

White House escalates criminal war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

The White House currently behaves like a bungee cord, with up and down proclamations that change day-by-day and the threat of major edicts that may go nowhere — befuddling his audience.

One day Donald Trump threatens to immediately shut down the Southern border; another day to cut aid to Central America right away. The ever-revolving door of White House staff could cause a small tornado as both high- and lower-level officials come and go.

The latest is the resignation on April 7 of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

All this occurs as migrants face increasingly more desperate conditions that need immediate, humane and just solutions. Despite the chaos at the White House, Trump’s war against migrants is frankly succeeding. Families are divided, children are missing, massive migration continues, along with super-exploitation at work, depressing concentration camps and deaths that include small children. Imperialist policies, lamentably, have the upper hand for now.

Trump targets Northern Triangle

Trump announced on April 2 that he would be cutting aid to three Central American nations: Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, known as the Northern Triangle. That night the State Department informed Congress that \$450 million that would normally go to these countries would be diverted elsewhere.

Yet, the day before Trump’s announcement, Nielsen had just signed a regional agreement with officials from the three countries that they would “conduct joint police operations and fight unauthorized migration.” The next morning, however, President Trump was, once again, criticizing those countries, as well as Mexico, for the record levels of family migrations to the U.S.

According to the State Department website, the U.S. government spent over \$2.6 billion in aid to the Northern Triangle during fiscal years 2015-18. So the mere cutting of \$450 million appears to be posturing more than anything.

Democrats and others who opposed the cut claimed that the very programs geared to prevent the social violence, poverty and hunger that cause migration would suffer. But you don’t have to be an economist to know that this money has done nothing to stop forced migration.

For decades, the U.S. government has stolen tax money from the people in this country and used it to create terror abroad, including in the Northern Triangle. The money has not been used to prevent hunger, but has served to line the pockets of U.S. agribusiness, sweatshop owners and the Pentagon.

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, an imperialist grouping of former government officials, admits that in “Guatemala and Honduras, half the country lives in

poverty, ... nearly one-third of the youth is unemployed and not in school.” It states that many are forced to flee for “lack of food.”

So the decades of aid have not at all helped the people of the region, even by this ruling-class consortium’s own admission.

According to the April 2 New York Times, “Of the Northern Triangle nations, Guatemala receives the most aid. ... [A]ccording to the Washington Office

on Latin America, ... the most recent figures for 2017 [were] more than \$78.6 million.”

That is a lot of money for a small impoverished nation.

What would help is if the money truly went to the people and not local oligarchies. What would help is if imperialism would pay reparations to the people of Central America for centuries of theft. It is U.S.

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Venezuela combats sanctions with solidarity

By Sara Flounders

In its latest act of international piracy against the people of Venezuela, the U.S. government has targeted the shipment of oil between the Bolivarian Republic and socialist Cuba.


These new sanctions have been imposed on the 34 ships operated by Venezuela’s state-run oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., as well as on two international companies that handle oil shipments between the two countries.

The most recent sanctions on oil transport are intended to punish Cuba for its solidarity and support of Venezuela. Highlighting just how much the effort to bring down the government is a class issue that resonates globally, it was U.S. Vice President Mike Pence who announced the latest sanctions in a speech to wealthy Venezuelan business leaders now living in Houston.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza, in

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No walls in the workers’ struggle...
WORKER SOLIDARITY DAYS



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Advancing liberation for nine decades: Vietnam Women’s Union

By Paddy Colligan
New York

Women organizers of economic and political struggles in New York exchanged experiences with their sisters from the Vietnam Women’s Union April 1 at the 1199/SEIU Hall. Representing the VWU were national Vice Chairperson Nguyen Thi Tuyet; Ho Thu Nguyet from Lâm Đông Province, representing the provincial level of organizing; and Tran Thi Minh Huong, a very skilled VWU translator.

While Vietnam has a population of close to 100 million people, the Women’s Union has the large number of 19 million members. In response to a question from an astonished woman organizer in the audience, Nguyen Thi Tuyet stressed that they were not just names on a list but active, dues-paying members!

The VWU was initially founded in 1930 to involve women in the struggle to liberate the country from French colonialism, continuing this focus throughout the subsequent Japanese and U.S. occupations. After the decisive U.S. military defeat in 1975, the focus shifted to involving women in rebuilding their lives and the country and to helping them escape poverty and “achieve their full potential.”

Today the union works toward full economic, educational and political equality for women. With 70 percent of women involved in the economy, they make up almost half the labor force. The VWU offers numerous vocational and social training programs. It organizes banks to participate in microloan programs that enable women, even in rural areas, to participate in economic activities that will ease poverty and foster a better life for themselves and their children. It educates villagers about how they can help ease the overwhelming responsibilities faced by families of several generations of people poisoned by Agent Orange.

Women are making great strides in education. Their literacy rate is 93 percent, only slightly less than the overall 95 percent literacy rate. The number of women with college degrees has advanced remarkably: Today almost half



From left to right, Nguyen Thi Tuyet, Ho Thu Nguyet, Tran Thi Minh Huong, representing Vietnam Women’s Union.

the undergraduate degrees, 43 percent of master’s degrees, and 21 percent of the Ph.D. and higher degrees are held by women. In 2012 the Women’s Academy became a university with six faculties, including gender equity, business management and multimedia studies; it is now open to both women and men.

Women are also increasing their role in the political life at all levels of government. The Women’s Union has responsibility for advancing policy matters relating to families, women and children. In addition to promoting women’s leadership, it has set goals for the percentage of seats in various political bodies that must be set aside for women. The excuse that there are not enough qualified women to fill these seats doesn’t work. The seats must go unfilled until women are found to fill them, removing the temptation to continue filling these seats with men until “qualified” women can be found!

As someone who was a young anti-imperialist activist in the 1960s, I feel a great debt to the Vietnamese people. I have been inspired by their example of determination and courage in the face of such apparently overwhelming odds.

Today the women of Vietnam continue to awe me by their consistent, determined and methodical work to overcome the legacies of war and poverty as they construct a country where women and men are equally responsible for social, economic and political life. □



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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness 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 has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

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

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WW COMMENTARY

What's behind the election of socialists in Chicago

By Monica Moorehead

April 8 — Chicago is the third most populous U.S. city today, after New York and Los Angeles, and is viewed as the main financial hub of the Midwest. In 2016, Chicago, with its suburbs, was also considered the second most segregated city in the U.S., with whites constituting 32.6 percent of the population, Latinx people at 29.7 percent and Black people at 29.3 percent. (24/7 Wall St., Aug. 1, 2017) Most of the segregation takes place neighborhood-by-neighborhood.

While Illinois in 2017 had the highest U.S. state unemployment rate for Black people at 11.3 percent, following the disappearance of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs, this unemployment reached a crisis level in Chicago. (tinyurl.com/yybw6u9o)

The Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago found that more than 40 percent of 20-to-24-year-old Black youth and men in Chicago were out of work and out of school in 2018.

And, according to the Chicago Tribune, the poverty rates for the South and West sides of the city, which are predominantly African American, hovered around a devastating 60 percent. (March 15, 2017)

Meanwhile, the impact of police brutality on Chicago's Black neighborhoods was brought home by the recent conviction of a white cop for the 16-shot murder of Black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014.

All these factors must be taken into account in considering the results of Chicago's April 2 municipal elections. These results were both historic and illuminating.

Chicago has been politically dominated by a deeply corrupt Democratic Party machine for many decades, first anchored by the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, who held that office from 1955 until his death in 1976, and then by his son, Richard M. Daley, mayor from 1989 to 2011.

In the recent Chicago municipal run-off elections, three left-wing candidates who ran openly as members of the Democratic Socialists of America, won City Council seats representing their wards. Two of them, Byron Sigcho-Lopez and Andre Vasquez, are Latinx, and the third, Jeannette Taylor, is Black. Another Latinx DSA candidate, Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, has the potential to win her ward seat once the vote count is completed. Two other DSA candidates, Daniel La Spata and Carlos Rosa, had already won City Council elections during the first round of voting in February.

These five — and perhaps six — members of DSA, the majority of them people of color, have just won the largest socialist electoral victory in modern U.S. history.

In the belly of the imperialist beast, where just over 60 years ago the Cold War, anti-communist, McCarthyite era paralyzed the progressive movement, the unions and the masses, the horrific veil of red-baiting is finally being lifted. This shift has been underway since the anti-Wall Street Occupy Movement in 2011. Then Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign helped further popularize socialist ideas, despite Sanders' limited "let's reform capitalism" program.

Another significant victory in Chicago was the election of Lori Lightfoot as the

city's first Black, openly lesbian mayor. Lightfoot, who is a former corporate lawyer and prosecutor, immediately called for reopening the acquittals of the three white police officers charged with obstruction of justice, conspiracy and misconduct in Laquan McDonald's death.

Focus on class issues was decisive

The program that appeared to resonate most with voters who favored the DSA candidates were bread-and-butter issues emerging from the global economic crisis. Some of these included growing gentrification and loss of housing, privatization of public services including schools, attacks on immigrant rights and police repression. The demand for rent control by the candidates was especially popular among voters.

An electoral group, Reclaim Chicago, was instrumental in organizing door-to-door canvassing and mass phone banking to support two of the DSA members. Taylor, an education activist, participated in a 34-day hunger strike in 2015 to demand the reopening of Walter H. Dyett High School on the South Side, where she is from.

The tradition of community activism runs deep in Chicago, carried forth today by the Chicago Teachers Union, which conducted a 2012 political strike in solidarity with oppressed communities to defend and fund public education. Chicago is also where the labor movement for the 8-hour day was spearheaded in 1886, led and won by immigrant workers mainly from Europe, and resulting in the birth of May Day as International

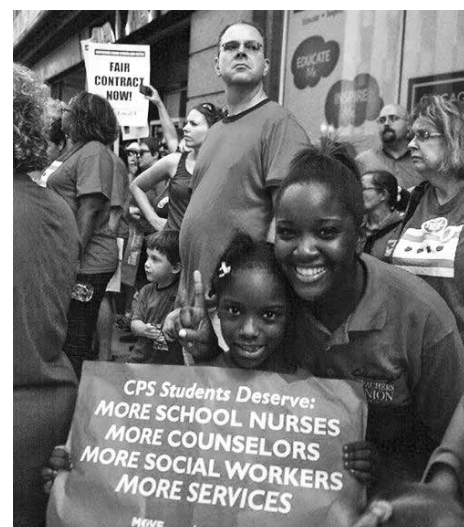


PHOTO: CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION LOCAL 1

Student support for Chicago teachers strike, September 2012.

Workers Day.

Notwithstanding the recent victories of DSA candidates rooted in their communities, these members will be a minority on the 50-seat City Council. To what extent their political influence will be a factor or be compromised during their tenure remains to be seen.

Nevertheless, the electoral victories reflect a growing trend of workers and oppressed who not only hate pro-Wall Street candidates, but are questioning the capitalist system those candidates stand on.

