Anti-NATO march says 'Defend Bolivarian Venezuela'

By Ted Kelly
Washington, D.C.

Several hundred activists and organizers took to the streets of the U.S. capital on Saturday, March 30, traveling from all over to oppose NATO and all imperialist war as military leaders assembled there to mark the 70th anniversary of NATO’s formation.

Joining the demonstrators were anti-NATO activists from Greece, Ukraine, Mexico, Argentina, Belgium and Wales. A large contingent of union bus drivers from Boston, equipped with signs and a banner, came for the march, and were represented at the rally by the president of United Steelworkers Local 8751, the Haitian-born Andre François.

William Camacaro, a Venezuelan activist with the Alberto Lovero Bolivarian Circle, recently returned from a visit to his home country. “Any confrontation against Venezuela would be a disaster not only for Venezuelans but also for the entire region: for Colombia, for Brazil, for the Caribbean islands. And that really will create a humanitarian crisis.

“[NATO] has been creating a humanitarian crisis with these sanctions,” said Camacaro. “But we know that the United States, especially this pathological president, probably wants to have a confrontation.”

Loan T., co-chair of the No2NATO rally representing the International Action Center, told the activists, “The war has already begun on Venezuela, with economic sanctions and outright media lies attempting to turn the rest of the world against the Bolivarian Revolution. The cycle of war and domination is a twisted game that imperialists play for their endless drive for profit.

“Instead of war, how about reparations for Venezuela? Reparations for Cuba, Puerto Rico, for the Honduran migrants at the border? Reparations for Flint, Michigan! For Black, Brown and Indigenous people facing police brutality and incarceration in this country! Reparations for people around the world resisting the gun of U.S. empire and of the NATO war machine!”

The march worked its way through the streets of the capital, across the new spring grass growing on the National Mall, and through the walkways of cherry blossoms in Lafayette Park across from the White House. It demanded the attention of thousands of tourists and was supported by many workers passing by on their way to jobs.

A few fascist-tourists wearing “Make America Great Again” hats sullenly lurked around the outskirts of the rally, but the anti-NATO demonstration met with no organized resistance by the pro-coup Venezuelan opposition — potentially a sign of flailing morale. Simultaneously, in Caracas, tens of thousands came out in support of the Bolivarian Revolution, despite repeated attacks on the city’s electrical grid.

March 30, Washington, D.C.

Milos Raickovich spoke movingly about the devastation visited upon Yugoslavia and Serbia by NATO in 1999. He recalled the celebrations NATO held in Washington to mark the alliance’s 50th anniversary, during the bombing of his country. “They were all celebrating, laughing, with champagne. Even [Polish anti-communist leader] Vaclav Havel. Everything is upside-down today.”

Raickovich, who recently commemorated the 20th anniversary of the destruction of Yugoslavia in a ceremony in New York City, also expressed heartfelt solidarity with U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, who writes extensively about the imperialist aggression in Eastern Europe in the second volume of his new book, “Murder, Inc.”

The Minister of Confrontation of the MOVE Organization, Pam Africa, electrified the crowd with her stirring address. Speaking to the need for a broader anti-war, anti-racist coalition of the kind that organized the March 30 mobilization, she said, “I’ll work with everybody who’s prepared to tear this motherfucker down! As Malcolm said, we must do this by any means necessary.

“The war being waged on Venezuela and around the world,” she continued, “is the same war that they

Continued on page 6

STUDENTS FIGHT RACISM 3, 4
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE NOW! 4
MOZAMBIQUE 8
TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY 10
U.S. dilemma over China 11

Workers World Weekly Newspaper
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011
workers.org
Tel 212.627.2994
Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multiracial 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, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression, the systematic denigration of all its peoples. It means joblessness, increasing homeworkerism and impoverishment 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 is guaranteed the right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Workers have fewer rights than ever, and youth are saddled with over $1.6 trillion in student debt with no hope of ever paying it off. In the name of profit, workers are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigenerational and multiracial working class. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of all, 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 in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and around the world. If you’re interested in Marxism, and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.
Georgia students demand accountability for campus racism

By Arielle Robinson

Student activists at Kennesaw State University in Georgia held a noon protest on March 28. Their silence speaks volumes as to how much they really care about the safety of students, faculty and staff of the state institution. More than 50 of them expressed their opposition to settling the matter of diversity on this campus. More than 30 percent of KSU students are people of color.

For poor and working-class Black and LGBTQ communities of Chicago, the CPD dispenses what they consider to be their due. The same police force spent 13 months investigating a man who screamed racist slurs at two CPD officers who attempted to cover up McDonald’s murder.

In February, more than a week after the screenshot incident, President Pamela Whitten’s only communication was to send out an email to students stating that Smollett had been charged and also stressed remaining true to two facets of the university’s doctrine, the Owl Creed: “I will always encourage unity by appreciating the differences in people and their ideas” and “I will always remain faithful to the ideas suggested and as a student in a democracy that threatens the rights of any KSU member.”

The administration at Kennesaw State University, which has 32,000 students, has not answered specific questions about students who were in racist group chats that contained alleged racist messages and beatings to gain confessions from suspects. The late night “comedians” and the corporate media goons are ignoring the racist, homophobic slurs, the so-called “white power” symbols, and other people will be treated another way.” [while] you'll get treated one way, [while] other people will be treated another way.”

“Jussie Smollett and capitalist victim blaming

By Taegon Stross

Charges brought against Black gay actor Jussie Smollett by the city of Chicago were dropped on March 26. But since then, no one has gone by without his name being vilified by people who wish to see him in jail. Smollett is a star of the Fox network hit series, “Empire.” Smollett had reported to police that he had been attacked on Jan. 29 near his apartment building in Chicago by two people who yelled racist and homophobic slurs. Smollett was.item.5268.4725

Corporate stations, nearly silent since the attack, then went into a frenzy repeating Smollett’s account of the beaten face and the fake bleeds. The criminalization of both Smollett and the Ousundairo brothers began when information that the CPD was investigating Smollett was “leaked” to the media on Feb. 14. This accuses took no account of the CPD’s long history of convictions obtained through CPD torture.

