Sports heroes fight racism

By Monica Moorehead

Under a capitalist society, the ruling-class-biased media attempt to isolate almost every development challenging the divide-and-conquer system that puts profits before human needs. For instance, whenever the police murder a youth or disabled person of color, the media will either defend the police or even say there are “good” cops and “bad” cops. The media will never say that the police as a force exist to repress the workers and oppressed in order to protect the private property of the super-rich.

This premise holds true for mass culture, such as sports, which is more than just leisure and entertainment — it is connected to politics. Sports cannot be divorced from capitalist society with its racism, sexism and LGBTQ+ oppression, or from growing movements fighting for social justice. The heroic stance that Colin Kaepernick took three years ago when he took a knee against racist injustice is a perfect example of this stark reality.

While there are many examples of this connection, some more prominent than others, here are three examples.

Lamar Jackson Jr.

Next August will officially mark the centennial of the founding of the National Football League — a major milestone since professional football remains the most popular sport in the U.S. Like many other sports in this country, football was not immune from racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry. Running back Kenny Washington, a classmate of the great Jackie Robinson, was the first Black player to sign an NFL contract in 1946.

It would take another 22 years before other Black college backs if they were drafted into the NFL, but when you consider his dark skin color with a dark football with a dark uniform, you could not see that thing. I mean you literally could not see when he was in and out of the mesh point.” (KNBR radio, Dec. 2)

Lamar Jackson Jr., the 22-year-old Black quarterback for the Baltimore Ravens, is considered the most dynamic player in the NFL today. A 2017 winner of the Heisman Trophy, which annually recognizes the best college player, he is the frontrunner to win the Most Valuable Player award in the NFL for the current regular season.

A white San Francisco 49er play announcer, Tim Ryan, made the following statement about Jackson the day after the Ravens beat the 49ers on Dec. 1: “He’s really good at that fake, Lamar Jackson, but when you consider his dark skin color with a dark football with a dark uniform, you could not see that thing, I mean you literally could not see when he was in and out of the mesh point.” (KNBR radio, Dec. 2)

The 49ers suspended Ryan for one game following the racially insensitive comment. Many fans felt he should have been fired. Many commentators, both Black and white, stated that the suspension was an overreaction — that his statement was “stupid” and “ignorant” rather than being racist because he is a “nice” guy.

Saying someone is a nice person or being oblivious to their comment’s impact amounts to obscuring the real issue. Whether an insensitive statement

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A packed hall of mainly young activists attended a showing of the remastered 1971 documentary, “The Murder of Fred Hampton,” at the Solidarity Center in New York City on Dec. 9. The film showing was co-sponsored by the People’s Power Assemblies/NYC and Workers World Party.

Hampton had been the chairperson of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party and deputy chair of the national BPP. At the age of 21, he was assassinated by police on Dec. 4, 1969, while asleep next to his partner, Deborah Johnson, who was eight months pregnant. Following this cowardly act on the part of both Chicago and state police, demonstrations sprang up around the country calling to “Avenge Fred Hampton.”

Makasi Motema, a leader of the PPA, introduced the film by providing historical background on the Panthers. Motema talked about the Panthers’ stance on self-defense against racist state terror and also their programs that provided free breakfasts for children, free medical care and free revolutionary education for Black communities around the country. The film showed the interaction between the Panthers and the people they were serving.

Larry Holmes, First Secretary of WWP, praised the Panthers for their position on fighting racism and for upholding the right to self-determination of all oppressed peoples, an ongoing global class struggle today.

Holmes remarked that the Panthers were the most dynamic Black Liberation organization during the mid-1960s and early 1970s, which sought to unite with other like-minded revolutionaries and movements. For example, on Aug. 15, 1970, one year after the historic Stonewall Rebellion in New York City, BPP Minister of Defense Huey P. Newton stated: “Homosexuals are not our enemies.”

After the film showing, Fred Hampton, Jr. spoke to the audience by telephone, quoting his dad’s revolutionary message: “Dare to struggle, dare to win.”

— Report by Monica Moorehead

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, 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, multigendered 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 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.

No publication Dec. 26

To conform to postal regulations related to our yearly publication schedule, Workers World/Mundo Obrero will not publish an issue dated Dec. 26, 2019. Weekly publication will resume Jan. 2.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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On Dec. 3, 4,000 graduate student workers went on strike at Harvard University at both the Cambridge and Boston campuses. These members of Harvard Graduate Student Union-United Auto Workers are fighting for a contract that includes better pay; comprehensive, affordable health care; improved family leave stipends; and protections against sexual and racial harassment and discrimination. Graduate student workers teach classes, conduct research, take care of laboratories and grade papers—all while doing their own research. Many make the Massachusetts minimum of $12 an hour. They are unable to afford the health care that Harvard offers, particularly for family members; it costs them $4,000 a year for each child and almost $8,000 for a spouse. There are about 400 children with a parent who is an HGSU-UAW member. Some grad workers report that they are supposed to work 15 to 20 hours a week but normally end up working 30-plus hours. In speeches and chants, HGSU-UAW points out that Harvard University has an endowment of $80 billion and should be able to pay their workers a living wage, plus provide them with affordable health care. All the administration is offering is “funding pools” of $250,000, $75,000 and $250,000 for health insurance, dental coverage and child care. If spread among all 4,000 members of the bargaining unit, the funds would only shave off a fraction of real medical costs—$30 to defray dental expenses, for example.

Graduate students also want an increase in paid family/medical leave benefits. Currently the university only allows 12 weeks of leave with a stipend of $6,646 (a paltry $554 a week) for having a child. Sexual harassment, a huge issue HGSU-UAW is demanding an independent investigation process to address sexual harassment and discrimination cases. The union made this issue a major focus after a former professor had 18 separate complaints against him in the spring of 2018.

Craig Bloesch, a HGSU-UAW member, says this is important “because often our advisers and supervisors hold the keys to our entire careers. A single [bad] letter of recommendation or any sort of disciplining can totally end someone’s academic career.” Relying on an internal process “where someone who’s a Harvard employee makes a final decision,” he continued, is not enough when the stakes are so high. (Harvard Magazine, Nov. 12) “They want to preserve absolute power over determining who is a harasser, who has committed discrimination...The fox is guarding the henhouse. It’s absolutely ridiculous,” added Bargaining Committee member Ege Yumusuk. If won, the independent grievance procedure would also benefit victims of other types of biased treatment, such as racist and pregnancy-related discrimination.