As the global economic crisis deepens, the masses will come to understand and embrace that only revolutionary socialism, not a gentler, kinder capitalism, is the road to take in making their class interests—and their dreams—a reality. □

Philly judge challenges 'liberal' DA over Mumia's appeal rights

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

In December, prison abolitionists and supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal hailed Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker's ruling that granted new appellate rights to the internationally celebrated activist and author. Due to various suspicions about bias on the part of former State Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille, Tucker ruled that Mumia should have the right to appeal his fraudulent conviction for the killing of police officer Daniel Faulkner.

After first revealing that staff had

"discovered" several new boxes of evidence that had previously been concealed from both the courts and Mumia's legal team, Philadelphia District Attorney Krasner's office then challenged Tucker's historic ruling.

Krasner, elected in 2017, was hailed at the time as a reformer. But his adamant attempts to cover up the frameup of the former Black Panther have now alienated him from some of his most progressive supporters. And he has also drawn the ire of Leon Tucker, a twice-elected Black judge.

Because the DA's office appealed Tucker's December decision, it is required

to file a form 1925 with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court providing more detail to back up its appeal. Judge Tucker is then allowed to file his own form 1925 in response. Those most recent court filings in late March reveal an increasingly public rift between Tucker and Krasner about Abu-Jamal's case.

Letters from Castille surfaced during the appeal and showed he was seeking aggressive sentencing for those convicted of police killings. They display "an unconstitutional appearance of bias and would lead a significant minority of the lay community to reasonably question Justice Castille's impartiality," Tucker wrote in his response to Krasner's form 1925 filing. "Justice is being conformable, human, divine, fair, impartial, honest ... no matter what. Not sometimes or most of the time, but at all times, be it at trial or on appeal. [Mumia's] appeal has established by a preponderance of the evidence that ... there was an unconstitutional potential for bias. [His] claims should be reviewed in the interest of justice."

Krasner maintains the same position that the DA's office has proffered for decades about Abu-Jamal's case. His reasoning, in short: If we acknowledge any prosecutorial and judicial misconduct in Mumia's case, many other wrongful convictions of lesser known cases will be challenged, too.

Abu-Jamal, who turns 65 this month, has been in prison since 1981.

Noelle Hanrahan, who broadcasts Mumia's words worldwide through Prison

Radio, recently wrote, "While Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner might not feel a sense of urgency, we need to. Mumia Abu-Jamal

will be 65 years old in a few weeks. His eyesight has been severely compromised, making it hard for him to read, because he is suffering from as yet untreated cataracts and serious glaucoma. He is recovering from life-threatening complications of hepatitis C and diabetic shock caused by a reaction to treatment for debilitating skin rash conditions."

(prisonradio.org)

Mumia Abu-Jamal's supporters held an event in Berkeley, Calif., April 6. Speakers included poet Alice Walker; activist, academic and author Angela Davis; and MOVE Minister of Confrontation Pam Africa, who also represented the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Mumia supporters will march through Philadelphia's Germantown neighborhood on April 27. A forum and book release at Uncle Bobbie's community center will follow the march, marking the publication of the next volume of Mumia's book, "Murder, Inc.," about the long history of U.S. imperialism and colonial oppression. (For more information, see Mobilization4Mumia.com.)

The United States, which Mumia has long referred to as the "prison nation," is in dire need of a robust prison abolitionist movement. The fight for Mumia's freedom is a fight to free all political prisoners. Brick-by-brick, wall-by-wall, we will free Mumia—and free them all. □

Freed MOVE 9 revolutionaries wed



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

April 6 wedding of Mike and Debbie Africa in Philadelphia.

Mike and Debbie Africa, MOVE 9 members unjustly imprisoned in 1978, were finally released in 2018. The MOVE 9 were falsely convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the killing of a white cop during a brutal police assault on their house.

On April 6 Debbie and Mike were married in Philadelphia in front of a packed room of family, friends and political activists. Their love story spanned over four decades!

—Report by Betsey Piette

IN THE ERA OF TRUMPISM

Lessons for the class struggle

Excerpted from a talk by Larry Holmes, First Secretary of Workers World Party, at a forum on March 28 in New York City.

Russia-gate has been going on for two years. The liberal bourgeoisie poured so much into it — CNN, MSNBC, Rachel Maddow. They say the same things every day. A section of the bourgeoisie thought this was the way to take down Trump.

The FBI guy, Mueller, gave his report to the attorney general. And now the liberals are fighting to see the whole thing, and they want us to get behind them. Not that some of us might not be curious to see it, but really? That's their program for the workers?

It's a continuation of the 2016 elections politically. A wing of the ruling class is still in denial. They're not accepting the reason Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Democratic Party didn't win is because they didn't engage the workers and the oppressed. Essentially they threw the working class under the bus. That is why they lost, more than Russia or anything else, although there was a lot of voter suppression, not only in the South but all over the country, especially against Black and Brown people.

It is a crisis of bourgeois liberalism. What should we learn from this in terms of the class struggle? Bourgeois liberalism is a mask to hide reactionary capitalism: to pretend there's a distinction at the end of the day between liberalism and reactionary capitalism. More and more people are waking up to the reality that there's no difference. I think in many ways the working class is well ahead of the progressive movement, certainly ahead of some of these TV talking heads who give you the impression that "We're defending democracy, capitalism is decent, all this is at stake because of Trump."

Trump is essentially the face of capitalism. He does what they all do, only he does it openly and brazenly. Elements in the liberal bourgeoisie who are trying to restore faith and confidence in the mainstream of the Democratic Party, a capitalist party, say, "We're fighting the good fight, to be a decent capitalist country, to have fair media." Trump and the people in the leadership of his movement are oriented toward fascism. But sometimes they tell the truth. The media does lie!

About Trump's involvement with Russia: On one level he represents some in the bourgeoisie who have come to the conclusion that "Our old alliances, particularly with the European imperialist powers, are not gonna solve our crisis, so we might as well maneuver and do other things." Their real threat is China, more than Russia. What if news came out that Trump has financial dealings in Russia and wants to build a Trump Hotel in Moscow? Well, that's how they function, that's crony capitalism.

But the struggle in the ruling class is really between the globalists and the neocons — those who want to pull away and do something different. And part of that difference is becoming more reactionary against the oppressed — or at least being more blatant about it. The globalists and neoliberals like the Clintons are as much against the oppressed as the rightwing. They just do their dirty work behind the scenes.

Workers have other concerns

The workers don't seem to care about this. I'm sure a lot of progressive people were hoping that the Mueller report would bring Trump down and be the first

step toward impeachment. They're probably a little down now, including some who honestly oppose Trump as reactionary. But according to the bourgeois polls, the masses are not interested in this. It's like 20th on their list.

The first things are health care, jobs and job security, and economic rights. Then come things like misogyny and racism and immigrant rights. Russia-gate is way down on the list.

There'll be more investigations about Trump's financial dealings: He didn't pay his taxes, he cheats, he lies, he's a swindler. The workers already know this! They're instinctively smarter than the ruling class. It's a big problem that some parts of the working class — who are desperate and have been told they're losing their country and their white privileges — forget everything reactionary and anti-working class about Trump and go along with him. But the working class is not shocked by the fact that a billionaire is a liar and a cheat and a robber baron, because they all are.

The masses are becoming more and more radicalized by conditions of economic inequality that expose the system. The last thing you want to do is try to maintain this phony-baloney mask of capitalism being so great and let's just bring it back to being decent and civil. What crap!

Instead of the prime-time attention paid to the Mueller report, what about the opioid epidemic, the increased rate of suicides directly connected to deindustrialization and to globalization? What about the loss of decent, union-paying jobs that are destroying cities? I haven't seen any hearings on that, nothing live and prime time. What about how the working class is being pauperized and the difference in the conditions and circumstances under which they live compared to a generation or two ago? That would be a great hearing and tell a lot more truth than saying, "The official unemployment rate is now 4 percent."

Students are going on strike around the world because they want a planet when they grow up. Some in that movement are anti-capitalist, and one of their slogans is "System change, not climate change."

Demagoguery aimed at working class

Trump is about the working class. Here and in the other major industrialized, high-tech imperialist countries, the workers are losing what they had when the capitalist system was stable by comparison to what's happening now.

The oppressed are still far worse off. But what we used to call the aristocracy of labor is being pummeled. Members of the ruling class fear it. And they start thinking about introducing, either wholesale or in small doses, fascist measures.

Can you talk about the threat of fascism here? It's not like during the Great Depression, when there was 25 percent unemployment and big soup lines. A lot of the poverty is hidden. It's not like Europe, when they dealt with the workers violently in Germany, Italy and Spain.

But the ruling class is fearful of even the prospect of the workers rising up. And some of them will do whatever they can to sabotage that possibility. That is what Donald Trump is about. Sabotaging the inevitability of the workers rising up, coming into class consciousness, not just on a local but on an international basis.

Trumpism is desperately trying to hold that back. America first. Build the wall. Immigrants are our enemies.

The global economy, including the U.S.

economy, is slowing down and on its way to another crisis like 2008 or worse. The fascist threat still exists.

Brexit's about dividing the working class, too. For the imperialists, it's kind of shooting yourself in the nose to spite your face. There's such desperation to change the subject for the working class, so that it won't turn against capitalism.

Trump's got an idea. His forces want to privatize health care. If there's a struggle, it could be dominated by the bourgeoisie. I'm not sure that'll be helpful. But people are very fearful of losing whatever coverage they've got. There's a big attack on the remnants of the Affordable Care Act, people with pre-existing conditions and so on. Behind all the crazy vitriol is defunding of social services.

Workers fight defunding of education

Education workers are rebelling in large part because of this, which is incredible because it's not just their wages and working conditions. They're striking against the defunding of public education. That's why it's so popular. Comrades in the labor caucus discussed it a few nights ago and should bring it to the rest of the party.

The people around Trump are looking at the South, with its historically low wages, union busting, lower social services, deeper, entrenched poverty, more racism, more white supremacy. The terrible dirty deal made with the white workers and a big section of the white masses in the South was: "You can hold onto your white privilege if you tolerate low wages and no unions and substandard living conditions by comparison to the North."

Trump wants to make that countrywide. They won't get away with it. Conditions are going to push people to rebel.

We have got to turn the party toward the working class in a much bigger way. This does not mean giving up our struggle in solidarity with Venezuela. That's a class issue; it's not just an anti-war issue. But more and more, we have to become better at drawing the connections so that



PHOTO: PEOPLES VIDEO NETWORK

Larry Holmes speaking in New York City, March 28.

the anti-war movement is the working class and the oppressed who will fight to support the Bolivarian Revolution and defend it against imperialism.

It was Lenin's dream that there would be no need for a separate anti-war movement, that the anti-war movement would be indistinguishable from the workers. The Russian Revolution was a great example of this. Soldiers and sailors demoralized by the war were open to revolutionary agitation. The old-school communist orientation was that if there's a war, you bring it home.

