Voice for Peace, the Egyptian Student Association at IUPUI and the American Friends Service Committee. Braving the cold, people assembled for a rally and marched to demonstrate that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. They stood in solidarity with resistance to Israeli apartheid. Free Palestine!

— Report by Workers World Indianapolis bureau

## Boston

The sound of Palestinian Dabke music and chants of "Jerusalem is Palestine!" filled Boston's Copley Square on Dec. 17. Community solidarity lifted up the struggle for Palestinian self-determination there in the face of Trump's recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The spirited rally was co-sponsored by a broad coalition of organizations, including the New Generation Club of Boston, Massachusetts Peace Action, Workers World Party, Palestine@MIT, Northeastern Students for Justice in Palestine, Team Solidarity of Steelworkers Local 8751 and the Boston Party for Socialism and Liberation.

— Report by WW Boston bureau

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM



## Pensacola, Fla.



A three-person team — a Workers World Party comrade, candidate and friend — painted the Pensacola, Fla., community 'Graffiti Bridge' for Palestine on Dec. 16.

PHOTO: MALLORY GIORDANY

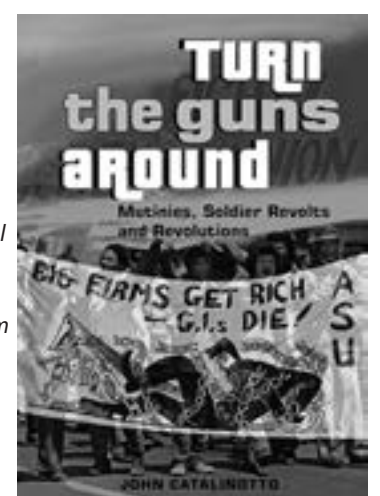
## TURN THE GUNS AROUND By John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

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

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

Available at online booksellers



# WALTER SCOTT: Community/labor organizing wins some justice

By Meghan Watts

After more than a year and a half of waiting, the family of Walter L. Scott sees some semblance of justice. In an all-too-familiar script, Scott, an unarmed Black man, was shot multiple times from behind by white police officer Michael Slager during a traffic stop in 2015. In a court decision almost unheard of in recent cases, Slager was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Dec. 7 in a federal District Court in Charleston, S.C.

Walter Scott's youngest brother, Rodney Scott, said: "Hopefully, it sets the platform for the future. I hope that other families that are still trying to get justice will get justice." (postandcourier.com, Dec. 7)

The Scott case has become a beacon of hope in the seemingly hopeless task of seeking adequate accountability for police killings of U.S. residents.

The sentence, while less than South Carolina's minimum 30-year sentence for second-degree murder, demonstrates the impact of the efforts made by community organizers in Charleston.

Rodney Scott and two other close relatives of Walter Scott, Marion Green and James Gibbs, are members of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422. The ILA local issued a statement in April 2015 regarding the killing. President Kenneth Riley said: "Local 1422 recognizes that we have a social responsibility to our community and we take that responsibility very seri-

ously. That is why Leonard Riley Jr. took the lead and arranged the organizational meeting for the protest at the North Charleston City Hall." Activists in the community responded quickly and effectively — informed by their longstanding involvement in struggle.

This long history of grassroots organizing and union struggles must not be overlooked in Charleston. In 2000, just 15 years before Scott was murdered, the Black-led ILA local and other labor organizations took up the case of the Charleston Five, a group of longshore workers arrested and charged with felony counts of conspiring to start a riot.

In that case, charges stemmed from picketing the Nordana shipping line's use of nonunion workers after a 23-year history of employing only union workers. Police attacked the picketers, taunting and physically harassing the participants. Those in solidarity with the workers then urged organizers and union members to speak out against police brutality and harassment. The five workers were eventually acquitted of all charges — once again highlighting the power of communities.

In the case of Walter Scott, union members and community leaders were quick to rally together in front of the North Charleston City Hall in 2015. This was shortly after murder charges were filed against Slager. The people were all too familiar with broken-tailight policing that pervaded their streets — where cops seized any small offense as an excuse to



Local community protests the shooting of Walter Scott, North Charleston City Hall, April 8, 2015.

arrest Black people — and came together to speak out against this repetition of an execution without trial.

With the power of Local 1422 and its history firmly rooted in the fight against police harassment, Charleston is an example that other areas can learn from to harness the clout of the workers' struggle.

In Scott's case, a killer cop will see prison time. In too many other cases, there is no justice at all. Cops kill people with impunity and communities are left to pick up the pieces. More than just a superficial hashtag movement, victories like the one in this case should be recognized as powerful examples of what a people's movement for justice can win.

As this experience in Charleston showed, communities can come together to fight back and demand justice be served. Local 1422's work is reflected in the sentencing of Scott's killer. As President Riley promised in the 2015 union statement: "Local 1422 will continue to stand up and speak out against injustice in any form, whether it is racial profiling, racial discrimination or, as in this case, racial homicide."

From Charleston to Ferguson, Mo., to New York to Durham, N.C., the people are standing up and speaking out — against police brutality, against racism, against white supremacy. And the people can win! □

## Boss Trump attacks low-wage workers

By Chris Fry

Eric Cantor, Republican House majority leader in 2012, put out a tweet to celebrate Labor Day that year. It failed to mention workers at all. Instead, it praised those who "built a business and earned their own success." (nytimes.com, Dec. 14)

That Cantor heaped praise on the bosses while failing to cite workers in any way on the one official U.S. holiday that is supposed to recognize labor's "contributions" reveals how politicians and their Wall Street masters hold the working class in utter contempt. But this gaffe was symbolic.

Far more damaging are the recent attacks by the Boss Trump regime on workers, particularly low-wage workers. Workers in restaurants, nail and hair salons, and other service workers, predominantly women of color, need to supplement their low pay with tips, which total some \$30 billion a year in the U.S.

Trump's Department of Labor an-

nounced a new rule on Dec. 4 that allows owners to control their workers' tips. Supposedly, this is so owners can use the tips to pay "back-room" workers like dishwashers and cooks, predominantly immigrants and men of color, who don't have contact with customers.

What this allows the bosses to do, however, is to pocket the servers' hard-earned tip money or, at best, to use this money to keep regular wages low for back-room workers.

Then, Trump's National Labor Relations Board, by a 3-2 margin on Dec. 14, rescinded the rule that made franchise owners and franchisees jointly responsible to abide by labor rules and standards, including bargaining with their workers. This ruling not only harms low-wage workers at huge franchises like McDonald's, but it also harms 24 million low-

wage workers hired by temporary staffing firms and contractors. (epi.org, Dec. 15)

Under this ruling, made without any public hearings, workers who demand higher pay from the contractor-owner can be told that the franchiser sets pay and work standard rules. At the same time, the franchiser can say that pay and benefits are up to the contractor. This ruling rigs the whole system against the workers.

Of course, these pro-business measures are designed to blunt the "\$15 an hour and a union" movement. Raising the minimum wage to a living wage has struck a chord across the country. Over the last decade, even voters in the so-called most conservative states have, when given the opportunity, favored increasing the minimum wage.

In 2016 alone, despite Trump's election (with 3 million fewer votes than his op-

ponent), Arizona, Colorado, Maine and Washington state all voted to increase the minimum wage to at least \$12 an hour. A South Dakota measure that would lower the minimum wage for workers under the age of 18 was soundly defeated. In November, Maine's voters approved a measure to expand Medicaid to 70,000 low-wage workers in the state.

Stagnant wages since the 1970s have sparked this sense of worker solidarity. "In a notable shift from earlier decades, labor's share of income is no longer constant, but has fallen from nearly 65 percent in the mid-1970s to below 57 percent in 2017." (Harvard Business Review, Oct. 24) Some in the establishment may consider Trump "a loose cannon," but Wall Street backs him to the hilt in his attempts to transfer income from labor to capital.

Rulings and maneuvers by Trump's stooges will only increase the anger of the workers and oppressed communities as they fall further and further behind the wealthy corporate parasites. □



## Sex workers protest at sheriff's office

Sex workers and supporters rallied at Chicago's Daley Center on Dec. 17 to express outrage at the recent murder of a New York City massage parlor worker, Yang Song, by New York police. December 17 is International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, so the rally fittingly took place across the street from Sheriff Tom Dart's office.

Dart frequently initiates stings and raids against sex workers and their cli-

ents, resulting in incarcerations, deportations, loss of income and, too often, loss of life.

Participants chanted, "Stop the raids! Justice for Yang Song!" and "Stop criminalizing working people! Stop targeting parlors!" The action was organized by Justice for Alisha Walker and the Sex Worker Outreach Project Chicago and supported by Workers World Party.

— Report and photo by Jeff Sorel

## LIBYA

# U.S./NATO attacks on Gaddafi brought today's horrors

By Sam Ordoñez  
Boston

Anti-imperialists and revolutionaries gathered outside the Massachusetts State House on Dec. 9 to express solidarity with the people of Libya and decry the U.S. ruling class's lead role in creating the horrific developments now unfolding there.

