Indefinite detentions

Trump escalates fascist war on migrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

Despite overwhelming U.S. opposition to President Trump’s ongoing attacks on migrant workers, on Aug. 21 he announced plans to detain migrant children and families for even longer than they are incarcerated at present, using a new “indefinite detention” rule.

Furthermore, plans are for detention centers to be run exclusively by Immigration and Customs Enforcement rather than government-licensed shelter facilities. This maneuver is another attempt to appeal to Trump’s white supremacist and reactionary base. It is dangerous because he is trying to override laws on the books without congressional approval. It is dangerous because conditions for migrants and children could deteriorate even further.

There are currently two laws that protect migrant children and families: the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Flores Agreement of 1997.

Clearly, these have not worked perfectly as, not only under Trump, but also under Democratic administrations, violations of these protections have occurred.

This is not surprising to anti-capitalist activists. As long as the capitalist system is intact, laws or agreements won through struggles will be violated, as the ruling class aims to control, rather than protect, the working class.

But Trump has taken his disdain of existing laws to a whole new level.

Trump’s hatchet men have announced a sweeping plan to detain migrant families and children for even longer periods of time. The administration said this is happening in order to deter migrants and the children from coming into the U.S.

The current racist administration wants a final regulation that would overrule laws and agreements won through struggle will be violated, as the ruling class aims to control, rather than protect, the working class.

Violating the Flores Agreement

Since 1997 the Flores Agreement has set standards for the treatment of migrant children in custody. It stated that decent housing, medical care, hygiene, education and nutrition should be guaranteed.

The agreement originates from a 1987 court case in which Jenny Flores, 15 at the time, and three other migrant children filed a class action lawsuit over horrible detention center conditions. The children reported they were put in razor-wired housing with adults they did not know. Abuse and routine strip searches were carried out on both children and adults.

These Salvadoran children had arrived in the U.S. much like migrants today — as a result of imperialist policies. The U.S. had sponsored and funded a civil war in their Central American nation. Over 75,000 people died, their blood on the hands of the U.S. government.

Additions to the original Flores Agreement held that the U.S. government was prohibited from detaining families with children for more than 20 days.

CBS News reported: “Officials have said they are trying to close the borders and over again under the Trump administration.

From day one of Trump’s election in 2016, he has complained about the Flores Agreement. In 2018, the Department of Homeland Security published a regulation giving DHS more leeway in detaining families and children for longer periods. It also modified the standards of care for unaccompanied children.

The new administration plan could mean that the Flores Agreement would become obsolete altogether. Under Trump’s new policy, there would not be a limit to the number of days families with children could be detained. The administration wants to circumvent the 20-day detention limit in Flores by establishing a federal licensing system. This would then authorize facilities that the government could use to detain families. The new policy is expected to be challenged in court.

On Aug. 23, NYC protesters confront Greyhound’s anti-migrant policies at Port Authority. See page 5.

POLICE TERROR IN PHILLY

LABOR MILITANCY

• Irish workers seize shipyard

• Trans solidarity with coal miners

THE REAL DAVID KOCH

Editorial

AMAZON RAINFOREST & CAPITALISM

Wall St. & China

Yemen

Roots of Kashmir conflict
As the economic and climate crises deepen, Workers World Party is growing steadily into a strong force for socialist revolution. On Sept. 7-8, WWP will host two simultaneous Marxism schools, one in Atlanta and one in Buffalo, N.Y., where new members can deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge in order to become the best fighters for the working class and oppressed people.

The Atlanta Marxism School will include organizers and activists from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina, North Carolina, Washington, D.C. and beyond. Classes will focus on organizing in the South, the need for a Leninist party and the struggle against racism in the U.S. South. Saturday evening, WWP will host a public program with First Secretary Larry Holmes, who will focus on debates among the global left, entitled “What Road to Socialism?”

More details for this public event will be posted on the Workers World Party-Atlanta Facebook page. Over 60 years ago, a handful of revolutionaries founded Workers World Party in Buffalo, N.Y. Today, Buffalo is a growing branch of young revolutionaries. Organizers from Massachusetts, New York state, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois will be converging on the birthplace of Workers World Party to celebrate the party’s 60 years of dedication to Marxism-Leninism and the struggle for revolutionary socialism on Sept. 7-8. Classes will include “Reparations and the National Question,” led by WWP Managing Editor Monica Moorehead; “Cadre and the Need for a Leninist Party;” “China & U.S. Imperialism;” and lessons from WWP’s 60-year history. Saturday night WWP will lead a demonstration in downtown Buffalo in solidarity with El Paso, Texas, and against white supremacist, fascistic attacks.