University spokesperson Jonathan Swain argued: “The University has proposed significant opportunities for HGSU-UAW members to have an ongoing role in making recommendations on how to strengthen policies and processes aimed at preventing and addressing harassment and discrimination.”

That is typical management doublespeak.

What the student workers are demanding is not exceptional. They are only asking for the same independent grievance-handling language that other Harvard unions have in their contracts and other universities have for graduate student workers. Intransigence by the administration on these key points has surprised some graduate students and angered many more. Pro-union sentiment has risen since the spring of 2018 when the union won a close election with just 56 percent voting in favor of UAW representation. The union picked an optimum time to launch a strike: final exam period. Because many of the graduate student workers teach classes, exams might not get administered or graded, and grades for the semester may have to be held.

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

Graduate student workers on strike at Harvard

By Otis Grotewohl
Wheeling, W.Va.

An unsettling picture surfaced through social media on Dec. 4, depicting 30 West Virginia corrections officers giving a Nazi salute—two of the trainers and one of the officers, with their faces blurred.

The photograph was taken during the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation Basic Training #18, held from Oct. 21 through Nov. 27. A caption on the photo reads, “Hail Byrd!” — a reference to one of the session trainers.

Shortly after its release, the image began to circulate on West Virginia and national social media. Progressive journalist Shaun King was able to get a photo of the training class with unblurred faces and posted that. Several anti-fascist activists in the state are trying to use that image to identify participants in the Nazi salute and find as much information about the fascist activists as possible.

Three days later, state authorities fired two of the trainers and one of the officers, while everyone in the photo was placed on suspension.

By Otis Grotewohl
Wheeling, W.Va.

Justice not served

Even though some action was taken by the state government, many conversations go on in West Virginia indicate that people think this has not been enough. Some who are usually “pro-op” are actually saying all participants should be fired and barred from ever being hired in a police job. It remains possible that the three individuals terminated will be employed somewhere else within so-called law enforcement, while those suspended will most likely be able to go back to work without any punishment.

Time and time again police and corrections officers fired from one town, county, state department or prison get rehired somewhere else. It is very rare for cops to face any jail time even for rape or murder. In fact, they are often rewarded with employment in another location.

Oppressed people in the state were especially impacted by the picture. As Danielle Walker, an African-American state legislator, commented on social media, “If I hear one more person claim there is no racism or discrimination in this state or the USA, I’m going to say, ‘Look around.’”

Owens Brown, the state president of the West Virginia NAACP, told this writer, “The picture is another black eye for the state. It reinforces the national perception that [West Virginia] has a hostile environment for Black and Brown people.

Racist symptom of a capitalist system

While many people who saw the picture were in disbelief, anti-racist activists and revolutionaries were not surprised by what they saw. The police in the U.S. were created as slave patrols and strike-breakers. The police, along with their correctional colleagues inside the prison system, have targeted, harassed, abused and brutalized people of color in the U.S. for centuries.

In the era of the Trump administration, racists and fascists have been given a green light to be open about their bigotry. President Trump has even gone so far as to call neo-Nazis “good people.”

Anyone who has ever been to a protest against police brutality or white supremacy is probably familiar with the chant, “Cop, and Klan go hand in hand.” This is no exaggeration. Not only do the police always protect hate groups in the streets, with police weapons pointed toward the anti-fascist demonstrators, the police and corrections officers have an historical connection with white supremacist groups. This writer has heard formerly incarcer-ated individuals comment on how correctional officers in particular have close relations with the neo-Nazi prison group known as the Aryan Brotherhood.

West Virginia state government officials such as Gov. Jim Justice and U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, have denounced the picture as “disgusting” and “disturbing.” But neither Justice nor Manchin should be viewed as allies in the struggle against white supremacy. Both of them are back- ers of Trump and should therefore face some of the blame as accomplices in a sick system that lays the groundwork for such ultra-racist and neo-Nazi behavior to exist.

The system of police and corrections officers in the U.S. is inherently racist, created to protect the property of the own- ing class and to suppress anyone or collective uprising against an unjust system.

The release of the ugly image from West Virginia once again ripped off the mask of the “criminal justice system” under capitalist socialism. A socialist revolution is the only true solution to abolish the threat of fascist police.
The United Auto Workers is in a serious crisis—perhaps the biggest in its 84-year history. A federal investigation has exposed widespread corruption at the highest levels of leadership. UAW officials misspending of member dues, kickbacks from vendors and accepting bribes from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Some officials and staff have pleaded guilty or been convicted.

The International Executive Board filed charges under the UAW Constitution against Gary Jones and Jeanne T. Pearson, until recently the union’s International President and Region 5 Director, respectively. The IEB charged the two with misappropriating funds from the OPB fund and Pearson Assistant Director of Region 5. Union funds, disguised as expenses related to trainings, were reportedly spent on golf equipment and clothing, expensive meals, alcohol and cigars, as well as lavish condo rentals—accommodating the bourgeois aspirations of officials and their staff.

Jones and Pearson resigned their positions and membership in the UAW. Rather than find a replacement for Pearson out of scandal-ridden Region 5, the IEB—under the leadership of new President Rory Gamble—disbanded the Region. Gamble has instituted a number of measures to strengthen ethics oversight.

A home constructed at the union’s north side—was recently sold. While these steps are positive, measures to strengthen ethics oversight.

Top-down measures to increase ethical oversight are not enough. The rank and file must be directly empowered to hold them accountable.

By Lyn Neeley

Portland, Ore.“Union busting? That’s disgusting!”

A militant picket line of 50 workers and supporters marched outside Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) Wednesday—rallying against the “union busting?” That’s disgusting!” They were demanding that OPB negotiate a decent contract and recognize their right to put their union. The workers are represented by Service Employees Local 570. The union’s chief negotiator called OPB’s recent offers the most insulting contract ever. OPB did not respond to ion. The union research shows that every job that is eliminated—has started a movement to turn OPB into a union shop, which is in the union or how to contact them.

“Many of us don’t actually know we have a union,” said Ikeshia Owens, president of Local 570. “We do have a union. It’s important because we have more power when we organize together.”

The union first requested negotiations in February. In May they agreed to extend their contract for six months so OPB could complete a $35 million renovation to the station. That contract extension requires Dec. 31 and workers are tired of waiting.

Steve Bass, CEO at OPB, makes $350,000 a year. OPB is the third highest paid CEO in Oregon. About 64 percent of OPB funding comes from listener donations; with 120,000 subscribers, OPB is one of the best-supported public broadcasting services in the U.S. Another 29 percent of OPB financing is from corporate, federal and state support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Like other mission-driven nonprofits, OPB is part of the capitalist system. Even if it is not technically creating profit, management is being well paid while forcing oppressive conditions on the workers.