In the skit, Jaboukie Young-White played the version of Smollett that the CPD and corporate media presented, an actor desperate for attention who stages his own hate crime. Ultimately, Young-White acts the buffoon along with the two men playing the Osundairo brothers. These were assigned a thin “African American” accent — despite the brothers having been born in Nigeria and living in Chicago. Then Colbert played a video clip of CPD Superintendent Eddie Johnson claiming: “This stunt was orchestrated by Smollett because he was dissatisfied with his salary.”

Despite these attacks against him, all charges against Smollett were dropped on March 26, leaving the city and capitalist media to shore up their racist defenses. The mayor agreed with the group that has stated publicly that he does not consider Smollett to be innocent.

An hour after the city dropped charges, actor Alex Rice Black was held in custody. Then the Federal Bureau of Investigation video proved his back was turned when CPD cops mercilessly gunned him down. We’re supposed to believe the “justice” system that on Jan. 17 acquitted the three CPD officers who attempted to cover up McDonald’s murder. The fact that any media outlet would report claims made by Chicago’s cops without mentioning their vile history is disgraceful and was the “free press” guilty of cooperating with the white-supremacist state.

Voice of the white-supremacist state

The campaign against Smollett and all Black and LGBTQ people in the U.S. is not left only to the cops. Corporate media and the capitalist class has proven that their media outlets serve as the voice of the white-supremacist settler state. These lapdogs eagerly give platforms to cater to the interests of a select few racist billionaires, while actively promoting narratives which further their agenda.

Blaming individuals from oppressed communities, as well as political movements of oppressed people, for racist violence is nothing more than victim blaming. All liberation movements struggle against bourgeois state repression and big-business media propaganda, the enabling of extralegal violence by the U.S. police and military, extralegal violence from sanctioned vigilantes and neofascists, the theft of labor power and any other plan capitalists can devise.

Whether it is the current U.S. attack on Venezuela, the murder of Black activists or any other number of other hate crimes in the U.S., we can be sure that the capitalist media will side with and promote narratives that strengthen capitalist hegemony, patriarchy and white supremacy. Our duty is to resist and to put forward our own powerful narratives of resistance.

Community meetings expose health crisis after Houston fire

Continued from page 2

offered services, including distribution of shelter-in-place kits and accompanying and advocating for undocumented folks with health-related appointments. The owners and operators of two food trucks fed firefighters before the flames were put out. The gaps left by governing bodies were filled in by community members ready to see ITC held accountable.

The capitalist system of profits over people is one of the major failings of our society, that would be a given. “I will always encourage unity by appreciating the differences in people and their ideas” and “I will always remain faithful to the ideas suggested and as a student in a democracy that threatens the rights of any KSU member.”

The capitalist system of profits over people is one of the major failings of society that would be a given. When the targeted Black student confronted the ideas sug-

Continued from page 2

Charges brought against Black gay actor Jussie Smollett by the city of Chicago were dropped on March 26. But since then, no one has gone by without his name being vilified by people who wish to see him in jail. Smollett is a star of the Fox network hit series, “Empire.” Smollett had reported to police that he had been attacked on Jan. 29 near his apartment building in Chicago by two people who yelled racist and homophobic slurs. Smollett was.item.5268.4725

The attack, then went into a frenzy repeating Smollett’s account of the beaten face and the fake bleeds. The criminalization of both Smollett and the Ousundairo brothers began when information that the CPD was investigating Smollett was “leaked” to the media on Feb. 14. This accuses took no account of the CPD’s long history of convictions obtained through CPD torture.

Corporate stations, nearly silent since the attack, then went into a frenzy repeating Smollett’s account of the beaten face and the fake bleeds. The criminalization of both Smollett and the Ousundairo brothers began when information that the CPD was investigating Smollett was “leaked” to the media on Feb. 14. This accuses took no account of the CPD’s long history of convictions obtained through CPD torture.

Petition: Stop Ohio’s police terror law

Our duty is to resist and to put forward our own powerful narratives of resistance.

Community meetings expose health crisis after Houston fire

Continued from page 2

offered services, including distribution of shelter-in-place kits and accompanying and advocating for undocumented folks with health-related appointments. The owners and operators of two food trucks fed firefighters before the flames were put out. The gaps left by governing bodies were filled in by community members ready to see ITC held accountable.

The capitalist system of profits over people is one of the major failings of our society, that would be a given. When the targeted Black student confronted the ideas sug-
Students take over school board meeting

By Philadelphia Workers World bureau

The Philadelphia Board of Education voted 7-2 on March 28 to mandate metal detectors in all city high schools. Angered student activists and school board members responded by shutting down the meeting and taking over board members’ seats.

All 22 city high schools now have metal detectors, but three schools – Science Leadership Academy, Science Leadership Academy at Bebber and the Workshop School – do not mandate their use.

SLA Beeber senior Amir Curry stated that metal detectors criminalize students, who are “not a threat.” Amir noted “our state’s population centers have followed the standard of the viability of life, which is 20 weeks. Supreme Court decisions have ruled that a fetus is a human being when it’s pregnant. The current legal time-frame for leaving the public meeting, the school board voted to adopt a $3.4 billion 2019-20 budget, despite previous promises to make all 10-year property tax abatement.

Seminary students demand reparations

By Betsy Piette

Black students at Princeton Theological Seminary say it’s time for the institution to repent for its reliance on the 19th century slave trade. The Association of Black Seminarians is demanding reparations.

At a March 23 town hall meeting in Princeton, N.J., the ABS demanded that at least 15 percent of the school’s $1 billion endowment provide scholarships and grants for Black students. They also seek the expansion of the Black Church Studies program and an endowed department chair.

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.” Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students.

The ABS demanded that at least 15 percent of the school’s $1 billion endowment provide scholarships and grants for Black students. They also seek the expansion of the Black Church Studies program and an endowed department chair.

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.”

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.”

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.”

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.”