On Sept. 8, Buffalo Marxism School attendees will have an organizing skills training led by union leaders, as well as a discussion on the party’s intervention in the mass struggle, including initiatives to fight the capitalist climate crisis, build solidarity with migrants and oppose U.S. imperialism’s growing attacks abroad.

If you are interested in learning more about Workers World Party and attending the Atlanta or Buffalo Marxism schools, please contact atlanta@workers.org or buffalo@workers.org. Caravans will be leaving from major cities that you can join if you need transportation.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigender and multigenerational organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, 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 capital profits. The wealthy 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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Police siege creates trauma for Philadelphia neighborhood

By Philadelphia Workers World bureau

One week after the now infamous Aug. 13 Philadelphia police assault and 7.5-hour siege of the African-American Tioga neighborhood, new facts are coming to light. Maurice Hill, whom police targeted and now allege shot six officers, had no outstanding charges, nor was he on the address warrant.

The alleged police search warrant was for a building two blocks from North 15th Street where Hill rented an apartment. Police now claim they did a “safety sweep” and raided both houses at once because they believed “drugs or weapons” were going into Hill’s house “in a duffel bag.” (Inquirer.com, Aug. 13)

Police have offered no evidence that drugs were found in Hill’s apartment.

Lawyers with the Defender Association of Philadelphia point out that police officers searching a property without an warrant could constitute an illegal search.

In the same article, DAP attorney Bradley Bridge said that officers “would need to get a warrant for the second location. That’s what the Fourth Amendment mandates.” He noted that extinguishing or emergency circumstances could possibly justify failure to obtain a warrant, but allegedly witnessing someone carry a duffel bag (contents unknown) into a house does not count as an emergency.

Tioga neighborhood residents call the regular police practice of checking people for warrants “Jump-out Tuesdays.” Less than a week after the shootout, one resident reported seeing 13 police cars and increased random stops of people in the neighborhood.

Another resident stated that police share the blame for what happened, noting that they knew about drug dealing on the block but allowed it to become a serious problem. (Inquirer.com, Aug. 22)

According to sources cited in the Aug. 15 article, residents in the Narcotics Strike Force broke down the front doors at Hill’s address, ran upstairs, into the basement and into his kitchen when Hill allegedly opened fire—after he was clearly under attack.

Without a valid warrant police had no justification for attacking Hill, regardless of any previous arrest record he might have and regardless of the outcome.

And they had no justification for carrying out this occupation of a Black neighborhood.

They had no justification for preventing parents from picking up their young children for hours from two day care centers near the shoot-out site. Nor for preventing parents from returning home to their school-aged children, who had been home alone for hours because of the police blockade. Nor for keeping people from going to work, securing food or engaging in any normal activities prevented by the police blockade.

Media’s racist bias

When the local and eventually national media covered the standoff, police were portrayed as “heroic,” “unsung heroes” and “heroes.” Hill became the “gunman.” No one is saying whether the shots that injured the officers, none seriously, were fired by Hill or by police.

Corporate media portrayed the Tioga section of Philadelphia as a “bad neighborhood.” Yet wealthy, white, suburban neighborhoods—homes to the CEOs of major pharmaceutical companies convicted of profiting off the pro-miscious drug trade—are never the targets of police raids or labeled “bad neighborhoods.”

And the media have yet to acknowledge the 700odd Philadelphia police who assaulted the Black Panther Party in 1969, who waged an 18-month siege of the Powelton Village neighborhood leading up to an assault against the MOVE organization in 1978, and who bombed a MOVEhouse, murdering 11 men, women and children in 1985.

Pennsylvania’s “Castle Doctrine” upholding right to self-defense

Even Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner is hedging his bets on whether the police assault is defensible. He would not disclose if Hill’s name was on the warrant and declined to comment about the legality of the police search that led up to the standoff. Krasner claimed that the alleged gunman “needed to be off the streets,” but essentially admitted that, while Hill had a long record, he had no grounds for claiming, in the Aug. 15 Inquirer article, that “he needed to be off the streets.”

To end the siege, Hill eventually contacted a lawyer and arranged to surrender, hoping that the international media spotlight might prevent his death at the hands of Philadelphia police.

Yet under Pennsylvania’s “Castle Doctrine,” Maurice Hill had every right to defend himself, and former progressive attorney Krasner understands this well.

Workers World was in the courtroom in 2013 when attorney Krasner successfully defended Philadelphia community activist Asika Sabor against multiple felony charges leveled by the police after they viciously attacked him in 2010. Police claimed they had been injured when Sabor challenged himself.