Portland increased to 3.59 percent. OPB also wants to eliminate guaranteed merit review raises for union workers; non-union workers don’t have guaranteed raises. The company is also preventing members from joining the UAW using federal racketeering law.

Schneider is no friend of labor. He was appointed by former Governor General and known bigot Jeff Sessions. As attorney for then Gov. Rick Snyder during the Detroit bankruptcy, Schneider argued the city’s retirees’ pensions were not legally protected.

“I don’t think that [Gamble’s changes] means that [the UAW is] cooperating with the Justice Department to bring justice to the victims who are the UAW members, so far,” said Schneider.

The UAW’s statement is pure, unabashed hypocrisy.

The timing of the threatened federal racketeering lawsuit—after the six-week strike against GM and contract negotiations at the Detroit Three auto companies winding down—is to be sold. While these steps are positive, much more can be done.

At the 2018 UAW Constitutional Convention, delegates (under pressure) approved huge salary increases for the UAW’s top staff, allowing the president’s salary to over $200,000 a year. Under the recently negotiated contracts, a newly hired temporary employee at Ford, for example, will have to work over 12,000 hours a year to earn that much.

Keep the feds out!

The biggest danger now—much bigger than rampant financial misconduct—is that U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider has made an ominous threat to 400,000 UAW members to take the UAW using federal racketeering law. Schneider is no friend of labor. He was appointed by former Governor General and known bigot Jeff Sessions. As attorney for then Gov. Rick Snyder during the Detroit bankruptcy, Schneider argued the city’s retirees’ pensions were not legally protected.

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Nonprofit workers’ growing movement to unionize

Union victories are on the rise in so-called “liberal” and cultural work places—prestigious publications, museums, theater companies and service organizations.

Workers at Webnews, DNAinfo and Gothamist voted in 2017 to join the Writers Guild of America East, their boss Joe Ricketts shut down the websites and laid off 115 employees to punish them. In response, WGA organized a demonstration in New York City where more than 300 people joined the “fight against the billionaire war on journalism.” (Workers World, Nov. 22, 2017)

“On August, more than 300 library workers—librarians, library assistants, clerks and information technology professional across 19 branches of Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Library system voted 60 percent in favor of joining the United Steelworkers and won a union.” (WW, Sept. 4)

In Utah early in 2019, more than 80 percent of workers at the Salt Lake Film Society voted to join the Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. The work force of cleaners, ticket sellers and pro jector operators—demeaningly called “popcorn people” by management—included mainly young people, people of color, women and LGBTQ+ people. In April, the union became official.

Boots Riley, writer and director of “Sorry to Bother You,” congratulated the theater workers “who came together to form a union: ‘It’s not just the fight ... that exists in front of you; it’s about the story that is written behind the scenes and will be found out about what you’re doing ... not just theater workers, but fast food workers, anyone, retail workers—so what you’re doing is very important. And I’m inspired by you.” (WW, June 9)
Sports heroes fight racism

Continued from page 1

made by a white person about a person of color is overt or covert, it is still racism, pure and simple. It cannot be taken out of the historical and political context of white supremacy emanating from ruling class ideas that permeate every fiber of U.S. society.

Megan Rapinoe

Megan Rapinoe is arguably one of the most famous and influential soccer players in the world. She is co-captain of the U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team, which won the World Cup title in July; Rapinoe is an out lesbian who has been outspoken in demanding that U.S. women soccer players receive the same pay and benefits as their male counterparts. Before winning the World Cup, Rapinoe declared, “I’m not going to the fucking White House,” which has been a tradition for most championship teams. (si.com, Dec. 6) In fact, none of the team went to visit Trump.

Rapinoe, who is white, began to kneel during the playing of the national anthem before games in 2016 to protest racist police brutality, inspired by the actions of Black, former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

She won one of Glamour magazine’s 2019 Women of the Year awards Nov. 12 in New York City. Other winners included Black film director Ava DuVernay and environmentalist Greta Thunberg.

In her acceptance speech, Rapinoe said: “So while I’m saying all of this unprecedented — and, frankly, a little bit uncomfortable — attention and personal success, in large part due to my activism off the field, Colin Kaepernick is still effectively banned from the NFL for kneeling during the national anthem in protest of known and systematic police brutality against people of color, known and systematic racial injustice and known and systematic white supremacy.”

“I see no clearer example of that system being alive and well than me standing before you right now. It would be a little bit uncomfortable — attention and personal success, in large part due to my activism off the field, Colin Kaepernick is still effectively banned from the NFL for kneeling during the national anthem in protest of known and systematic police brutality against people of color, known and systematic racial injustice and known and systematic white supremacy.”

It is not true. Who will erase Messi or Ronaldo from world football history for a statement against racism or sexism? They grew up in a bubble because of their exceptional talents. They were cut off from the real world and everything at 20.

“I am both sad and angry. I would describe discrimi-

nated treatment to them. I would also tell them we need support from men, even if they are not the first affected. They must be our allies.”

Imagine the impact if Cristiano Ronaldo said: “We must invest in female football.” It would be enormous! [If Messi] left the pitch because of racist chants. The referee would not dare to send him off.” (ESPN, Dec. 2) So far, none of the three players has responded to Rapinoe.

On Dec. 9, Rapinoe was named sportsperson of the year for 2019 by Sports Illustrated magazine.

Tommia Dean

On Sept. 30, 2017, five African-American cheerleaders at a Georgia college took a knee during a football game to protest police brutality and racial inequality. This was just one of many protests that were taking place on and off the field during this period, inspired by Colin Kaepernick.

As a reprimand, Kennesaw State College banned the cheerleaders from appearing at the next two home games. One of the cheerleaders, Tommia Dean, brought a lawsuit in September 2018 against the former president of the college, two members of the athletic department, a co-offender and two other individuals. (USA Today, Nov. 12) Tommie Dean, 34-year-old Rapinoe verbally took to task the three biggest male soccer players in the world — Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Zlatan Ibrahimović — for remaining silent on issues of racism and sexism.

She told France Football, “I want to shout: ‘Cristiano, Lionel, Zlatan, help me!’ These big stars do not engage in anything when there are so many problems in men’s football.

“Do they fear losing everything? They believe that, but

Lamar Jackson, Jr.