The rally and speakout were called by the Answer Coalition of Boston and supported by Workers World Party.

Before NATO intervention in Libya, the country was prospering. It had a robust system of public education and health care. It was financing development projects throughout Africa and the Middle East. But Muammar Gaddafi's govern-

ment was a threat to NATO and to Europe.

By providing the tools to develop Africa and pursuing a socialized economic plan in development, Gaddafi was showing the world that there is an alternative to total reliance on the U.S. and Europe. He was showing the world that there is an alternative to capitalism and imperialism.

Activists must oppose imperialist war at any cost. When the U.S. State Department demonizes a nation — when it says, “Activists must destroy it. We must annihilate its government” — the working-class movement has to be on the opposite side of these warmongers. We need to be yelling at the top our lungs: “No to war on Libya! No to war on Venezuela! No to war on Syria! No to war on People's Korea!” □



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Rally organizer Nino Brown addresses crowd outside the Massachusetts State House expressing solidarity with the people of Libya, Dec. 9.

# 'Free Mumia and all political prisoners'

## San Diego



PHOTO: FRANKIE GERMANY

## Led by Black community Alabama bigot booted

Continued from page 1

Moore's modern-day defeat was achieved through mass organizing by people in Alabama determined to fight back against racism, woman-hating, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQ bigotry. They resisted the dead hand of segregation and the use of slavery-era Christianity to justify murder, rape and all kinds of viciousness.

Even The Hill, an inside-the-Beltway website, had to concede that victory came from the mass movement, including “logging 1.2 million voter phone calls and knocking on 300,000 doors — an effort made more notable because of the lack of any real Democratic [Party] infrastructure statewide.” (Dec. 12)

Groups involved ranged from political organizations like the Alabama NAACP, the LGBTQ-oriented Human Rights Campaign and End Citizens United, to non-partisan grassroots groups like Greater Birmingham Ministries and Vote or Die. Individuals appealed on Facebook for money to fund home-bound people to vote. Others, ignited by the #MeToo campaign against sexual abuse and violence toward women, joined in knocking on doors.

### Black leadership decisive

The turnout of Black voters was crucial. It equaled the historic levels of Black votes for Barack Obama. Of Black women, 98 percent voted for Jones, together with 93 percent of Black men. Turnout was

extremely high for an off-year, two-person race in majority-Black counties like Greene and Perry, centers of past civil rights struggles.

Black women also led door-to-door, grassroots organizing as African-American Alabamians continued their centuries-long fight for basic human and Civil Rights — a struggle independent of any one political party. In exit polls and on social media, Black voters said their vote was not an endorsement of Jones or the Democratic Party, but they had again gone out “to do what had to be done” to block the return to Jim Crow days of state-authorized racism, rape, reaction and death.

Voting-while-Black in Alabama on Dec. 12 confronted outright voter intimidation, codified in the Supreme Court's 2013 Shelby County [Alabama] v. Holder decision. This ruling gutted key portions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, won with the blood of Black Civil Rights Movement martyrs, and it has been used to suppress voters nationwide, including with restrictive voter-ID laws.

From Homewood, a Birmingham suburb, social media reported that city police were systematically stopping and ticketing drivers of color on streets approaching a polling place. Homewood City Jail is where Kindra Darnell Chapman, a Black gender-nonconforming teenager, died in 2015 under suspicious circumstances.

Continued on page 6

By Gloria Verdieu  
San Diego

Workers World Party hosted a “Free All Political Prisoners” forum here at the Brown Building, a space for activists, on Dec. 9, in a meeting called to pay tribute to Long Distance Revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal on the 36th anniversary of his arrest.

A slide presentation showed faces of political prisoners, most of them members of the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the Black Liberation Army (BLA); some have been locked up for over 40 years.

Community activist Mickey Smith welcomed everyone and emphasized the movement to free Mumia is a movement for justice for all political prisoners.

After a brief update on the case of Mumia, participants watched a recorded video presentation by Sekou Abdullah Odinga, a former political prisoner released after 34 years in prison.

Updates were given on political prisoners Leonard Peltier of the American Indian Movement (AIM), locked up since

1977; and Russell Maroon Shoats, BPP/BLA, locked up since 1972. Representatives from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia, the Committee Against Police Brutality (CAPB), and the San Diego Black Panther Party (SD-BPP) were present.

Patrick Germany, an Amity substance-abuse counselor and member SD-BPP, and Curtis Howard, San Diego native and former inmate in the California Department of Corrections, were guest speakers. Howard explained how his book, “Cell Mates & Cell Outs,” is about what it's really like to be in prison. It's not what you see on TV, Howard explained: “For one thing, there is no smoking allowed in California prisons and as far as weight lifting, CDC banned weights over 20 years ago.”

In closing, the gathering listened to a “Message of Love” from Mumia. The photo in front of the Mumia banner donated to CAPB by artist Mario Torero in 1997 will be sent to Mumia along with messages of revolutionary greetings and love. □

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# Led by Black community

## Alabama bigot booted

Continued from page 5

### 'Struggle far from over for Black Alabamians'

After the election of Democrat Jones, the struggle is far from over for Black people in Alabama. When a reporter asked Jones if Black Alabamians face different issues than white Alabamians, Jones called the question "divisive," even though Black residents are 2-1/2 times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to be imprisoned. (talkpoverty.org)

Monica Moorehead, the 2016 WWP presidential candidate, was born in Tuscaloosa, Ala. She told WW: "As a Black person who experienced the trauma of racist segregation from birth until adolescence, the defeat of Moore was really a people's referendum against white supremacy and heinous misogyny. These go hand-in-hand because they are both rooted in the divide-and-conquer system of capitalism.

"While you can never vote away capitalism, voting can serve as a political barometer on where the masses stand on certain issues, more than choosing lesser-evil candidates," said Moorehead.

"This defeat of Moore at the polls was just as important as a shut-it-down protest in the streets. The vote reflected the ongoing shut-it-down sentiment against Moore and also against the white supremacist and misogynist who occupies the White House.

"My mother's family is rooted in Wilcox County, ranked the poorest county in the state. The fact that Black people, especially women, turned out in record numbers shows that despite dire poverty and other intense forms of oppression, Black lives matter in every struggle."

The enduring lineage of Black organizing in Alabama is exemplified in Moorehead's family, including great-grandfather William James Edwards, who founded Snow Hill Normal and Industrial Institute in Wilcox County in 1893 for formerly enslaved people. The institute remained open until 1973, and then was revived in 1979 by Moorehead's mother Consuela Lee as an African-American cultural center for the impoverished county.

### 'Against the politics of hate and division'

At Jones' victory party, LGBTQ signs were waved, and Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said the win "was made possible by the overwhelming and unprecedented, grassroots resistance of ordinary Alabamians against the politics of hate and division." (LGBTQ Nation, Dec. 12)

Less visible was under-the-radar organizing by closeted LGBTQ Alabamians still at risk for losing their jobs, children and family. One visible protest was by white farmer Nathan Mathis, who systematically picketed Moore throughout the campaign because of Moore's anti-LGBTQ positions. Holding up a photo of his daughter, who committed suicide at 23 because of anti-gay attacks, Mathis voiced bitter regret for his own anti-gay prejudice, condemned the Republican candidate's attack on young women and waved a sign, "Don't vote for Moore." (CNN.com, Dec.12)

In a 2002 legal opinion, Moore actual-



PHOTO: AFRICAN HISTORY NETWORK

Rose Sanders of Selma, co-founder and coordinator of the Vote or Die Campaign, received death threats for the organizing efforts she and her group engaged in to turn out the African-American vote against racist Judge Roy Moore.

ly declared that LGBTQ people should be punished, even executed, to "protect the family." The Alabama Supreme Court decision denied custody to lesbian mother Dawn Huber. Then Chief Justice Moore wrote: "[Homosexual conduct] is an inherent evil against which children must be protected," adding: "[T]he State ... carries the power of the sword ... the power to prohibit conduct with physical penalties, such as confinement and even execution." (WW, March 3, 2002)

Moore was removed permanently from the court twice, once in 2002 for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument he had installed in the state judicial building and again in 2016 for ordering county probate judges to ignore the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

An outright white supremacist, when

for exploitation. A Nov. 9 Washington Post story scrupulously documented his predatory hunting and sexual assault of underage teenage girls in the 1970s, when he was serving as deputy district attorney of Etowah County.

