U.S. Out of Syria

No fake ‘humanitarian’ interventions!

By Deirdre Griswold

The city of Aleppo in Syria has been liberated from reactionary fighters — those supported by the U.S., Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others — who had taken over the city by deadly violence some four years ago.

Most of the forces the Syrian Army was up against, like the al-Nusra Front, had been characterized as “terrorist” by the U.S. itself just a couple of years ago. Yet somehow, the powerful Western media have now managed to convince a lot of people that the liberation of Aleppo from these forces of extreme reaction was a terrible thing and that the government of Syria should be hated for it.

This issue of Workers World has several articles rebutting that false conception. Our view is based, first and foremost, on the recognition that the United States is an imperialist country that has used violence for more than a century to grab and exploit huge areas of the world.

Most of those oppressed in this way have been people of color. White supremacy has always played a big part in “justifying” colonial and imperial expansion.

When the U.S. CIA, as early as 1979, first supplied and trained what would become the Taliban to fight a secular revolutionary government in Afghanistan, the excuse was anti-communism. The excuses for the costly and destructive wars the U.S. has waged since then in Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Syria have varied from needing to eliminate “weapons of mass destruction” to their leaders being “brutal dictators” whose overthrow would be a “humanitarian” intervention. Those excuses have all been lies.

The suffering now in Aleppo has its roots in U.S. imperialist machination and destabilization. It’s time to end the phony “humanitarian” interventions conceived by Wall Street and executed by the military-industrial complex. Peace for Syria means U.S. hands off!

Turn to pages 6-7 for some historical reality and accuracy on the present situation in Syria.
On Dec. 13, Larry Colburn died. He was the last survivor of a U.S. helicopter crew who were among the best of the heroes of the Vietnam War — on the U.S. side. This is their story.

It was March 16, 1968. A U.S. helicopter gunship was ready to do battle with Vietnamese guerrillas. It hovered over My Lai that morning. Its task was to draw enemy fire and expose their positions.

What three of the members of that helicopter crew observed — and it took a while for them to realize what was going on — was one of the worst massacres of a U.S. war of aggression and occupation filled with atrocities and massacres. The officer in charge of the company attacking a Vietnamese village, Lt. William Calley, had ordered his troops to set fire to the homes and to kill everyone in the village.

In the course of the day, more than 500 Vietnamese civilians were killed, almost all elders, women and children, with few or no guerrillas. This carnage became known as the My Lai massacre.

When the helicopter crew — Colburn, Chief Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson and copter crew chief Glenn Andreotta — realized what was going on, they did their best to stop it. Thompson seized the initiative, landed the copter, jumped out and confronted Calley and the platoon he commanded. Thompson threatened that his gunner would fire on them if they continued to kill Vietnamese civilians.

Colburn was handling the machine gun pointed at Calley and his troops. He never had to fire. Calley backed down.

This action rescued the surviving Vietnamese villagers. Up to that point the helicopter crew were not war resisters or committed radicals. Their just were decent human beings. But to act on that was enough to require real bravery. In the best tradition of soldier-resistors, they turned their guns around on the real enemy.

Calley was convicted of premeditated murder and sentenced to life, but President Richard Nixon moved him to house arrest, and he only served 3½ years of his sentence. He lives in Miami now.

The bravery of the helicopter crew that stopped Calley’s mass murder was mirrored and multiplied by thousands of U.S. soldiers, sailors, Air Force members and Marines who began to resist the war from 1968 until the last U.S. troops were withdrawn in 1973. They avoided combat with the Vietnamese troops, refused orders to look back and, even in extreme cases, killed their own racist or too-aggressive officers and sergeants.

Calasanzco is the author of “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinees, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions,” available in January.

We’re taking a break!

Workers World publishes 53 issues a year and takes one week off. Next week’s the week! We’ll see you again with more news and views. Next week, the week of Jan. 5. We’ll also be changing the way we date the paper. For now-outmoded reasons, the paper has been dated one week ahead for the last 58 years. Beginning next issue, it will be dated the day it comes from the press. While we’re on our short vacation, we’ll be watching the news. So if something big breaks, check out our website, workers.org.

Contact us at workersworld@workers.org for more information.
Workers on the march! The working class must unite!

All out for J20 Counter-Inaugural!

#J20: The working class must unite!

**Don’t Give Racism, Fascist, Union-Hating Trump “a Chance”**

The presidential election is over. Trump captured the Electoral College, even though a majority of people in this country voted — if they voted at all — against Trump. The big business media immediately ran headlines blaming the struggling, so-called “white working class” for Trump’s victory. It is sadly true that millions of working-class whites embraced or accepted Trump’s hateful rhetoric attacking Black people, all people of color, immigrants, Muslims, women, poor people, LGBTQ, Jewish people and the LGBTQ community. Many workers and small businesspeople, including those who lost everything after the 2007-2008 recession, fell for his empty promises to fix the economy. But the polls acknowledge that the strongest base of support for Trump’s fascist campaign was white people making over $70,000 a year.

*There is only one multinational, global working class. Media “experts” don’t acknowledge that Black, Brown or Indigenous voters are also part of the working class. Workers who can’t vote are oppressed workers. All Black, Brown or Indigenous people are also part of the working class. Workers who can’t vote are oppressed workers. All Black, Brown or Indigenous people are also part of the working class.*

There is nothing in Trump’s program for any of us. Truly, not just some, but all workers and oppressed people are hurt, threatened, and divided by bigotry and scapegoating.

*Forcibly stop hate crimes against people of color, Muslims, women, the LGBTQ community and immigrants — crimes that have been on the rise since the Trump inauguration.*

*Abolish all the racist and oppressive immigration laws that give amnesty to superexploited, superexploited precarious workers (often superexploited, often by the same bosses we work for — are a part. Migrant workers, risking their lives to escape war or austerity, are a part of this movement. We must show Trump, all the politicians and the one-percenters they serve: We refuse to be divided! Build a united front and make January 20 a sea of working-class unity! J20Resist.org #J20Resist*

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**Teachers’ unions push back right-wing attack**

By Martha Grevatt  

Detroit

Right-wing Michigan lawmakers introduced several bills attacking teacher unions during the final weeks of the 2016 state legislative session. The bills included legislation that would, after the Senate declined to take them up for a vote. The statewide chapter of the American Federation of Teachers credited the victory to a mass member mobilization, carried out in concert with the Michigan Education Association and the state AFL-CIO.

One of the bills would have forced teachers hired after July 1, 2017, out of the collective-bargaining process. Another would prohibit community colleges from deducting union dues from paychecks, a provision that has been prohibited since 2011.