In the U.S. South, as well as major urban areas in the North, descendants of enslaved African people suffer the highest poverty rates. They make a disproportion-

ate number of those who will suffer real hunger without the govern-

ment programs that are now on the chopping block.

Trump and his lackeys, professing to care about the people they are knitting in the back, say that “private charities” can pick up the slack. These charities currently provide only about 5 percent of the food services that people in poverty rely on.

Hunger takes a back seat to warfare

The amount the government would “save” by this draconian measure is a mere pittance compared to the hundreds of billions of dollars lavished on the military-industrial complex, not to mention payments on the astronomical and ever-increasing national debt.

The Pentagon budget for 2019 is just shy of $700 billion. The next largest military budget in the world, that of People’s China with more than four times the population of the U.S. to defend, is just $177.6 billion.

In contrast to the vast sums showered on the Pentagon, the federal budget for SNAP and other related food assistance programs for fiscal year 2018 was $68 billion.

This is also far, far less than the interest

Food stamps are now known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. “SNAP is a bridge for people who’ve hit a financial crisis,” said Debbie Freeman, outreach coordinator at United South Broadway Corporation, a community service agency based in New Mexico, where a large number of the poor rely on food assistance.

In New Mexico — Indigenous lands colonized by Spain and then stolen by the U.S. in 1848 through a vicious war — many of the poor who depend on food stamps are descendants of those who inhabited the lands at that time, but were reduced to extreme poverty by subsequent U.S. conquest of the territory.

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the federal government pays (out of our tax money) to the banks on the national debt. In fiscal 2019, this interest is projected to surge to the mind-boggling sum of $398 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. And it will only grow in the future, leaving the bankers ever richer and the workers ever poorer — and in need of food assistance.

Yet this excrecence which Trump lies through his teeth, telling his racist and clueless base that he is saving them money — by taking food out of the mouths of babies and stuffing it in the maws of his fellow capitalists.

Is it any wonder that 70 percent of millen-

nials said they’d vote for a socialist in a recent YoungGov poll? Voting won’t unseat this class of deadly parasites, but it’s a start.
What road to socialism?

By Scott Williams

This article is based on an edited talk, “What Road to Socialism?” given at a Workers World Party Forum on Nov. 23 in New York City.

The question of “What road to socialism?” can be posed as: What road to survival for the human species and for the rest of life on the planet? But it is also an immediate and practical question which impacts workers’ lives.

Workers World Party takes inspiration from the massive upsurges in Haiti, Lebanon, Chile, Colombia, the resistance to the Israeli occupation, and the steadfast struggle of the Bolivarian revolution. The people of the world are in the streets demonstrating against capitalism, imperialism and oppression.

While these massive uprisings are tremendous, the impacts of imperialism and neoliberal capitalism are not without the growth of the world communist movement. As we have seen throughout history, massive resistance to capitalism and oppression leads to solidarity by a coalition of communist organizations with deep connections in the masses, as is the route to socialism.

We are not the only group that has identified this as the path to revolution. Beginning in 1945, reinvigoration of workers movement in the U.S. Chicago teachers struck against racism and inequality. Education workers, low-wage workers, women, people of color — and more of the working class — are flexing the strike muscle. We saw the longest General Motors strike in decades. Unions are again winning accounts across the U.S. to continue the left is rising.

Support for socialism is also on the rise. According to recent polls, 70 percent of millennials, people 23 to 38 years old, would vote for a socialist. One-third of millennials view communism favorably compared to capitalism. Communism’s popularity is growing quickly.

Millennials’ support for communism has increased by 8 percent in the last year and is now at 31 percent. While this is perhaps a small percentage, twenty percent of millennials believe the world would be better off if private property were abolished. The tide is turning toward us.

These are the youth of Black Lives Matter, the Occupy movement and the global strike wave. These youth face a declining life expectancy and dystopia. The eroding climate crisis impacts all our everyday work.

British social democracy has many serious problems. Labor’s support for imperialism, the police and the border patrol should shock a revolutionary reader. Isn’t Corbyn the notorious anti-imperialist? Some may remember him as the politician the world would be better off without. They are right.

The Labor Manifesto is not a road to socialism. It includes proposals such as the following: “Conduct an audit of the impact of the U.S. presence off the streets and focus their attention on boring legal proceedings in Congress.” The message is clear: Nancy Pelosi and the corporate Democrats will provide “real power” to the right wing and effectively enable him to win a second term.

Another term for Trump is good for business. As the next economic crisis looms, the ruling class will demand austerity, more privatizations, more blood and more fascist violence. They don’t want worker militancy or a President Sanders who will join the world’s solidarity movement against the U.S. and its empire.

In the case that Sanders wins, his presidency would be met with capital strikes, strikes in the streets and growing militance. He will face a difficult battle, but paired with fascist mobilizations to threaten any chance of a progressive presidency.

A proposed beginning to a route toward socialism

How do we defeat the rise of fascism in a country built on genocide, white supremacy, slavery, patriarchy and anti-communism? How do we support struggles against capitalism, racism, sexism and all forms of oppression and turn them into a movement for a revolutionary socialist future?

This overly simplified proposal includes three parts: a renewed ideological campaign, continued mobilizations and a turn toward deepening organizing.

First of all, we need an ideological initiative to connect to these young people. We need to address the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All, the basic elements of Medicare for All.

Continued on page 7
What road to socialism?

By Stephanie Tromblay

By Stephanie Tromblay

Indigenous people and supporters gathered on a rainy, cold day at Plymouth, Mass., on Nov. 28 for the 50th National Day of Mourning. The undaunted crowd included Indigenous peoples of the region who were massacred and murdered — Mashpee and Aquinnah and other bands of the Wampanoag, Massachusetts, Narragansett, Nipmuc, Pequot, and other Native Nations from the immediate region, and Native peoples from across Great Turtle Island and the Land of the Condor — in a vibrant show of Indigenous resilience despite the geno- cide begun by those colonial settlers.

Moennum James, Wampanoag, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, opened the rally on Cole’s Hill: “The first National Day of Mourning was held in 1970 in response to the refusal to let an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, Wamsutta Frank James, speak the truth at a fancy Commonwealth of Massachusetts banquet celebrating the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. Wamsutta and hundreds of Indigenous people and supporters gath- ere to shout ‘No GMO, No Tribe’ on the first National Day of Mourning, which UAINE has continued every year since.”

