Britain’s Trump wins

Workers need anti-racist unity

By Martha Grevatt

Elections held Dec. 12 in England, Scotland, Wales and the occupied north of Ireland were a boost to Trump protégé and Conservative party leader Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Voters elected 355 Conservative Members of Parliament to the House of Commons, giving Conservatives—the Tories—the majority needed to re-uppoint Johnson Prime Minister. The Labor Party, which had taken more left-wing positions under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, lost 60 seats.

The new MPs were sworn in Dec. 17. Johnson’s primary appeal was a promise to “get Brexit done.” Brexit—British exit—is the withdrawal of England, Scotland, Wales and the occupied north of Ireland from the European Union. Brexit, which passed narrowly in 2016, will make it more difficult for immigrants to enter Britain via continental Europe, whether or not they are EU citizens. Since the 2016 vote, hate crimes against immigrants, especially immigrants of color, have increased.

Just days before the election, Johnson promised to “bear down on immigration” by only granting limited stays to “unskilled workers,” while welcoming those with “exceptional talents” like “violinists, nuclear physicists, prima ballerinas.” This thinly veiled catering to racist stereotypes was rightly tagged “an anti-immigration dog whistle from a prime minister blaming immigrants for homegrown problems” by the3million, a support group formed by EU immigrants after the 2016 Brexit vote. (The Independent, Dec. 9)

The prime minister has made more blatantly racist comments, even employing racist slurs against Black people. The pro-Tory vote, like the pro-Brexit vote three years ago, is a racist vote. Whatever the various reasons for working-class voters to hate the EU, overlooking racism is itself a racist act.

As Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes stated after the first Brexit vote: “You cannot separate the vote to leave the EU from the racist, anti-immigrant campaign that was central to it.” (Workers World, July 4, 2016) That clearly distinguished Brexit from legitimate leftist opposition to the EU, whose rules mandate austerity and could, in fact, be used to block Corbyn’s progressive economic programs.

Johnson’s biggest gains were in traditional Labor strongholds in England’s north and “Midlands.” These primarily white working-class communities have

Continued on page 9

Our editors believe in the right of workers to determine their own future. We believe in human rights. We believe in the right of the oppressed to plan their own liberation. We break through the racist and capitalist media’s lies about the purpose, price and likelihood of “winning” that war.

At the cost of trillions in money and thousands in lives, the U.S. has hung the hood of “winning” that war. But the decade has another narrative to offer—the story of a growing mass struggle against capitalism.

2011: The Occupy Wall Street movement began on Sept. 7 in Zuccotti Park, New York City, where protesters issued a challenge to intertwined state and corporate power. Before police violence closed the encampment, the Occupy movement had spread throughout the U.S. and internationally. With the slogan “We are the 99%,” the movement denounced the wealthy 1% and corporate control over government.

2012: The 26,000 teachers in the Chicago Teachers Union won a contract redefining the struggle for the rights of education workers, and the right to education, in the U.S. Remaking itself into a member-driven, social-justice movement, the CTU challenged the privatizing charter school movement and corporatist control of public schools. The CTU strategy spread nationally into educator organizations and union halls. Beginning in 2016 #RedforEd teacher strikes swept from West Virginia to Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado to the West Coast—and back to Chicago in 2019—using rank-and-file

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Breaking News!

Delbert Africa, one of two remaining imprisoned MOVE 9 members, received notice Dec. 17 of parole approval after 41 years imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. News of his pending release was welcomed by supporters who vow to continue the fight to bring Delbert Africa and Chuck Africa home. Look for updates on workers.org.

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS!

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seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make
education or anything else—unless they can pay for it.
and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be
sion and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means
word and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for
build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!
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ultimate goal of breaking capitalism's chains.

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ded by people's movements. The super-rich and their
decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought strug

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Torture exposed in Cobb County Detention Center
By Arielle Robinson
Marietta, Ga.

Formerly incarcerated people from the Cobb County Adult Detention Center and loved ones of those detained were not able to speak out about the horrific conditions at a town hall meeting at Life Church here on Dec. 18 because inmates have died in the jail since last December.

Since Sept. 23, the CCDC has been on lockdown, which was a common topic during the meeting. Inmates are not able to use phones to communicate with loved ones and lawyers. The inmates report not seeing the sun for days at a time. One of the three currently incarcerated on the center is on lockdown for nearly three months because deputies were assaulted by three inmates.

At the town hall, a woman named Friscilla, who is close to inmates at the CCDC, said a white deputy called a Black inmate the N-word. The inmate defended himself, telling the guard that he cannot call him racial slurs. According to Friscilla, the officer responded by saying he “hated everyone.” She said the same deputy turned to a group of Latinx inmates and called them “crackers.”