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)

In 2016 a committee began to research the seminary’s historic links to slavery. A report, issued in November 2018, found that “the labor and contributions of enslaved persons were integral to the seminary from 1812 to 1861.”

Currently students who identify as African American comprise around 13 percent of the seminary’s 500 students. The 55-member ABS has gathered more than 500 signatures on its petition demanding their proposals be considered by Princeton’s Historical Audit Task Force, which will make formal recommendations to the board of trustees by August.

ABS member Jade Lee observed, “Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, it’s about ‘the fierce urgency of now,’ because the urgency means never.” (Philly.com, March 26)
Officials explain that major events would have us believe that bad things happen to people at random—tragic incidents of bad luck.

When 22-year-old mother Ximena Barrientos of earth sciences, said the union is “saying enough is enough. We’re trying to get the students to stop eating because tuition rises keep going. I’m tired of worrying about bill collectors when I should be worried about lesson plans. By standing up with one voice, we can demand the investment we need for our students and colleagues throughout Florida.”

In less than two years in the “right-to-work” (for less) state of Florida, more than 9,000 adjuncts — more than half the adjuncts in the Florida College System! — unionized at four colleges. Now SEIU Faculty Forward is hoping to use the M-DC win to help organize the other three colleges in the system. (paydayreport.com, March 27)

Grad student employees strike at UI Chicago

Graduate student employees at the University of Illinois at Chicago went on strike March 19 after more than a year of contract negotiations. Leaders of the Graduate Employees Organization, representing more than 1,100 workers, voted to strike indefinitely when 99.5 percent of members voted in February.

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)

A March 30 geoweb bulletin about the 28th bargaining session reported: “The administration told us they still will not consider waiving, capping, or freezing fees, March 20)

“Despite being highly educated professionals providing skilled labor for a multi-billion-dollar institution, UIC grad workers live on the edge of poverty,” GEO leaders said in a statement. “Grad workers’ low pay, high fees, and often precarious employment negatively impacts their academic progress, professional development, and overall health, which only undermines UIC’s educational and research mission.

Graduate employees’ minimum wage is $18,065 for two semesters of 20-hour workweeks. They also receive the equivalent of $11,500 in tuition and fee waivers. While UIC offers an 11.5 percent increase in minimum pay over three years, GEO seeks a 24 percent increase, plus tuition waivers.

“There’s nothing left once you make your tuition payment. There’s no money for food, rent,” said Mari Miller, who studies industrial design. “If I didn’t have a partner who makes enough to support me, I wouldn’t be able to live.” (Chicago Tribune, March 20)
Venezuela today: consolidating people power

By Sara Flounders

The following excerpted talk was given at a March 21 Workers World Party meeting in New York.

The U.S. war machine is always scheming and planning. Every country in the world is in its crosshairs. Every gain in sovereignty is a threat to corporate global dominance.

Venezuela has accomplished so much to alleviate poverty, advance education and build health care for millions who were ignored by previous U.S.-backed dictatorships. These accomplishments make Venezuela a threat and an arch enemy to U.S. imperialism.

Venezuela is also the country with the largest oil reserves and the world's largest gas reserves, along with natural gas, diamonds and iron ore.

It was an incredible honor to participate in the delegation to Venezuela organized by the U.S. Peace Council [March 9-18]. I've been in other countries in the midst of the terror created by U.S. imperialism and seen the impact of strangulation, looting and intimidation. In Venezuela, I actually met the people who are creating deadly artificial shortages of the most essential supplies.

In Iraq, Lebanon and Gaza, Syria and Yugoslavia, in each place I have seen organized human resistance. Venezuela seems to be finding some of the most radical solutions to the problems that U.S. imperialism has created, when it is determined to bring a country down. Venezuela is studying past U.S. war scripts and learning and applying tactics that helped other countries that were able to resist.

I returned from this delegation deeply optimistic about Venezuela's future. Resistance in Venezuela means continually seeking solutions.

Mobilized people power is a material force

People power, mobilized, has the ability to curb the arrogance of U.S. imperialism that is determined to drag the people of the world into another war for oil—a critical war that will ignite war throughout Latin America.

In Venezuela there are huge demonstrations, all the time. This is first and foremost a political struggle, a struggle for sovereignty.

This has been true for years. Now, every Saturday since the coup attempt on Jan. 23 there have been demonstrations.

There is an ongoing, friendly peoples' occupation in front of the Presidential Palace, which shows determined resistance after the coup attempt. Unions take different days, as do collective struggles, the community-based organizations.

The day we joined, the oil workers union was mobilized. The president of the union is an oil worker. We are united and we will defend what is ours.

An almost two-hour meeting with [Venezuelan President Nicolás] Maduro was a highlight of the trip. Maduro discussed the attack on the electrical grid, and the actions and forms of popular resistance.

One especially forceful point Maduro made was that “the struggle in Latin America has always been between [James] Monroe and [Simón] Bolívar. For 200 years, between U.S. domination and national sovereignty. Now, as even [U.S. President Donald] Trump defines it, it is a global struggle between capitalism and socialism.”

We were meeting with him, his phone was receiving threatening and insulting tweets form [U.S. Sen. Marco] Rubio and [U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliott] Abrams. This crude level of petty schoolyard bullying insults is intended as psychological warfare.

Electric grid attack

Our arrival in Venezuela was delayed because of the U.S.-orchestrated destruction of the electrical grid for the whole country. This made landing the plane hazardous, so the crew waited until daybreak to land at Caracas airport. Caracas was dark, without traffic lights.

American Airlines, a major carrier out of Caracas, had shut down its flights, so all of them were canceled. Some in the delegation arrived late. Other delegations were canceled and postponed. We returned to the U.S. days later.

But the total darkness of the power grid means all pumps stop working, so there is no water for drinking, cooking, flushing toilets. It means no elevators, mass transit, gas pumps or credit card transactions. Communications were down in the entire country.

“Imperialist forces all but destroyed this grid for the simple reason that it is a global struggle against imperialism.”

In Venezuela it was overwhelmingly orderly during the five to seven days, as power winked on and off. There were lines for water and emergency supplies. Schools and workplaces were closed because the metro and buses couldn’t run.