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**Workers unionize at military-industrial PAE**

By Mike Kuhlenbeck  

Urbandale, Iowa

Workers at Pacific Architect and Engineers Inc. will begin contract negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) union next month. The union has organized the company for the past 15 years. The company was doing nothing to make the work safer. Along with company plans for cutting benefits and freezing wages, management circulated memos pressuring workers to switch to temporary positions, which would mean “abysmal health insurance and ridiculous hours” for the workers, according to Schott. PAE is a major recipient of U.S. government aid for a subcontractor for the Pentagon. According to military-industrial complex.com, PAE has been awarded more than $352 million in military contracts since 2007, making it the top recipient in the industry. It tried to nickel and dime its workers.

APEW Local 44 President Mike Gates has been a union steward for 14 years and president for the past four years. He became involved with the union after Iowa CCI organizer Matthew Covington reached out to him for help in organizing DREAMers, Fight for $15 and Standing Rock workers worldwide — not just here. Stop the war on unionization that includes NAFTA and the TPP that hurt workers worldwide — not just here. Stop union-busting by the bosses. Reverse the dozens of anti-union bills passed by state legislatures across the country, including Jim Crow “right-to-work” (for less!) laws. Labor laws should not be written by people like the Koch brothers and the DeVos family.

Workers need money to rebuild the infrastructure of our cities, not for the prison- industrial complex to build a military budget or get wars against oppressed people around the world. We need money for our communities — from Detroit and Flint to Puerto Rico — suffering from racist austerity. What does the working class need? Workers need jobs — a full employment agenda that includes a massive public works program and a shorter workweek with no cut in pay. A national health program that leaves no one choosing between paying costly pre-miunm and going without insurance. A moratorium on evictions, foreclosures and utility shutoffs. Quality public education and free college tuition.

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Freedom fighters converge in Mississippi

By Dante Strobino
Jackson, Miss.

The Southern Human Rights Organizing Conference celebrated 20 years of convergences Dec. 9-11 in Jackson, Miss. Organized by Jaribu Hill from the Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights, and held at Tougaloo College, a historically Black college rooted in the Civil Rights Movement, this SHROC was dedicated to “Local Human Rights and Social Justice Activists and Martyrs” such as Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Devine, Alia La Lumumba, Victoria Gray Adams, Dr. L.C. Dorsey and other freedom fighters from the South, and those from beyond such as Fidel Castro.

The conference theme, “Forward Ever, Backward Never: 20 Years of Advancing a Global South Agenda for Human Rights,” focused on many struggles across the Southern region including panels on “Smashing Patriarchy: From Black Power to Black Lives Matter and Beyond” and “Strike Back Against Empire: Building International Solidarity.”

“In 2016, SHROC continues to be uncompromising in its values and its commitment in uplifting a radical, multi-generational human rights agenda that is rooted in anti-capitalism, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism and anti-white supremacy,” stated Atlanta-based conference organizing committee member, Yokota Tomlinson.

She continued, “The need is not just to lift up needs of women, but to explicitly name patriarchy, the system of the male supremacy and domination that sits at the root of gender domination.”

Over the last 20 years, SHROC has helped Southern organizers to understand their work within an international human rights framework. Participants were reminded of the rule that the Black freedom struggle has played to elevate all struggles for social and economic justice within the United States.

The conference has always been a place where Southern organizers come together to share their strategies and support each other’s campaigns. The Southern Human Rights Organizing Conference is now continuing to build a Southernwide social movement to organize labor in the South, along with supporting a proposal to build a National Assembly for Black Liberation.

The conference raised the issues of supporting the freedom of political prisoners and going to the United Nations to demand reparations for descendants of slaves. Standing Rock and other important struggles were given attention.

Solidarity with Nissan workers

One of the main features of the conference was support for 5,200 autoworkers at a plant in Canton, Miss., who manufacture Nissan cars. A large majority of the workers are Black. There has been a 13-year effort to organize a union at this plant. Over 40 percent of the workers are part-time workers, making it very difficult to organize. The workers have reported two deaths in recent years. They are still fighting for justice.

The campaign is picking up steam after support from 33 French and European policymakers, who signed a letter asking Nissan to adopt a position of neutrality toward union organizing efforts in Canton. The French government owns 20 percent of shares of Renault-Nissan, which in turn is the largest shareholder of Nissan. In June, Christian Hutin, a member of the French National Assembly, visited Mississippi on a fact-finding mission, but Reau-Nissan declined to meet with him.

The conference held a solidarity rally Dec. 10 in front of the plant where Nissan workers Morris Mosek and Ernest Whitfield reported that Nissan has received $1.3 billion in tax incentives to operate the plant in Mississippi — money that could have gone to schools, hospitals, levees, roads and other needs, not corporate profits.

Whitfield stated earlier in the day: “We need auction block redemption. This is not just a Nissan problem. These problems are happening all over the state of Mississippi with employers.”

Monica Moorehead spoke on behalf of Workers World Party at the rally, stating: “Nissan made over $4 billion in profits last year off of the low wages of workers in Mississippi. Workers’ struggles should have no borders because the exploitation by capital knows no borders. Wouldn’t it be great if the French workers in Nissan could hold a solidarity picket for Nissan workers in Mississippi fighting for a union? That is concrete solidarity that would warn the factory workers that the French workers are not alone.”

Members of Cooperation Jackson and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement shared throughout the conference the lessons they are learning in building self-determined cooperative economic systems, such as the recently established Freedom Farms.

Sunday panels focused on “Building a Safe Black Society for a Black Future” and “Pathways to Liberation: Revolution, Reform, Resilience” at which the United Nations and the U.S. government were mentioned as primary leaders of the key divestment campaign: “The financial sector support of the Dakota Access Pipeline is in jeopardy if they do not complete their pipeline by Jan. 1. If the pipeline is not finished, a majority of the stakeholders with contracts to ship oil through the pipeline will be able to renegotiate or cancel their contracts.”

(See defunddapl.org for a complete list of banks and lenders as well as information and ideas on what to do to show solidarity with the Standing Rock encampment.)

In 2016, SHROC continues to be uncompromising in its values and its commitment in uplifting a radical, multi-generational human rights agenda that is rooted in anti-capitalism, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism and anti-white supremacy.” — Yokanda Tomlinson, below.

‘Days of Action’ all December for Standing Rock

By Kris Hamel
Dec. 19 — Indigenous peoples and supporters continue their encampment in brutally cold and harsh winter conditions at Cannonball, N.D., to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from crossing the Missouri River. The Oetki Sakowin camp is now called the All Nations camp. “We wanted to let the world know our status and to address the many rumors that have been causing confusion and fear on the internet,” Chase Iron Eyes stated live in a Facebook video Dec. 10. “Our numbers are around 1,000 in the newly named All Nations camp, with 300 in the Rosebud Sicangu Camp and well over 1,000 in the Standing Rock Camp.” (nationvessononline.net, Dec. 11) Iron Eyes is an activist attorney, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and co-founder of the Native-American news website Last Real Indians.