James said, “Over the years we repet- itedly disrupted the ‘Pilgrims’ Thanksgiving’ parade, a tradition we continued until 1996. In 1997 we were blocked ... and arrested for simply trying to march. The resulting defense of the Plymouth 25 led to the plaque you see over here on Cole’s Hill and the Metacom plaque we will visit when we march. The English settlers killed the historic Wampanoag leader Metacom, also known as King Philip, and displayed his head on a spike for 25 years. James pointed out: “The Pilgrims are glorified and mythologized because the circumstances of the first English colony in North America, Jamestown, were too ugly to hold in an official official myth.” School children now learn about the African slaves kept at Jamestown, and those first white settlers there actually turned to cannibalism to survive.

James went on to take apart the official, untrue story of the Pilgrims seeking reli- gious freedom, which they already had in the Netherlands. He noted they came as an effort to create an official ‘Christian myth.’ Schoolchildren now learn about the African slaves kept at Jamestown, and those first white settlers there actually turned to cannibalism to survive.

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When we march, “The English settlers turned to cannibalism to survive. In North America, Jamestown, were too ugly to hold in an official official myth.” School children now learn about the African slaves kept at Jamestown, and those first white settlers there actually turned to cannibalism to survive.

The first actual thanksgiving dinner was produced in 1627 by Governor Wamsutta, who also organized major mobilizations which come as a form of revolution in the U.S.

And we apply the party’s unique perspec- tive for significant developments.

Tromblay’s heritage is Huron non- strect, with roots deep into the Huron of Southeast nations undocu-mented.

Continued from page 6

in workers’ struggles and fighting U.S. imperialism’s attempts to conquer Venezuela and Bolivia have been sig- nificant developments.

We need to be bolder. We need to keep organizing major mobilizations which come as forms of revolution in the U.S.

What road to socialism?

Many speakers spoke about Bolivia, where a U.S.-supported fascist coup forced the first Indigenous president, Evo Morales, from office following his popu- lar election. Fascist elements have carried out attacks on and murders of Indigenous people, who are 65 percent to 70 percent of the Bolivian population.

The gathering marched to Plymouth’s formerly named Post Office Square to hear some words at the plaque commemorating- ing the history of the Wampanoag plaque and that on Cole’s Hill were won in the 1998 UAINE settlement on the dropping of the name from Post Office Square, along with the right to march without a permit ever again on National Day of Mourning and some small reparations for educational purposes.

Then marchers continued down to the pebble called “Plymouth Rock” for final words before adjourning for the post-rally picnic social 2 miles away at a Lutheran church. The ruling-class Mayflower Association had bought the former Unitarian church, where marchers gathered, and forced UAINE out this year.

As James said to the crowd on Cole’s Hill, “We will continue to gather on this hill till corporations and the U.S. mili- tary stop polluting the Earth. Until we dismantle the brutal apparatus of mass incarceration. We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past. When the homeless have homes. When children are no lon- ger taken from their parents and locked in cages. When the Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy Israel has denied them for the past 70 years. When no person goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. When insulin is free. When Union-busting is a thing of the past. Until then, the struggle will continue.”

‘As strong as ever’

50th annual National Day of Mourning

By Stephanie Tromblay

Mumia message to event
'It’s not about me, it’s about us'

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

Over 100 activists and community members from across the country came together in Philadelphia Dec. 7 for an event that linked the struggle to free Black journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, imprisoned in the U.S. for the last 37 years, with the international struggle against empire and capitalism.

The event, hosted by Mobilization for Mumia and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, featured speakers from various progressive and anti-imperialist organizations. They included Ant Smith and Megan Malachi from Philly for REAL Justice, Gloria Williamson from the Philadelphia Coalition Against the War, William Camacaro from the Bolivarian Circle of New York, and Yahne Ndgo from Black Alliance for Peace.

The event also featured Ant Smith from Mumia Africa, sole survivor of the 1985 bombing in West Philadelphia by Philadelphia and state police, helped open the event by reading the names of fallen revolutionary soldiers and organizers.

Johanna Fernandez of the Campaign to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal provided an update on the legal side of Mumia's case. (For more on this, see "New stage in the struggle to free Mumia," Workers World, Dec. 5.)

Mumia calls in from prison

Mumia Abu-Jamal was able to speak directly to those in attendance, calling in to the event from SCI Mahanoy, the Pennsylvania state prison where he is serving a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. With his trademark wisdom, humor and real talk, Mumia kept the audience at rapt attention.

'It’s an ugly time,” Mumia said, “The air is foul. The water is foul.” Referring to the MOVE founder who was killed when police bombed their house, Mumia said, “John亭as a human environmentalist. He said that water is a potion that gets poisoned when the system gets ahold of it.”

“They want it all. Think about this. Never in my life have I seen so many billionaires running for public office. Think about it! Why would they want to do that? They want to be president, they want to be speakers, they want to be senators, they want to be governors. Why? They want it all.”

'It’s not about me, it’s about us,” Mumia added. "If we don’t start thinking that way, shit is about to get real.”

Between panel discussions, attendees participated in workshops hosted by various event organizers. Workers World Party hosted a class and discussion based on the writings of Mumia and other freedom fighters.

Other workshops included “A Conversation on Black Liberation,” hosted by Gabriel Bryant, and a discussion about Latin America and the Caribbean featuring former Cesar Chavez, member of the Coalition Forazeita Latina and Taryn Fivel of the International Action Center.

The movement to free Mumia has consistently fought for his freedom over the last 38 years,” said Megan Malachi of Philly for REAL Justice. “This movement is funded by the hard labor and funds of the people. The oppressed. We are up against a rotten and decadent system with seemingly unlimited resources. A system of violence and aversive, but we are brave and we will win.

"We are going to bring Mumia home and all our incarcerated people home, but we need your help. We leftists don’t like to discuss money, but in this capitalist system, we need funds to free our people. We humbly ask that you donate what you can.

Workers World urges readers to visit mobilizetomumia.org and donate what you can to the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, as well as Chuck and Delbert Africa.

30 years after the Camp Hill uprising
Repression in Pennsylvania’s prison system

By Jerome ‘Hoagie’ Coffey
SCI Albion, Erie, Pa.

On Oct. 25, 1989, a three-day uprising took place at Pennsylvania’s State Correctional Institution Camp Hill in response to overcrowding and administrative changes impacting visits, food from family, medical care and the termination of prison programs.

The prison, originally called White Hill, opened in 1941 as an industrial school for juvenile prisoners on 52 acres of property in Cumberland County. In the 1970s it was accredited by the state to house adult prisoners and certified as SCI Camp Hill.

When the uprising happened, the facility was equipped to house 1,826 prisoners but was overcrowded with 2,600 men.