Very soon, Workers' Solidarity Days will be established on a monthly basis. We're going to see how far it can go, not just in this country but around the world. It'll help us support the gig workers. It'll help us support the education workers. It'll help us support immigrants. The theme of Workers' Solidarity Day is "No walls in the workers' struggle."

Many workers can't organize because they're atomized. With globalization and new technology, a lot of workers in small places feel all alone. Many of them, even if they are radical, don't see themselves as part of the working class. They feel isolated and insignificant. We need a campaign that tells people you're part of the working class, whether you work in a shop with three people, whether you have a gig job, whether you can't work because you're disabled, whether you have six or seven jobs a year or two or three at once to pay off student debts.

Trump No, Workers' Solidarity Yes.

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COMMENTARY

You are the working class

By Makasi Motema

The ruling class has offered up a big lie, and we have swallowed it whole. We have been told that we are not “working class,” that we are not workers at all. Instead, we are part of a nebulous “middle class” — college educated, working toward upward mobility, go-getters. We have a side hustle, but we’re not working class.

To be working class is to be poor, rural, uneducated and struggling, to be a victim of the predations of the Wall Street vampire aristocracy. Rather than a collective class — a whole, close-knit society — we are a collection of individuals pursuing our own rational self-interests. And therein lies the genius of the big lie.

If we are not a class, then we have no collective class interest. Without that, we cannot engage in class struggle against those who — every day — mine the wealth of our communities to swell their overflowing bank accounts.

The big lie is meant to mask the economic reality of our society; there are those who own and those who do not — the capitalists and the workers. It does not matter where you work or even how much you make.

If you do not own the fast food restaurant where you serve customers or the hospital where you treat patients, you are a worker. Whether you drive someone else’s tractor trailer or write someone else’s software, you are part of the working class. Karl Marx defined these — the restaurants, hospitals, shipping equipment, intellectual property, factories, oil

rigs, etc. — as the “means of production.” The working class is made up of those who work every day to produce society’s wealth, but do not own the means of production.

Myth of the middle class

And so we can see the lie of the “middle-class” category. High school teachers who live on food stamps consider themselves middle class. They see their college degree as a marker that sets them apart from the person who delivers food. But the reality is they are united in class interests as workers, and if the bonds of solidarity are properly built, they should be united in class struggle.

The concept of a middle class provides a psychological security blanket. In an era of increasing economic instability, workers in every field know how easily they may fall onto hard times after being laid off or suffering an unexpected medical expense.

There’s very little that one can do to protect themselves from the ravages of the modern capitalist economy. But thinking of yourself as middle class — as separate and distinct from those who are living paycheck-to-paycheck — allows you to feel protected. The painful irony of this is that many people who live paycheck-to-paycheck consider themselves middle class. The capitalist class loves this, as they love all divisions between workers.

The truth is that the false split between the middle class on one side, and the working class and poor on the other, is based more on the type of work one does

than on how much a person makes. And yet workers with desk jobs or jobs that require an expensive education are becoming more and more exploited.

Earlier this year The Verge reported on the dismal experience at Facebook contracting firms. These firms hire workers for low hourly rates with virtually no benefits. These tech workers — whose job is to filter out explicit content, particularly racist and violent content — suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, drug use and suicidal ideation after being subjected to hours of the most horrible videos on the internet. They’re used until they’re used up and then tossed away. (tinyurl.com/y3ou2sk6)

At Amazon shipping facilities, an employee’s every movement is tracked and timed by their package-scanning guns. When they need to use the bathroom, their scanner tells them which facility is closest. If they use one that is farther away, they’ll have to explain their “inefficiency” to a manager. These kinds of daily humiliations break down workers, and turnover is incredibly high. But none of that matters to the capitalists because profits keep going up. What advantage is there in working for the most cutting-edge companies if those companies only come up with ever more sophisticated means of treating



PHOTO: UNITE HERE LOCAL 26

Boston hotel workers strike Marriott, fall 2018.

you like dirt?

The logic behind this capitalist propaganda—the divisions between the high-tech and low-tech worker, the more and less educated—is to destroy working-class solidarity. No matter what prestige you believe your line of work has or does not have, if you are not part of the ownership class, you have more in common with literally any other worker than you do with the average hedge fund manager.

We must challenge the big lie and build working-class solidarity. We must think of ourselves and refer to ourselves as working class. We must build connections between isolated workers in every industry so that we can harness our collective power. In doing so, we can turn back the tide of capitalist exploitation once and for all.

Workers of the world unite! □

Google workers in ‘historic show of solidarity’

By Kathy Durkin

April 8—A “historic coalition” has been established among full-time employees and temporary workers, vendors and contractors (TVCs) employed by the global tech giant Google. As of April 2, some 928 Google workers had signed a letter issued on March 27 denouncing the corporation’s arbitrary early terminations of some temporary contract employees. All sectors of the corporation’s workforce are protesting mistreatment of these workers.

On International Women’s Day, March 8, Google managers had suddenly informed 34 members of the 43-person Personality Team that their contracts would be terminated by either April 5 or, for a few, July 31. This international group of workers creates the digital voices of Google Assistant in 50 languages. Their contracts were unfairly nullified.

Then on April 2, Google bosses sent an internal email about some benefits for temporary workers, vendors and contractors working in the U.S. — stating that companies which contract workers to provide services must provide paid sick time and parental leave as well as health care and a \$15-an-hour wage. Although these measures show progress, most don’t go into effect immediately, so they won’t help the now-terminated workers.

But these changes in policy followed months of pressure from workers. That full-time employees are supporting the “gig” workers is a “historic show of solidarity,” say Google workers. They are “inspired by the thousands of full-time employees and TVC’s who came together to make this happen. It proves that when we overcome what divides us, even a company as big as Google can be moved!”

However, they caution, “[T]here’s still a long way to go. For us on the Personality



U.S. Google workers join global walkout Nov. 1, 2018.

Team, we are still waiting to hear back about whether the company will respect our current contracts or convert us to full-time positions.” (tinyurl.com/yxh-4hnf5)

Human toll of contract work

These workers say they were assured at prior meetings that their contracts would be respected if budget cuts were enacted. Despite this “promise,” layoffs began in Seoul, continued in London and then occurred in New York and California. Personality Team members say that, simultaneously, company bosses told full-time employees not to offer these workers support — when they needed it the most! — or to thank them for their work, and to distance themselves or the company would be “legally liable.”

When the letter circulated internally on March 27, an executive caved in and allowed employees to show sympathy to their fired co-workers!

The Personality Team explains, “For years, Google has boasted of its ability to scale up and down very quickly” and “navigate changes with agility.” However, “a whole team thrown into financial uncertainty is what scaling down quickly looks like for Google workers.

This is the human cost of agility.”

The company employs 122,000 temporary workers, vendors and contract employees, who comprise a majority of the workforce—54 percent. Their contracts range from two to six months and are regularly renewed. Their term limit is two years. These employees lack paid holidays, health care and other benefits. Workers call this management’s “two-tier system.”

It’s all about super-profits. Google, a \$795-billion global behemoth, reaps mega-profits by deliberately cutting labor costs by hiring contract and temporary workers, paying them less and giving them far fewer benefits than full-time workers. But now these workers are insisting the corporation respect their agreements, rights, dignity—and humanity. They are demanding full-time jobs and full benefits. They are not aiming their fire at full-timers, but assert this is a fight of all Google workers against their employer.

Class solidarity and activism grow

This is the most recent protest of company actions by Google employees. Last year, when tech workers publicly objected to the use of their work to help the U.S. military conduct the “business of war,” the company responded to the pressure and cancelled the Pentagon deals.

Inspired by the Marriott Hotel workers’ strike and a one-day walkout by McDonald’s employees opposing workplace sexual abuse, 20,000 Google employees walked out of their workplaces on four continents on Nov. 1. This coordinated global job action, which was mostly organized online, won some protections against

sexual harassment and the dropping of forced arbitration in those cases.

But company bosses would not budge on systemic discrimination, refusing to even address it. When issuing the call for the Nov. 1 walkout, organizers strongly criticized rampant racism and gender discrimination in both pay rates and job assignments. They demanded equal treatment for temporary workers, vendors and contractors, many of them women, Black, Latinx and immigrants. This was an important show of class solidarity by higher-paid tech workers with the most oppressed workers and an acknowledgement that they were all fighting the same boss.

In December, some temporary workers, vendors and contractors sent a letter to CEO Sundar Pichai “accusing the tech company of creating a segregated workforce,” and saying, “[B]ecause contract workers are more likely to be people of color ... the dynamic reinforces ‘a system of institutional racism, sexism and discrimination.’” (Vox.com, April 4)

While Google bosses publicly appear to support the workers, behind the scenes they are trying to squelch organizing and political protest. In 2017 and 2018, including three weeks after the Nov. 1 global walkout, the communications behemoth asked the National Labor Relations Board to scrap a 2014 legal protection that allowed workers to organize about job issues using workplace email systems.

That sneak attack on workers’ rights comes at a time of increasing militancy, class consciousness, solidarity and activism within the Google workforce. Awareness is growing that collective action is the only way to make gains. There is even talk of unions. □

Opposing demonstrations point to a shaky stalemate

Guaidó's 'Operation Freedom' flops

By Marco Teruggi
Caracas

Published in pagina12.com.ar on April 7. Translated by Michael Otto.

Caracas has been transformed into a stage for street protests for the last few months. Each Saturday is the day set for the two disputing political forces here — the Chavistas and the right wing — to measure their strengths by photograph.

Under a blue Caribbean sky, April 6 was no exception. The day was full of questions. The main one: What would be the shape of what the opposition has called the start of "Operation Freedom"?

Among other things, the day was marked among the ranks of the right wing by statements of U.S. envoy to Venezuela Elliott Abrams. He declared on April 4 that the option of a U.S. military intervention in Venezuela was "premature."

His announcement dropped like a ton of bricks on that sector of the opposition's social base who believe that only a U.S.-led foreign military intervention can overthrow Nicolás Maduro. The leaders who push this scenario, such as María Corina Machado, had to bear the weight of Abrams' words and rationalize their misfortune after he put the brakes on interventionist intentions.

Answers to questions about "Operation Freedom" came from what failed to happen. The opposition held protests in several parts of the country, a centralized mobilization in the east of Caracas (on the opposite side of the city from the Miraflores Palace). There Juan Guaidó gave a speech, accompanied by leaders of other right-wing parties; afterwards, a winding down and the end.

Guaidó stressed several points: First, the need [for the right wing] to maintain and deepen the levels of organization in the so-called "Freedom Commands." Second, regarding Abrams' words, "Our allies told us that it's premature. They didn't say that it cannot be done, but



April 6, Venezuelans demonstrate in "march for peace and sovereignty."

only that it is premature, because as we have said ... we have a plan to build up our strength. Are we going to wait or are we going to remain active in the streets of Venezuela?"