Movement hits banks funding DAPL

Meanwhile, every day in December is a DefundDAPL day of action. As of this writing, defunddapl.org reports that nearly $87 million had already been divested from banks and financial institutions financing the pipeline project. The four biggest (“primary leaders of the key DAPL loan”) are Citibank (Citigroup), TD Securities, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and Mizuho Bank. Others funding the DAPL include Wells Fargo, Comerica, PNC, Barclays, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Goldman Sachs.

Organizers emphasize the importance of the divestment campaign: “The financial footing of the Dakota Access Pipeline is in jeopardy if they do not complete their pipeline by Jan. 1. If the pipeline is not finished, a majority of the stakeholders with contracts to ship oil through the pipeline will be able to renegotiate or cancel their contracts.”

First jury trials of water protectors

The first jury trials of water protectors who have been arrested are scheduled to begin today. According to the Morton County Sheriff’s office, 571 protesters have been arrested in the last four months. (bismarcktribune.com, Dec. 15) On Dec. 14 a court petition was filed by 10 North Dakota and Minnesota lawyers and organizations requesting that out-of-state attorneys be allowed to help handle the cases in order to guaran- tee defendants’ constitutional rights to counsel of their choice.

The petition states that 79 North Dakota attorneys are assigned as public de- fense and Movng case “barely suffice.” Petitioner says there are only 1,800 lawyers, while the criminal defense bar has just 70. The petition also seeks to cover the cost of additional pub- lic defenders and contract attorneys.

Mni Wiconi! Water is life! endDAPL.
Rape culture, sports and profits

By Monica Moorehead

**Bulletin:** On Dec. 19, Judge Aaron Persky, who had convicted former Stanford U. swimmer and Persky a Stanford alumnus. Turner is out on three years probation after only three months in jail.

The oppression of women impacts ev- very institution under capitalism. This has been true since the evolution of class divisions — the haves and have nots — thousands of years ago. It was class so- ciety that gave birth to patriarchal ideas and attitudes, including the objectifica- tion and dehumanization of women from birth to death.

This oppression manifests itself in many ways, including targeting national- ity, sexual identity, age and class. Even pri- or to the campaign of the openly misog- ynist, racist, xenophobic president-elect, sexual assaults, including rape, saw a spike on the rise in disturbing numbers, especially on college campuses.

It is no accident that there is a direct correlation between sports and rape on campuses. The sexual assault of women by male athletes is part of a sickening culture shielded by college admin- istration, including presidents and booster clubs, in order to maintain the “integ- rity” of sports. What is actually being main- tained are the obscene millions of dollars that college sports generate annu- ally from ticket sales and TV revenue.

Five college football conferences — the ACC, Big 12, Pac-12, Big Ten and SEC — raise a combined hundreds of millions of dollars during the "end of season" bowl games, including the Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl and championship playoff games. Protecting these sports events comes down to defending profits — not women as full human beings.

Assailants don’t act in isolation

When women are assaulted by ath- letes, they have to confront not only the timidity if they choose to, but also pow- erful forces backing these assailants.

Take the Minnesota Gophers football team that had threatened to boycott the Holiday Bowl game on Dec. 27 to protest the suspension of 10 teammates accused of gang-raping an inebriated woman on Sept. 2.

The Gophers’ coach supported the players’ actions without mentioning one word about the victim’s accusations. A Title IX investigation is now underway. Title IX is an extension of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, a federal law stating: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the ben- efits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

If the survivor of this heinous crime decides to bring charges against the Min- nesota players, she will have to face not only her accused assailants but their in- fluential supporters — not to mention the biased, anti-woman nature of the capita- list courts. For many survivors, the choice is either to suffer in silence or to be shamed and humiliated in public. And then there is Joe Mixon, a star running back with the powerful Okla- homa Sooners, suspended for one year for punching a fellow woman student so hard she suffered four facial fractures. The incident took place in 2014, but the videotape was released Dec. 16, 2016 — two years later.

The Sooners’ coach, Bob Stoops, along with the athletic director and university president, saw the videotape in 2014 but decided behind closed doors that a one- year suspension was enough for Mixon, in his first year of eligibility as a player. Mixon, who is Black, accused Amelia Moltior, who is white, of hurling racist epithets at him and initiating the assault. Whether true or not, the responsibility was on Mixon to immediately walk away — period, end of story — not to viciously punch a woman who, by physical com- parison, was diminutive to him. Why didn’t the Oklahoma coach and ad-

Dylann Roof and the U.S. injustice system

By Gene Clancy

On Dec. 15, a federal jury convicted white supremacist Dylann Roof of the heinous massacre of nine Black parishioners at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

Roof had chillingly commented on his crime in a blatantly racist manifesto while he was in jail. He had told the church half a dozen times, and also maintained are the obscene millions of dollars that college sports generate annu- ally from ticket sales and TV revenue. For example, during the two-week “March Madness” tournament, which crowns the winner of men’s basketball in the Division I National Collegiate Athlet- ic Association, at least $1 billion annu- ally will be shared among participating schools. The lion’s share goes to those that reach the Final Four. Not one penny of this revenue goes to the unpaid players.

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The violence against women is not just physical, but also psychological and emo- tional. Even the powerful and influential supporters — not to mention the police, who are a sly profit-making apparatus serving the class interests of the capitalist state includes the entire repres- sive apparatus serving the class interests of the capitalist state.

On a daily basis, perhaps most import- ant for poor and working people are the cops. For people of color and of oppressed nationalities, the police are often judge, jury and executioner.

On Dec. 12, three days before Roof’s conviction, cops in Bakersfield, Calif., found 73-year-old Francisco Serna, a grandfather suffering from sleeplessness and signs of dementia, wandering in his neighborhood just after midnight. St. Ser- na did not make any hostile movements, but a police officer fatally shot him seven times, one in the head.

The next day, the Bakersfield Police De- partment admitted that Serna was hold- ing not a gun, but a brown wooden cru- cifix. In 2015, Kern County, where Serna was killed, was identified as having the highest per capita police shooting rate in the U.S. (theguardian.com, Dec. 8, 2015)

Vigils and protests followed this po- lice killing. “Our dad was treated like a crim- inal,” said the family. “Our family was questioned and restricted from comforting our mother for about 14 hours.” Family who asked to see their mother was told by BP that if they crossed the police line they would be arrested.” It is unknown if the cop who fired the fatal shots will face any charges.

Francisco Serna, killed by Bakersfield, Calif., police on Dec. 12.

At street demonstrations against Roof’s conviction that Edward [J]21, against Trump on Jan. 21 in Wash- ington, D.C., and an important national step forward for women of all national- ities to unite and resist misogyny in all its forms.

What police did to Serna and his fami- ly sharply contrasts with the police arrest and execution of Walter Scott, an unarmed African American. The incident, caught on cell- phone video, showed that Slager opened fire as Scott turned his back, ran away and was shot five times from behind. The video also showed Slager planting a Taser on Scott’s back. Both officers resigned.