Krasner’s argument then—picked up by presiding Judge Roger Gordon—was that under Pennsylvania’s Castle Doctrine, self-defense is justified against police using unreasonable force and putting defendant in “imminent risk.” Gordon noted that a defendant cannot be found guilty of resisting arrest for arguing with officers.

Krasner is well aware that the state’s case against Hill is questionable and told the media the case would be delayed because the investigation of collected evidence could take months.

Community cannot afford ‘months’

Krasner’s withholding evidence for “months” shows just how out of touch he is with Philadelphia’s most oppressed communities. Much of the “evidence” against Hill is the impromptu testimony of Tioga residents who, like Hill, are victims of the police attack.

Their cars, riddled with bullets, were seized as evidence with no indication of when they will be returned. Many residents rely on their vehicles for work. They blame police for creating the siege, then damaging their property and taking no responsibility for repairs.

One mother of 10- and 12-year-old children described their terror of being trapped alone for hours until police allowed her into her home at 1 a.m., where she found her children crying. A week later they still don’t want to go out to play.

Did you know the month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle? This August marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the British colony of Virginia in 1619. That makes it the 400th anniversary of slavery—with its countless injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity. These atrocities continue, in this white supremacist, capitalist society, to this day.

But August is also a time to celebrate the Black Resistance Struggle: From the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 to the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831, from the Underground Railroad of 1800-1865 to the Fugitive Slave Law Convention in 1850, from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 to the March on Washington in 1963, the Watts Uprising in 1965 and last year’s National Prison Strike from Aug. 21-Sept. 9.

A number of freedom fighters were born in August, including Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Russell Maroon Shoatz, while a number died: W.E.B du Bois; Huey P. Newton and Jonathan Jackson, killed Aug. 7, 1970 while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, who included his brother, Black Panther leader George Jackson. One year and two weeks later, on Aug. 21, 1971, George was executed by prison guards. His assassination was an important factor leading to the heroic Angola Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

We know you depend on Workers World for people’s power news—like the fight against the racist, xenophobic, misogynist, anti-LGBTQ+ hostility tweet daily from the “White” House. But Workers World depends on your help to do our job.

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We’re grateful for your help in building Workers World—sign up today!
Trans solidarity with locked-out Harlan County miners

By Johnnie Lewis

Lill is a resident of Harlan County, Ky., and a member of a transgender anarchist support group (blackjewelmanfersblockade on Instagram) consisting coal miners locked out by the Blackjewel coal company. “Most of us are trans and the miners think that’s really cool,” she said.

Blackjewel’s bankruptcy has been providing support for the miners’ encampment set up on and adjacent to the CSX railroad tracks leading out of the mine. The encampment began July 29 after a few miners blocked a CSX train transporting over $1 million worth of coal. There are now hundreds of people either living at the encampment or visiting on a regular basis.

In late June, Blackjewel, one of several of the largest coal companies in the U.S. to go bankrupt, fired the Harlan County miners and about 1,300 others at 38 mines in Kentucky, Virginia and Wyoming. Not only did the miners lose their jobs, but after Blackjewel appeared out its bank accounts, transferring all funds to a separate family-owned account, the miners’ last paychecks bounced to the tune of a collective $12 million! Plus, the company owes millions to the miners’ 401(k) retirement accounts.

Just prior to filing bankruptcy, the Wall Street Journal reported that Blackjewel’s primary stockholder, founder and former CEO Jeffrey Hoops Sr., transferred $34 million in cash out of the company to a bank account owned by members of his family. In the bankruptcy documents, Hoops lists himself as the primary creator of his own company, claiming that the company owes him personally $22 million.

He claims an additional $5.9 million that is owed him by a Blackjewel-owned state company which is now bankrupt filing and that Blackjewel owes $11 million to The Grand Patrician, a Wyoming company that Hoops owns. Six other miners have faced arrests and jail time, Lill says, “We have more in common than we don’t.”

Solidarity with folks who aren’t necessarily just like us—though we’ve found that solidarity is a powerful weapon in the fight against capitalism.

Building solidarity

Support from [blackjewelmanfersblockade] includes cooking, cleaning, child care, fundraising and other support. Lill says, “The miners, families, friends are just thrilled that people want to be there and help maintain things at camp, that people with training and experience in protest care and want to help.” Their protest experience includes building a concerted grassroots movement that helped shut down the Trump government’s plans for a new federal prison in neighboring Letcher County.

Lill and others told the miners about Lesbians and Gays Support Miners, a group that supported British coal miners during the 1984-85 lockout by the Thatcher government, portrayed in the 2014 film “Pride.”

Lill went on to say, “We are building solidarity with folks who aren’t necessarily just like us—though we’ve found that we have more in common than we don’t.”