Guaidó then referred to the work plan for the next three days: A meeting with public sector workers is scheduled for April 8; he called for a new protest on April 10, without providing any details; and finally, he announced that a "world meeting" will be held to show support and build international alliances.

If "Operation Freedom" was to be an escalation of the forms of confrontation, it flopped. At least for now.

President Maduro speaks

The Chavistas, meanwhile, carried out a mobilization at the Miraflores Palace where President Nicolás Maduro gave a speech centered on several key themes. First, he gave an explanation of all the various forms of assault against the electrical system as part of the right wing plan for sabotage.

Maduro called for deepening popular organization, starting with the need to build joint responses to the current difficulties and to be ready for new sabotage attacks that may be coming. "Their bet was that the people would not be able to endure this war. ... I call on you to improve the capacity of both family and

community to store water, in order to be prepared in case we have to face a new round of attacks against the electric and water systems ... to improve the people's organization, to be united within each community, to form peace teams in the neighborhoods, to be on the alert for groups of mercenaries and perpetrators of violence, to move forward in our capacity to resist under any circumstance."

He ended his speech with a call for dialogue: "I call on the president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador; the president of Uruguay, Dr. Tabaré Vázquez; the president of Bolivia, Evo Morales; the prime ministers and presidents of the Caribbean, of Caricom, to resume the initiative for national dialogue that started two months ago in Montevideo. Venezuela is asking for help and support for a great dialogue of understanding between Venezuelans. I reaffirm with all my heart [the intention to seek] a path of dialogue, negotiation, agreement."

Maduro has emphasized the question of dialogue since the beginning of this phase of the attempted regime change raised by Guaidó's self-proclamation [as "interim president" Jan. 23] and his unconditional support from the United States. The responses to that call [from the U.S. and the Venezuelan right wing] have been negative in the public arena so far. Opposition leaders assert that

Maduro's exit is an absolute precondition for dialogue.

Chavistas stronger

Yesterday anyone could see that the new image of the shaky stalemate showed greater strength for the Chavistas. The right wing has announced no actions that can alter the current relationship between the two sides or that could pose a scenario of greater threats in terms of a possible coup.

The rightists have made no gains on their own. All have come from U.S. power, such as the attacks on the economy, the last of which was announced April 5 with Washington's decision to impose sanctions on two companies and 34 ships that sell Venezuelan oil to Cuba. These measures are as illegal as they have always been, but the U.S. faces no punishment for committing the crimes.

Venezuela is ending a new week of geopolitical war and day-by-day battles. The U.S. will convene another meeting of the United Nations Security Council April 10 to put the issue of Venezuela up for discussion a third time. The everyday life of millions of people will continue to be shaped by the succeeding confrontations, through the people's own participation, direct or indirect, and to meet their own needs for goods and services, an arena where Caracas has gained greater levels of stability. □



PHOTOS: TELESUR

White House escalates criminal war on migrants



Migrant families in El Paso

PHOTO: CEDAR ATTANASIO

Continued from page 1

intervention that has institutionalized the violence that Trump loves to blame on other countries.

In the 1980s, for example, Washington orchestrated a bloody war against the Indigenous people of Guatemala, who were boldly organizing and included a guerrilla organization. The Pentagon, through their lackeys, carried out a genocidal war against the Mayan and Indigenous population. At least 600 villages were destroyed, more than 200,000 people were killed, thousands were disappeared, and millions were displaced. (PBS.org)

Combat Genocide website states: "Six hundred and twenty-six massacres by the Guatemalan army have been documented." On July 18, 1982, President Ríos Montt was quoted in the New York Times as saying to the Mayan public, "If you are with us, we will feed you;

if not, we will kill you."

And in Honduras the State Department — overseen by Democratic Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — orchestrated a coup in 2009 against the progressive President Mel Zelaya, ushering in a right-wing, pro-imperialist government. Journalists, women, trade unionists and anyone fighting for justice are threatened or killed. People's heroes such as Berta Cáceres, an Indigenous Lenca leader fighting the destruction of the Earth, and Margarita Murillo, a peasant leader unabashedly organizing workers, were murdered by the Honduran state.

Clearly, if Washington wants to stop forced migration it should get out of the Northern Triangle altogether and pay the reparations it owes.

Migrant caravans continue, concentration camps are the "welcome"

Imperialist conditions will continue to force workers out of their homelands.

Once they arrive at the Southern border, Central Americans, despite "legally" being able to apply for asylum under current U.S. immigration laws, are forced to wait in deplorable conditions inside temporary camps on the Mexican side of the border.

If they are allowed in, they are rounded up and put in what amount to concentration camps. In El Paso, thousands were forced to live under a bridge, fenced in with barbed wire.

Children continue to be taken from their parents, who are often deported while their children remain in the U.S. This is the kind of atrocity the U.S. government

carried out against Native American children in an earlier period.

Another example of white supremacist — and misogynist — policy is given in a Harper's Bazaar article published April 2. This must-read article, written by Jennifer Wright, is titled: "The U.S. Is Tracking Migrant Girls' Periods to Stop Them from Getting Abortions." This is some really weird "Handmaid's Tale" stuff. Wright points out: "We still don't know where 1,488 children are ... but by God, they can keep track of teenage migrant girls' menstrual cycles."

Indeed.

At all levels the war on migrants continues.

But in every war, repression breeds resistance. Migrants and workers in the U.S. will rise again to end the war against the working class. On May Day, the demand for "No Wars, No Walls in the Workers' Struggle" will surely resonate around the world. □



PHOTO: TAMIR KALIFA

Venezuela combats sanctions with solidarity

Continued from page 1

response to the attack, declared that despite Washington's efforts to disable Venezuela's economy, "No act of imperialism will stop the cooperation between free and independent countries."

Arreaza made his comments during a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Syria itself has survived 16 years of draconian U.S. sanctions and eight years of attempts to violently overturn the government by tens of thousands of mercenaries paid and equipped by Washington. The U.S. Air Force has been bombing Syria since 2014. But the criminal efforts to overturn the elected Syrian government and establish a U.S.-appointed puppet government have failed.

Syria's organized resistance, plus material aid and international solidarity, have enabled the government to survive. It is this kind of international solidarity and assistance from other targeted countries that Washington is trying to break down with its new round of sanctions on Venezuela.

U.S. tries to starve Venezuela

The new sanctions are yet another act of war, following an international freeze on Venezuela's assets, ongoing earlier sanctions, an embargo imposed in late January on all Venezuela's oil sales and sanctions against Minerven, the nationalized mining sector.

In addition to oil, Venezuela has bauxite, coal, iron and the world's largest gold reserves. U.S. sanctions have totally cut off Venezuela's sales of oil, gold and other minerals on the world market.

Venezuela has depended on its oil revenue to cover essential imports, including medicine and medical equipment, food and other basic necessities.

By recognizing a parallel government instead of the real one in Caracas, Washington and its political allies automatically created a trade embargo on Venezuela in most of the markets for its oil. At the same time, Venezuela has been cut off from most financial systems based on the dollar and/or European currencies, further constricting its ability to pay for imports that it can afford.

Economic sanctions were first imposed in March 2015 by the Obama administration. Obama declared a "national emergency" and claimed Venezuela was an "extraordinary threat" to the United States.

In August 2017 Donald Trump extended Obama's "national emergency" to intensify the sanctions. The economic strangulation has grown worse since then.

Most recently, on March 22, the U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions against three major Venezuelan public banks. BANDES is a bank created to support development projects; Bank of Venezuela and Bicentenario are two major state-owned banks through which the government pays public pensions and benefits.

The U.S. move came in response to the March 21 arrest of Roberto Marrero, chief of staff to self-proclaimed "interim president" Juan Guaidó and a high-ranking figure in Guaidó's right-wing Popular Will party.

Venezuelan Interior Minister Nestor Reverol announced at a press conference that Marrero had led a "terrorist cell" that was planning attacks against public institutions using foreign mercenaries.

"Marrero was the person responsible for organizing these criminal groups," Reverol told reporters, adding that a

number of weapons as well as foreign currency had been seized.

Attack on free medical care

The sanctions are a crime against humanity. They intentionally create a maximum of hardship on the civilian population, especially on the most vulnerable sectors.

Over the past year, Venezuela has graduated 6,381 community doctors. These doctors differ from traditional physicians in their holistic and preventive approach to medicine, similar to the Cuban medical system.

The targeted sanctions have cruelly cut by 80 percent the supply of essential medicines that Venezuela was able to purchase on the world market to provide free medical care for all.

President Nicolás Maduro on March 21 denounced Washington's withholding of \$5 billion intended for the purchase of medicines and raw materials used in production of medicines. U.S. authorities, he said, "have kidnapped U.S. \$5 billion [in] one of the most criminal, brutal, fascist

medical supplies from China, including antibiotics, analgesics and key surgical provisions, arrived on April 1.

On March 29, the president of the International Federation of the Red Cross, Francesco Rocca, announced that the federation will start distributing vital food and medicine to 650,000 people, in coordination with Venezuelan authorities.

In February, the Red Cross, together with the United Nations, refused to participate in U.S. government efforts to send trucks across the Venezuelan-Colombian border, stating that the operation could not be labeled "humanitarian" given its political motives. In particular, the Red Cross protested the use of its own insignia on so-called "aid" trucks operated by the Venezuelan opposition.

Maduro has ridiculed the U.S. "aid," supposedly worth \$20 million, which pales in comparison with the estimated \$30 million per day that the U.S. oil embargo will cost Venezuela this year.

"If Washington wants to help, then lift the sanctions," Maduro has repeatedly

country and impose regime change

"Venezuela is living the first war of unconventional dimensions, with attacks on public services to impose a regime change by the U.S.," he said, referring to cyber sabotage at the Guri Dam's Simon Bolivar hydroelectric power plant, the country's main electricity generator, and to electromagnetic pulse attacks against transmission lines.

He ordered a 30-day recovery period, with implementation of a national plan to ration electricity as rolling blackouts entered their sixth day.

Chief Economist Francisco Rodriguez of U.S.-based Torino Capital has connected the vulnerabilities in Venezuela's electrical grid to the role of previous and new U.S. sanctions.

A priority for Venezuela is safeguarding its water-pumping systems. An electric generator is being installed at the Tuy pumping system, which supplies water to Caracas and nearby states.

Something as essential to life as drinking water has become both a technical challenge and a political struggle. Water pumping systems in Caracas and throughout the country impose a significant demand on the electric grid. As an emergency measure, tanker trucks are transporting water to communities that have had none for extended periods.

On March 30 a large anti-imperialist Chavista demonstration in western Caracas rallied to preserve peace and express solidarity with electricity workers at state-owned CORPOELEC.

After masked anti-government troublemakers barricaded Fuerzas Armadas Avenue in Caracas on March 31 and attacked residents getting water from a truck, a pro-government motorbike collective moved in to disperse them.