Venezuela is an agricultural country. There was a total failure of the U.S. effort to galvanize public unrest, just as the phony “humanitarian delivery” of food and supplies on Feb. 23 utterly failed to split the ranks of the rank-and-file. Venezuelan workers did not respond to the U.S.-backed illegal, anti-government opposition from even using its gold reserves

Confiscation of billions of dollars

The Bolivarian Revolution is finding creative solutions to how to survive U.S. sanctions that have strangled every part of the economy, led to hyperinflation, and created financial chaos and shortages of essential goods. It has done so while confronting with assassinations, provocations and then an outright coup attempt.

The outrageous declaration by an insignificant, low-level, extremely right-wing politician Juan Guaidó was that he was president of Venezuela. Guaidó would be laughable, except that the U.S. and all of its imperialist allies in NATO and then dependent countries of the 191 countries in the U.N., immediately recognized this unknown, uncrowned politician. There was no election, no law! Just U.S. imperial arrogance.

The U.S. has handed $11 billion worth of the assets of Venezuela’s national state-owned oil company and the country’s biggest foreign asset, CITGO, directly to Guaidó. CITGO owns four petroleum terminals, three oil refineries and 5,000 gas stations in the U.S.

Venezuela today: consolidating people power...
Workers protest attacks on pensions

By Kathy Durkin

Some 10,000 teachers gathered at Republic Square in São Paulo, Brazil, to march with other workers and students on the “National Day of Struggle in Defense of Social Security” on March 22. Demonstrations were held in 126 cities throughout Brazil in this massive coordinated protest—an “act of resistance” to the war on workers’ rights, especially their pension benefits, being waged by reactionary President Jair Bolsonaro.

Ten major labor organizations, the Brazilian Peaceful Civil Resistance Front organized the national day of action. Workers carried signs that read, “We have to work until we die.” Protesters occupied streets and public places to denounce the administration’s assaults on their hard-won benefits.

Bolsonaro, a neofascist and ally of the super-rich, has already lowered the minimum wage and weakened labor law enforcement. He closed the Ministry of Labor. The Finance Ministry is now in charge of pensions, workplace oversight, health and safety, and workers’ salaries.

In February, Bolsonaro submitted a proposal to Congress to amend the social security, social protection and retirement systems, eventually leading to their demise. If passed, this amendment would severely endanger workers and people with disabilities and the poor. It would lead to privatization of workers’ pensions and retirement and social security funds. These funds would be held by private banks, which would then have multibillion dollar funds to manage. But the proposal would benefit Bolsonaro’s cronies and allies—members of the military and the wealthy.

Ubiraci Dantas Oliveira, chairperson of the General Workers’ Center (CTUB), stressed: “They want to turn everything over to the banks. Employees would have to pay [contributions] by themselves and employers and the government would not pitch in anymore. It would be all on workers’ shoulders.” (Brazile Fado, March 22)

Union members join ‘National Day of Struggle in Defense of Social Security’ March 22.

Vietnam vet reports back from Venezuela

By Lyn Neeley

Portland, Ore.

A March 30 reportback organized by Portland’s Hands Off Venezuela PDX group and sponsored by Portland’s Veterans For Peace. She was one of a dozen anti-war leaders who traveled to Venezuela as part of a solidarity delegation sponsored by the U.S. Peace Union.

The trip was a defining moment for the Venezuelan people. The government has gone to great lengths to protect the people, ensuring they could organize, organize, organize to end the war on their hard-won benefits. Workers and students are on constant mobilization to stop the implementation of this plan to make the rich richer and the workers poorer.

This is the second legal action taken directly against Guaidó for his role in the attempted coup. The first was a travel ban issued as part of an investigation into undisclosed travel and lodging expenses, following the process established by the Law Against Corruption.

According to the comptroller general, the total amount spent on trips outside of the country, mainly to Panama, was over $300,000. This sum, which is approximately $100,000. These expenditures, particularly when considered along with money spent on hotels inside and outside the country, is unaccountably high given the salary of a National Assembly deputy. Guaidó has refused the request to present legal documentation of his sources of funding, which has led officials to suspect that he has illegally accepted funds from foreign governments. (tinyurl.com/youryjgg)

This is the second legal action taken against Guaidó for his role in the attempted coup. The first was a travel ban issued as part of an investigation into undisclosed travel and lodging expenses, following the process established by the Law Against Corruption.

According to the comptroller general, the total amount spent on trips outside of the country, mainly to Panama, was over $300,000. This sum, which is approximately $100,000. These expenditures, particularly when considered along with money spent on hotels inside and outside the country, is unaccountably high given the salary of a National Assembly deputy. Guaidó has refused the request to present legal documentation of his sources of funding, which has led officials to suspect that he has illegally accepted funds from foreign governments. (tinyurl.com/youryjgg)

This is the second legal action taken directly against Guaidó for his role in the attempted coup. The first was a travel ban issued as part of an investigation into undisclosed travel and lodging expenses, following the process established by the Law Against Corruption.

According to the comptroller general, the total amount spent on trips outside of the country, mainly to Panama, was over $300,000. This sum, which is approximately $100,000. These expenditures, particularly when considered along with money spent on hotels inside and outside the country, is unaccountably high given the salary of a National Assembly deputy. Guaidó has refused the request to present legal documentation of his sources of funding, which has led officials to suspect that he has illegally accepted funds from foreign governments. (tinyurl.com/youryjgg)

This is the second legal action taken directly against Guaidó for his role in the attempted coup. The first was a travel ban issued as part of an investigation into undisclosed travel and lodging expenses, following the process established by the Law Against Corruption.

According to the comptroller general, the total amount spent on trips outside of the country, mainly to Panama, was over $300,000. This sum, which is approximately $100,000. These expenditures, particularly when considered along with money spent on hotels inside and outside the country, is unaccountably high given the salary of a National Assembly deputy. Guaidó has refused the request to present legal documentation of his sources of funding, which has led officials to suspect that he has illegally accepted funds from foreign governments. (tinyurl.com/youryjgg)

This is the second legal action taken directly against Guaidó for his role in the attempted coup. The first was a travel ban issued as part of an investigation into undisclosed travel and lodging expenses, following the process established by the Law Against Corruption.