Protests against rape culture are spreading on campuses. It will be a major focus of the upcoming women’s march, Jan. 21, in Washington, D.C., and an important national step forward for women of all national- ities to unite and resist misogyny in all its forms.
A young worker’s take on Syria

By Mattie Stardust

Syria is a democratic republic, meaning they elect their political representatives by a popular vote. The last presidential election was in June 2014. Bashar al-Assad won 88.7 percent of the vote; his next closest contender won 4.3 percent. Some 73.42 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, including hundreds of thousands of Syrians displaced by the U.S.-sponsored war. After, millions of students attended tuition-free universities with courses in dozens of languages.

assad is a capitalist, meaning he exploits Syrian workers. He’s also a nationalist, trying to drum up in the U.S. more popular support than any U.S. president. But that didn’t stop Seattle dockworkers from smashing crates of rifles going to former Czarist Admiral Kolchak, who threw suspected Bolsheviks into boilers in steam locomotives. And less than two months after the “Sisson Documents” were published, German workers and soldiers were inspired by the Russian Revolution — overthrew the Kaiser. The Russian Revolution gave birth to the Soviet Union, which included more than 100 nationalities. The country’s socialist five-year plans industrialized the country and pioneered spaceflight. Before the revolution, the majority of people were illiterate. After, millions of students attended tuition-free universities with courses in dozens of languages.

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Speaking our exposes U.S. lies about Syria

By Jim Carey

Independent Canadian journalist Eva Bartlett has continued her U.S. speaking tour representing the Hands Off Syria Coalition.

Before a packed house in Detroit on Dec. 12, Bartlett spoke of her experiences in Syria and the time she spent embedded with government officials and members of the Syrian Arab Army. This allowed her to see first hand the destruction caused by Western-backed proxies in Aleppo.

Countering a renewed corporate media blitz, Bartlett dispelled many of the “humanitarian concerns” peddled to people in the U.S. to encourage support for more imperialist intervention and destruction in Syria.

Bartlett also dispelled many of the Western lies about rebel groups such as the allegedly “neutral” Syrian Civil Defense, known as the White Helmets.

She also exposed the so-called “moderate rebels,” who have been used as a media prop to showcase the alleged brutality of the Syrian government in Aleppo.

Her discussion on the situation in Syria emphasized the disdain that civilians in cities like Aleppo have for the rebel groups, such as Jahbat Al-Nusra, an Al-Qaeda affiliate which had essentially been holding them hostage for several years now.

Bartlett said many of the civilians in Aleppo felt hate for the rebels who had subjected them to this war they never asked for. The people told her the rebels had been hoarding aid, which the West said the population desperately needed, and selling it at vastly inflated prices.

Exposing more U.S. lies

Bartlett said many of the civilians in the areas of Aleppo liberated by the Syrian government hadn’t even heard of the White Helmets. In the West, however, the White Helmets have gained fame, despite their close ties to Al-Qaeda and the time they spent training in Turkey — which was funded by the U.S. and the European Union.

Joe Mchahwar, a local Syrian-American activist, also spoke on conditions in Syria and the U.S. search-earth policy there. He addressed the hypocrisy of the West’s portrayal of Russia’s actions in Syria, given that Russia was invited to aid its Syrian ally by President Bashar al-Assad.

Mchahwar also talked about the “rebels,” armed and funded by the U.S., Turkey and the Gulf States. And he described U.S. leaders’ willingness to allow the Islamic State group to make key advances as long as they harmed Syria’s legitimate government.

Abyazmi Azi, editor of Pan-African News Wire, spoke on the important conflicts in Yemen and Libya and across the Horn of Africa. He showed the connections between these conflicts and the wars in Syria and Iraq and how they relate to the interests of U.S. imperialism.

Next truth stop: California

Bartlett’s California speaking tour included three meetings in the Bay Area — in Santa Cruz, Oakland and San Francisco, Dec. 14-16. Each meeting was packed with people eager to hear an eyewitness view of the situation in Syria, unhampered by U.S. imperialism’s official line spoon fed to the mainstream media.

Bartlett strongly reiterated, “What you hear in the corporate media is the opposite of reality.” She explained that the “majority of people in Syria support their government and army, while outside jihadist forces, in alliance with domestic fundamentalists and a coalition of foreign governments led by the U.S., have imposed an inhumane reign of terror on the country.”

In Los Angeles, more than 100 people gathered at a Dec. 17 event organized by Arab Americans for Syria and the International Action Center.

Besides Bartlett, the main speakers were Paul Larudee, journalist and member of the Hands Off Syria Coalition; Joe Mchahwar, from Arab Americans for Syria.

Bartlett gave very well-documented facts, including video, exposing U.S.-manufactured lies about the Syrian army and government. She exposed the corporate media’s lies and also those of Amy Goodman of “Democracy Now.” Bartlett said Goodman continues to interview discredited voices and spread U.S. lies, with no investigation of her own, while actively refusing to interview voices countering the lies.

Separating fact from fiction

Larudee exposed the White Helmets, their creator and the funding that went into making the Netflix movie, which he said was funded by the billionaire Klansman from the right, Donald Trump’s bigotry. It’s an attack on Syria and the U.S. lies about Syria.

He spoke about the solidarity between Christians and Muslims who see each other as sisters and brothers. Achi said the attempts by the U.S. for regime change would destroy that unity and punish the majority of Syrians, over 70 percent of whom support President Assad. He substantiated that by citing polls from the Guardian and other news sources.

The meeting was chaired by Rebeeca Jackson, of the IAC and Workers World Party. Before the question-and-answer period, she explained that a “progressive gang” would ensure all voices are heard, especially those of women and oppressed peoples. Then she introduced IAC member Ramiro Anaya.

The union wants to know that if they are unhappy with the level of respect, pay and benefits on the job, they should reach out to the proper union and organize their workplace. “If you work in the mailing industry in America, contact the American Postal Workers Union and let us help you!”

Workers unionize at military-industrial PAE

Continued from page 3

The Urbandale PAE workers.

“The union wanted them to know the importance of solidarity because companies do not want to be unionized,” Bates said.

AWP Local 44 is described by Bates as progressive” in its efforts to organize the private sector, with 784 members representing the Mail Contractors of America in Des Moines and Kansas City.

“We also talked about the expectations when it came to being represented by a union,” Bates said. “Their number one response was dignity and respect in the workplace, followed by job security, pay and benefits and a strong voice within the company.”

Bates met with the PAE workers on Aug. 8 and every Monday thereafter, as well as petitioning the National Labor Relations Board in September. The final vote in October was conducted by the workers, excluding managers, supervisors, guards and members of the temporary workforce.

Schott said of the vote: “While the (presidential) election results across the country and particularly in Iowa might mean a big blow to workers’ rights, this recent victory proves that people are ready and willing to stand up for themselves when their dignity is under attack.”