The Bolivarian Revolution is establishing new goals and moving forward with all available supplies to improve living conditions, despite the sanctions. Expanding social programs have set new targets, including building 5 million new homes — an increase from the 3 million low-income homes built since 2016. Other goals include the consolidation of 8,000 communes and extension of the pension system to the entire elder population.

Flounders was part of a solidarity delegation that visited Venezuela in March. She thanks TeleSUR and Venezuela Analysis for information in this article.



PHOTO: VENEZUELA ANALYSIS

Maduro visits the Jipana automated medical supply warehouse.

economic measures seen in the economic history of the world."

Speaking from the Jipana automated medical supply warehouse in the state of Miranda, the president urged the Venezuelan pharmaceutical industry to work toward replacing imports with nationally produced goods. Venezuela's medical industry has been heavily dependent on imports, especially of raw materials and active ingredients used in the production of medicines.

The public sector pharmaceutical industry is being revamped to overcome severe shortages. Jipana is the largest of five warehouses built with Chinese assistance that help supply the Barrio Adentro health program of public hospitals, dental clinics and pharmacies to provide comprehensive, publicly funded health care.

Maduro highlighted international support and trade deals to supply Venezuelan hospitals and pharmacies, particularly involving Cuba, China, Russia, Iran, Turkey and Belarus, as well as the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization.

In February over 900 tons of medicine from Cuba, China and Russia arrived at Venezuelan ports.

An additional 65 tons of medicine and

urged.

Sabotage of electric grid

President Maduro has charged that Venezuela is experiencing the first cyberwar in the world — it's directed against its electrical system to destabilize the



For full coverage of the struggle of the Venezuelan people against U.S. imperialist aggression, visit Workers.org

U.S. in search of an imperialist ‘new order’

By Manuel Raposo

Raposo is a Portuguese Marxist and analyst. This article was published March 28 on the website jornammudardevida.info. Translation by Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

On the way to his three years in office, it can no longer be said that Donald Trump is a simple adventurer hoisted to the presidency of the world’s largest imperialist power by a voter craze or a coup at the polls. His path, which has been a bit unreliable, has demonstrated the firm purpose of the U.S. ruling class (or at least a decisive part of it) to impose itself on the rest of the world in a different way than what it had done until now, in an attempt to recover the dominant U.S. position that is now in jeopardy.

The systematic way in which Trump’s government has acted on the international stage, as well as internally, appears anything but erratic if we look — not at the personal way in which he arrives at political decisions — but at the result of those decisions.

On the foreign front

The U.S. has broken the agreement with Iran. This step directly targets the main threat to Israel and indirectly targets Washington’s European competitors, as well as Russia and China. The U.S. is openly betting on Israel and Saudi Arabia, putting an end to the illusion that it would be an arbiter in the Middle East.

The U.S. threatens to leave NATO’s European partners behind. Far from despising NATO, however, Washington seeks to extend the alliance to intervene in Africa (as Obama did, too) and Latin America. It brazenly supports Brexit, with the obvious purpose of dividing and weakening the European Union. The U.S. rulers support the formation of a fascist international in Europe without any great disguise, doing this through the energetic action of the former strategic advisor to the president, Stephen Bannon.

The U.S. revoked multilateral trade agreements in order to impose its unilateral will on yesterday’s partners. It has withdrawn from U.N. bodies and devalues the organization itself (along the lines that began in 2003 with the war against Iraq), so that it does not have to submit, not even formally, to common rules of international law.

It tore up the Paris climate agreement, so that Yankee capitalism would have its hands free for the savage exploitation of resources and make old technologies still profitable.

It is betting on being able to subvert the progressive Central and South American governments. This is not only to make Latin America the U.S. backyard again, as the U.S. rulers have always sought, but also to try to break the legs of the so-called

BRICS [five emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa], thus hitting Russia and China.

The U.S. has certainly lost the war in Syria and seems on the verge of losing control of the Korean issue. But that may be the price that a declining power has to pay if it is able to reinforce itself in its safest strongholds.

Ditto on the domestic front

Donald Trump is also pursuing a persistent policy of strengthening the extreme right, seeking unopposed power and promoting white supremacy in particular. He has attempted to test the resistance of state institutions or of the media or of prevailing moral values. Whenever he finds favorable ground, he imposes his right-wing extremism, as in the case of appointments to the federal Supreme Court; he disregards democratic standards and seizes more authority; he discredits anyone who opposes him in the media; and he defends the most retrograde moral and civil values.

In this process, he appeals in a calculated manner to the neofascist elements in the ruling classes and the population. And, of course, he grants the dominant classes much of what they want: lower taxes, fewer legal limitations, unrestricted access to natural resources, theft of the remaining lands of Indigenous peoples.

‘New order’

At the heart of this vast maneuver is — if we look not only at the figure of Trump but at the whole entourage that supports him and defines his policy — the intention to attack the most powerful international competitors, both economically and in political and institutional terms. It also aims to guide the United States and the world toward a system of social regimes in which collective and individual freedoms are ultimately eroded.

It has become clear that Trump’s USA is seeking to establish a “new international order,” as George W. Bush and his cronies declared in the 2000s. This quest can be perceived if we understand that U.S. imperialism today feels limited in its movements and its ambitions by the web of international relations that it itself promoted following World War II.

The growth of major competitors such as the European Union, Japan and, more recently in particular, China — as well as, on another level, Russia’s re-emergence — has weakened U.S. power, not only economically but also politically. That web, which at first created the



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia says NO to Trump and white supremacy, November 17, 2018.

environment for U.S. hegemony in the Western world, is now perceived by U.S. imperialist capital as a straitjacket.

New allies

Breaking these balances, made unfavorable by historical evolution itself, is then a goal of U.S. imperialism and not a simple product of Trump’s head. We are therefore witnessing a turning point in the strategy of U.S. imperialism, which is being consolidated with Trump, and not a comical interval. And this shift is most evident when one realizes that, in several cases, Trump’s action reflects the affirmation of previous tendencies that were only outlined in the past.

The U.S., of course, needs new allies for this new crusade. Such allies can only be found among the most regressive elements, those willing to embrace the class violence of international capitalism. In Brazil, in Colombia, in Eastern Europe and among the European far-right forces are the natural allies of today’s USA. The U.S. thus tends to become the epicenter of a wave that seeks to subvert what remains of the capitalist democracies (already emptied and therefore vulnerable) of Europe and the rest of the world.

Bankruptcy of the capitalist democracies

This abandonment of democratic precepts by an imperialist power that, at one time, presented itself as the greatest champion of them is further proof of the decadence of world capitalism as a whole. It is not surprising that the spearhead of this “rejection of principles” is precisely its most developed representative.

The capitalist democracies of the last 70 years have been able to survive thanks to the environment of economic prosperity of the post-World War II period. The

ruling classes have realized for the last 30 years that they will not be able to recover the prosperity that will allow them to pay for the well-being of the working class and thus buy social peace. The stagnation and decline into which the capitalist world has irreversibly entered are the death certificate of these democracies. What is left to the ruling classes then is their violence.

Nothing to look forward to

It is not to be expected, therefore, that the ruling class in the United States will want to discard Trump or Trumpism (unless someone less ridiculous presents themselves to accomplish the mission). Nor should we expect that a new individual in the presidency would alter the fundamentals of the course now being taken. The serious hypothesis of a second term of Trump’s mandate (in this case, he will certainly be better advised from the beginning) will represent, on the contrary, the consecration and consolidation of this course.

If, since the second postwar period, the U.S. was already the head of international imperialism, then deployed in the form of a triad, with Japan and the EU — with all that this meant for the peoples of the planet — now the U.S. is concentrating on itself, its goals out in the open. This is the worst that can be expected of an imperialist power. Destroying it is the central task of our time.

Everything to look forward to

In its enterprise for survival, U.S. imperialism is forced to shake the foundations of the order that it itself has established and around which the world has organized itself in recent decades. This means that, through the threats posed to the peoples, an era of disarray of the entire imperialist system is opening up, since it is the backbone of the same system that is disintegrating.

With this, the conditions for a new revolutionary cycle on a world scale are opened.

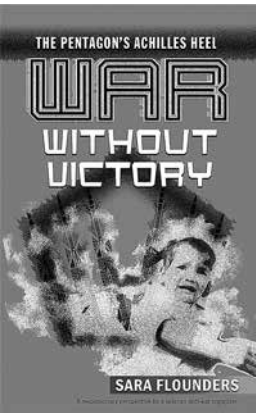
Everything will depend on the response. Above all, there will be the development of the class struggles of the working masses against a bankrupt capitalism, the fight against fascist forces in each country and against all forms of imperialism, the search for independence of the peoples dominated by the imperialist powers — and, particularly, the capacity of the North American workers to overcome, on the internal front, the fascist drift of the ruling class. □

Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

by Leslie Feinberg

This ground-breaking book is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba’s pre- and post-revolutionary history.

Available at major online booksellers.



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

– Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

Available at major online booksellers. | PentagonAchillesHeel.com

Western, colonizing rulers imposed anti-gay laws throughout the world

By Leslie Feinberg

This lightly edited article was originally published in 2007 as Part 112 in Feinberg's "Lavender & Red" series on LGBTQ issues and communism. Feinberg's analysis continues to be timely. It explains why, for instance, in former British protectorate Brunei, "homosexual sex" was recently made punishable with death by stoning. In contrast, in India, once a British colony, a broad coalition of women, trans people, LGBTQ people, Muslims, Dalit people, union members and other workers marched against the country's current right-wing government.

Wherever class-divided societies overturned matrilineal communal groupings, laws began to punish sexualities, gender expressions and bodies that did not fit the new patriarchal family models. The status of women, who had played a pivotal role in preclass societies where the blood line was traced through females, not males, was degraded with the ascendancy of patriarchal class rule.

The ruling class mandated adherence to a father-dominated family unit, rather than the ancient mother-right gens, because it assured the transmission of wealth to male heirs.

As ruling classes grew stronger and expanded their territories by overthrowing neighboring communal societies by force of arms, they violently enforced their legal codes and social order on militarily conquered peoples.

European ruling classes also exported and enforced laws against same-sex love all over the world as they established their colonial empires. European colonialism used Inquisition terror to enforce these laws against same-sex love and sex/gender variance everywhere. This violent legal restructuring of Indigenous societies — which affected economic organization, kinship, family/community organization, sexualities, gender and sex roles — served enslavement, exploitation, oppression and profit.

Indigenous societies under siege were diverse. For instance, the Gay American Indians History Project, first published in the germinal 1988 book "Living the Spirit," lists 135 Indigenous peoples on the North American continent who made room for many more sex/gender roles than the European nations did.

Midnight Sun (Anishnabe) provides a historical materialist view of sex/gender systems in these varied Indigenous societies in one of the book's essays. Entitled "Sex/Gender Systems in Native North America," it explains: "Social, and specifically sexual, life is embedded in the economic organization of society — an organization that gives rise to a variety of cultural forms. The cultural construction of gender and sexuality must be seen in terms of the sexual division of labor, subsistence patterns, social relations, and male-female relations. Within this context, ideology is not an arbitrary, discrete force — rather, it serves to reproduce and perpetuate social forms, behaviors, and individuals suitable to a particular mode of production."