Because the miners and their supporters face arrests and jail time, Lill says she and her group are also opposed to jails: “We have asked for a hard rule of letting us deal with problems at the camp, in-house, no cops. There is no one in denial that the prison and jail system is messed up and many of these folks have been touched by the opioid crisis and the criminalization of addiction. We have been [talking] and will continue to talk about racism and white supremacy, prison abolition and how we are wreaking the planet.

“We’ve also been surprised a few times. For example, one of the miners spent a lot of his years of life in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. I can’t reiterate enough that people from eastern Kentucky are full of complexities and painting us with a broad brush of conservatism is just classism.”

All quotes from Lill: earthfirstjournal.org; general info: teenvogue.com and nytimes.com. See a video clip of Blackjewel miner supporters talking. Lill’s Instagram, “Earth First!”

In 1974, Johnnie—then John—Lewis wrote the pamphlet, “‘Till Every Battle’s Won: The Brookside Strike of Harlan County.”

Belfast workers fight layoffs, climate change

By Martha Grevatt

Workers have occupied the Harland and Wolff shipyard in the north of Ireland since July 29. They are fighting to save the last 132 jobs at the 166-year-old Belfast company, which at its peak during World War II employed 35,000 and is Belfast’s largest company, which at its peak during World War II employed 35,000 and is Belfast’s largest company.

Last year the British-owned Norwegian parent company, Dolphin Drilling, announced it would be selling Harland and Wolff. With no prospective buyers, workers learned in July that the yard would be taken over by administrators. Rather than see the yard closed and stripped of its assets, they began an occupation.

The unions are calling on the government to “re-nationalize” the shipyard, which the British government owned and operated from 1977-89. They have demanded it be kept open to build the passenger and oil rig energy and tidal power equipment.

They, workers took their fight to Stormont, site of the Northern Irish Assembly, on July 31. Newly elected British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, considering a British version of Trump, was present but declined to meet with the workers. A letter was delivered to Johnson, who has dismissed this struggle as “a commercial issue.”

The administration, BDO, who took over the shipyard Aug. 6, announced that potential buyers had been lined up. This prompted one worker to describe the mood as “buoyant.”

However, until a concrete deal to keep the yard open is announced, workers are continuing the occupation.

A mass rally Aug. 23 drew broad support from other unions, while the Belfast City Council was meeting to address the situation.

Left parties Sinn Fein, People Before Profits and the Green Party have expressed support for the occupation, as has left-wing Lebanese labor leader, James Larkian, the current national leader for both the Republic of Ireland and the British-occupied north.

The pro-British Democratic Unionist Party simply expressed “disappointment and support” for potential buyers and that there has not been a resolution and rescue package that we had advocated for and that we had hoped for.”

A history of class struggle

The shipyard occupiers are continuing their city’s long history of labor resistance to capital, including mass strikes in 1907, 1911, 1919 and 1932. The most famous Irish labor leaders, James Larkian and James Connolly, spent years in the Belfast working-class movement. Irish labor has long been intertwined with the struggle to end British occupation altogether and establish a free and independent Ireland.

In 2009 Belfast autoworkers occupied a Visteon plant slated to close. Visteon, created in 2000 when Ford spun off a number of parts plants, subsequently lowered wages and sold or closed a majority of its plants. The Irish workers, along with their counterparts who also occupied two English plants, won big improvements in their severance packages.

Once again, the workers in Belfast are advancing the global class struggle by challenging the class politics of the bosses’ property—as opposed to just walking out and putting up a picket line, as courageous as that can be—represents a higher degree of class confrontation.

As Workers World Party’s late founder and chairperson, Sam Marcy, wrote in the 1962 work “High Tech, Low Pay”: “There are means by which the workers can go beyond the established capital-labor relationship, that is, the framework of capitalist exploitation. They can seize and occupy the plants and thereby force a new and different type of crisis on the ruling class, instead of remaining in a narrow and frustrating situation between the employers and the workers.”

The fight of these conscious Irish workers to save their jobs is also part of the fight against climate change. However things are resolved, this shows the potential for a movement to politically unite the Irish working class in a broader framework of solidarity, with a healthy environment—and to take on capitalism.

The struggle recalls the theme by Comrade Larkian, who was exiled by the British after the famous 1916 Easter Rising. “We Only Want the Earth.”

Unions rally on Aug. 23 to support Belfast shipyard occupation.
Black and Brown youth right now, making the U.S. the country with the largest prison population in the world. Africans being enslaved; the theft of the U.S. Southwest from Mexico; the robbing of Native children from their communities; the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II — these are examples of exactly what this country is all about.