Moore's extreme right-wing statements and actions are consistent with his brand of "Christian nationalism." According to journalist Michelle Goldberg, these "dominionists" believe they have "a holy responsibility to reclaim the land [the U.S.] for Jesus Christ — to have dominion in civil structures, as in every other aspect of life." ("Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism," 2011)

In October 2017, Moore was the rising star of the Christian right as it united with white supremacists and neofascists at the right-wing Family Research Council's annual Value Voters Summit. (tinyurl.com/y95z8w3s) This is the context for Moore's consistent Islamophobic position that Muslims should not be allowed to serve in the U.S. Congress "because of their religion." (newsweek.com, Dec. 12)

According to CBS News on Dec. 12, most voters had decided one way or the other about Moore before the story on his sexual assaults appeared. However, women with children under 18 at home backed Jones by 66 to 32 percent, with college-educated white women swinging toward Jones as well. (ABCnews.com, Dec.12)

But racism still left a very heavy mark. Some 63 percent of white women voted for Moore, despite the well-supported evidence that as an adult Moore had had "sexual contact" with a child under the age of 14 — fitting most legal definitions of statutory rape in the U.S. (newsweek.com, Dec.13)

Since almost three-quarters of white men backed Moore, these figures signal the still-entrenched hold of the divide-and-conquer racist strategies of "Big

Mule, Big Steel" agriculture and business interests that continue to this day in Alabama. Their propaganda, policy and laws have for centuries indoctrinated white workers into racism and set them against Black workers, to the murderously unequal but real detriment of both groups.

### 'Sitting it out' vs. solidarity

A vote for Jones offered white workers a chance to protest the racist propaganda of the owning class. Some white voters seem to have sat out the election, with white-majority counties showing significantly lower turnouts than their 2016 vote for Trump.

But "sitting it out" this election was not a clear rejection of racism and sexism, nor even a neutral position. As the South continues to be the fastest growing region economically in the U.S., and as Alabama competes for more manufacturing and corporate business to locate there, those with financial interests in the state saw Moore's election as an echo of the Old South and "bad for business."

A polarizing figure like Moore could stir up community and worker organizing, call up solidarity and threaten the big profits being wrenched from the working class in this "right-to-work-for-less" state.

Meanwhile, all workers, including the white workers who voted for Moore, are going to take it on the chin as Republicans continue their attack on Social Security, Medicare and other benefits won during upsurges of mass organizing from the 1930s through the 1960s.

Once a bastion of organized labor, the Alabama unionization rate was twice that of other Southern states, and even on par with some Northern states. Some of those union struggles were won with multinational solidarity. (Payday Report/The Guardian, Dec. 16) Doug Jones bragged during his campaign that he was the grandson of unionized steelworkers and a union member when working at U.S. Steel Fairfield Works to pay for college.

But Jones is not calling for mass resistance to the state's right-to-work law. Despite a campaign pledge to help workers organize in the state's growing auto industry, all he's announced is appointment of a "labor liaison." The likely outcome? A predictable attempt to pull workers back into the national Democratic Party orbit.

Meanwhile, all workers are going to be buffeted by the austerity cuts to come as the Democratic Party continues to support the all-military, all-the-time U.S. imperialist wars in search of capitalist profit.

What lesson has the Alabama election to offer? Mass independent organizing; fierce anti-racist work, especially with white workers; solidarity among people oppressed and under fire because of their nationality, sexuality, gender or disability; resistance that steadfastly seeks the way forward toward a world without capitalism and governed by socialist principles. That is the only way to a lasting victory against injustice.

Pratt was born in Selma, Ala., and raised in Centreville, Ala.



Young women marching for voting rights for Black people in Alabama, from Selma to Montgomery, 1965.

asked what would "make America great again," Moore answered: "I think it was great at the time when families were united — even though we had slavery." (cnn.com, Dec. 8)

Moore's definition of "family" is a racist, neofascist, male-dominated, heterosexual, "Christian" institution, where wives are ruled by husbands and "unattached" girls and women are fair game



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# Lessons of 'The Hammer & the Hoe: The Alabama Communist Party 1928-1951'

This is Part 1 of a three-part series based on an article that originally appeared on Dec. 14 in *The Forge*, a socialist newspaper for the South ([theforgenews.org](http://theforgenews.org)).

By Devin Cole

In 1990, Dr. Robin D.G. Kelley published the phenomenal book "Hammer and Hoe: The Alabama Communist Party 1928-1951," documenting the 23-year history of the Alabama Communist Party, a chapter of the Communist Party USA.

Formed and molded by Black sharecroppers and laborers such as Black revolutionary Hosea Hudson, the ACP went above and beyond fighting for the rights of laborers and workers, Black and white, to the rights to housing, food and equal pay.

The eventual dissolution of the ACP was brought on by the Red Scare, the Ku Klux Klan and reactionary politicians in Alabama. But it is important to understand that it took the collective effort of the local and state white supremacist government to bring down the organized party of mainly Black laborers and workers, and that it took over two decades to do. This alone proves the resilience of these revolutionary Southerners.

Though initially skeptical of a communist party in the South, the CPUSA, along with other communists all over the United States, eventually had to eat their words. Despite threats often carried out by racist pigs, by 1934 the Alabama Sharecroppers' Union [SCU] was composed entirely of Black laborers and had a membership of 6,000 people, the largest of any Black union in the South.

The SCU was developed and maintained by members of the ACP until its dissolution shortly after 1936, though by that point its membership was at 10,000. Some of the notable victories of the SCU were the raise of wages per 100 pounds of cotton on some plantations in Alabama to 75 cents in 1934 (roughly \$13 a day in 2017), as well as the stopping of evictions of Black and white workers who were tenants of petty-bourgeois, racist landlords.

Perhaps most notably, the ACP was instrumental in the handling of organization among rank-and-file communists and other workers in defense of the Scottsboro Nine, a case in which nine Black

youth — Haywood Patterson, Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Andy and Roy Wright, Olin Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson and Eugene Williams — were arrested and falsely accused of sexually assaulting two white women on a train in 1931. It was later revealed that the women were forced by police to testify that the youth had sexually assaulted them or else they would be arrested themselves.

An all-white jury found them all guilty and eight were sentenced to death. The ACP and the International Labor Defense, a communist-led legal advocacy organization, rallied behind the youth and spread the word throughout the South and eventually made national headlines. In the end, eight of the nine young men were freed or paroled, all due to the work of the ACP and ILD.

## Low wages spur organizing

The formation of the ACP could not have come at a better time: In Birmingham, Ala., in 1910, the cost of labor was so cheap that 80 percent of people in Birmingham earned under \$500 a year [\$13,070 in 2016 dollars], while the 1% made \$35,000 a year [\$915,655 in 2016 dollars]. This was possible because of the cheap labor of Black workers who were (and still are) paid less than white workers. Even though, in 1910, Black men made up 55 percent of coal miners in Alabama, and 65 percent of ironworkers in Birmingham, Black men were also over 90 percent of Birmingham's unskilled labor force.

By 1920, Black women made up 60 percent of workers, 87 percent of whom were



Sharecropper Ned Cobb, a.k.a. Nate Shaw, at 22, with his spouse, Viola, and their son Andrew, in 1907. Cobb was a member of the Alabama Sharecroppers Union, organized by the ACP.

involved in domestic work. By 1930, two years after the formation of the party and one year after the stock market crash, 16,000 Black women worked in domestic services and by 1935, at least 8,000 Black women were registered in the Alabama Employment Services. The wages that Black women made historically were even less than those of Black men, with Black women working longer hours for just \$1 or \$2 a week, which comes out to \$48 or \$96 a year [\$702 and \$1,405 per annum, as of 2016].

At the height of the Great Depression, Black people, especially Black women, made so little money that they often only had enough for rent and ate whatever leftover food that domestic working women could secure from the homes they worked in during the days and nights.

## A new type of legal slavery

After World War I, the price of cotton plummeted,

Women welders in Mobile, Ala., shipyards during the 1940s.



and despite the increasing debt of Black planters and harvesters, who could hardly afford to get by as it was, the available land where cotton was planted and picked was greatly reduced, causing landlords to evict these planters and harvesters off their land with nowhere to go.

This allowed white landowners in Alabama, who had, through the long-existing white supremacist system, acquired land, animals, food, seeds and other implementations for their fields, to "lease" land, food, equipment and shelter to anyone looking for work. Since the largest percentage of those unemployed were Black people, that was the largest group that would become workers for the landlords and planters.

This essentially became a new, legal form of slavery that sidestepped the already flawed 13th Amendment to

the U.S. Constitution. White landowners exploited and squeezed all the money and resources they could from these Black workers for little or no pay, and up until the formation of the ACP, no one could do anything for fear of retaliation by the police and the KKK.

This, along with the day-to-day, systemic racism, caused an intense wave of fear to constantly linger over the heads of Black workers, but nevertheless, they continued to organize anyway, organizing strikes and organizing their own communities. In a few cases, they successfully rallied Black and white workers together, creating a very rare form of solidarity that even now can break the tightest chains of the bourgeoisie. □



The Scottsboro Nine with their lawyer from the International Labor Defense, organized by the CPUSA, around 1932.

## The Alabama election:

# Which road toward African-American liberation?

The following is excerpted from an earlier article that dealt in more detail with Moore's extreme right-wing politics.