The roots of Abu-Ghraib

European colonialism exported its domestic, counterrevolutionary Inquisition around the world, starting with Portuguese expansionism around 1500 C.E. The early epoch of direct

colonial rule reached its zenith more than three centuries later with British domination of India in 1857.

Queer Heritage reports that in 1551, "Portuguese missionary Father Pero Correia, writing from Brazil, asserts that same-sex eroticism among Indigenous women is quite common, in fact as widespread as in Africa, where he was previously stationed. Native Brazilian women, he observes, carry weapons and even form same-sex marriages."

In 1646, Portuguese colonial overlords expanded their laws against same-sexuality to include females, as well as males. The sentence was being burned alive at the stake.

Max Mejía [a founding member of the Grupo Lambda de Liberación Homosexual in Mexico City in 1978] writes that with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the Western Hemisphere, "An absolutist discourse enveloped homosexuality in the concepts of 'infamous sin,' 'sin against nature,' corruption of the soul and alliance with the devil. They punished the practice without distinctions, among both lay people and clerics."

"Furthermore," Mejía concludes, "the conquerors treated 'sodomy' as a special Indian sin and hunted it down and punished it as such on a grand scale. They orchestrated crusades like the Holy Inquisition, which began burning 'sodomites' at the stake as a special occasion, as in the memorable auto-da-fé of San Lázaro in Mexico City."

During Vasco Núñez de Balboa's colonial expedition across Panama he "saw men dressed like women; Balboa learnt that they were sodomites and threw the king and 40 others to be eaten by his dogs, a fine action of an honorable and Catholic Spaniard." The Spanish colonial authorities in Cuba castrated those they considered "sodomites."

When the Spaniards invaded the Antilles and Louisiana, "[T]hey found men dressed as women who were respected by their societies. Thinking they were hermaphrodites, or homosexuals, they slew them."

Wealthy Dutch merchants imposed pre-Napoleonic Roman-Dutch common law, which criminalized "sodomy" and "unnatural sex offenses," from Indonesia to South Africa. The colonial legislation that the Dutch merchants brought with them to the Cape of Africa in the 17th century still forms the basis of laws in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

Sun never set on British anti-sodomy laws

The British imposed on the people of Ireland a 1634 law that made same-sex relations between males punishable by death. Later, the 1885 British Labouchère Amendment was the law under which feminine homosexual writer Oscar Wilde was sentenced to hard labor.

Laws criminalizing same-sex relations in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei all have the same name — "Article



In 20 Indian states a broad coalition marches to defend women, LGBTQ people, Muslims, Dalit people and workers against the right-wing government.

PHOTO:TELESUR

377" — because the same colonial power wrote the law: Britain. The colonial-drafted legislation is misleadingly named the "Indian Penal Code." Hindu law had not punished consensual sexual relations.

Historian Douglas Sanders explains: "Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code of 1860 made 'carnal intercourse against the order of nature' an offence."

The British imposed this legislation in the Straits Settlements of Singapore, Penang and Malacca in 1872. By the late 19th century, Britain also enforced the law in Hong Kong, Fiji, the Malay Peninsula and Burma.

Korea Herald journalist Benjamin Jhoty quotes Utopia-asia.com, which offers information about the same-sexuality scene in Asia: "Asia has rich and unique homosexual traditions almost everywhere you look. The true enemy of homosexuality in places like Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are antique colonial laws and homophobic non-Asian religions that bully citizens with skewed views of the natural world."

Historian Sanders notes, "This provision, or something very close to it, is presently in force in all former British colonies in Asia with the exception of Hong Kong." He adds: "Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Papua New Guinea have the key wording from 377, but different article numbers. Parallel wording appears in the criminal laws of many of the former colonies in Africa."

Historians Kevin Botha and Edwin Cameron write, "The systems of law the colonial powers (both Dutch and later English) introduced significantly influenced the customary law of the African communities they subjugated."

The British "Queensland Penal Code" of 1899 was "adopted in Northern Nigeria in the 19th century, later becoming the basis for a uniform federal code in Nigeria in 1916. The Indian Penal Code had been used in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, but those laws were later replaced by drafts based on the Nigerian criminal code. Sudan used the Indian Penal Code. In 1960 Northern Nigeria enacted a separate criminal code, based on the Sudan code."

Similar laws were forced on "British" Honduras (today Belize), Jamaica, Anguilla, the "British" Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Bahamas,

Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and St. Lucia.

The British also imposed anti-"sodomy" legislation on Canada in 1892, New Zealand a year later, and Australia in 1788 and again in 1899.

Capital offense in colonized North America

Civil liberties historian Tom Head explained: "As Spanish, French, Dutch and English colonists began to settle North America during the 17th century, they brought with them a catalog of highly specific laws proscribing various sexual acts. The purpose of all these laws was to enforce monogamous, same-race, heterosexual marriage as a mandatory institution, and to punish any and all sexual activity outside of that institution."

The earliest anti-"sodomy" legislation was passed in the Virginia Colony on May 24, 1610, and soon spread to all the colonies, and later to all U.S. states.

Historian John D'Emilio wrote: "In every colony, sodomy was a capital offense — at least five men were executed during this era — and other homosexual acts, from 'sodomitical practices' to lewdness between women, were punished with whippings and fines."

"After the American Revolution, although the states reformed their criminal codes in the spirit of Enlightenment philosophy, revision of the sodomy statutes and the 'crimes against nature' laws came very slowly; North Carolina did not eliminate capital punishment [for sodomy] until 1869."

"Thomas Jefferson proposed that death be replaced by castration. Moreover, as time went on, legislatures and courts broadened the statutes to include a wider range of acts, such as oral sex between men and sexual activity between women," D'Emilio concluded.

In the U.S., anti-homosexual and anti-miscegenation laws were also a weapon of state repression against African and Indigenous peoples, who became internal colonies. In 1898, U.S. imperialists also brutally enforced these laws in countries they subjugated militarily.

After seizing Puerto Rico as a colony in 1898, the U.S. imposed a law against same-sex love on the island that was a carbon copy of the California state legal language. And in 1938, in a Cuba under U.S. domination, an [anti-gay] "Public Ostentation Law" was enacted. □

Highlander arson:
‘Steadfast in our solidarity’

An arsonist set a fire on the night of March 29 that destroyed the main office building and decades of irreplaceable activist archives at the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, Tenn.

The Highlander has been a historic school for justice and liberation movements. Since the early 1930s, it has supported and trained leaders for every crucial progressive struggle in the U.S. South.

The Highlander’s role in sparking motion against bigotry and repression — in the South and elsewhere in the U.S. — cannot be overstated.

The arson was undoubtedly an attack by white supremacists. A racist symbol connected to the “white power” movement was spray-painted next to the main building. This symbol, associated with European fascism, was drawn on one of the guns used to massacre 50 Muslims in New Zealand mosques last month. It was also painted, along with swastikas, on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville campus in November.

Originally named the Highlander Folk School, this activist resource was founded in 1932 by Myles Horton and others near Chattanooga in one of the poorest counties in the U.S. At first it focused on organizing workers during the Depression. By the late 1930s, Highlander, in conjunction with the then left- and communist-led CIO, was training union organizers in 11 Southern states. The school saw fighting racism, including in the labor movement, as essential to building worker unity in the South.

As labor-related advances attempted by Highlander organizers were consistently blocked by the white-segregationist powers-that-be, the school concentrated on building a broad social movement by supporting the Black Freedom Movement. In the 1950s and 1960s, workshops and training sessions at Highlander were part of building key Civil Rights initiatives, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Citizenship Schools and the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

After years of red-baiting, Ku Klux Klan threats and government investigations, the state of Tennessee in 1961 revoked the school’s charter and seized its land and buildings. The next day it reopened as Highlander Research and Education Center, at first based in Knoxville and then in its current location.

From the 1960s through the 1990s, Highlander focused on Appalachian people’s struggles, including worker health and safety linked to anti-strip-mining, anti-pollution initiatives. It connected these to emerging anti-globalization movements and economic human rights.

With the turn of the century, Highlander continued to grow, with specific support for multiracial, multinational, intergenerational movements for social and economic justice in the South.

The arson attack points to the center’s role in fighting white supremacy. The center’s April 2 statement on the fire analyzes the 21st century rise in global “white-power” organizing, emboldened by “the politics of the [U.S.] government’s executive branch.” It notes the recent targeting in the U.S. of Muslims, Jews, immigrants, women and Black people — the majority of whom live in the South.

The statement ends: “Even in the face of these realities, the Southern freedom movement is alive and well. Highlander is a sacred place built by communities of the most affected people, and it has become a home to those who believe in freedom and collective liberation here in the South, across the U.S and around the world.”

A member of the Highlander Board of Directors, Loan T., emphasized in a communication to Workers World: “An attack on the Highlander Center is not an attack on Highlander alone. It is an attack on the decades, if not centuries, of Southern organizing that has exposed the repressive ruling forces that pit white workers and oppressed peoples of many nationalities against each other. We know that the only way to beat back these attacks is to remain steadfast in our solidarity; to defend the tradition of creating terrain where Southerners, where Black workers and white workers, where all working-class people can unite and build power against their real enemies.”

Loan T. concluded: “To this tradition and this struggle Highlander has been faithful and essential in the South. No matter what, we will continue to organize to resist white supremacy, patriarchy and capitalism.”

An outpouring of solidarity for the center has underlined its importance to Southern and U.S. organizing. Updates can be found at facebook.com/highlander.center/

comunista revolucionario".

En uno de los primeros folletos, “La liberación de personas transgénero: un movimiento cuyo tiempo ha llegado”, Feinberg escribió: “Al igual que el racismo y todas las formas de prejuicio, el fanatismo contra las personas transgénero es un carcinógeno mortal. [Como trabajadores] nos enfrentamos entre nosotros para evitar que nos veamos como aliados. Se pueden forjar auténticos lazos de solidaridad entre personas que respetan las diferencias entre sí y están dispuestas a luchar juntas contra su enemigo. Somos la clase que hace el trabajo del mundo y podemos revolucionarlo. Podemos ganar la verdadera liberación”. □

Fossil fuel projects grow
along Columbia River

By Joshua Hanks
Portland, Ore.

The Columbia River, stretching from Alberta, Canada, and serving as a large portion of the border between Oregon and Washington before emptying into the Pacific, forms a unique ecosystem that has been shared by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years.

Called “Wimahl” by the Chinook people at the lower part of the river, “Nch’i-Wàna” by the Sahaptin-speaking people along the middle of the river, and “Swah’netk’qhu” by the Sinixt people in the river’s upper origins in present-day Canada, each name translates as “large river.” The river has served as a way of life and a natural treasure. Salmon and sturgeon inhabit the river, forming a central part of both the river’s ecosystem and the cultures of the peoples living along it.