By the time the uprising was put down on Oct. 28, over 100 people were injured, including guards and inmates; 14 prison buildings were destroyed, with an estimated damage of $72 million. In the weeks that followed over 1,200 prisoners still housed at Camp Hill were kept in leg irons and handcuffs and denied showers until an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit forced prison officials to back down.

Four days after the Camp Hill uprising, then Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey held a press conference announcing he was appointing an independent commission to investigate Camp Hill.

In the three decades that followed, conditions for Pennsylvania prisoners have only deteriorated as draconian state and federal measures, pushed by the agenda of criminal justice policymakers, including the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), were introduced.

Privatizing prisons and breaking resistance

ALEC is a Washington, D.C.-based public policy organization that supports conservative legislators. Launched in 1973 by Paul Weyrich (a Heritage Foundation founder and "Godfather of the New Right figure,” ALEC exemplifies the overlap between the corporate sector and public policy. With over 40 percent of state legislators as members, ALEC is instrumental in drafting state caps across the U.S. Of more than 6,000 state legislators, approximately 2,500 are members of ALEC, including scores who hold key leadership positions.

William Barr, currently President Trump’s hit man as U.S. Attorney General, in 1995 was a hardcore ALEC member and poster boy who used Pennsylvania as the launching site for ALEC policies. Barr, Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee) and Rep. Jeff Piccolia (Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee) did a press conference as part of ALEC’s anti-crime tour to announce the agenda.

In March 1995, Gov. Thomas Ridge appointed Manel Perez as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PADOC), giving him carte blanche to make drastic changes in the state’s prison system. Both Ridge and Horn were staunch members of ALEC and shared its prison policies agenda.

On Oct. 24, 1995, six years after the uprising, Ridge and Horn spent over $2 million and authorized a joint federal and state task force to carry out an attack on predominantly African-American prisoners at SCI Graterford, the largest maximum security prison in the state. The state’s attack took place just nine days after the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.

Making an example out of Graterford, Secretary Horn established operational manuals impacting policies in all state prisons and opened the way to privatize PADOC’s infrastructures, including medical service, phone and cable service, food packaging, commissaries and emailed mail. Horn’s policy manuals included physical removal of prisoners to areas sufficiently isolated to effectively break or seriously weaken close emotional ties; segregation of all natural leaders; use of cooperative prisoners as leaders; and prohibition of group activities not in line with brainwashing objectives.

Clinton’s crime bills and Pennsylvania

In the early 1990s Pennsylvania state prisoners had filed a successful class action lawsuit challenging oppressive prison conditions. It resulted in an injunction that established policies restricting prison officials handling of prisoners’ mail; guaranteed prisoner access to outside publications; established health care and sanitation standards; imposed restrictive standards for prison officials’ use of force; and prescribed detailed procedures for conducting searches.

In 1996 President Bill Clinton signed the Prison Litigation Reform Act that terminated a federal court overseeing a consent decree that had been implemented by the policing industry.

In 1999 President Clinton signed into law another anti-prisoner bill that increased the sentence for illegal distributions of alikes from five to 40 years. In that same year Congress passed the ‘Justice for All Act,’ law that allowed for the private running of federal prisons.

In 2005, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell signed into law, the “Identified Offender” law that removed prisoners’ civil liberties. In 2004, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, appointed his personal friend and poster boy who used Pennsylvania as the launching site for ALEC policies, Jerry ‘Hoagie’ Coffey to be Secretary of PADOC. Coffey pledged to boss Corbett that he would reduce the state prison population and save money.

In fact, Coffey, in the lucrative business of exploiting prisoners by selling cells, brought Pennsylvania prisoners back from other states to which they had previously been transferred. The move was designed to take advantage of federal stimulus money, which Coffey used to pay correctional officials overtime while shoveling the PADOC budget.

In 2017 the Vermont DOC paid the PADOC $7 million per year for three years to house 270 prisoners, until two died at Camp Hill. In January 2019, under an interstate corrections compact, 224 inmates from Delaware prisons were moved to PADOC jurisdiction.

In conclusion, 30 years after the Camp Hill riot, the PADOC is not only “behind the times,”—it has gone from bad to worse. Coffey is putting the finishing touches of oppression on prisoners, glorifying the prison-industrial complex and allowing racist Jim Crow policies to be implemented by the policing industry.
Workers must say: ‘Move over, we’re taking over’
Sam Marcys analysis of 1995 struggle in France

By Sam Marczy

Adapted from a speech Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Marczy gave to a party meeting on Dec. 15, 1995 — the same day that the then French government unveiled its plan to cut pensions after months of angry protests from front-line worker demonstrations. Marczy’s evaluation followed a period of months of massive class struggle in France, with strikes in the public sector including a general strike in transport. Many reports from France’s current class struggle in December 2019 describe today’s strikes as the biggest since 1995. Marczy died in 1998.

There was a time in this country when the French revolu-
tionary experience of 1789 was discussed as avidly as the Russian experience of 1917 has been over the last several decades. Paris was the center of revolutionary action and revolution inspiration.

It is hard to believe that so much of it has gone by without leaving much of a trace, because the French Revolution was the first really great struggle against feudalism that brought the masses out into the streets. It challenged not only certain feudal practices, like over-taxation and taking of produce needed by workers, but also the whole system of private property.

The French Revolution of 1789 is really the beginning of the modern era of socialism in some ways, if you don’t consider the time of the Roman Empire and the feudal era. Marx and Engels, later Lenin and Trotsky, studied the French Revolution very hard. Many of my generation did, too, because until 1917 it was THE revolution, the model.

They took pride in trying to understand what the dif-
f erences were among the leaders, why the leaders fought among themselves and why there was so much bloodshed.

Hollywood had to have its say, too. In the movies of the early 1920s there was always some reference to the bloody struggles in Paris. All the mean people were on the losing side.

First revolutionary struggle of masses

The French Revolution was the beginning of the revo-
 lutionary struggle of the oppressed masses everywhere. Its lessons are as important today as 50 or 100 years ago.

For instance, what were the aims of the revolution? Liberty, fraternity and equality were great slogans, but in the end what did they mean to which class?

As Marx and Engels later pointed out, the French revolu-
tion helped the establishment of the bourgeoisie as against the feudal class. It destroyed feudalism once and for all.

Nowhere were feudal remnants so quickly and com-
pletely destroyed as in France. This terrorized the rulers all over the world. For instance, where a queen in France was executed, all of England shuddered.