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

President Trump traveled to Pensacola, Fla., on Dec. 8 for a get-out-the-vote rally for white supremacist Judge Roy Moore, the Republican running for the U.S. Senate in nearby Alabama. Despite this, Moore lost to his Democratic opponent, Doug Jones, appointed a U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama by former President Bill Clinton during the 1990s. At the Pensacola meeting, just 25 miles from the Alabama border, Trump urged participants to vote for Moore on Dec. 12.

This event was held in the aftermath of a visit to Alabama by Trump's chief

strategist, Steve Bannon, to campaign for Moore. Bannon, who left the White House in recent months, then returned to the "alt-right" publication Breitbart News.

African-American voters played a pivotal role in the defeat of Moore. The division within the white electorate and the overwhelming support of African-American and Latinx voters resulted in the narrow victory by Jones of approximately 1.5 percent.

With the recent defeats of Republican candidates in Virginia and Alabama, the Democratic electorate has been reinvigorated. However, this will not automatically translate into a greater commitment on the part of the U.S. ruling class and state structures for the full realization of the

demands of the African-American people

Interestingly enough, initial reports indicate that a larger percentage of African Americans turned out to vote for Jones than they did for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race that brought Trump to power. Clinton was unable to inspire the necessary enthusiasm among nationally oppressed groups, resulting in her monumental defeat in the Electoral College.

Consequently, independent political direction is still required for further progress aimed at full equality and self-determination. Even with Trump's blatant racist pandering to an ever-shrinking political base, where his approval rating has sunk to an abysmal 32 percent, the Democratic Party as a whole is providing no real program to mobilize the African-American people. ...

At any rate, Trump is being revealed as

a failed president. Even the conservative USA Today newspaper, in an editorial published on Dec. 14, said that he is unfit for office.

Moreover, as it relates to the overall status of African-American people, bloc voting, direct action and mass mobilizations have been used effectively as tactics since the middle 20th century to achieve short-term goals, both on a symbolic and on a substantive level.

However, the strategic objectives aimed at total freedom require a far deeper institution-building methodology.

The necessary fundamental transformation of the economy and political superstructure can only be achieved through independent revolutionary organization designed to create a new social order based on the acquisition of a genuinely egalitarian society. □

# Bears Ears fight exposes history of U.S. genocide

By Stephanie Tromblay  
Huron/Metis nonstatus  
and Tsalagi heritage unenrolled

The Trump White House's plan to steal 1 million acres from Bears Ears National Monument lays bare the history of U.S. genocide against Native nations and land theft in the interests of imperialism, energy companies and the military-industrial complex, all of which are based on that genocide.

The announced 2-million-acre reduction of Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase/Escalante monuments is the largest cut to federal land protection in U.S. history and an unprecedented planned takeover in the interests of mining and energy corporations. The staged announcement itself displayed Trump's connections with right-wing land-use ideologues and fossil fuel and uranium corporations.

Trump appeared onstage with right-wing Utah politicians Sen. Orrin Hatch, Gov. Gary Herbert, Rep. Rob Bishop and San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, all opponents of Bears Ears National Monument status, when he made the announcement on Dec. 4 in Salt Lake City.

Five Native nations — the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Ute nations, united as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — had won monument status in 2016 for 1.3 million acres of their sacred ancestral lands with unprecedented Indigenous oversight. Trump's proclamation is meant to strip control from them over uranium, oil and gas deposits and to attack their cultural heritage. Bears Ears is densely packed with ancient cultural resources. Puebloan ruins in the area are thousands of years old.

Angelo Baca, a coordinator of Utah Diné Bikéyah and a filmmaker, said, "Bears Ears will always be Indigenous land, and nothing will change that." (New York Times, Dec. 8)

The five nations, joined by environmental and conservationist groups, have filed five federal lawsuits against reduction of the two monuments. The lawsuits encompass challenges to Trump's violation of the 1906 Antiquities Act and the posed threat to hundreds of historical and archeological pueblos and kivas (ruins of ancient apartment buildings and ceremonial chambers), petroglyph (rock art) panels and artifacts. Also, they raise the direct and immediate harm that would result to paleontological sites and the ecosystem.

Reduction of Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument, which is also home to Native historical, cultural and paleontological sites, is a giveaway to coal mining interests.

Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's attack on Bears Ears is U.S. imperialism's continuing genocidal warfare and cultural annihilation. Despite Trump and Zinke's denial of corporate interests in these lands, during Zinke's review of national monuments, the Utah Legislature filed a 49-page comment alleging Bears Ears National Monument would destroy the state's uranium industry.

Energy Fuels Resources, owners of the White Mesa Uranium Mill and the Daneros Uranium Mine, lobbied the administration to give them use of monument lands. Chief Operating Officer Mark Chalmers said there are "many other known uranium and vanadium deposits located within [Bears Ears]." (Washington Post, Dec. 8)

The Ute Mountain Ute community is directly threatened by the Daneros mine and the White Mesa mill. Energy Fuels aims to increase capacity to haul up to 500,000 tons of uranium through Cedar Mesa, a mountain just below the two buttes called Bears Ears. Both the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute have suffered devastation from uranium waste and its refinement.

Since 2013, energy companies have asked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to open 100,000 acres of land within the Bears Ears area to oil and gas leasing, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, although oil has not been pumped in the area since 1992.

## Uranium mining: Impact on Diné/Navajo Nation and the arms race

The history of uranium mining is one of thievery and devastation of Native lands with total disregard for its impact on the health of all who live in proximity. Uranium mining forms the basis of the infrastructure of the nuclear arms manufacturing industry. The Navajo Nation has taken the brunt of the extraction of this deadly mineral; it is poisonous and radioactive. Miners are exposed to radiation and carry it home on their clothing to their families. The winds blow the tailings from the mines across the lands and into nearby waters.



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The military also uses the leftover depleted uranium in armor plating and bullets. The Pentagon's use of DU has left parts of Iraq thoroughly poisoned to the extent that women in Fallujah have been warned to avoid getting pregnant due to it resulting in horrendous birth defects.

## Drillers and looters

There is a long history in the Four Corners area of the Western states of theft of cultural artifacts, which are often dug up and sold to rich collectors, most often damaging ruins in the process. Ancient petroglyphs throughout the West have sometimes been drilled or hacked to pieces to remove parts for illegal sales. This is what Trump meant in announcing that the monument prevented local people "from enjoying their outdoor activities."

Racist San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, who was onstage with Trump, led a white supremacist ATV ride across 1,000-year-old Puebloan ruins in 2014 to protest the BLM closure of an illegally created road through the ancient ruins. Joining that ride was Ryan Bundy, who was part of the 2016 proto-fascist takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. During that takeover, white supremacists plowed over Paiute ruins to create a latrine and pillaged precious preserved artifacts.

While the Bundyites at Malheur threatened the lives of Malheur BLM employees, Trump is considering Karen Budd-Falen, Bundy's former attorney and ideologue, for nomination to head the BLM. This is analogous to Scott Pruitt's takeover of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## Navajo Code Talkers and 'Pocahontas'

The unprecedented downsizing of Bears Ears and Grand Escalante monuments was overshadowed by Trump's racist use of the ceremony honoring World War II Navajo Code Talkers. These veterans were to be honored for their vital role in the war against the Axis powers by using their Diné language to transmit military communications. Trump posed for the ceremony in front of portraits of the racist, genocidal President Andrew Jackson, initiator of the Trail of Tears, the enforced removals of Native nations from their lands. Trump called Sen. Elizabeth Warren "Pocahontas" before the assembled media.

Warren's claim to Native ancestry is for the Tsalagi people to decide, but the use of Pocahontas' name within the context of the current culture of calling out sexual abusers says volumes about Trump, who has admitted to sexual misconduct. Matoaka, nicknamed Pocahontas, a daughter of the Native leader Powhatan, was kidnapped and raped by Jamestown settlers. She was forced to marry a tobacco planter and taken to England, where she died of pneumonia. The Disney movie about her is based on a myth that she saved John Smith. She would have been 10 or 11 years old at the time. Smith was exposed in his day as one who told many such lies about Native women.

Other sources: bearscoalition.org, Deseret News, Indian Country Today, The Navajo Nation, Salt Lake City Tribune, Washington Post (Dec. 15).

A University of New Mexico study recently found 85 percent of Diné homes are contaminated with uranium, and the mineral has even been found in their infants' urine. Navajos living near uranium mines have higher levels of the mineral in their bones than 95 percent of the U.S. population. (Jacqueline Keeler, "Trump's message for tribes: Let them eat yellowcake," High Country News, Dec. 16)

After the U.S. bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, some 30 million tons of uranium were mined on the Navajo Nation reservation. Diné miners were hired as cheap labor and were not informed of the health risks. By the early 1960s, miners were getting sick and dying. Survivors, widows and family members in the Uranium Radiation Victims Committee began to fight the corporate abuse of their community and started a 30-year legal battle for workers compensation and damages. Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah declared a moratorium on uranium mining in December 1992.