Yet as a U.S. senator from Oregon, Jeff Merkley, seemed genuinely surprised and outraged at what he witnessed at the detention camps, though he himself was denied entry into the camps. Perhaps the fact that a U.S. senator was not allowed into a government-run facility opened his eyes.

According to publicity about his recent book, "America Is Better Than This," Merkley saw "mothers and children, newborn babies and infants, stranded for days on border bridges in blistering heat or locked up in ice-cold holding pens. There were nearly 1,500 boys jammed into a nation’s capital, a child abandoned in the desert with almost 3,000 boys and girls, and children struggling to survive in ... border towns after they were blocked from seeking asylum. Worst of all, there were the children ripped out of their parents’ arms and sorted into cages in some profoundly warped attempt to discipline migration." (Facebook page: Strand Bookstore)

A July 21 article in the Texas Observer confirms these horrors documented in Clinton, Texas: "[T]he nightmarish conditions attorneys witnessed at a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) holding facility: outbreaks of scabies, shingles, and chickenpox; children in soiled, reeking clothes; lice infestation; chronic hunger and exhaustion; kids as young as eight caring for toddlers." The Trump administration is planning right now to increase this detention and have absolutely no checks on conditions at these concentration camps. The impact on migrant children and families will get worse — much worse than already reported.

U.S. business as usual — or creeping fascism?

Is this administration more of the same? Is it settler colonialism and imperialism? Don’t be fooled by Greyhound’s claims of powerlessness. Business and fascists have always worked, and always will work, hand-in-hand.

Continuing the fight

In July organizers put out the call for a mass action challenging Greyhound, ICE, CBP, and the larger detention and deportation machine. Fight for Im/migrants and Allies, the Laundry Workers Center, and People’s Power Assembly coalesced to build a series of actions aimed at abolishing ICE and closing the concentration camps. Activists from all over New York City and northern New Jersey attended planning meetings, made contacts with the press and connected with transportation workers.

Aug. 23 demonstration.

About 200 demonstrators gathered Aug. 23 outside Manhattan’s Port Authority Bus Terminal, demanding an end to collaboration between Greyhound Lines, Inc. and Customs and Border Patrol agents, who have been illegally boarding buses to racially profile and deport migrants. The protest was the result of a month of planning by a coalition of migrant, anti-racist and union organizers.

Demonstrators held a speakout where migrant organizers described the effects of oppressive Immigration and Customs Enforcement and CBP policies. The demonstration quickly drew a crowd of hundreds of sympathetic onlookers.

"Know-your-rights" information was passed out. The protest ended with activists marching inside the terminal and chanting "ICE off our buses" in front of the Greyhound ticket station — which the New York Police Department rushed to block off.

Under the Trump administration, CBP has increased the practice of transportation drag-ons. In violation of the U.S. Constitution, CBP agents have been boarding buses and demanding passengers provide proof of citizenship. Agents make no efforts to obscure the fact that their police-state tactics are laser-focused on anyone who looks different.

The American Civil Liberties Union has argued that these searches lack probable cause and are therefore a violation of passengers’ Fourth Amendment rights. Greyhound has the right to deny CBP agents entry to their buses, but the corporation has repeatedly refused to do so. With total disregard for the safety of their passengers, Greyhound has put the onus on passengers to know their rights and has passed the back to lawmakers to address the problem.

However, what appears on the surface to be cowardice is actually just another demonstration of the close relationship among capitalists, politicians and armed state agents. Law enforcement exists to protect the wealth of the capitalist class. Companies like Greyhound have no interest in impeding or offending their armed henchmen.

Over the last two decades, the capitalist class has funded and encouraged the increased militarization of local and federal police agencies because they depend on law enforcement crackdowns to suppress the growing surge of working-class outrage.

As such, migrants cannot detain families with children. There is the mass incarceration of children. There is the mass incarceration of Americans during World War II— these are examples of exactly what this country is all about.

As German anti-Nazi Rev. Martin Niemöller said during the Nazis’ rise in Germany: “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was one left to speak for me.”

If Trump is allowed to win the war against migrants, he will go on to wage war on even the likes of Sen. Merkley, who could end up experiencing the fascist treatment of people of color have lived under all their lives.

Trump must not be allowed to win the war on migrants.
Koch's poisonous editorial

The death this August of right-wing multimillionaire David Koch immediately unleashed a spate of extensive obituaries in the corporate media. These mini-biographies describe him and his brother Charles Koch as “philanthropists” and financiers of right-wing causes in the United States.

The media attention on David Koch’s death brings to mind a quote from Karl Marx: “Philanthropy is the morality of the ruling class. In every epoch the ruling ideas.” (“The German Ideology,” 1845)

Capitalist fortunes come from the exploitation of labor, that is, from robbing the working class of the wealth that only they can produce. Rich people sometimes put aside a small part of this loot and donate it. Usually they avoid paying taxes when they donate. In return for this “philanthropy,” they get their names on hospital and university buildings, museums and concert halls.