According to the comptroller general, the total amount spent on trips outside of the country, mainly to Panama, was over $300,000. This sum, which is approximately $100,000. These expenditures, particularly when considered along with money spent on hotels inside and outside the country, is unaccountably high given the salary of a National Assembly deputy. Guaidó has refused the request to present legal documentation of his sources of funding, which has led officials to suspect that he has illegally accepted funds from foreign governments. (tinyurl.com/youryjgg)
Millions of Algerians demand corrupt leaders go

By G. Dunkel

April 1 — Rumors published on Algerian TV today indicated that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika intends to resign April 2, after a month of protests, culminating with thousands of people taking to the streets on March 29. Demonstrations to change the system in Algeria began Feb. 22, when thousands of people, mainly youths, came into the streets to protest Bouteflika’s announcement that he would seek a fifth term. At the same time, he postponed the elections. The irony of this maneuver was expressed in popular opinion: “We protested for elections without Bouteflika and got Bouteflika without an election.”

The Friday demonstration after this announcement on March 15 was the largest yet. The people smelled a trap in Bouteflika’s announcement and avoided it. All progressive organizations in Algeria support these protests, which appear to have been called using social media with input from the unions, which are not part of the official power structure. The demonstrations held on Fridays, the first day of the weekend, have been the biggest and broadest. During the week various constituents — teachers, students, lawyers, judges, health workers, doctors and especially workers — have also held protests. Several of the larger protests took place the week leading up to the March 29 demonstration. On March 27, Gen. Ahmed Gaid Salah, the head of the army, made a request to the Constitutional Court under Article 102 of the Algerian constitution, that it declare Bouteflika unfit to hold office. The army’s position on this has been interpreted as an attempt at putting pressure, especially since up to March 28 it had been a supporter of Bouteflika.

Meanwhile, a three-day partial general strike was called anonymously on social networks for March 26. The strike involved gas and oil production, port and railworkers, airport workers and custom inspectors. (observagelique.com, March 24) These targets were carefully chosen because they have a major impact on the Algerian economy, yet avoid incurring the displeasure of most Algerians.

Salah’s tactic of separating out Bouteflika did not calm or decrease the protests at all. Well over a million people came out in Algiers on March 29, by every estimate. An Algerian retiree explained to the March 29 French news paper Le Monde that everybody except the “bedridden, nursing infants, the sick, came out. At least 20 million people are involved.”

Homemade signs in the Algiers protest focused on Salah and the dangers of an army intervention: “Gaid Salah, go take advantage of a well-earned rest. Retire for the love of God.” “Gaid Salah, the people want democracy, not a military regime!” “We don’t want an ‘Al-Sissi’ [the Egyptian army leader in Algeria], the Egyptian scenario will not be reproduced here.”

An encouraging sign in that protest was the display of the Amazigh flag along with the national Algerian flag. The Amazigh, also known as Berbers, are the Indigenous people of North Africa, who make up between 30 to 40 percent of the population. (tah-algerie.com, March 29)

Islamist groups, which were decisively defeated in the 1990s civil war, were “timid” at the beginning of the protests in February and didn’t jump into them. They have been mainly active on the outskirts of Algiers, according to ObservAlgerie, an Algerian news site. They promote sharia law and the will of God, rather than democracy and the will of the people.

There are signs that the current Algerian ruling class — a shadowy group of army officers, politicians, wealthy businessmen and entrepreneurs — are desperately maneuvering to gain control of the situation. A new prime minister and cabinet was announced March 31. A leader of the Business Forum and a major entrepreneur, Ali Haddad, was arrested near the Tunisian border the same day. He is one of the most prominent, longtime Bouteflika supporters.

The Algerian masses are trying to change the system. They appear to be aware of some of the dangers they face, particularly their lack of organization. Workers, through their unions, are becoming more and more involved.

From Bush Sr. to Trump

Pentagon uses, abuses Somalia

By John Catalinotto

Ogaden War of 1977-78

In 1977, under President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. aimed to counter a revolutionary, pro-socialist government that had seized power in Ethiopia and began to align with the Soviet Union and other members of what was then the socialist camp. Somalia, which bordering Ethiopia, claimed land in the Ogaden region, which had some ethnic Somali population. Carter armed Somalia to provoke a war against Ethiopia, claiming this was to defend self-determination.

After the failure of attempts by Cuba’s Fidel Castro to bring the leaders of Somalia and Ethiopia together to avert war, Somalia invaded. The USSR, Cuba and the German Democratic Republic aided Ethiopia, which defeated the Somali Army. The government of Somalia fled the country later in 1991, leaving no central state power in charge.

In the same period, concurrent with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the revolutionary Ethiopian government was overthrown by a pro-U.S. grouping.

‘Black Hawk Down’ — 1993

Under the George H.W. Bush administration, the U.S. military intervened in Somalia in 1992, this time claim ing it was a humanitarian mission — to feed starving Continued on page 9

PHOTO: THEMBA HADEBE, AP

PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTIAN HAGEN, AP

PHOTO: THOMAS HICHEL, AP

Stranded family, Beira, Mozambique, March 24.

PHOTO: REGINA SCOTT, AP

PHOTO: ARCHIVE PHOTOS

PHOTO: ALBERTO BURBANK, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

Due to Cyclone Idai, global warming
Humanitarian crisis grows in Mozambique

By Monica Moorehead

March 30 — Tropical Cyclone Idai hit the southeastern portion of Africa very hard, especially certain regions of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe March 14-15. A cyclone is the same as a hurricane, which usually refers to monstrous storms in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific. The word cyclone is mainly used for storms in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean.