There have been clusters of birth defects and stillbirths in Diné children in the Shiprock, N.M., uranium mining area. The National Institutes of Health reported in 1992 that more than 320 kinds of congenital conditions had been detected in Indian Health Service hospital records from Shiprock. In these cases, the mothers lived near uranium mine dumps and tailings. Some of the fathers had worked in the mines. NIH's website states: "Birth defects increased significantly when either parent worked in the Shiprock electronics assembly plant."

Uranium prices remain low for now, but Trump has talked about producing more nuclear weapons. The nuclear arms race began with the intention to make a first-strike attack against the former Soviet Union. After the fall of the USSR, partly due to the relentless economic and political impact of the arms race, nuclear weapons stocks were downsized globally. But the U.S. still has more than all other countries combined. The Pentagon surrounds the Korean peninsula with nuclear arms, and Trump has stated his intention to use them.

The nuclear energy industry exists because the military-industrial complex required it to process enough refined uranium to make thousands of nuclear weapons. Uranium ore is processed into yellowcake to use in nuclear reactors. The chain reaction generates heat in the reactors and produces fissile material required to make nuclear bombs.



The Colorado River runs north of Bear Ears National Monument.

PHOTO: JIM LO SCALZO / EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK



## ★ WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ★

Excerpts based on talks given on Nov. 18 - Nov. 19 at the 2017 Workers World Party national conference in Newark, N.J. Full talks are available at workers.org.



**Imani Henry**

## 'I believe that we will win'

I've been in the party since 1993. I'm fighting to liberate myself, and my class, and for socialism.

I met the party when I was 22 as a Black, newly queer, not-yet trans being. The reason I joined Workers World Party is because I wanted to win. I didn't have a lot of big political philosophy behind that.

I was the first of my family to be born in the U.S. My parents are Jamaican migrants. I was in Boston, a racist segregated city.

WWP had a big demonstration in Boston in 1974. Four years later, I was a child on a school bus having rocks thrown at me, the "N" word, snowballs, taunting.

Two things politicized me. One was the first Gulf War in 1990. I had a friend who was like a young brother who was going into the military because he wanted a job. He was one of the first ground troops in Saudi Arabia.

I understood, maybe not U.S. imperialism, but that I was opposed to this war. I didn't want my friend to be killed. I understood that Black and Brown people who can't find a job shouldn't be sent away to die.

So I joined Emergency New England Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East. And I met the Party.

The other thing was the non-verdict of the four cops that brutalized Rodney King. This was before the internet, but someone had videotaped his beating. We didn't have to explain police brutality. You saw it.

When the verdict came down, my house phone lit up from folks in the community, my school: "This is outrageous." This was the first time I organized a demonstration.

I understood that it didn't matter that I had graduated from college; police see our skin, gender, age, and they kill us. I knew I wanted to be a revolutionary.

Nelson Mandela was touring the country. The city of Boston decided that the only place Mandela would be is the whitest of places, Boston Commons. And the Black youths I knew said: "Hell, no. Mandela is coming to Roxbury, Mass."

In the end, young people I knew were on stage with Mandela. The city had to bring him into the Black community. Our Party was part of that.

What made me want to join was when the African National Congress had a private reception, and the group that got invited was WWP.

That made me understand what it is to be in a party, to have relationships with organizations worldwide. I've had this

experience when we've had trips to Cuba, Venezuela and other liberation struggles.

A party is a vanguard, fighting organization. What is necessary to win! I don't even know how to count how long I've been in the Party. To me it feels limitless, because of how much I have learned and have gained.

This organization fights on every level. We have decades of years around the disabled struggle, or we could talk about how many years we have been a part of the Indigenous struggle. We could talk about [Dotty Ballan's 1971] book, "Feminism and Marxism" or [Bob McCubbin's 1976] book on LGBT liberation and Marxism. And how comrades have never had to hide in the closet in the Party for being a communist and being queer at the same time.

Many times at the WWP conferences, comrades disclose things about themselves, whether it's about their recovery, or the jobs they have chosen in their lives. Every member of our class, whether sex workers, migrant workers, low-wage workers, are part of the working class.

We don't just come to these realizations. We grapple with them. There are generations of history and struggle in our understanding that there are comrades who don't use pronouns. And there are comrades like myself who like the pronoun "he," as a trans person. I love my binary identity, but fight for my gender nonconforming comrades. There are cis comrades who are sometimes out there the furthest.

Comrade Maureen in Boston was the first comrade I met. As a young person in Boston, who didn't have a lot of Marxist analysis, I just knew I wanted to be free.

During the opening stages of the first Gulf War, there was a convergence of

people. Bombs were flying, the U.S. was going to war, and people met in Boston. And there were Zionists, right-wingers, yelling.

I didn't know any of the folks there. I was by myself.

A Zionist started screaming at me. Before I knew anything, a white woman jumped in front of me and started screaming back and was ready to defend me, defend the Palestinians, the people of Iraq.

This was Comrade Maureen.

The Party is not rhetoric. It is about practice in the struggle: the Leninist application of the national question and fighting racism.

We figure out stuff every day. We figure out internationalism. We figure out inter-generational.

We are a cadre, revolutionary, fighting organization. And in a lot of ways we are like a family. We know that we have each other's back. That we can call at 4 in the morning and say: "Comrade, there is something going on and we need to move on a dime." If our comrades are getting death threats, or being chased by the state, we know we are going to mobilize.

We are here if you're looking for a political home, for a place to belong, if you're looking for comrades. That is the highest expression, the best gender-neutral "pronoun."

Vinnie Copeland said that the Blacker we get, the Browner we get, the Redder we are. I want to throw in the queerer, kinkier, younger we are, the more Indigenous, disabled we are, then the better we are, the more able to defeat this ruling class, to defeat capitalism, so we can just live our lives.

And I believe that we are the Party that can make that happen. □

### NEW YORK

## Metro transit debt makes profits for Wall St.

By Julie Varughese  
New York

The Metropolitan Transit Authority here is on a collision course for a financial crash. It just approved a \$1.9 billion capital project to build a third track for the Long Island Railroad, which mostly benefits suburban commuters and the bourgeoisie.

Some MTA board members at its Dec. 13 meeting feigned concern about approving yet another project that may run over cost projections and require borrowing big money. While board members may publicly fret about rising debt to the banks, they aren't actually fighting on behalf of the working people who use the system.

The Second Avenue Subway project broke ground in 2007 with a projected cost of \$3 billion. A decade later, it has now sucked up \$11 billion — and construction of the line's second phase hasn't even begun.

These overruns require the MTA to take on more debt. The public agency already owes almost \$40 billion to the banks, and has only been making interest payments, instead of paying off the principal. The MTA — with loose fingers in its wallet — might very well be the best customer the banks could wish for.

The first subway line in New York City was built in 1904 by capitalist bosses to

transport workers who were living farther and farther away from the expensive city center where businesses were located.

But not so much good-paying work exists anymore in the city. The evolution of capitalism demands that work be automated to increase "productivity" — yielding profits from more work by fewer workers.

"The bosses really don't need tens of millions of workers anymore," said Renée Imperato, a disabled veteran and organizer with the People's MTA. "Why feed us, why educate us and why house us?"

And why transport us?

### People's MTA fights for riders and workers

Capitalism leaves our class with a stark future. That's why PMTA has sprung up. The original members of PMTA, under the banner of NYC Workers Defense Committee, got involved in struggles around transportation in May. Transit worker Darryl Goodwin had been harassed and wrongfully arrested on May 16 by an on-duty cop, one of hundreds hired by the MTA. The agency supports "broken-windows" policing — the theory that arresting people for minor issues like fare jumping will deter major crimes. However, such wrong thinking will not fix what's wrong with the trains.

Goodwin died Aug. 16 before his trial. His union comrades feel strongly the

stress of the arrest contributed to his declining health. Goodwin's good name was restored Dec. 15, after pressure by Transport Workers Local 100, when a Manhattan judge posthumously dismissed criminal charges against him.

While advocating for Goodwin at MTA board meetings, WDC members encountered other militants. Seeing the activism around transportation, WDC members realized they needed to broaden their mission and create a united front. That was how the PMTA was born. Over the summer, the group's activities included responding to massive delays and derailments in the subways.

Determined to fight for the working class, PMTA's demands include reduced and free fares, the addition of elevators in every subway station to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, more buses and trains per hour, an end to racist policing, and rights and justice for transit workers. While access to affordable transportation is being taken away from New York City workers, Boss Trump signs a bill to spend \$700 billion for more wars.

Tony Murphy, a PMTA organizer, sees larger forces at play as the 113-year-old subway system crumbles. He told WW: "The MTA board is proving itself capable of only funneling money to Wall Street, the same class forces that are getting



TWU Local 100 members outside Manhattan courtroom after judge posthumously cleared union comrade Darryl Goodwin for false cop charges against him.

billions in tax breaks from the Trump administration." Murphy added that the MTA board needs to be replaced with a board of workers who ride and operate public transportation.