But for decades the river’s ecosystem has been under attack, from hydroelectric plants that obstruct migratory fish, to the Hanford nuclear site in Benton County, Wash., which was used to enrich plutonium for the U.S. nuclear weapons program. The fissile material used in the bomb dropped over Nagasaki, Japan, was produced there, and today Hanford is an environmental Superfund site that also stores spent nuclear fuel.

Over the past several years, another threat to the river has emerged: increased fossil fuel infrastructure in the form of oil refining and storage facilities, freight trains carrying crude oil and petrochemicals, and pipelines. In 2008 the Oregon government invested \$36 million in “green energy” by subsidizing the construction of a privately owned biofuel plant at the Port of Columbia County. But a year later the plant’s owner went bankrupt. In 2012 it was purchased by Global Partners, which announced it would instead be using the facility’s tanks for crude oil from Alberta’s tar sands mines.

Originally approved to handle 50 million gallons of oil a year, the company quickly began shipping as much as 297 million gallons. In 2012 the state fined Global Partners \$102,292 — a small sum considering the enormous profits made from illegally transporting an extra 250 million gallons in less than a year. In August of that year, the state reversed course, giving the company approval to handle 1.8 billion gallons of oil a year at the facility, despite having violated state regulations and paying a fine only months earlier. (streetroots.com, March 22)

In 2014 Zenith Energy applied for building permits at its Portland facility to expand its oil train operations, increasing the number of trains in the state’s largest city.

In 2016, unknown to the mayor of nearby Rainier, the Port of Columbia County facility began handling ethanol, a gasoline additive, transporting it on mile-long trains from the port through the surrounding towns and cities. (tdn.com, Sept. 3, 2016) On June 3, 2016, an oil train traveling in the Columbia River Gorge near Mosier from the oil fields of North Dakota derailed and exploded. The city was evacuated as 42,000 gallons of oil were spilled, some ending up in the river.

Trains started running again on that section of track while damaged



CREDIT: COOS COMMONS

Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon.

cars, still containing oil, lay where they had derailed next to it. The National Transportation Safety Board declined to investigate the explosion due to the lack of fatalities. (opb.org, July 7, 2016)

Today, fossil fuel infrastructure continues to ramp up. The city of Portland banned new fossil fuel infrastructure within its jurisdiction, but the regional trend seems to be heading in the opposite direction. A proposed plant in Kalama, Wash., may become the world’s largest fracked-gas-to-methanol plant, becoming one of Washington state’s largest single sources of emissions. In December the Port of Columbia County hastily approved handling of heavier crude oil, which could sink to the bottom of the river in the event of a spill. (streetroots.com, Dec. 21)

In southern Oregon and along the coast, a proposed pipeline and liquid natural gas terminal to transport fracked gas would require dredging 6 million cubic yards from the Coos Bay estuary. It is predicted to become one of the state’s largest greenhouse gas emitters, reversing the limited progress Oregon has made to reduce emissions and protect the environment. (columbiariverkeeper.com, June 12)

Left to its own devices, capitalism will continue to expand oil infrastructure. It will continue to damage ecosystems and aggravate climate change, with no shift in direction that isn’t dictated by the profit motive.

From a scientific perspective, it is clear that the fossil fuel industry must end, due to its contribution to climate change. If carbon emissions aren’t rapidly brought down, the planet faces dire consequences. Yet those who control and profit from the oil industry would rather chase short-term, temporary profits at the expense of the planet’s survival.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels and toward renewable, carbon-free sources of energy, including safer, next-generation nuclear power, is not something that can be left to the free market. Capitalism doesn’t invest in things that necessarily benefit the majority. Owners of industry invest in what is profitable in the short-term. Meeting people’s needs — or even the very survival of our species — is secondary to the profit motive, at best mere afterthoughts to the process of capital accumulation.

What is needed isn’t always what is profitable. A massive, transformational reorganization of both the energy sector and social relations is needed to tackle climate change and transition from fossil fuels.

This isn’t something that capitalist states can achieve. Only a state built around the needs of the working-class majority can effectively plan and coordinate societywide transformations that benefit everyone, not just a few profit-seekers. □

Vidas trans, vidas revolucionarias

Continúa de la página 12

guerrera trans, historiadora y activista Leslie Feinberg: "Las personas de todos los sexos tienen el derecho de explorar la feminidad, la masculinidad y las infinitas variaciones entre ellos, sin críticas ni ridiculización".

Feinberg también sabía que un futuro socialista ofrecía la única posibilidad de un mundo donde las personas trans y todas las personas pudieran vivir plenamente en su propia complejidad de sexo y género, única y hermosa. Feinberg, de Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero, murió en el 2014 con estas últimas palabras: "Recuérdame como

Still in the streets!

Algerians demand fundamental change

By G. Dunkel

Millions of Algerians came out in the streets April 5, even after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika had officially resigned. The general sentiment was: “We have won a battle, but not the war.” Bouteflika's colleagues are still in charge of the government.

According to the official Algerian Press Service, protests took place in 42 of Algeria's 48 provinces. In its major cities— Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Annaba—hundreds of thousands of people came out. Even in its southern provinces, in the depths of the Sahara Desert, such as Ouargla, Tougourt, Ghardaia, El-Oued, Adrar, Tamanrasset and Tindouf, people staged peaceful protests and rallies in the main streets and squares, insisting on the departure of the current "illegitimate" government and the "dissolution of all assemblies.” (APS, April 5)

These southern cities are isolated, but they are centers for the extraction of much of the raw materials that Algeria depends on. For example, 70 percent of Algerian petroleum is extracted around Ouargla. (Le Monde, Jan. 3)

Even though millions of Algerians were militantly in the streets, the ministry of interior reported that they were no incidents, and the marches and protests dispersed peacefully at sundown.

Thousands of Algerians living in France and their children held their seventh, very large support demonstration in Paris Sunday, April 7.

Before the marches, there were street meetings, conducted in Arabic, Tamazigh (sometimes called Kabyle) and even French. They were free wheeling, mainly focused on the problem of where to go next in the current political struggles and how to treat women and workers. There appears to have been general agreement on the departure of three close associates of Bouteflika — Abdelkader Bensalah, head of parliament's upper chamber; Tayeb Belaiz, head of the Constitutional Council; Nouredine Bedoui, former minister of the interior. He was considered an “active enemy of liberty” in the opinion of many opponents of Bouteflika, but was, since March 11, the prime minister.

Different views on how to restructure Algerian society

There are many opinions floating around about the direction the February 22 movement should take to create basic changes in the structure of Algerian society. There is widespread acknowledgment that an Egyptian-style solution, where the army takes control and runs society, is to be avoided. Signs shown on French television stress both the nonviolent nature of the struggle so far, but also its steely determination. For example,

Message from the Workers’ Party of Korea

The following message to Workers World Party from the Workers’ Party of Korea was received on April 8. The WPK has led the Korean people’s struggle to build a strong, independent socialist society since its formation in 1946. This message is a confirmation of the many decades of solidarity between the two parties in the struggle against U.S. imperialism.

To:
National Committee
Workers World Party of the United States
New York

The Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea extends ardent congratulations and warm comradely greetings to the National Committee and all members of your Party on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the Workers World Party of the United States.

For the past 60 years since its founding, your party has waged vigorous struggle to safeguard freedom, rights and interests of the working popular masses and to strengthen international solidarity with revolutionary parties.

Reaffirming the firm support and solidarity of our party and people for the struggle of your party, we take this opportunity to sincerely wish your party greater successes in its activities.

Central Committee
Workers’ Party of Korea
Pyongyang
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. □



Millions of Algerian workers protest after forcing the president to resign.

one reads: “Without violence: without hate; without vengeance—all of them have to get gone!”

Mustapha Bouchachi represents one tendency in the movement, and has been frequently interviewed and quoted by major bourgeois press like the New York Times and Le Monde. He is a leader of the FFS (Front of Socialist Forces), which was founded by a hero of the Algerian revolution, Hocine Ait Ahmed, in 1963. Ait Ahmed was a member of the Socialist International.

In an interview with Le Monde, Bouchachi proposes a “government of national understanding with a collective or individual presidency. The army must accompany the transformation to a new democratic regime. In this fragile period, we need a strong institution to accompany

Mali: Thousands demand peace, removal of French troops

By G. Dunkel

At the call of imams and civic associations on April 5, thousands of protesters marched in Bamako, the capital of Mali, to demand the end of violence between ethnic communities in central Mali, the removal of French troops, which have been in Mali since 2013 fighting “Islamic extremists,” and aid from Russia.

The cops gave the number of marchers at 30,000, while organizers claimed 50,000. (Agence France Presse, April 5)

The same day, a similar demonstration took place at Nioro du Sahel in northwest Mali. Nioro is a small city of 70,000 people near the Mauritanian border.

The U.S. AFRICOM command has a cooperation agreement with the Malian armed forces.

Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, called IBK, was criticized for his “incompetent administration” by rally speakers. When the protesters attempted to march

this transition.” (April 5)

He is basically opposing workers and women issuing demands to address their particular oppressions.

Zoheir Bessa, who is director of Alger Republican, a historical journal publishing communist and progressive writers, wrote a rebuttal to Bouchachi. He has represented the Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism (PADS), which calls itself communist in international forums.

He writes: “Workers who can no longer tolerate deprivation and inequality, women who demand equality, are therefore asked by the 'strong arms' visibly in charge of controlling slogans, not to 'divide' the unanimous movement against Bouteflika by 'inappropriate' sectoral social demands. Above all, no strikes in the productive sectors, the Bouchachi tell us!” That would interfere with the flow of profits.

Bessa goes on to say the bourgeoisie's “greatest fear is that” these struggles “will lead ... beyond the overthrow of the current regime, which nobody wants any more, to the demand for a regime that puts the perspective of a socialist society back on the agenda.” He calls for “class unions, unitary and coordinated, to shake off the chains of capitalist slavery, to fight for a truly democratic and popular revolutionary government, to participate in the creation of a revolutionary class party.” (Alger Republican, April 3)

Bouchachi and Bessa offer two different perspectives to the masses who are still out in the millions on the streets of Algeria. □



Malian masses take to the streets.

to the home of Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga and started throwing rocks, the cops broke up the march with tear gas.

Mali is a poor, landlocked country on the southwest border of the Sahara. Historically its cities were cross-roads between West and North Africa. □

Build Workers World! Defend the environment and workers’ rights

April 22 is Earth Day, initiated in 1970 to make people aware of the earth and environmental health. After that push, laws were passed to promote clean water and air, enact safety regulations, and pass measures that promote health and life. Not until 1990 was climate change raised. Now, with a far-right climate-denier in the White House, while floods and tornadoes surge in the U.S. and shorelines rise around the globe, we know the need to fight the overuse of fossil fuels and dethrone the billionaires who sell them.