The union vote in October was a major step on the road ahead, but there are still obstacles in the future. After being blindsided by the vote, the company retaliated by firing three workers.
Fidel’s ‘battle of ideas’ comes to Twitter

By Cheryl Lara

It is now two years since the last of the three Cuban 5 heroes, unjustly held in U.S. prisons for 16 years, touched down in Havana on Dec. 17, 2014. Gerardo Hernández, who had originally been sentenced to two terms plus 15 years, re- turned to Cuba on Dec. 17th alongside Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero to join their two comrades, Fernando González and René González, who had been released earlier after serving their full sentences.

On the same day, U.S. President Barack Obama formally agreed to establish direct diplomatic relations with Cuba and diplomatic recognition of the sovereignty of its socialist island neighbor. Cuba’s symbol of Latin American and Caribbean solidarity for centuries of European colonialism and slavery, followed by U.S. expansion and intervention in the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 and the 1898 war with Spain.

U.S. airlines can now offer direct commercial flights to Cuba, but U.S. citizens are still forbidden to “vacation” there by U.S. law. While both the rest of the world concede to expand commercial and political relations with Cuba, the U.S. continues to exercise its global economic dominance by imposing a unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade. Last year that cost the small Cuban economy more than $4 billion, depriving it of funds for Cuba’s human development programs.

This year, the U.S. Senate, after the elections, “voted by the 51st time that the U.S. should end its blockade of Cuba. The vote was 52 to 49,” said U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, ranking Democrat who “hoped to end the last day of a war that Cuba and the world should be able to turn rather than cast its lone ‘no’ vote.”

The Revolution sowed ideas

On Dec. 5, 2004, Fidel Castro, the late historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, said in an interview that the revolution was in the battle of ideas: “I say that because the struggle we are speaking about will not, in essence, be a war, but rather a battle of ideas.”

The world’s problems shall not be solved through the use of nuclear weapons — this is impossible — nor through wars.

What’s more, they shall not be solved through isolated revolutions that, within the order installed by neo-liberal globalization, can be crushed within a matter of days, weeks at the most...

“The Revolution was able to hold out because it sowed ideas.”

“The world is rapidly being globalization; an unsustainable economic order is rapidly being established. Ideas are the raw material from which consciousness is forged; they are the raw material of ideology par excellence. If I were to call them the raw material of consciousness with which I identified, they would be the raw material of ideas which is rigid ideology, but rather of an advanced consciousness, that is to say, a conviction that hundreds of millions and billions of people on this earth have a right to their ideas and their beliefs, which will constitute, without a doubt, the best instrument to secure the victory of those ideas throughout the world.”

This Dec. to the battle of ideas was engaged in a small way through Twitter on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. Although now free, the Cuban 5 have not forgotten their experience with U.S. injustice in the courts and prisons and the people they met behind the walls.

When Ambassador Power initially initiated a Twitter remembrance of alleged political prisoners held outside the U.S., René González issued a call to remember the political prisoners held by the U.S. on that day.


Some tweets reminded Power about the U.S. imprisonment of alleged political prisoners held inside the U.S., Ernesto “Che” Guevara, who had been starved and beaten, the African Cubans, who had been the brutal victims of colonial and imperialist rascals, for the first time came to the forefront as actors in history.

The people were with Fidel’s revolution for the first time, continuing before workers were the agents of change, not the bourgeoisie. In fact, the revolution got rid of the bourgeoisie altogether!

This is why the imperialists and Fidel, this is what earned him forever the ire of imperialism. For ostracizing the ruling class from Cuba, the imperialists would never forgive Fidel.

Fidel’s exemplary leadership

Fidel is loved not only for his dedication to unity, but also for his exemplary leadership that brought Cuba through many perilous times.

Leadership returned Cuba through the special period of the 1990s, after the defeat of the Soviet Union, a mainstay of Cuba’s trade and survival. The resulting shortages made life extremely hard for the Cuban people, who were hungry, tired, exhausted. Any other developing nation would have seen rebellions, chaos and uprisings, would have seen repression. But not Cuba. Because of Fidel and revolutionary socialist leadership, because the Revolution has the support of the masses, because the Revolution and the people are one, Cuba survived this dire period.

Fidel’s leadership was central to Cu- ba’s struggle for the return of the child Elián González. In 1999, Elián’s mother had the audacity to take her child with her on the seas in an attempt to get to Florida. She sadly died in that voyage. But Elián survived and was kidnapped by hostile counterrevolutionary forces and taken to Miami. All of Cuba mobilized to make the U.S. return Elián home to his father — and to the Revolution. And Cuba won!

The Cuban people and their leadership focused on freeing the Cuban Five, anti-terrorists who sacrificed much to mon- itor counterrevolutionary activities conducted in Florida against Cuba. The U.S. impris- One of those is unity.

First and foremost, the Cuban people are declaring that they will remain united under Fidel’s obra (his work). And President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and President Evo Morales of Bolivia affirm that they will continue to unite Latin in America to defend Cuba’s sovereignty.

This does not come as a surprise as, indeed, one of the important pillars of Fi- del’s work was unity.

To achieve victory against the brutal Batista dictatorship, the task for Fidel was to unite as many social forces as pos- sible. Before the triumph of the revolution, the Latin American movement had argued that the U.S. would never tolerate a socialist revolution in the region, and that it was impossible to defeat Batista’s regular army, even with guerrilla tactics.

Fidel proved them wrong. But, to Fidel, there was more than gains. He built a po- litical coalition instead of solely focusing on the armed struggle. No one fought for unity like Fidel. He sometimes had to re- treat. But he never ceded on his funda- mental principles.

This is how Fidel was able to begin a political process that transformed the is- land of Cuba from one terrorized by tor- ture and killings, dispossession, extreme poverty and exploitation, to one where the will rule, where justice is pro- vided not to the banks or corporations, but back to the people.

And this is why the Cuban people love Fidel.

Fidel is loved for Cuba’s agrarian re- form, for establishing one of the world’s most ambitious literacy campaigns and educational systems, for developing a free world-class health care system that even bourgeois organizations commend.

Fidel loved his people. He knew that he had been starved and beaten, the African Cubans, who had been the brutal victims of colonial and imperialist rascals, for the first time came to the forefront as actors in history.

The people were with Fidel’s revolu- tion for the first time, continuing before workers were the agents of change, not the bourgeoisie. In fact, the revolution got rid of the bourgeoisie altogether!

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Ultra-right parties take anti-EU stance

By G. Dunkel

The European Union faces challenges to its existence.

At least three major countries in the EU — France, the Netherlands and Germany — have national elections scheduled for 2017. In France, the National Front (FN) is a far-right party that may well reach the second round of next year’s elections. While the FN’s openly fascist appeals have been muted, it still actively takes on the issue of rejecting refugees and other far-right initiatives. It has made it clear that if its candidate — most likely Marine Le Pen — becomes president, she will call a referendum on France remaining in the EU.