The PMTA has rallied in front of MTA headquarters monthly before heading to the 20th floor of 2 Broadway in Manhattan to voice demands to MTA board members. The next scheduled board meeting is 10 a.m. on Jan. 24.

Join us in supporting all workers, without whom this society could not function. A public transit system should be a service, not a business.

Varughese is an organizer with the People's MTA.

## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# Free Honduras!

As of the morning of Dec. 19, the recent election in Honduras is being decided in the streets and workplaces — and perhaps in the political consciousness of the soldiers.

Elections top the media headlines this week — from Birmingham to Kathmandu to Caracas to Tegucigalpa.

In each case, Marxist lessons learned in struggle over a century ago still hold true: An election alone cannot decide which class rules society, or whether a nation can free itself from imperialist domination. But it would be an error to dismiss elections as meaningless.

We can look to elections as a guide to what the masses are thinking. We can use them to assess the balance of forces and the internal conflicts in the enemy capitalist class. We can look to see where there is opportunity to intervene in the class and national struggle.

Nowhere among these elections is the struggle more acute than in Honduras. The pro-imperialist regime declared itself victorious in an election everyone knows was a shameless fraud. Still, Washington has given its blessing to the dictatorship, and the European Union has agreed.

On the other hand, the Organization of

American States — usually a dependable tool of Washington — saw fit to call for a new election. It seems the OAS fears the Honduran masses and knows that accepting an obviously fraudulent election will likely spark more resistance, perhaps spreading elsewhere in Central America.

At most, OAS endorsement of the stolen election could lead to a revolutionary upsurge in Honduras, going far beyond a mere electoral victory for Alianza, the left opposition coalition.

Former President Mel Zelaya has called on the mass movement to come out in the streets and plazas and to stay there. News from the front line of this struggle is still sketchy. This intense class and national conflict is yet to be decided.

Our job as a movement of workers and oppressed peoples in the center of the empire is not only to observe and learn from this struggle. We must do whatever we can in solidarity with the people of Honduras who are fighting for their liberation from imperialism and from class oppression.

The first task is to obstruct the regime in Washington from using its force against the Honduran people. □

# Communist coalition wins Nepal's national election

By Deirdre Griswold

A coalition of Nepal's largest communist parties won national elections held in late November and early December. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) together won two-thirds of the seats in parliament. Their electoral victory reflects Nepal's continued deep poverty and underdevelopment that have only deepened under the neoliberal agenda adopted by previous governments.

Nepal has a population of almost 30 million, 70 percent of whom live in the countryside.

For decades, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have pushed privatization as a way for Nepal to get out of extreme poverty — defined as living on less than \$2 a day. Resisting this imperialist penetration of the economy and the semi-feudal landlord class who ruled the countryside was an armed revolutionary movement led by Maoists.

After years of struggle, this “Maoist insurgency” failed to take power, but won many reforms against the semi-feudal system of land ownership. These reforms have raised incomes in some rural areas, but urban poverty has deepened as more imported manufactured goods replace local industry.

“More than 3 million Nepali youths, mostly unskilled, have gone abroad (especially in Gulf countries, Malaysia and South Korea) as migrant workers. This figure does not include the population who are employed in India, estimated to be around 3 million.” (Nepal Poverty Report, 2016)

Today, 87 percent of Nepal's female



Women have played a major role in Nepal's revolutionary movements. Above, women who had previously been sold into slavery denounce their exploitation.

population lives in rural areas, with women outnumbering the men who remain.

People living in urban slums have more than doubled in over two decades — from 1.2 million in 1990 to 2.8 million in 2014. Squatter settlements are rising in such fast-growing cities as Kathmandu and Pokhara.

This trend intensified after the mountainous country was hit in 2015 by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Almost 9,000 people died and a million lost their homes. The resulting huge loss of agricultural production pushed a million more people below the poverty line. After this, large numbers of people left Nepal looking for work.

Remittances from relatives working abroad have become a major source of hard currency for their families and for the national economy. The number of households dependent on remittances has reached 56 percent. Remittances make up 25 percent of the gross domestic product.

# Honduran masses 'fight every day without rest'



In Tegucigalpa on Dec. 15, a supporter of Salvador Nasralla, presidential candidate of the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship, orders the current president, Juan Orlando Hernández, “out” during massive country-wide demonstrations.

By Martha Grevatt

Three weeks after Hondurans voted in the country's quadrennial presidential election, the struggle over flagrant electoral fraud is still at a fever pitch. The people have taken to the streets to demand, “Fuera JOH — JOH Out!” JOH is the hated current president, Juan Orlando Hernández, whose hand-picked

Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has declared him president-elect despite clear indications that opposition candidate Salvador Nasralla was the largest vote-getter.

At least 120 separate demonstrations throughout the country, from the capital Tegucigalpa to remote rural parts, have shown no letup in the resistance. A “stoppage” called for Dec. 15 was deemed hugely successful. Sections of the police have so far refused to attack protesters or enforce a curfew, instead mingling with the people in the streets.

Worried bourgeois commentators here describe a nation “in flames.” All over the country the masses are blocking major thoroughfares with burning barricades. Police and military vehicles have been torched.

The TSE's announcement in favor of Hernández, which it finally made official on Dec. 17 after supposedly recounting a token percentage of votes in order to appear objective, provoked this new wave of militant mass protests.

Hondurans realized the election was about to be stolen from them when, after 70 percent of the votes had been counted and the TSE reported a 5 percent lead by Nasrallah over Hernández, the TSE suspended the count for a whole day, citing dubious technical issues. When the counting resumed, the president somehow managed to come out ahead. Statistically this was unlikely, if not impossible.

Fresh in Honduran memory is the “election” of 2013, marked by voter suppression, tampering with results and violence against the LIBRE (Liberty and Refoundation) Party. At that time Hernández's right-wing National Party stole the presidency from LIBRE candidate and front-runner Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, the spouse of Mel Zelaya, who had been deposed in 2009 in a U.S.-backed coup. President Zelaya had been taking measures to reduce income inequality and improve the lives of poor and working-class Hondurans.

In the current election, Castro de Zelaya was Nasralla's running mate on the ticket of the Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship — a coalition of LIBRE, Nasralla's Anti-Corruption Party, and the Party of Innovation and Unity.

'Fight without rest'

Despite the proclaimed defiance of some police units, repression has been brutal. U.S.-trained forces use live ammunition against demonstrators. The

Continued on the next page



Communists marching toward an imminent, stunning victory in Nepal, Dec. 13.

PHOTO: VIJAY PRASHAD/ALTERNET

# How imperialism undermined Zimbabwe

Based on a talk given at a Dec. 2 Workers World Party forum in New York City. To hear the entire talk, go to [tinyurl.com/ybfmw8a5](http://tinyurl.com/ybfmw8a5).

By Monica Moorehead

The resignation of Robert Mugabe is changing the social landscape not only for the people of Zimbabwe but for all of Africa. This development is part and parcel of the ongoing struggle for independence and sovereignty against imperialism.

Walter Rodney, the martyred Guyanese leader who wrote “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa” in 1972, applied a Marxist, materialist worldview towards Africa. In the first chapter that addressed “What is development and underdevelopment?” Rodney states: “An even more indispensable component of modern underdevelopment is that it expresses a particular relationship of exploitation: namely, the exploitation of one country by another. All of the countries named as ‘underdeveloped’ in the world are exploited by others; and the underdevelopment with which the world is now preoccupied

## Honduran masses

Continued from page 10

Committee of Families of Disappeared (COFADEH) reports at least 20 people have died in the past three weeks. Hundreds have been injured by bullets and clubbings; protests are routinely tear gassed. At least 800 have been arrested or detained.

A bus with members of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) was blocked from reaching a mass demonstration on Dec. 12. COPINH has been fighting to defend Indigenous land and water against foreign mining interests. On March 2, 2016, COPINH’s beloved leader, Berta Cáceres, was assassinated. The bus delegation was led by Cáceres’ daughter, Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres.

Unknown saboteurs on Dec. 10 took down the transmission antenna for Radio Progreso, one of the few media sources getting out the truth in Honduras. Since then, broadcasts have been halted. As described by director of Radio Progreso, Jesuit Father Ismael Moreno Coto — better known as Padre Melo: “We already verified that it was not an action of the weather or the winds. We have precise data that what holds the tower was previously unscrewed, which caused the antenna to split into three pieces. There were external hands, criminal hands, that proceeded to create the conditions for the tower to fall.” (Giorgio Trucchi, [rebellion.org](http://rebellion.org), Dec. 16)

As with the previous U.S. administration, the government in Washington is playing a criminal role in suppressing the democratic will of the Honduran masses. Trump wasted no time in recognizing JOH as Honduran president. Mel Zelaya has denounced the role of U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Heide Fulton in facilitating “spurious recounting, vote by vote, of electoral documents that all Honduran people know have been adulterated.”