Ten days after Earth Day we celebrate May Day. Established to honor the historic 1886 struggle of Chicago workers for the 8-hour day, May 1 now marks the worldwide fight for workers’ rights. There’s lots of good news this year: Education workers all over the U.S., from K-12 schools to universities, have started a strike wave, organizing for higher wages and better working conditions. Well-paid Amazon and Google workers are joining low-wage McDonald’s workers in walkouts.

While Trump and the global ruling class are waging war on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, his administration is also making war on Central American im/migrants and refugees seeking entry into the U.S.

Workers are threatened with deportation after escaping horrific conditions caused by U.S. intervention in their home countries. Neo-Fascist U.S. policies separate infants and children from their parents at the border and jail under-age migrants crossing the border alone.

The perpetrators of global environmental destruction and workers’ oppression are one and the same. If you want to fight against capitalist reaction and for socialist change, we invite you to join the WW Supporter Program. The program was founded in 1977. Ever since, our subscribers and friends have helped build the only revolutionary socialist weekly in the U.S. that's in print as well as on the web.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — and much more if you’re able — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World — sign up today! □



Cientos se unen contra la OTAN reactivando movimiento contra guerras

Por Ted Kelley

Varios cientos de activistas y organizadores tomaron las calles de la capital de los Estados Unidos el sábado 30 de marzo, llegando de todo el mundo para oponerse a la OTAN y a todas las guerras imperialistas mientras los líderes militares se reunían allí para conmemorar el 70 aniversario de la formación de la OTAN.

A los manifestantes se unieron activistas contra la OTAN de Grecia, Ucrania, México, Argentina, Bélgica y Gales. Un gran contingente de conductores de autobuses sindicales de Boston, equipados con carteles y pancartas, vinieron para la marcha y estuvieron representados en el mitin por el presidente del sindicato de trabajadores del acero, United Steelworkers Local 8751, el haitiano Andre François.

William Camacaro, un activista venezolano del Círculo Bolivariano de Alberto Lovero, recientemente regresó de una visita a su país de origen. "Cualquier confrontación contra Venezuela sería un desastre no solo para los venezolanos sino también para toda la región: para Colombia, para Brasil, para las islas del Caribe. Y eso realmente creará una crisis humanitaria.

"[La OTAN] ha estado creando una crisis humanitaria con todas estas sanciones", dijo Camacaro. "Pero sabemos que los Estados Unidos, especialmente este presidente patológico, probablemente quieren tener una confrontación".

Loan T., co presidente de la protesta No2NATO que representa al Centro de Acción Internacional, dijo a los activistas: "La guerra ya ha comenzado en Venezuela, con sanciones económicas y mentiras de los medios de comunicación que intentan enfrentar al resto del mundo contra la Revolución Bolivariana. El ciclo de la guerra y la dominación es un juego retorcido que los imperialistas juegan por su interminable afán de lucro.

"En lugar de guerra, ¿qué hay de las reparaciones para Venezuela? ¡Reparaciones para Cuba, Puerto Rico, para los migrantes hondureños en la frontera! ¡Reparaciones para Flint, Michigan! ¡Para los negros, latinas y indígenas que enfrentan la brutalidad policial y el encarcelamiento en este país! ¡Reparaciones para personas de todo el mundo que se resisten al arma del imperio estadounidense y a la máquina de guerra de la OTAN!

La marcha se abrió camino a través de las calles de la capital, a través del nuevo césped de primavera que crecía en el National Mall, y a través de los pasillos de

los cerezos en flor en el parque Lafayette, frente a la Casa Blanca. Exigió la atención de miles de turistas y fue apoyado por muchos trabajadores que pasaban en su camino hacia el trabajo.

Unos cuantos turistas fascistas que llevaban sombreros de "Make America Great Again" se acurrucaron en los alrededores de la manifestación, pero la manifestación en contra de la OTAN no encontró una resistencia organizada por parte de la oposición venezolana, posiblemente una señal de moral decreciente. Simultáneamente, en Caracas, decenas de miles se manifestaron en apoyo de la Revolución Bolivariana, a pesar de los repetidos ataques a la red eléctrica de la ciudad.

Milos Raickovich habló conmovedoramente sobre la devastación de la OTAN en Yugoslavia y Serbia en 1999. Recordó las celebraciones de la OTAN en Washington para conmemorar el 50 aniversario de la alianza, durante el bombardeo de su país. "Todos estaban celebrando, riendo, con champán. Incluso [el líder anticomunista checo] Vaclav Havel. Hoy todo está al revés".

Raickovich, quien recientemente conmemoró el vigésimo aniversario de la destrucción de Yugoslavia en una ceremonia en la ciudad de Nueva York, también expresó su sincera solidaridad con el preso político estadounidense Mumia Abu-Jamal, quien escribe extensamente sobre la agresión imperialista en Europa del Este en el segundo volumen de su Nuevo libro, "Murder, Inc."

El Ministro de Confrontación de la Organización MOVE, Pam África, electrificó a la multitud con su discurso conmovedor. Hablando de la necesidad de una coalición contra la guerra más amplia y anti-racista de la clase que organizó la movilización del 30 de marzo, dijo: "¡Trabajaré con todos los que estén preparados para derribar a este hijo de puta! Como dijo Malcolm, debemos hacer esto por cualquier medio necesario.

"La guerra que se libra en Venezuela y en todo el mundo", continuó, "es la misma guerra que están librando aquí. Para luchar por Venezuela, debemos levantarnos y destruir a estos hijos de puta [que perpetran] las palizas, los bombardeos, los encarcelamientos de nuestra gente".

La marcha y la manifestación fueron ampliamente cubiertas por teleSUR, Russia Today y muchos periodistas independientes. La cobertura de Livestream en la página de Facebook de WWP alcanzó los fuentes web informativas de más de 29,000 personas. El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Venezuela, Jorge Arreaza,

publicó la cobertura de la movilización de No2NATO en Twitter, al igual que el presidente Nicolás Maduro, compartiendo videos de la manifestación y mítines a sus 3.9 millones de seguidores.

La movilización de No2NATO continúa durante la duración de la cumbre de la OTAN, que culmina en un evento organizado por la Alianza Negra para la Paz el 4 de abril. Se puede encontrar un calendario completo de eventos en No2NATO2019.org, nowaronvenezuela.org y blackallianceforpeace.com.

La marcha y el mitin del fin de semana fueron convocados por la Coalición No2NATO2019. Está compuesto por muchas organizaciones, entre ellas Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero, Alianza Negra por la Paz/Black Alliance for Peace, Centro de Acción Internacional/International Action Center, la Coalición Nacional Unida Contra la Guerra/United National Anti War Coalition, Código Rosa/Pink Code, Campaña de los Derechos Humanos Económicos de los Pobres/poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, El Consejo Estadounidense por la Paz/U.S. Peace Council, Defensores de Virginia/Virginia Defenders, Resistencia Popular/Popular Resistance, Movimiento contra la Guerra y Ocupación de Vancouver/Movement Against War and Occupation from Vancouver, Organización Socialista Camino a Libertad/Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Estudiantes por una Sociedad Democrática/Students for a Democratic Society, Coalición 12 de diciembre de Nueva York/December 12 Coalition de NYC, BAYAN, Liga Internacional de Lucha de los Pueblos/International League of Peoples Struggle, Coalición de Regreso de los Negros/Black is Back Coalition, Coalición de Veteranos por la Paz/Veteran for Peace Coaliton, Un Mundo Mas Alla de las Guerras/World Beyond War, Coalicion Contra las Bases de la OTAN/Coalition Against US / OTAN Bases, Agenda de N.J Contra la Guerra/NJ Antiwar Agenda, MOVE Organization, Familia y Amigos Preocupados por Mumia Abu-Jamal/International Concerned Family y Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal y la campaña No Guerra contra Venezuela/No War On Venezuela.

Esta manifestación de activistas de todo el mapa político progresista muestra que el movimiento contra la guerra, largamente inactivo en este país, ahora está experimentando un resurgimiento tectónico que sacudirá el imperio hasta sus cimientos. □

editorial

Vidas trans, vidas revolucionarias

¡Que viva el Día de la Visibilidad Trans! Este se llevó a cabo el 31 de marzo. ¿Tal vez no supiste qué sucedió?

No es un día que sea muy "visible" en los medios de comunicación de las grandes empresas.

Porque este día está organizado por y para las personas trans que hablan por sí mismas y propias vidas, contando al mundo cómo se definen y celebrando las complejas realidades de las vidas trans.

Los medios corporativos han presentado obsesivamente las vidas de personas trans como un circo para barridos de la semana o personas trans narradas como balones políticos que se patean de un lado a otro durante los ataques de derecha.

En cambio, son las personas trans las que han insistido en esta verdad: han sido parte de la trama de la existencia humana desde el principio de nuestra especie.

Como el compañerx trans Gery Armsby comentó en Facebook en el Día de la Visibilidad Trans: "A lo largo de la historia, las sociedades humanas han 'asignado' papeles socioeconómicos a personas de muchas maneras que hoy entendemos como 'género'". Como todas las sociedades están sujetas a constantes internas y externas fuerzas de cambio, es razonable comprender que los roles de género no son ahora ni nunca han sido estáticos, y

mucho menos binarios. [los roles de género] ciertamente tienen poco o nada que ver con la biología humana real. Esto no es nada nuevo".

De hecho, en las sociedades pre clase matrilineales, antes del surgimiento del patriarcado de clases, era la norma de la sociedad tener una complejidad de sexo y género que podría llamarse ahora "trans". Las diferentes variedades, nombres, costumbres e historias de esta complejidad de género continúan hoy en día a través de pueblos, culturas y naciones indígenas aún existentes.

Pero, como anotó Armsby en sus comentarios de Facebook, dentro de los Estados Unidos y en otros lugares que el patriarcado ha pisoteado, la lucha por esa complejidad "para muchas personas trans, especialmente mujeres trans de color, equivale a una lucha de vida o muerte por los pronombres correctos, por baños y para cualquier recurso y medida [que] las personas trans, no binarias y de dos espíritus creen que vale la pena luchar".

Las "fuerzas externas" que trabajan en los Estados Unidos han producido conceptos opresivos y estrechos de "hombre" y "mujer" como objetivos públicos: para crear pobladores coloniales, soldados para el imperialismo y trabajadores maleables.

No fue casual que, a principios del siglo XX, cuando

EE.UU. comenzó a invadir y ocupar naciones más allá de sus fronteras continentales, el presidente Teddy Roosevelt hizo una campaña para "endurecer" a los jóvenes y convertirlos en "hombres". Como señala la historiadora Sarah Watts, quería que los hombres en los Estados Unidos imperialistas fueran "los verdaderos herederos de la tradición de vaqueros de la virilidad blanca, agresiva, armada y nacionalista". (tinyurl.com/y4g3rxo7)

Las vidas trans nos dan a todos la visión y la esperanza de un mundo que rechaza las ideas rígidas, dominantes y dañinas sobre el hombre y la mujer, lo masculino y lo femenino. Como dijera una vez la

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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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