With “philanthropy” they buy respect and influence and use them to cement power. They maintain a veneer of propriety to them and in general disseminate ideas acceptable to the capitalist class. The Kochs’ donations home in on promoting right-wing ideas, with a veneer of libertarianism. They give money to foundations, for example, that promote right-wing ideas, with a veneer of libertarianism.

The Kochs' poisonous gifts are not only anti-worker and anti-environment, it is also racist and misogynist. Because the Koch foundations promote right-wing candidates, they abandoned classical liberal ideas about government intervention to back the anti-woman attack on abortion rights.

The Koch attack all government intervention that aids the workers and the poor. They denounce any regulation of industry for health or environmental reasons. They promote groups that try to prevent African Americans and other oppressed people from voting.

In addition, the Kochs want no regulation that might curtail the profits made by the large chemical industry which funds right-wing think tanks. This includes paying researchers to offer arguments against climate change.

David Koch’s inherited wealth worked to implant his super-rich family’s poisonous political ideas into society, making those ideas one version of ruling-class ideology. His death does nothing to change this process.

Those who fight to overturn capitalist society must battle those pro-capitalist ideas as well as fight to separate the wealthy from the riches that allow them to control ideas. Ultimately, to overthrow capitalism, the workers and oppressed will also have to fight against the apparatus of state power that protects the wealth of the rich.

Trump, China and the stock markets

By Deirdre Griswold

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The Trumps attacked all government intervention that aids the workers and the poor. They denounce any regulation of industry for health or environmental reasons. They promote groups that try to prevent African Americans and other oppressed people from voting.

In addition, the Kochs want no regulation that might curtail the profits made by the large chemical industry which funds right-wing think tanks. This includes paying researchers to offer arguments against climate change.

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Roots of the Kashmir conflict

By Siddika Degla

India, one of the oldest civilizations, fell under British colonial rule starting in the late 18th century. British imperialism came with the division of people by religious groups, castes, languages spoken and nationalities, so that the workers under oppressive rule would not unite to overthrow the British empire.

The largest division was between Muslims and Hindus. Due to this, when the Indian independence movement started in the 1900s, elites in both groups could not decide on the election process for minority groups — the minorities in this case being Muslims as well as the Dalits. This led to Muslim groups calling for a separate state for themselves where they would be the majority.

Muslims eventually got their wish in 1947, when India was split into the Muslim-majority states of West Pakistan and East Pakistan (modern-day Bangladesh) and the Hindu-majority state of India, sometimes referred to as Hindustan. The British partition of India led to the displacement of between 14 million and 16 million people and the killing of more than 200,000 to 2 million people.

With partition, Kashmir and Jammu became one of the most disputed territories between India and Pakistan.

Kashmir and Jammu is a territory in the Himalayan region that earlier had been one of the 60 princely states of India. At that time, Kashmir and Jammu was a majority-Muslim territory, but it was ruled by a Hindu monarch named Maharaja Hari Singh. Under his rule, Muslims constantly faced discrimination and high taxes.

When the partition happened, the British left it up to the monarch to decide which country he would join. His subjects wanted Kashmir to be an independent state. But the Maharaja decided to join India in return for military help against Pakistan. India then invaded Kashmir, sending in troops by air to crush a popular movement that had developed against the Maharaja’s rule.

Kashmiri fight for right to self-determination

An intense war then broke out between Pakistan and India. In 1948 the United Nations stepped in and brokered a cease-fire. Under the terms of the cease-fire, two-thirds of Kashmir belonged to India and the remainder, called Azad Kashmir, belonged to Pakistan. The terms also stipulated that there would be a referendum where the Kashmiris could exercise their right to self-determination in choosing their own future. But this was never carried out and was especially ignored by India.

Since 1947, India and Pakistan have disputed a region of 7,200 square miles of Kashmir. They have fought three wars over Kashmir, one in 1949 which almost led to a nuclear conflict between the two countries. To this day Kashmir is a highly disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan has ignored the demands of the Kashmiri people. Instead, India gave Kashmir the special status of autonomy within India that ensured the Muslim-majority state its own constitution and supposed independence over all matters except foreign affairs, defense and communication.

Since 1948, Kashmiris have fought for their right to self-determination. They have taken to the streets constantly demanding freedom from Indian rule, an answered with brutal repression. Since the 1900s an estimated 66,795 people have been killed in violent military massacres.

Kashmir is a heavily militarized zone, with up to 600,000 Indian soldiers and paramilitary cops stationed in the territory. More than 10,000 men have been arrested and more than 10,000 women have been raped or maltreated.