The coastal city of Beira in Mozambique became the epicenter of the cyclone. Beira, home to 600,000 residents, is eight miles out at sea. Idai, a global warming because its coastline is considered by “experts” to be one of the world’s most vulnerable to rising waters due to climate change. According to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a group linked to the World Bank and the United Nations, “Mozambique is the third most at-risk country in Africa when it comes to extreme weather.” (Vice, March 15)

The World Bank approved a project in 2012 to help Beira deal with coastal flooding, since most of the people there live below sea level. The project, completed in 2018 at a cost of $22 million, helped stop Cyclone Idai from carrying out complete devastation.

While the mayor of Beira, Daviz Simango, blamed the Mozambican government and other African governments for not preparing the population for the cyclone, he also called it “unjust that African nations face some of the toughest challenges while contributing little to global warming. People in rich, industrialized nations produce much of the carbon dioxide and other gases that are warming the planet by burning the most coal, diesel, gasoline and jet fuel.… This cyclone destroyed everything for more than 100 years.” (AFP, March 27)

Beginning with European invasions, colonialism and neocolonialism have resulted in Africa today being the most underdeveloped continent, but still the richest due to its mineral wealth. Mozambique is a former colony of Portugal.

It is of little wonder that even with all the efforts taken to strengthen Beira’s infrastructure, it still wasn’t enough to withstand the cyclone. As a result, a new epidemic of cholera, a preventable disease, has broken out there due to severe damage to the water supply system by flooding, according to Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Gert Verdonck, MSF’s emergency coordinator in Beira, stated, “The cyclone has left a path of devastation with thousands of houses destroyed, which has left the community vulnerable and exposed to the elements. The supply chain has been broken, creating food, clean water, and health care shortages. The scale of extreme damage will likely lead to a dramatic increase of waterborne diseases, skin infections, respiratory tract infections, and malaria in the coming days and weeks. Furthermore, the local health system and its regular services, such as HIV treatment and maternal and newborn care, has also been disrupted.” (doctorswithoutborders.org, March 26)

This crisis is a reminder of the just demand for reparations for the African people from the rich capitalist countries whose colonial policies have stolen their wealth and labor for centuries.

PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTIAN HAGEN, AP

PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTIAN HAGEN, AP

PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: REGINA SCOTT, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: ANNE-CHRISTIAN HAGEN, AP

PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: REGINA SCOTT, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP

PHOTO: HENRI HENRIOT, AP

PHOTO: JOHN MINCHILLO, AP

PHOTO: JONATHAN WILSON, AP
Rising worker militancy at the border

By Teresa Gutierrez

Many a scholar has written about the phenomenon of rising expectations. What is happening in Mexico today should be examined from that point of view. The strength of demands of Mexican workers has gone on strike in unprecedented actions over the last few months, most of them at the U.S.-Mexican border with White House that President Trump wants to build his wall.

The workers' struggle takes place in the context of the significant Mexican presidential election of Andrea Manuel Lopez Obrador in 2018.

Rising expectations?

"Rising expectations" scholars vary in political orientation. In one right-wing Wing, Wendy McElroy says, "Staving peasants storm the Bastille because oppression has driven them beyond the limits. It is the quintessence image of political revolution. But what if it is wrong?"

McElroy goes on: "Tocqueville, whose only virtue is that it keeps the knowledge of political revolution. But what if it is wrong?"

Karl Marx, McElroy erroneously concludes, was wrong in assuming that an uprising that took place in 1848, was "revolutionary." The government has historically been an obstacle to the development of political revolution. But what if it is wrong?

The strongest revolutionary sentiment was found ... where prosperity had been growing. People for whom the bonds of servitude had recently loosened were the loudest voices for change."

And not only were the political movements for the workers, it is the result of despair and rage." (Future of Freedom, May 1, 2016).

In fact, revolutions, whether they rise from "hope" or are "violent," would be better than what most people face today.

Mexican workers on the rise

Workers and oppressed nationalists in Mexico have not been idle. They have endured conditions that most people in the U.S. could never imagine. Beheadings. Tens of thousands of political assassinations, hijackings and kidnappings of political leaders and families. Inadequate housing, water, and education. Drug cartels as powerful as the government. The government has historically been so corrupt that most people each major election will be fraudulent.

But Mexicans continue to fight the status quo. Protest marches take place daily across the country. In some Indigenous regions especially, the masses have won people's power and obtained almost all of the compensation they desired.

In 1988 the masses supported a progressive presidential candidate, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Despite millions backing him in the streets and in the polls, his victory was stolen.

Mexico has also produced Indigenous armed guerilla organizations, the most well known being the EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Army). Formed in 1994, the EZLN is thriving to this day in the state of Chiapas.

All this takes place in the context of U.S. imperialism treating Mexico as its junior partner in crime. Washington has benefited from the drug industry and spent billions to militarize the country. It will do anything to stop any Bolivarian-type revolution at its southern border.

Because of U.S. policies, more than 200,000 people have been killed and around 40,000 have gone missing in Mexico in the last 10 years. Nonetheless, despite harsh conditions brought on by imperialism, Mexico remains a beautiful, culturally rich and vibrant society.

The will of the workers

In June 2018 progressive candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador won the presidential election. It was a stunning victory given that he had tried before and that all recent progressive candidates had had elections stolen from them. Obrador, known as AMLO, was greeted by hundreds of thousands of people in the streets on the day of his inauguration. Around the world, and especially in Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua, the progressives political movement was elated that AMLO had won.

And not only were the political movements but the workers masses also had rising expectations.

Immediately Lopez Obrador carried out a gutsy action. He stopped a major renovation of an airport that people had been struggling against for years. AMLO showed support for the struggle and not for the multinational corporations that wanted an "improved" airport.

He did not move into the Palacio Nacional, the Mexican equivalent of the White House, and instead opened it to the public so that they could see how former presidents had lived a luxurious life. He opted to stay in his own home.

AMLO attempted to deal in a thoughtful way with the tens of thousands of Central American migrants who made their way to the U.S. through Mexico. He condemned the right-wing, Trump-like use of rhetoric against migrants. He continues to consider options best for the refugees, including one-year temporary status in Mexico that allows them to work there.