Nasralla and Zelaya have both blasted attempts by the Organization of American States to split the opposition by insisting Nasralla “disengages completely from former President Zelaya because he’s a supporter of Chávez and promotes Democratic Socialism.” Zelaya called on the people “to fight every day without rest.” (Rights Action, Dec. 14)

Grevatt was a member of an International Action Center team of Human Rights Observers that witnessed the electoral coup of 2013. □

is a product of capitalist, imperialist and colonialist exploitation.

“African and Asian societies were developing independently until they were taken over directly or indirectly by the capitalist powers. When that happened, exploitation increased and the export of surplus ensued, depriving the societies of the benefit of their natural resources and labor. That is an integral part of underdevelopment in the contemporary sense.”

### Historic roots of colonialism & resistance

The Berlin Conference in 1884-85 — the “Scramble for Africa” conference — is where the European capitalist countries met to carve up virtually the entire African continent in order to expand their markets for profits by super-exploiting African labor and plundering its super-rich mineral resources. The trans-Atlantic slave trade, resulting in tens of millions of African peoples being stolen from their homeland, laid the foundation for colonialism and neocolonialism.

In the case of Zimbabwe, it was Cecil Rhodes who became the British colonizer of what was called Rhodesia in the late 1800s. Rhodes established the DeBeers Mining Company, known for its stolen diamonds from Zimbabwe. He treated the entire country as his private slave plantation with the backing of state brutality.

Rodney comments about Zimbabwe’s earliest stages of development: “When Cecil Rhodes sent in his agents to rob and steal in Zimbabwe, they and other Europeans marveled at the surviving ruins of the Zimbabwe culture, and automatically assumed that it had been built by white people. Even today there is still a tendency to consider the achievements with a sense of wonder rather than with the calm acceptance that it was a perfectly logical outgrowth of human social development within Africa, as part of the universal process by which man’s labour opened up new horizons. The sense of reality can only be restored by making it clear that the architecture rested on a foundation of advanced agriculture and mining, which had come into existence over centuries of evolution.”

By 1914, white settlers, numbering just 23,730, owned slightly more than 19 million acres of land in Rhodesia while an estimated 752,000 Africans occupied a total of 21,390,080 acres of land. (“A brief history of land in Zimbabwe: 1890-today,” [focusonland.com](http://focusonland.com))

Eventually thousands of white farmers (colonizers) carried out a systematic campaign of wars and massacres to uproot the Indigenous African population from their lands. They did so despite many heroic resistance campaigns carried out by the African population who could not match the fire power of the colonizers.

Ian Smith was proclaimed prime minister of Rhodesia in 1964 and confiscated 6,000 acres for himself. His apartheid policies codified white farmers’ use of the land for commercial farming of crops like tobacco to be sold as commodities on the world capitalist market. So while these farmers were enriching themselves, the people of Zimbabwe faced starvation and were reduced to being “tenants” on their own lands.

### Imperialists punish Zimbabwe for political defeat

Carrying forth the legacy of the first two phases of the liberation struggle, the Third Chimurenga (liberation struggle) created two fronts which arose in the late 1960s — one was ZANU (Zimbabwe Afri-



A portrait of Robert Mugabe in Harare, Zimbabwe.

can National Union) led by Mugabe and the other was ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People Union) led by Joshua Nkomo. These two guerrilla factions joined forces as the Patriotic Front to force the Smith government to the negotiating table in Britain and to sign the 1980 Lancaster House Accords, which was a compromise that supposedly held the British government accountable for financially compensating white farmers so that Black farmers could reclaim their lands.

A large sector of those who fought for the liberation of Zimbabwe were landless Black farmers, now commonly referred to as war veterans from the liberation struggle. Twenty years later, these same war veterans pressured the Mugabe government to remove the commercial farmers, by force if necessary, once the British government reneged on the Lancaster accord.

Mugabe established a radical land redistribution program, allowing war veterans to take back their stolen lands, including by force. This included Ian Smith’s acres.

Tony Blair and George W. Bush imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe starting in 2002 as an act of war against the population. These sanctions slashed fuel and food subsidies with the aim of turning the masses against Mugabe by making him the scapegoat for any economic hardships imposed by imperialism.

When Mugabe was re-elected as president during his 37-year tenure, both Blair and Bush declared the elections undemocratic, while attempting to prop up their puppet candidate. When a devastating drought hit Zimbabwe and other parts of southern Africa very hard in 2003, the imperialists blamed Mugabe for it.

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, the largest workers union, says the country’s unemployment rate is now at 90 percent. The country has also been severely impacted by the AIDS crisis, along with losing a major trading partner when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Today, Zimbabwe’s foreign debt is more than \$7 billion, more than half of its gross domestic product. According to a July 7 Reuters report, “The suggested reforms include slashing public sector wages, now at more than 90 percent of the national budget, reducing farm subsidies, improving transparency in the min-

### South Africa: Which road to liberation A MARXIST VIEW

Eyewitness account written in 1993  
by Monica Moorehead

[workers.org/books/july2012/SouthAfricaMM.pdf](http://workers.org/books/july2012/SouthAfricaMM.pdf)

ing sector and reaching an agreement on the compensation of white farmers.”

### An attack on Mugabe is an attack on Zimbabwe

Why have U.S. and British imperialism hated Mugabe since he became the first democratically elected president of Zimbabwe? Why are they glad he was forced to resign?

Mugabe is a bourgeois nationalist, not a socialist. There are two fundamental reasons why the imperialists hate him so much. Number one is that Mugabe is a former leader of a national liberation movement that helped to bring an end to a racist, apartheid-like regime.

Number two is that he backed the war veterans taking back their land from the white colonizers and was unapologetic about doing so. With all his political contradictions, Mugabe was willing to stand up against U.S. and British imperialists.

It is this defiance against imperialism, which seeks to break all bonds of international proletarian solidarity, especially with the most oppressed, that our party has done everything it can to defend. That means defending Zimbabwe’s leadership against imperialist intervention both economically and politically.

Like any country, Zimbabwe has a right to develop its economic infrastructure to meet the needs of the people, and not to have its economy chained to foreign debt to the banks that it can never pay in 10 lifetimes.

With all its millions of acres of arable lands, Zimbabwe has the capacity to feed its population if it weren’t forced to export food to pay off the interest on its foreign debt. Cancel the debt!

No matter what happens in Zimbabwe going forth, we know that U.S. and British imperialism will not stop their intervention into the internal affairs of Zimbabwe. They have made that abundantly clear by saying that “fair and democratic” elections have to take place when they say so.

The biggest threat to the African continent today is the U.S. Africa Command, more commonly known as AFRICOM, created by the Pentagon under the guise of fighting so-called terrorism. AFRICOM is based in at least 38 African countries. Three of its bases are in Zambia, South Africa and Botswana, countries that border Zimbabwe.

AFRICOM does not exist to protect the sovereignty of the African peoples, but to protect the interests of the monopolies by repressing any kind of mass resistance to its brutal occupation, no matter the ideology of the leadership to that resistance. □



## En la riña entre Mueller y Trump, se necesita una lucha clasista independiente

Por Fred Goldstein

Mientras los ataques de la administración Trump contra las masas continúan sin descanso, la lucha política dentro de la clase dominante se intensifica y la crisis política del sistema se profundiza.

Por un lado, el Partido Republicano y Trump están a punto de finalizar un obsequio de rebajas de impuestos para millonarios y multimillonarios por una suma de cientos de miles de millones de dólares, incluso mientras reducen los servicios sociales, la atención médica, la educación y la protección del medio ambiente y amenazan a cientos de miles de inmigrantes indocumentados/os.

Por otro lado, la fiscalía especial bajo Robert Mueller acaba de obligar a Michael Flynn, ex asesor de seguridad nacional de Trump, a firmar un acuerdo que puede implicar a altos funcionarios de Trump en tratos secretos con los rusos durante la campaña electoral de 2016.

Es dañino para las masas permitir que una facción de la clase dominante lidere la batalla contra Trump. Mueller y su agrupación lo harán de una manera completamente sin principios, lo que no hará nada para impedir los ataques al pueblo.

Muchas luchas se han librado en numerosos frentes contra la reacción capitalista: en piquetes, en las comunidades, en los recintos universitarios, en los centros de detención, en las cárceles y en las reservas indígenas. Estas luchas deben hacerse más fuertes y más amplias hasta que eclipsen la investigación de Mueller y el FBI, enemigos del pueblo. La lucha popular contra Trump debe ser el centro de atención.

### Mueller contra Trump y movimiento derechista

La movida de Mueller contra Flynn está calculada para socavar a Trump en el momento en que se está moviendo para empujar las cosas aún más bruscamente hacia la derecha. De hecho, la investigación de Mueller se trata tanto de Trump como de Rusia. Mueller tomó por sorpresa a Trump al no dar a la Casa Blanca ni siquiera un aviso anticipado del acuerdo con Flynn.