As of Aug. 26, India is still trying to suppress the people of Kashmir and Jammu. On Aug. 5, the Indian Hindu nationalist party BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, revoked Article 370, which gave Kashmir the right to own land. Modi’s action was meant to encourage millions of Hindus to move into the majority-Muslim territory of Kashmir.

In the face of these challenges, Kashmiris have not backed down and have been fighting back. Their actions have been done for the last 72 years. India has cut off all communication, including internet, phones and social media. Schools and markets are closed, and millions of people are left incomunicado and besieged.

Indian police have opened fire on protest demonstrators who have resisted encroachment on their home to more than 350 Indigenous groups. This has meant a threat of more deforestation.

Amidst global protests

Amazon rainforest threatened by capitalist negate

By Leilani Dowell

Worldwide protests have denounced the unprecedented number of fires burning in the Amazon rainforest, enabled by the policies of Brazil’s president, Jair Bolsonaro.

Some 25,000 fires have been burning in the world’s largest rainforest, which is home to more than 350 Indigenous groups who have resisted enclosure on their lands for centuries. Scientists consider the oxygen-producing capacity of the Amazon’s plant life to be crucial to countering global warming.

The number of fires in the region is the highest in nine years, and 35 percent more than the average of the last eight years, according to Brazil’s National Institute of Space Research. In the Brazilian state of Rondônia, hospital admissions for respiratory problems have tripled. The fires have been burning in parts of the Amazon but in actuality are “imperialist projects and landgrabbing,” said Greenpeace Brazil’s director, Antonio Neves. “This is about the destruction of the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.”

After the fires spread to neighboring Bolivia, President Evo Morales announced an extensive plan of action, stating: “We are no longer forced to submit to ‘international’ aid.” He announced the deployment of a “574 SuperTanker, six helicopters and 10 light aircraft to douse the fires; the dispatch of extra troops as reinforcement for firefighters; and the formation of an emergency cabinet to address the situation.” On the first day the fires hit Bolivia, Morales delivered emergency food to 12 helicopters to evacuate affected areas.

After initially claiming that the fires might have been set by nongovernmental organizations and that the criticism against him was part of a foreign conspiracy, Bolsonaro finally made an abrupt reversal of his do-nothing stance on Aug. 23. He announced preparations to contain the fires in six Brazilian states, claiming in a televised address that his government would have “zero tolerance” for environmental lawbreaking.

What is clear is that it will take a people’s movement to stop the continued environmental devastation, to save the lives of every person on the planet. The Global Climate Strike from Sept. 20-27 will be one step forward. Hopefully, however, capitalists will not be destroyed.

Climate change protesters outside the Brazilian Embassy Aug. 23 in central London.
En defensa de Palestina

La cuestión de la Palestina ocupada volvió a ocupar un lugar central en la prensa mundial cuando dos mujeres miembros de la Brigada del Congreso -Bhan Omar (D-Minn.) y Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.)- le fueron negadas inicialmente el derecho a entrar en el país en el último viernes. El Ministro Benjamin Netanyahu el 15 de agosto, a instancias del presidente de la supremacía blanca de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump. El mes pasado, en una manifestación que se celebró con migajas de pan en apoyo al boicot a Israel y a la afirma-

dación del derecho a su patria desde hace 90 años, Muftiyah Tlaib, que vive en la ciudad de Jerusalén del Este. Tlaib también tenía previsto visitar a su abuela de palestinos que viven bajo ocupación con el intervención de migrantes en Estados Unidos, incluidas las denuncias sobre el traslado de judíos en campos de concentración durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los grupos han estado organizando protestas dentro de Estados Unidos. (Voluntaria, 23 de agosto).

Omar, que es somalí, y Tlaib, que es palestina, han sido especialmente criticadas contra el trato inhumano al pueblo palestino, al que se le ha negado siete- 

bien había interpretado el Título VII de la Ley de Protección de trabajadores, la ley de proteger la ilusión de décadas de que Israel es un modelo de "democracia" en la región rica en petróleo. En realidad, Israel es un régimen racista de colonos blancos y un estado de guarición que protege las superganancias del imperia-

ismo yanqui. Rechazar los términos de Netanyahu y Trump para los que asumen el costo. ¿Necesita más? ¿Qué tal las citas dadas a individuos abiertamente misóginos y anti-LGBTQ2S+ como los jueces de la Corte Suprema Neil Gorsuch y Brett Kavanaugh y la Secretaría de Educación Betsy DeVos, los que han prohíbido su for- 

turna Amway en grupos de odio como Focus on the Family? En 2016, el movimiento de movimientos políticos sirve para legitimar y alentar el odio violento que ha matado al menos a 12 personas trans este año, la mayoría de ellas mujer-

es de color. Pero Kabel y Homan siguen argumentando que las personas LGBTQ2S+ también se benefician de otros aspectos de la agenda de Trump, como los recortes de impuestos y la política exterior. ¿En serio? ¿Quién se beneficia de las reducicio-

nes de impuestos para los ricos? ¿Quién se beneficia de un presupuesto militar inflado? No gay de la clase trabajadora que asumen el costo. (El comercialista, 16 de agosto)