AMLO is not a revolutionary socialist, but he opposes U.S. intervention in Venezuela—a hugely independent position to take. Nor any of his actions has been as progressive as AMLO remains trapped in a capitalist system overshadowed by the U.S. The expectations of him remain high among the Mexican people.

Strikes at the border

It is in this context that the struggle of a large number of Mexican workers has burst onto the scene. Since January, a whopping 45,000 workers have gone on strike or held major work stoppages at the U.S. border.

Their targets have been the maquila companies. There are tens of thousands of companies in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, and a doubling of the minimum wage in the state of Tamaulipas.

Maquiladoras have long been targeted by strikes and both sides are known for their solidarity with and solidarity from union and other activists in the U.S. Maquila plants across the border from El Paso in Ciudad Juarez are also infamous for the thousands of maquila dams on women workers who have been slaughtered or have gone missing over the years, for whom international solidarity campaigns have been organized.

According to a Jan. 28 article on the website "In Defense of Marxism" by Carlos Marquez: "On 25 March 1998, 48 ‘multi-nation’ companies in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, were hit by strikes." Matamoros is on the border with Brownsville, Texas, one of the areas where Trump wants to build his wall.

Marquez continues: "This is not minor, we’re talking about 45,000 striking workers. In the past several days, the workers revolted against their violent labor leaders and bosses. The workers partially paralyzed some factories. Under pressure, several people went to work, but most refused. Massive, daily assemblies were held in the public square.”

Some of the first Mexican maquiladora workers were built in Matamoros, the center of today’s struggle. That’s a great example of the famous statement by Malcolm X about "chickens coming home to roost" as the result of exploitative and violent actions.

Organizing at an unprecedented rate

Workers are organizing at an "unprecedented rate" along the very border where the neofascist Trump wants to build a wall.

Marquez details both the trajectory and the implications of the border struggle. He talks about the role of leadership from both community support and the factories, as union leaders and their law- yers, and recent Mexican revolutionary movements.

A March 28 Vox article confirms that the struggle which burst out in January continues: "Hundreds of Coca-Cola workers are going on strike on the border, where they get a raise. More than 8,000 Walmart employees were prepared to walk off the job till management meets some of their demands. And 30,000 striking factory workers have finally returned to work after a month-long strike." The main issue in the struggle is wages. In one factory, initially, the Polytech workers rejected the offer of a 15 percent increase and a $18,000 bonus. The workers generally demand $2.50 per hour. Worker’s unions and factory managers still have a ways to go. The March 28 Vox article concludes that the movement is not just at the factory level, but at the national level. It is a huge victory that neither police harassment nor death threats were able to prevent.

One of the campaign platforms that AMLO ran on was the "Fourth Transformation of the Country." This referred to three momentous events that have taken place in the last hundred years: the Independence from Spain, 1810-21; the Benito Juarez reform period of 1875-77; and the Mexican Revolution of 1910-17. The Mexican Revolution is called the "Four Transformation of the Country," which is a socialist turn in Mexico, would be a game changer of the highest order.

To prevent that would be to betray the workers of Cuba and Nicaragua, which was a huge victory from a historic shift to the left in Mexico.

The movement in the U.S. should do everything in its power to support the struggle with Mexico. We should demand: No Wall! No more U.S. interference in Mexico!
Here’s to Trans Visibility Day! It was held on March 31. Maybe you didn’t know it happened?

It’s not a day that’s going to be very “visible” on big business media. Because this day is organized by and for trans people speaking for themselves and their own lives, telling the world how they define themselves and celebrating the complex realities of trans lives.

The corporate media have obsessively presented trans lives as a circus for swoon-week or narrated trans and non-binary political figures being kicked back and forth during rightwing attacks.

Instead, it is trans people who have insisted on this truth: They have been part of the fabric of human existence from the beginning of our species. As trans comrade Gery Armsby commented on Facebook on Trans Visibility Day: “Throughout history human societies have ‘assigned’ socio-economic roles to people in myriad ways that we today understand as ‘gender.’ As all societies are subject to constant internal and external forces of change, it is impossible to understand how gender roles are not now and never have been static, let alone binary. [Gender roles] certainly have little if anything to do with actual human biology, but they do profoundly affect the way in which trans people are viewed by the world around them.

In fact, in matrilineal preclass societies, before the rise of class patriarchy, it was the societal norm to have sex and gender complexity that might be called ‘trans’ now. The many different varieties, names, customs and histories of this complexity continue today through still-existing Indigenous peoples, cultures and nations.

But, as Armsby noted in their Facebook comment, with the rise of the bourgeoisie class that patriarchy has trampered, the struggle for that complexity ‘for many trans people, especially trans women of color — amounts to a life and death struggle for correct pronouns, for bathrooms and for whatever resources and measures [that] trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit folk believe are worth fighting for.’

The ‘external forces’ at work in the U.S. have been perpetuated by narrow concepts of ‘man’ and ‘woman’ as public goals — to create colonial settlers, subjugate for imperialism and manageable workers.

It was no accident that, at the beginning of the 20th century, as the U.S. began to invade and occupy nations beyond its continental borders, President Theodore Roosevelt campaigned to ‘toughen up’ young boys into ‘manly men.’ As historian Sarah Watts notes, he wanted men in the imperialist U.S. to learn the true inheritors of the cowboy tradition of white, aggressive, armed, nationalistic masculinity. (tinyurl.com/y4g3rxo7)

Trans lives give all of us the vision and hope of a world that rejects rigid, dominating and harmful ideas about masculinity and femininity. As trans warrior, historian and activist Leslie Feinberg once said: “People of all sexes have the right to explore femininity, masculinity and the infinite varieties between — without criticism or ridicule.”

Feinberg also knew that a socialist future offered the only possibility of a world where trans people, and all people, could live fully in their own beautiful bodies, not just as ‘male’ and ‘female.’

Workers World comrade Feinberg died in 2014 with these last words: ‘Remember me as a revolutionary communist.’

In an early pamphlet, ‘Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come,’ Feinberg wrote: ‘Like racism and all forms of prejudice, bigotry against transgender people is a deadly carcinogen. [As workers] we are pitted against each other in order to keep us from seeing each other as allies. Germinine bonds of solidarity can be forged between people who respect each other’s differences and are willing to fight their enemy together.