Mientras que la clase dominante está salivando por los planeados recortes de impuestos para multimillonarios, compañías petroleras, magnates de bienes raíces, etc., también están aplaudiendo el ataque de Trump a todas las formas de regulaciones que limitan el daño que los patronos pueden hacerle a las/os trabajadoras, el medioambiente, inmigrantes, educación, etc.

Pero mientras usan a Trump para su propio enriquecimiento, los gobernantes imperialistas no quieren que rompa el sistema global de alianzas y redes de subversión que han construido durante décadas para proteger sus intereses de ganancias.

El anuncio del acuerdo de declaración de culpabilidad de Flynn se produjo poco después de que la Casa Blanca planeaba cambiar al director de la CIA, Mike Pompeo, al cargo de Rex Tillerson como

secretario de Estado. Tillerson no es una paloma de paz. Fue CEO de la mayor compañía petrolera privada del mundo, ExxonMobil. Es un reaccionario, dueño de cientos de millones de dólares, que pasó su carrera tratando con los jefes de los estados petroleros y planeando el saqueo de los países petroleros.

### Tillerson: vigilante de Wall Street

Sin embargo, Tillerson es un perro guardián de Wall Street que ha diferido con Trump en muchas cosas y ha tratado de mantener muchas de las posiciones políticas estándar del imperialismo estadounidense en el mundo.

Tillerson ayudó a impedir que Trump abandone el acuerdo nuclear de Irán. Se opuso a la retirada del acuerdo ambiental de París. Sostuvo la espera de negociaciones sobre la crisis coreana y fue reprendido públicamente por Trump, quien dijo que Tillerson estaba “perdiendo el tiempo”. Tillerson se oponía a la alineación de Trump con el bloqueo por parte de Arabia Saudita de Qatar donde hay una base aérea gigante de los EUA. Intentó arreglar las relaciones de Estados Unidos con la OTAN después de que Trump llamara a la alianza de la OTAN “obsoleta”.

Cuando se le preguntó acerca de las opiniones de Trump de que había “buena gente” entre los fascistas portadores de antorchas en Charlottesville, Virginia, Tillerson respondió que Trump “habla por sí mismo”. Y se ha informado que Tillerson tenía profundas reservas sobre la prohibición de viajar a musulmanes. Estas son todas posiciones imperialistas convencionales que expresan los intereses básicos de Wall Street y el Pentágono.

### Pompeo: islamófobo extremo, halcón de guerra, confidente de Trump

Pero Pompeo es mucho más derechista. Pasa horas con Trump todos los días, viajando desde Langley, Virginia, a la Casa Blanca para informar a Trump sobre los acontecimientos. Es un ultra-guerrerista que ha hablado de asesinar al líder norcoreano Kim Jong Un, criticó duramente a Irán y es un fanático islamófobo en la misma onda que la organización neofascista Britain First.

A diferencia de Tillerson, Trump considera a Pompeo como un consejero de confianza. Cuando Trump retuiteó tres videos anti musulmanes violentos que vinieron de Britain First a sus 44 millones de seguidores, Pompeo lo defendió.

Pompeo es también un aliado de Frank Gaffney, que dirige el Centro de Política de Seguridad. Gaffney considera que seguir al Corán es una “sedición” que debería ser procesada. Pompeo ha estado en el programa de radio de Gaffney 20

veces. Pompeo ha coincidido públicamente con Gaffney en que el presidente Barack Obama era un anticristiano y pro-estados islámicos. (theatlantic.com, 3 de diciembre)

Por el momento, Trump ha rechazado la eliminación de Tillerson, sin duda en respuesta al ataque de Mueller.

### Líderes del Partido Demócrata, liberales y moderados empujan la tarjeta rusa contra Trump

Los sectores anti-Trump de la clase dominante, y especialmente las filas de asesores de la clase dominante en los medios y los think tanks, así como los líderes del Partido Demócrata, esperan que Mueller pueda derrocar a Trump o hacerle retroceder usando como base las conexiones rusas. Eso es porque no quieren confrontarlo políticamente por su racismo, sexismo e intolerancia y su estilo autoritario belicista, islamófobo y antiobrero.

Los liberales y los moderados, especialmente el liderazgo del Partido Demócrata, sienten que Trump, su familia y su administración son vulnerables porque están tan enredados con los funcionarios y capitalistas rusos. Estas fuerzas anti-Trump han elegido confrontarlo con una base reaccionaria y anti-rusa, en lugar de basarse en sus políticas y políticas reaccionarias.

Para ellos, la campaña contra Rusia tiene la doble virtud de mantener fluidos los contratos militares del Pentágono y promover una posición geoestratégica del cerco militar de Rusia. De eso se trataba el intento de apoderarse de Ucrania. Ahora los batallones estadounidenses y las baterías antimisiles se están moviendo a millas cercanas de Rusia. La excusa dada para estas maniobras hostiles es que están destinadas a proteger a Polonia y los satélites bálticos de la OTAN.

### Enredos de Trump en Rusia y los bancos

La vulnerabilidad de Trump fluye de sus años de trato con oligarcas rusos. Durante la década de 1990 y después de la crisis económica de 2007, el acceso de Trump a los grandes bancos imperialistas se agotó.

Como escribió este autor en un artículo titulado “Detrás del despido de Comey: una lucha dentro de la clase dominante estadounidense”, que apareció en el número del 16 de mayo de Workers World:

“El único banco grande que ha prestado dinero a Trump en los últimos años es Deutsche Bank, que recientemente fue multado con 630 millones de dólares por blanquear dinero ruso en efectivo por valor de \$10 mil millones. (cnn.com, 31 de enero) Los grandes bancos de Wall Street de Nueva York no le prestarán porque se ha declarado en quiebra seis veces, azotándole un duro golpe a los inversores, contratistas y trabajadores”. (Wash. Post, 26 de septiembre de 2016, y wsj.com, 20 de marzo de 2016)

John Norris y Carolyn Kenney escribieron sobre su relación con oligarcas rusos en “Conflictos de intereses de Trump en Rusia”: “Como nota el Fortune Maga-

zine, durante la década de 1990, Trump se encontró con más de \$4 mil millones en deuda a más de 70 bancos, y una serie de bancarrotas, fuertes pérdidas financieras y la reestructuración de la deuda llevó a casi todos los principales bancos estadounidenses a simplemente negarse a hacer negocios con él. ... Él comenzó a depender mucho de los bancos extranjeros para sus préstamos”. (Americanprogress.org, 14 de junio)

Se podrían citar muchos más ejemplos, incluyendo cómo un ex funcionario soviético convertido en capitalista abrió su sede mundial en el Trump Tower. Pero no hay espacio suficiente en este artículo para elaborar.

Trump, en otras palabras, era demasiado estafador para los estafadores de Wall Street. Pero los oligarcas rusos, que se habían convertido en multimillonarios en un día al saquear la economía socialista destruida después de la contrarrevolución, primero bajo Boris Yeltsin y luego bajo Vladimir Putin, tenían dinero de sobra para invertir y lavar. La familia Trump, que se había visto privada del financiamiento de Wall Street, inevitablemente se sintió atraída a ellos.

Por supuesto, la política sigue al dinero, y la familia Trump se enredó con Rusia, financiera y quizás políticamente. Esto es lo que hace que Trump sea legalmente vulnerable según la ley capitalista de EUA. Es sobre esto que los neoliberales, los peces gordos del Partido Demócrata y los sectores anti-Trump de la clase dominante están fijando sus esperanzas.

### Trabajadoras/es y oprimidas/os deben aprovechar la división para luchar

Cualesquiera que sean las particularidades del caso, sería en detrimento de la clase trabajadora dejar que la clase dominante lidere la batalla contra Trump.

Si los líderes sindicales no estuvieran en los bolsillos de los patronos, habrían montado luchas masivas contra la propuesta ley de impuestos, abrirían la lucha por la salud universal y defenderían a las/os 800.000 inmigrantes de DACA, así como a las decenas de miles de inmigrantes del Caribe que enfrentan deportación.

Lucharían por un aumento masivo del salario mínimo y, sobre todo, abrirían la batalla contra el racismo / supremacía blanca, el sexismo y la opresión anti-LGBTQ. Exigirían a las tropas de EUA salir del Medio Oriente, Afganistán, África y Corea del Sur, y que detengan los ejercicios militares de Estados Unidos contra la República Popular Democrática de Corea, que dejen de hostigar a Venezuela y Honduras y pongan fin al bloqueo de Cuba.

Lucharían por cerrar el Oleoducto Dakota Access, no solo en interés del medio ambiente, sino también en solidaridad con los pueblos originarios cuyas tierras están siendo destruidas.

Este sería el comienzo de un programa mínimo independiente de la clase trabajadora.

Esta es la forma de luchar contra Trump y el trumpismo, así como el neoliberalismo de los imperialistas del Partido Demócrata. □



### El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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