Nevertheless, the British ruling class was afraid not to report that the French had executed their queen. And the very printing of this news aroused the British working class. It did not bring about the great revolutionary tur-
mor there that existed in France, but that’s because the earlier English Revolution of 1640 had done a lot of the work that the French didn’t do in the 1640s or 1740s — that was left for 1789 and thereafter.

The French Revolution is the example of class strug-
gles unparalleled in history until the Russian Revolution. Whoever wants to understand the relationship of exploiter to exploited and how the interests of the classes are fulfilled, first of all she has to study French history. Everything else seems to be an echo of what took place there.

Of course, that’s not true in the United States. The col-
onies got their independence earlier, in 1776, and didn’t feel they needed a real revolution. They were quick to make friends with the French monarchy. As you recall, Benjamin Franklin went over to France trying to represent U.S. inter-
ests. The U.S. American Revolution never took on the char-
acter of a revolution to transform property relations.

What’s happening today

What we see today (1995) in France is in some ways a continuation of the struggles begun in 1789 — class strug-
gles that ushered in a new propertied class, the bourgeo-
sie, which got strengthened and became the ruling class.

And now the big question is whether the new struggle is sounding the knell for the ruling class, the bourgeoisie.

What we see in France today is not a revolutionary situation, not yet. It is an important strike, but it is lim-
it by the nature and ideology of the leadership now in control — and also by the conditions.

The important thing in France today is that the masses are willing to listen to ideas for their liberation. They have not taken to the streets, they’ve gone beyond what the trade unions have asked them to do. But the big question is, will they go further than that?

Strikes alone do not lead to the revolution. Going out in the streets is an indispensable step, but in itself does not lead to the revolution.

It has to be followed by the next step: the seizure of the means of production, the seizure of the properties. Walking out of the factories is one aspect of the struggle. There is a need and indeed a revolutionary act to come back to the factories and take over their management.

In France, the workers have walked off their jobs, espe-
cially in the all-important state sector. The next thing is for them to come back and take them over.

Just walking out does not do it. It raises an important and significant protest and it scares the hell out of the bourgeoisie. But it does not lead to that one important act: taking over the reins of society by taking over the means of production.

The workers walk off the job. If done in union with militant solidarity, it’s an act of tremendous revolutionary con-
sequences. The next thing is to come back and take the means of production over, to say we’ve come back not to be subjugated, we’ve come back to manage.

Many of us know how to manage our jobs, even if we are no longer being directed by the bosses. So the ques-
tion today is not whether the workers are out or not, the question is whether, when they do go out — which shows an act of defiance and a break with collaboration — will they come back and say, “We are running things”?

So simple yet so essential

It seems such a simple act, so elementary. Yet it has taken centuries for workers to be able to come to that conclusion. And they can come to that conclusion only as a result of the struggle, of the long, hard road of the struggle for the seizure of power by the working class.


It had to be a change in the form of thinking, and the think-
ing first of all of the leaders themselves.

Has it sunk into them that they have the power in their hands? That they can do it? That the masses are ready for it? That they have learned the art of managing? That there are hundreds of thousands of lower-ranking man-

agers who were sympathetic to the workers’ movement even before the strike began?

As the strike progresses, the question is how to consol-
date it and move further. To say to the government: Move over, we’re taking over. It is the essence of the matter. We can do a whole lot of agitation, we can go over a whole lot on what tactical matters can be done. But that is the main thing.

And we hope that the French workers are up to it.

By Phbe Eckfeldt

Boston

On Nov. 22, strikers at the Battery Wharf Hotel voted 100 percent to approve a new contract and returned to work after 79 days on the picket line.

Westmont Hospitality Group, owner of Battery Wharf Hotel, had been determined to break the strike by digging in and refusing to negotiate. But the determination of the mostly im/migrant strikers was greater.

With the aid of a union, the Marriott Hotel workers ended their strike by hiring a hotel owner who offered millions of dollars. The workers had been locked out of their place of work for months, and had been forced to work unpaid hours.

The 75 strikers are from all over the world and are repre-
sentative of a diverse workforce. For instance, a Battery Wharf housekeeper said: “I work in a hotel that is 75 percent im/migrant.


Adam reported of the Marriott strike that the union had asked them to vote against the contract and return to work. But that is the main thing.

The battery workers won this victory against solidarity and militant tactics that included following the leader of Westmont Hospitality, Majid Mangalji, to various cities. They confronted Westmont at conferences demanding protections against sexual and racial harass-
ment and assault.

Hotel workers win again

By Phbe Eckfeldt

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The battery workers won this victory against solidarity and militant tactics that included following the leader of Westmont Hospitality, Majid Mangalji, to various cities. They confronted Westmont at conferences demanding protections against sexual and racial harass-
ment and assault.
At the meeting of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR) in Bogotá, Colombia, on Dec. 3, some 15 countries took action against the Bolivarian government of Venezuela. They restricted travel of top members of the Venezuelan government, including its president and vice president. This hostile step by these countries, whose right-wing rulers are subservi- ent to U.S. imperialism, is a sign that Washington plans to step up its assault on the Bolivarian government. In an interview by Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese of Popular Resistance, New York-based Venezuelan activist William Camacaro explained the points in great detail. Camacaro, who is active with the Solidarity Committee with Venezuela NYC and organizes food sovereignty tours to Venezuela, got out an alert to people in the U.S. urging them to take action to defend Venezuela.

Camacaro discussed how President Nicolás Maduro’s government has the backing of Venezuela’s military and has organized popular militias to defend the country democratically. Because of this support, the Caracas gov- ernment has stopped Washington’s agents from carrying out a coup, which they have been working to instigate since early this year.

Camacaro stressed the seriousness of the TIAR meeting and the threats com- ing from the Colombian regime. He also described U.S. imperialism’s dangerous and aggressive stance as mass uprisings throughout the hemisphere have put U.S.- backed neoliberalism under attack. He also discussed the military-fascist coup in Bolivia and some of the differences between Venezuela and Evo Morales’ Bolivia. The interview delivers a message that anti-war and anti-imperialist activists in the United States should take seriously. We must keep up our level of defense of the government of President Maduro.

Workers World will continue its sup- port for the Venezuelan revolutionary process and the Maduro government, and also supports Camacaro’s call for the movement here to stay alert and take appropriate actions. We direct our readers to the full text of the interview with Camacaro, published Dec. 7 at popularresistance.com, which can also be found at tinyurl.com/uegr5w3. U.S. imperialism, out of South America and the Caribbean! ☐
Workers in France are determined to challenge the French government’s plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 by 2028. This, they argue, is unsustainable and will result in a significant reduction in their pensions. They are demanding a multi-generational, multi-sectoral, multi-union movement to fight for their rights.