The Alternative for Germany (AfD), a burgeoning new-right wing party in Germany, is also calling for departure from the EU. AfD is not as strong in Germany as the FN is in France. Netherlands Islamophobic Party of Freedom leader Geert Wilders says he wants to leave the EU. Polls say his party will come in first in the March election.

In forming today’s EU, the rulers of 28 distinct states with 24 official languages agreed to follow EU rules, which might limit local sovereignty, to allow the free exchange of goods, services and capital. In doing so, they created the world’s second largest internal market and added significant profits for all the national bourgeoisies involved in this project. The EU bureaucracy also strengthens the role of German and French-based banks.

Since the early 1990s, workers have moved freely in the EU countries. Currently, 14 million people in the EU work in countries other than their own, and there has been a substantial movement of workers from low-wage countries, for example, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania, to countries like Britain, France and Germany. Some EU citizens live in one country and work in another.

UKIP also anti-EU

The racist, xenophobic, UK Indepedence Party exploited xenophobic hostility to this movement of workers to promote the “yes” vote on the Brexit referendum. This happened even though the expanded workforce aids the English bourgeoisie to keep their tourist and construction industries going with millions of hires from Eastern Europe.

UKIP and the other European right-wing parties that oppose the EU also focus on attacking refugees. Over a million people came to Europe in 2015, claiming refugee status. From January to September 2016, 303,000 people came to Europe, according to the U.N.’s High Commissioner on Refugees. Of them, 50 percent were men, while 17 percent were women and 24 percent children.

The reason for the big drop in numbers between 2015 and 2016 is that in 2015, hundreds of thousands of people took a shorter, less expensive and safer route between Turkey and the Greek islands, such as Lesbos. In March 2016, the EU and Turkey agreed to a deal that made crossing between Turkey and Greece much less attractive.

U.S. imperialism’s support for the overthrow of Bashar al-Asad in Syria, its interventions in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan, and the ensuing violence are all driving refugees to Europe. So too have been the famines that have followed drought in the Sahel, the area of Africa immediately to the south of the Sahara, a crisis exacerbated by climate warming.

The desperation to reach Europe can be seen in an incident Dec. 9 in Ceuta, on the Moroccan-Spanish border. Ceuta is an enclave that is legally Spanish — and thus EU territory — located on the Moroccan coast on the African continent. Migrants who reach Ceuta (or nearby Melilla) can appeal for asylum in Spain. About 800 people suddenly began climbing the 12-foot-high barbed and maded wire fence surrounding Ceuta. Some climbed over, others were pushed, and those who lay across the top of the fence. Some 49 were treated in a Ceuta hospital for injuries. None died this time.

Solidarity from workers in France

Meanwhile, throughout France, the FN held protests in towns and small villages where the French authorities had rejected refugees. One example: an incident earlier in an area called “The Jungle” near Calais in northern France near the tunnel to England. These protests were obviously part of the FN’s presidential campaign.

Nearly all these FN protests were contested by counter demonstrations expressing the solidarity of French workers with these refugees seeking asylum in France.

One of these confrontations well covered in the French media involved Marion Maréchal Le Pen, an FN delegate in the National Assembly. This delegate is the daughter of the FN’s leader, Marine Le Pen and a leader in the right wing of the FN. She called for a demonstration in her election district at the Tour d’Aigues to oppose the resettlement of refugees from Calais.

This racist protest drew 150 people, according to a local paper, Vaucluse Matin (Oct. 29), but a local progressive coalition was able to draw 300 to 400 anti-racists. The gendarmerie, France’s national police, actually stood guard to keep the two groups separated.

France’s presidential election will pit workers who support solidarity with refugees against racist, xenophobic, right-wing demagogues attacking refugees.

Workers World exposed Trump’s racist, bigoted agenda throughout his 18-month campaign — and was part of militant protests against both him and Clinton all across the country. Now he’s won and is putting together an anti-working class administration: a die-hard white supremacist for attorney general, a Wall Street billionaire for the Treasury, an adversary of Medicare and the Affordable Care Act for Health and Human Services, a gung-ho ex-general for Defense Secretary.

U.S. workers and oppressed people need a fighting voice for the big struggles ahead!

Workers World is ready for that challenge. We believe Marxism is now more needed than ever to pinpoint where capitalist reaction comes from. And Leninism shows that fighting oppression of all kinds is absolutely necessary to unify the working class and abolish this degrading profit system.

We need your financial help!

You know our politics. We rely on the financial support of our members, friends, allies and subscribers.

For the past 39 years — during spring and fall special fund drives and regular donations to the Workers World Supporter Program — we’ve welcomed your contributions that help put WW’s revolutionary socialist outlook into action.

We are asking you to contribute now to help counter Trump with a people’s agenda. We run one-time checks to Workers World, or join the Workers World Supporter Program with either a yearly lump sum or monthly donations. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free trial subscriptions to give to friends — all for a donation of just $25.

You also get any book from World View Forum. For $390 a year (only $25 a month) you get your pick of five books: PV’s videos are also available. And you can always contribute more. We won’t complain.

We invite you — sign up today! Write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate.
Domestic ‘hacking’ distorted election

Clamor against the Russian Federation has reached a crescendo, with the corporate media blaming Russia for “interfering with the U.S. election.” Commentators, pundits of every stripe and Hillary Clinton have called for investigations, more sanctions and “cyber warfare” attacks against Russia, blaming that country for the election of racist demagogue Donald Trump.

The New York Times and Washington Post have led the charge, citing CIA sources that say Russia released hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee and its head, John Podesta, to WikiLeaks, to support Trump’s candidacy. But no evidence of this has been presented. WikiLeaks denied the leaked emails came from Russian hackers.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson pointed to the true cause of this electoral catastrophe: “The Russians didn’t do it. It was done by right-wing partisan state officials eager to suppress the vote of people of color, the young and the working poor. These efforts were open, systematic and widespread. And this domestic hacking at our elections was far more destructive than the hacking Russia is said to have done.” (rainbowpush.org, Dec. 12)

Every gain for the workers and oppressed won since the New Deal and the Civil Rights struggle is Trump’s chopping block. His speeches and tweets have targeted unions, the minimum wage, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, voting rights, anti-discrimination regulations for housing and education, environmental protections and a lot more. His bilionaire and racistapolitan appointees make the same threats.

With the righteous outrage over Trump winning the presidency, despite losing to Clinton by nearly 3 million votes, it is understandable that many workers and poor people desperately hope that by blaming Russia for the election results, Trump will be stopped from inflicting great suffering on their lives.

But it was not the publication of DNC Podesta emails that weakened Clinton’s campaign. It was their content. They confirmed what many people, including Bernie Sanders’ supporters, suspected — that the DNC “tipped the scales” of the primaries in favor of Clinton, assisted by some members of the establishment media.