Frente a la denuncia de la presentación del Congreso de Estados Unidos se les negó el derecho a visitar a Israel hasta ahora. ¿Por qué aora? 

Netanyahu explicó la negación en una declaración: "Como una democracia libre y vibrante, Israel está abierto a los críticos y a las críticas, con una excepción: La ley internacional no permite que la entrada a Israel de aquellos que piden, y trabajan para impo-

ner, boicot a Israel, al igual que otras democracias que impiden la entrada de personas que se creen que son perjudiciales para el país". (New York Times, 15 de agosto)

Hacer que el país se grandioso de nuevo — una vez más

“Hacer grandioso a Estados Unidos de nuevo” — el eslogan del actual presidente y del movimiento pro fascista que repre- 

senta — siempre ha significado “odio de nuevo”. Ningún grupo oprimido se ha librado de los viles actos y declaraciones que emanan de la Casa Blanca todos los días. 

Gente de color, inmigrantes, musulma-

nes, mujeres y otros grupos oprimidos, personas con discapacidades y la comunid-

ad LGBTQ2S+ han visto cómo sus dere-

chos por los que han luchado finalmente los han retrocedido, al igual que la clase obrera en su conjunto. 

Muchos en el movimiento LGBTQ2S+ están inquietos acerca de un artículo de opinión publicado el 15 de agosto en el Washington Post por el presidente y vicepresidente de los Republicanos de Leg Cabin que apoyan a Donald Trump para la reelección en 2020. Robert Kabel y Jill Homan elogiaron a Trump para “tomar acciones audaces que beneficien el eslogan del actual presidente — ‘Hacer grandioso a Estados Unidos de nuevo’”. Ningún grupo oprimido se ha

senta—

¿Por qué un miembro de un grupo oprim-

ido apoyaría públicamente al fanático en jefe? Porque estos capitalistas de la cabaña se han enriquecido con Trump. Están poniendo sus intereses de clase por delante de la comunidad LGBTQ2S+. 

Bueno, eso es una montaña de excrementos equinos, si es que alguna vez había una. El día después de que apareciera el artícu-

lo de opinión, informó BuzzFeed: “El viernes, la administración Trump tomó una de las medidas más agresivas para legalizar la discriminación antigué-

nero al decirle a la Corte Suprema que la ley federal permite despedir a los traba-

jadores sólo por ser transgénero”. (16 de agosto)

Este ocurrió sólo dos días después de que el Departamento de Trabajo con-

cediéra a las contratistas federales per-

miso para practicar la discriminación en el lugar de trabajo, siempre y cuando se base en la religión. Esto tiene amplias implica-

ciones para millones de trabajado-

res empleados por miles de entida-

des que tienen contrato con el gobierno federal. 

‘Acciones audaces’ de hecho! Estos dos ultrajes son los últimos en una serie de acciones anti-LGBTQ2S+, incluyendo la prohibición militar que impide a las personas trans, la eliminación de los beneficios de atención médica transespe-

cíficos de la Ley de Atención Asequible, la concesión a las agencias federales y a los proveedores de servicios médicos de una licencia basada en la religión para discri-

minar, la negación de visas a las parejas del mismo sexo de diplomáticos extran-

jeros y la eliminación de las protecciones contra la discriminación sexual de los jóvenes y estudiantes trans del Título IX. 

Trump rescindió un memorando de la administración de Barack Obama que había interpretado el Título VII de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 para prohibir la discriminación basada en el "estereota-

tipo del sexo", es decir, la discriminación contra un trabajador cuya identidad de género, expresión de género o sexualidad entra en conflicto con las normas patriar-

cales. Ahora el caso de discriminación sexual de una mujer trans despedida ha llegado a la Corte Suprema y Trump se ha puesto del lado de un director de funerari-

a intolerante.

¿Necesita más? ¿Qué tal las citas dadas a individuos abiertamente misóginos y anti-LGBTQ2S+ como los jueces de la Corte Suprema Neil Gorsuch y Brett Kavanaugh y la Secretaría de Educación Betsy DeVos, los que han prohíbido su for-

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