We are the class that does the work of the world, and can revolutionize it. We can win true liberation.’

Mumia Abu-Jamal on massacre at Christiech, New Zealand

Taken from a March 16, 2019, audio column posted on prisonradio.com.

Live stream, a young Aussie killer invades a set of Muslim mosques and commits a massacre of men, women and even children. 

This is from a matrilineal manuscript decrying Muslim “invaders” of Europe, while slaughtering Muslims at prayer and in their public schools.

Livestream, a young Aussie who number in the millions. The Maori were reduced to less than 100,000 souls around 1840, with what we call the Christchurch Massacre. (tinyurl.com/y4g3rxo7)

workers.org
In the 1930s, a U.S. merchant named Carl Crow, who ran the first Western advertising agency in China for 25 years, wrote a book about China entitled “400 Million Customers.” That about summed up how the U.S. bourgeoisie looked at China at that time. How could they make money off of the hundreds of millions of Chinese people? That was their main interest. And it hasn’t changed. Here’s a headline from CNBC News of April 4 this year: “Dow rises 200 to start off the quarter on strong U.S. and China data, trade progress.”

During the previous week, the Dow had gone up and down by huge swaths of points each day as the news gyrated over whether or not there was progress in trade talks between the two countries. Of course, the big difference between China in Crown’s time and now is that a tremendous social upheaval there changed everything. The millennia-old stranglehold of the landlords over the peasants was upended in 1949 by a socialist revolution, led by the Communist Party. China sees it: “At the heart of President Trump’s trade policy is an attempt to involve China’s promise to purchase hundreds of billions of dollars of American goods. For the U.S., this is an essential element that will help reduce the United States’ record trade deficit with China and bolster farmers and other companies hurt by his trade war. But those purchases will be ordered by the Chinese state, and most will be carried out by state-controlled Chinese businesses, further cementing Beijing’s role in managing its economy and poten- tially making United States industries even more beholden to the Chinese.” Of course, the people of China are more than consumers. These days, they are also astronauts, city planners, high-speed train operators. At the heart of China’s negotiations with the United States is a troubling contradiction: The United States wants to use the trade talks to encourage the country to adopt a more market-oriented economy. Yet China’s prospec- tive deal may end up reinforcing the eco- nomic power of the Chinese state.

The capitalist ruling class in the United States is on the horns of a dilemma. They want, and need, the 1.4 billion “customers” now in China. U.S. agribusiness in particular has become dependent on selling a lot of wheat, soybeans, corn and other foods to China. Which China needs, because it covers a land area the same size as the United States, has 1.4 billion times the number of mouths to feed.

At the same time, the U.S. ruling class hates the control over China’s econ- omy exerted by the 90-million-member Communist Party. How did Boeing get away with such a blatant unsafe feature as MCAS? The FAA reauthorization bills of 2012 and 2018 supposedly make safety reviews quicker and less costly. According to Sen. Richard Blumenthal, however, this “left the fox guarding the hen house.”

Paty Shawhan, who had a long executive career at Boeing, is now Secretary of Defense. He is a warmonger who appears to be highly favored by the Trump administration. Talk about a cozy relationship. Boeing’s Political Action Committee kicked in $5.9 million to federal and state races in 2018. The company employed 98 lobbyists last year and spread money to 375 members of Congress.

Some airlines are talking about cancel- ing their orders for Boeing Max planes. On March 25, China put in an order for 300 planes from Airbus, Boeing’s com- petitor, in a $35 billion deal. This is seen as a big move away from Boeing. Airlines are saying they’ll have huge losses as a result of grounding the Boeing Max. Financial analysts predict it will be two-to-three months before the 737 Max will get back into service. Boeing will have to find a fix for the MCAS, a safer system for around the world to have to approve the fix. Despite all Boeing’s wealth and power, there is a key element of skilled mechanics and engineers’ labor, the com- pany is having a breakdown in its safety record and how to address it. It’s too much in a hurry in its mad quest for prof- its to satisfy its ruling-class investors. 

Did Boeing’s choices kill 346 airline passengers?

By Jim McMahan

Seattle

Boeing Airlines, which has been raking in profits, is scrambling after having two crashes of its 737 Max 8 passenger jet, killing a total of 346 people in the last five months.

The Indonesian Lion Air jet went down in the Java Sea Oct. 29, 2018, killing all 189 passengers. The Ethiopian Airlines crash at Addis Ababa on March 10 ended in the death of all 157 on board.

Now, Boeing is scrambling once again for public relations fixos. Why? To keep its monopoly under control, but the pilot has to first understand the MCAS system and how to counteract it in an emergency.

Just after the Lion Air crash, which exposed the issue of MCAS, the Allied Pilots Association put out a statement: “This is the first description you, as 737 Max pilots have seen (of the MCAS system). It is not in the A357 Flight Manual Part 2, nor is there a description in the Boeing FCOM (Flight Crew Operations Manual). It will be there soon.” (Daily Beast, Nov. 13)

According to Aviation Week and the National Transportation Safety Board, the angle of attack sensor on the Lion Air plane might have caused the system to fail. According to Aviation Week and the Daily Beast, the MCAS system operated without any input or knowledge from pilots in the last two fatal crashes. Scientists found that pilots can keep the plane under control, but the pilot has to first understand the MCAS system and how to counteract it in an emergency.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently grounded 360 Boeing planes, which were still flying, grounded. The FAA reauthorization bills of 2012 and 2018 supposedly make safety reviews quicker and less costly. According to Sen. Richard Blumenthal, however, this “left the fox guarding the hen house.”

By Deirdre Griswold

High Tech, Low Pay

Describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.

Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com

By Sam Marcy

High Tech, Low Pay

Describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class in the United States of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval.
Comienzan acciones legales contra los golpistas

Venezuela

Por Sam Ordóñez

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes del capitalismo como una purga de sus intereses colectivos, para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar que el capitalismo es una huida objetivo para demostrar