These emails also exposed Clinton’s cozy relations and warm words to Wall Street financiers during her highly paid, secret speeches to them, as well as friendly interchanges with the top bosses of Goldman Sachs investment bankers. She and Bill Clinton raked in $210 million since 2001 by giving these talks.

Goldman Sachs financiers were identified with the bubble that burst to initi- ate the Great Recession that cost 6 million families their homes and 9 million workers their jobs. Trump is rewarding Goldman Sachs by appointing four of its current and former bankers to top posi- tions in his administration. Meanwhile, Trump arrogantly scoffs at the idea of di- vesting his holdings.

Backing stepped-up police terror, more anti-immigrant raids and deportations, vast increases in warships and weapons, increased billions for the Pentagon, the Wall Street financiers were identified with the bubble that burst to initiate the Great Recession that cost 6 million families their homes and 9 million workers their jobs. Trump is rewarding Goldman Sachs by appointing four of its current and former bankers to top positions in his administration. Meanwhile, Trump arrogantly scoffs at the idea of divesting his holdings.

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With such a deep military investment in south Korea, one can be sure that the current turmoil there is of great concern to the Pentagon and Wall Street. Indeed, one of the few newspapers to devote any space to the impeachment is the Wall Street Journal, whose headline on a Dec. 9 article reads: “South Korea: Impeachment of President Park Is Latest Hit to Global Political Order; Likely successors to President Park take different views on ties with Washington, free trade and big business.”

The article says that the impeachment “brings the prospect of a new government for one of the U.S.’s closest allies that could have a skeptical stance toward Washington, a softer line on Pyongyang and a friendlier approach to China.”

So the leading newspaper for the U.S. ruling class is warning its well-paid readers that their domination over south Korea is being challenged by this immensely powerful political movement. The immediate “exercises” for the impeachment center on corruption on a grand scale. Park and a friend, Choi Soon-sil, a foundation that received big donations from corporate heads who were pardoned by the president while facing jail for economic crimes. According to the Dec. 5 Wall Street Journal, “Park has pardoned top exec- uatives convicted of crimes, for example, Chung Mong-koo, chair of Hyundai Motor Group, sentenced to three years for embezzlement, pardoned without serving any time. One of the largest banks is fully controlled by Choi was funded by 15 of South Korea’s largest conglomerates. The chairmen of Samsung, SK, Hanwha, LG, POSCO, and CJ groups have all been pardoned in the past decade.”

Attacks on working class

This scandal comes on top of huge at- tacks on the working class and other pol- icies extremely offensive to the Korean people.

During a more liberal period starting in the 1990s, workers in south Korea had the world’s highest rate of unionization. Today, after years of anti-labor measures and physical attacks on the union move- ment, along with the implementation of part-time and precarious labor, only one out of ten workers is organized.

In 2014, thousands of workers struck for three weeks in the longest strike in the country’s history. The strike was provoked by a government restructuring plan that threatened privatization of the railways, with loss of jobs, benefits and services. It quickly developed into one of the sharp- est recent worker-government conflicts and was supported by the Korean Con- federation of Trade Unions.

Korail fired more than 4,000 workers on Dec. 9, 2014, and announced a plan to hire 660 strikebreakers. President Park ordered an attack by hundreds of police on the rail union’s headquarters and ar- rested 10 union leaders on Dec. 16.

On July 4 of this year, Han Sang-gyun, president of the KCTU, was sentenced to five years in jail for leading protests against Park’s repressive labor policies.

Park banned opposition party

At the same time as the 2014 railroad strike, the Park regime banned the only real opposition party, the United Progressive Party, arresting some of its lead- ing members and ejecting its five elected deputies from the national legislature. The party was reported to have around 100,000 members and supported the re- unification of the divided Korean nation.

Like her father, Park used the Nation- al Security Law to suppress freedom of speech and send to jail those demonstrat- ing for reunification and against U.S. occu- pation and repressive government policies.

This July, the Park regime announced it would let the Pentagon deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery in the country’s southeast, aimed at both China and the Democratic People’s Repub- lic of Korea in the north. Farmers at the proposed THAAD site have contin- ued protests every night since then.

Also unpopular is the Park govern- ment’s bid for a military treaty with the United States and South Korea. The treaty with Japan, the country’s former colo- nial ruler, again at the instigation of the U.S., which has invited Japan into its mil- itary “pacific alliance,” aimed in recent years at the DPRK.

The U.S. government is acting low-key about the current turmoil in south Korea, but there can be no question that it is working feverishly behind the scenes trying to shore up both the military and the ruling class there against the popular masses.
By Sara Flounders

Does the People's Republic of China have the right to defend its sovereignty in the waters surrounding China?

What are U.S. aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines, bombers and underwater drones doing in the South China Sea? China has no such force in the Gulf of Mexico, yet China is depicted here as the aggressor.

For more than 100 years, the imperialists invoked the "freedom of navigation" to dominate Chinese trade. They and British gunboats controlled China's Yangtze, Yellow and Pearl rivers and coastal waters, where they patrolled up to 1,300 miles into the interior of China. Following the successful Chinese Revolution, the People's Liberation Army kicked out all foreign forces and their hated battleships from its rivers.

"Freedom of navigation" is a despised term in China, reeking of past colonial oppression and this is proper and legitimate.

A Chinese 'slingshot'

Almost daily we hear that China is "militarizing" the South China Sea by building air bases on seven small islands.

President-elect Donald Trump has tweeted that "China is building a massive fortress in the middle of the South China Sea." These expanded islands are described in the U.S. media as a great threat to world peace and regional stability.

China's Defense Ministry announced on Dec. 16 that it would arm the islands with air and missile defense systems. These bases form, as one U.S. strategist puts it, "the perfect noose."

Across Eurasia to Afghanistan and India, U.S. military bases encircle China with missiles, from Australia north to the flooded air bases encircling China with missiles, from Australia north to the Gulf of Thailand and south to the Philippines and Indonesia, to leave Chinese territorial waters on these countries to force alliances with the United States by the prerevolutionary Kuomintang government and recognized by the U.S. at the time, defining what is called the "nine-dash line." It encompasses about 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas claimed by Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

U.S. imperialism has attempted to strike deals and exert enormous pressure on these countries to force alliances with China by claiming to be a protector of small nations and their rights.

The decision of President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines to open relations with China during a state visit in late October and step back from being the U.S. pawn has sent shockwaves through the Pentagon planners.

The area holds the richest fisheries in the world and possibly rich deposits of oil and natural gas.

The location of the South China Sea, which links the Indian and Pacific oceans, makes it strategically important. About half the world's merchant ships pass through it. Keeping the South China Sea open for commercial navigation is a top priority for China.

Eighty percent of China's oil imports pass through the narrow Malacca Straits, where ship traffic is three times greater than through the Suez Canal and five times more than through the Panama Canal. A blockade by the U.S. Navy could strangle China's economy and devastate all the countries in the region.