The lead banner of the Joint Union, the coalition that initiated the massive Dec. 5 protest of millions in France.

The Yellow Vest movement also participated in many of the protests and demonstrations. Just a little over a year ago, this movement had challenged the French government’s scheme to deprive workers of gains won in decades of struggle. They are part of the program that Macron has begun to implement to privatize and minimize social services available to French workers.

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¿Qué camino hacia el socialismo?

Por Scott Williams

Este artículo se basa en una charla editada, “¿Qué camino hacia el socialismo?”, en el Partido Workers World/Partido Mundo Obrero el 23 de noviembre de 2015 en la ciudad de Nueva York.

La pregunta “¿Qué camino hacia el socialismo?” puede plantearse como “¿Qué camino hacia el socialismo para la especie humana y para el resto de la vida en el planeta?” Pero también es una pregunta inmediata y práctica que impacta tanto nuestro trabajo diario como el de nuestras madres, abuelas, bisas, etc., es una pregunta que tiene un camino propuesto hacia el socialismo. Uno de los programas más populares de la socialdemocracia en la actualidad es el Manifiesto del Partido Laborista recientemente publicado, presentado por el Partido Laborista británico dirigido por Jeremy Corbyn.

En el período previo a las eleccio- nes parlamentarias del 12 de diciembre, Corbyn utilizó la plataforma de la plataforma laborista “más radical” de la historia. Si bien el documento parece radical durante este período del capitalismo neoliberal, en muchos sentidos es un ejemplo clásico de un programa socialdemócrata en un país imperialista. El programa de Corbyn seguramente será popular entre la gente de clase trabajadora en Gran Bretaña. Promete un Nuevo Acuerdo Ecologico para abordar la crisis climática: nacionalizar la industria energética, crear un millón de empleos ecológicos, expandir el Servicio Nacional de Salud, aumentar los fondos para la educación, crear un salario mínimo equivalente a $13 por hora, mejorar los derechos de los trabajadores y terminar la precariedad en el trabajo. Curiosamente, Corbyn podría ganar con este programa. Esto sería un paso adelante. ¿Pero el Partido Laborista llevará a los trabajadores hacia el socialismo?

La socialdemocracia británica tiene muchos problemas serios. El apoyo de los laboristas al imperialismo, la policía y la patrulla fronteriza deberían sorprender a un lector revolucionario. ¿Nó es Corbyn el notoriamente antiamericanista? Algunos pueden recordarlo como el político que votó a la manifestación de Washington DC contra la guerra en Irak en 2003, convocado por Answer y apoyado por BP y VIVIR. Ha sido conocido como un antiamericanista por su defensa de los derechos básicos palestinos y su oposición a la guerra. Sin embargo, el programa del Partido Laborista no se opone a la guerra y al imperialismo.

En la sección final del Manifiesto, Corbyn describe su enfoque de política exterior en una pieza titulada “Nuevo Internacionalismo”. Incluye propuestas como las siguientes: “Realizar una audi- toría del impacto del legado colonial de Gran Bretaña para comprender nuestra contribución a la dinámica de violencia e inseguridad en regiones anteriormente bajo el dominio colonial británico”. Al hablar sobre el Imperio Británico que dejó a millones de personas en todo el mundo, la palabra “reparaciones” no apa- rece una vez. Una autoritría por sí sola no comenzará a resolver la crisis del “legado colonial” de Gran Bretaña.

En realidad, el programa laborista busca mantener el Imperio. Se lee: “Tenemos el deber de defender la segurid- dad y la soberanía de nuestros territorios ultramarinos, incluidas las Malvinas”. Esta declaración no podrá ser un llamado más claro para defender el Imperio. Los Islas Malvinas (llamadas las Falklands por Gran Bretaña) pertenecen a Argentina, no a los británicos. Algunas de las propuestas en esta sección parecen progresivas, como suspen- der la venta de armas a Arabia Saudí y pedir el fin del bloqueo, la ocupación y los asentamientos israelíes en Palestina. En la misma oración que defiende el derecho de Palestina a existir, el programa viola el derecho del pueblo saudí a la autodeterminación, defiende, llamando a los palestinos a “poner fin a los ataques con cohetes y terroristas”.

La postura del Partido Laborista sobre la guerra

Este “nuevo internacionalismo” es tan impresionante como el “socialismo Internacional a la Primera Guerra Mundial”. Se lee: “El trabajo aumentará la financiación para las operaciones de man- tenimiento de paz de la ONU a $100 millones” ($131 mil millones), lo que significa más financiación para las tropas como las de Puerto Príncipe que reprimió el movi- miento en Haití. Y hay esto: “El Partido Laborista apoya la renovación del disuasio- n nuclear Trident”. Este vértice no es un vértice de la historia registra. Es un vértice en contra de la guerra. Corbyn y el Partido Laborista quieren mantener los misiles nucleares apun- tando a Rusia. En otras propuestas, los laboristas prometen expandir el complejo militar-industrial.

El Partido Laborista propone aumentar el número de policías en 2.000 y culpa al sector del trabajo austeridad, más pri- vativas, más sangre y más violencia fascista. No quieren millonaria obrera ni un presidente Sanders que se une a los trabajadores en una línea de piquete. En el caso de que Sanders gane en 2020, su presidencia se enfrentará a huelgas de capital, derrumbe bursátil y saqueo capitalista, junto con movilizaciones fasci- stas, neonazis ultraderechistas, asesinato de una presidencia progresista. Un propuesto para un sendero hacia el socialismo

¿Cómo derrotamos el surgimiento del fascismo, el capitalismo o el imperialismo, el nacionalismo o el anticomunismo? ¿Cómo apoyamos las luchas contra el fascismo, el capitalismo, el nacionalismo y las conquistas? ¿Cómo podremos participar en un movimiento para un futuro socia- listas? ¿Cómo pueden definir una manera que se ase- cinen la crisis climática, la economía, el trabajo, el patrimonio, la patrulla fronteriza y otros inseguridades? ¿Cómo podemos cumplir el programa laborista de manera que pocos polí- ticos saben.

¿Qué camino hacia el socialismo? Pero el camino que el Partido Laborista ofrece no es un camino como el que nos propone Sanders, es un camino que se opone al socialismo. Scott Williams (a la derecha) y Betsey Piette protestan la crisis climática, Filipinas, septiembre de 2019.