The region surrounding the South China Sea accounts for over 60 percent of U.S. exports. It was the focus of the recently failed U.S. effort to create a Trans-Pacific Partnership — a regional trade alliance of Pacific-rim countries that would have excluded China.

The setbacks for U.S. imperialism's arrogant plans for the TPP, as well as a realignment of the Philippines, may bring more reckless threats.

China is determined to keep the South China Sea open to all commercial ships. But not to uninvited military ships.

Letter to WW

Aid Indigenous struggle in New Jersey!

There is an Indigenous struggle ongoing at Split Rock in Mulawah, Bergen County, N.J. The Ramapough Lenape Nation is facing threats of eviction from local officials and police, who are attempting to seize their lands for their development.

These threats intensified after the Nation expressed solidarity with the struggle at Standing Rock. This act of solidarity and class consciousness in solidarity in the past few months at Standing Rock, N.D., as the agents of U.S. capital continue their long-standing "protection" of violating treaties and brutalizing Indigenous people for the profit of corporations. This time, it is with Energy Transfer Partners, a multibillion-dollar fossil fuel extraction corporation.

With a fascist Trump administration promising to privatize remaining Indigenous lands for big oil and gas corporations, we are about to be in the throes of renewed assaults on Indigenous sovereignty as well as the safety and well-being of the entire U.S. working class.

Since first contact between the foot soldiers of Euro capitalism and the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island, there has been violent displacement and genocide perpetrated by the former. With the subsequent expropriation of Indigenous lands and the forced cultivation of those lands by enslaved African peoples, U.S. capitalism was able to enter and compete in the world capitalist market, making the U.S. the current imperial behemoth that it is today.

As communists, we recognize the importance of the national liberation of oppressed peoples from the yoke of colonialism and imperialism and the right of nations to self-determination. We cannot talk about a revolution in the U.S. without the inclusion of and leadership of revolutionary elements within the Indigenous movement, whether that be at Standing Rock or at Split Rock.

Now is our chance to let the ruling class know that continued brutalization, mistreatment and displacement of Indigenous people will not happen without our formidable opposition, and that this opposition will be channeled toward the goal of overthrowing the rule of the capitalist-imperialist bourgeoisie that has perpetrated crimes against Indigenous people the world over.

The Ramapough Lenape need supplies: food, winterization materials and all of the fixings necessary to create a work camp. A blockade of the U.S. Navy could strangle China's economy and devastate all the countries in the region. For more on the struggle of the Ramapough Lenape Nation, contact them at ramapoughlenapenation.org and Facebook.com/RamapoughLenapeNation/.

Joel Northam
Mulawah, N.J.
El capitalismo en crisis

Por Sara Flounders

Desde la elección, los medios corporativos se han centrado en el gabinete del presidente electo y en los nombramientos del personal de la Casa Blanca, a menudo anunciados por tweets y filtraciones. La disputa entre las facciones de la clase gobernante por la coordinación de vastos ministerios gubernamentales sigue siendo una lucha viciosa, con subterfugios, filtraciones, escándalos regentistas y exposiciones personales de hechos sucios del pasado.

Enormes balances caen en el equilibrio. Los individuos nombrados son abrumadoramente reaccionarios y multimillonarios. Sus nombramientos constituyen un nuevo giro de poder contra la gente pobre y trabajadora. Esta superposición puede provocar desde abajo una nueva fase de lucha de clases militante.

Los departamentos que supervisan la educación pública, la atención de la salud, la vivienda y la protección del medio ambiente son ahora administrados por altos oficiales que buscan el desmantelamiento y destrucción de estos logros. Los nombramientos confirman que ningún sector de la clase obrera permanecerá a la base real de Donald Trump. Sus compinches son abrumadoramente millonarios corporativos y operadores de fondos de cobertura, todas las personas de su estrato estrecho y privilegiado.

Su gabinete será el más rico en la historia de los Estados Unidos. Preservación de sus posiciones y beneficios personales a pesar de sus muchos ataques durante la campaña contra Goldman Sachs y sobre las conexiones de Hillary Clinton a Wall Street, los nombramientos de Trump incluyen tres banqueros actuales o antiguos de Goldman Sachs y otros inversionistas multimillonarios, además de directores generales de grandes corporaciones. Cada uno de los nombramientos de Trump se ocupará de los últimos gobiernos que dispensaban miles de millones de dólares en ingresos de impuestos para las empresas privadas.

El gabinete de Trump y el capitalismo

¿Qué dicen las designaciones de Trump sobre el propio sistema capitalista? Durante tres generaciones, la clase dominante estadounidense ha comprado la paz social en su país para hacer las guerras en el extranjero. Pero la decadencia del capitalismo, la desindustrialización, una economía globalizada y la fuga de capitales que persiguen los salarios más bajos posibles ha socavado las ganancias pasadas de la clase obrera de los Estados Unidos.

Incluso antes de la elección de Trump, los Estados Unidos habían quedado rezagados con respecto a todos los demás países industrializados sobre los estándares mensurables de expectativa de vida, mortalidad infantil y niveles educativos. El impulso para maximizar los beneficios de cada uno de ellos es más que el dinero que se ganaba en el sistema anterior.

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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

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La acusación de la CIA de que Rusia interviene en las elecciones presidenciales de los Estados Unidos para ayudar a Donald Trump es “una falsa noticia” siendo vendida por el Washington Post y el New York Times. ¿Sígan los rusos sabotear las máquinas de votación en el Medio Oeste? Ese es el tipo de cosas que las agencias de espionaje estadounidenses se vanagloriaban de descubrir.

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Por lo tanto, Rusia no es acusada de piratar una computadora del director de campaña de Hillary Clinton, John Podesta, y las fuerzas de espionaje rusas proporcionaron una plataforma a los rusos para atacar a Donald Trump. Pero Julian Assange, editor de WikiLeaks, negó que Rusia fuera la fuente. (Politico, 3 de noviembre)

El Senador Lindsey Graham de Carolina del Sur, sin embargo, declaró: “Voy por Rusia en todos los sentidos que se pueda. (Washington Post, 10 de diciembre)

No fue Rusia la que creó el Colegio Electoral que está envuelto en Trump a la Casa Blanca, aunque obtuvo 2,8 millones de votos menos que Clinton. Como ha señalado el profesor de derecho de Yale Akhil Reed Amer, el Colegio Electoral se estableció para proteger la esclavitud. (Vox, 12 de noviembre)

Y no fue Rusia la que suprimió los votos afroamericanos y latinoamericanos. Un titular del New York Times del 10 de diciembre anunció que una nueva fase de lucha de clases militarizada puede ser enviada a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

Correspondencia sobre artículos en Workers World/Mundo Obrero pueden ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

El capitalismo en crisis

¿Qué hay detrás de las opciones del gabinete de Trump sobre Rusia

Por Sara Flounders

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