A physical alteration then ensued, while the officer held his gun. A man who said he had been released from CCDC the night before the town hall said the lockdown is scheduled to end on Jan. 1. He also pointed out that inmates have spent nearly 24 hours a day in their cells since the lockdown, and it is mad- dening for them. The man said many are in CCDC waiting to be charged with something and plan to plead guilty when they see a judge just to be able to get out.

A lawyer in Cobb County said that since the lockdown, she has had to contact the loved ones of inmates to tell them directly to pay their loved one’s bail because the inmates cannot contact them on the jail phone.

The father of an inmate, 33-year-old Bradley Emory, who died in the jail in March, noted that his son showed signs of being suicidal, though the jail took very little action to ensure his son did not commit suicide.

Emory’s death was ruled a suicide, but his family did not know that for a very long time. The father said the jail had never told him what he was going on with his son after it was obvious his son was in trouble.

A lawyer for the family of 26-year-old Keivl Wingo observed that CCDC did not give Wingo the care he needed after he had a medical emergency in his cell, lead- ing to his death.

A woman reported that her 25-year-old son was in CCDC for violating probation and was very depressed. She said the reason for the violation was because he could not pay his loved one’s bail because the inmates have died in CCDC custody. That num- ber averages 2.7 deaths each year. The seven deaths this year alone far exceed that number.

Voices from criminal injustice system
"I Am Troy Davis"
By Gloria Rubac
New York

A sold-out crowd at Rattlesticks Theater in The West Village on Dec. 8 heard readings from the book “I Am Troy Davis,” which features the stories of dozens of people whose lives have been cruelly affected by the state and its racist crimi- nal justice system.

Troy Davis, an African-American man accused of killing a cop, was executed in Georgia on Sept. 21, 2011, despite seven of nine witnesses recanting their trial testi- mony and a mountain of uncovered evi- dence proving his innocence.

The book was written by Davis’ sister, Maranda Davis Correa, and her partner, Corin Correa, who died after a long battle with cancer, fought with every fiber of her body over several decades to prove her broth- er’s innocence and to stop his execution.

Her son, De’Jaun Davis, was close to his Uncle Troy, visiting him often from the time he was a small child. De’Jaun, now a graduate of Morehouse College, continues to speak out against the death penalty and racist injustice.

Stories from “I Am Troy Davis” were read by people who have lived the racism and the unjustifiable force of the state in their lives.

Reading the part of Correia was Airicka Gordon-Taylor, a cousin of Emmett Till, killed by the Klan in Mississippi in 1955. The teenage De’Jaun was read by the first woman exonerated from death row in the United States, Barbara Ali-Butler-Smith.

Other readers included Cephus “Uncle Bobby X” Johnson, the uncle of Oscar Grant, killed by transit police in Oakland, Calif.; Aisha Salaam-Malone, sister of Yusef Salaam, one of the exoner- ated Central Park 5; Gwen Carr, mother of Yusef; Ellen Garonzik, legal aide to Staten Island Black Prisoner movement leader Shujaa Graham and former Black Panther Lawrence Hayes, both exonerated from death row; and two sisters of men on death row, Delia Perez Meyer, sister of Texas prisoner Louis Castro Perez, and Yvette Allen, sister of federal prisoner Billy Arthur.

Some sponsors of the event were Amnesty International USA, the Mamie Till Mobley Foundation, Witness to Inno- cence, the Jordan Center Foundation, Sankofa, Rattlesticks Playwrights Theater and The Peoples Forum.

Perez Meyer told Workers World about her connection to Troy Davis’ sister: “We couldn’t give up; our brothers are innocent. In both cases, we fought the same-fact of prosecutorial misconduct, the withholding of evidence and racism. Troy lost his battle in the Supreme Court as Martin stood there. The system is stacked against us at the state and the fed- eral level. The only difference in our cases is that [my brother] Louis has finally been afforded the blessing of a great lawyer and representation by the Innocence Project.”

De’Jaun Davis closed the extremely emotional event saying, “Thank you to each and every one of you for paying respect to our family. We went through the tragedy of Troy being executed. But today people are making valid wrong- ful convictions. Back then, people would say, ‘A black man is innocent? Yeah.’ “

“Racism is still in the courtrooms, but we do have victories. We must continue to work together, through blood, sweat and tears, through ups and downs. We can make a way where it may seem there is no way. Remember to involve others and each one teach one.”

The event ended by chanting the words of former political prisoner Assata Shakur: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and sup- port each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains!”

Historic 1974 March Against Racism commemorated
By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

Dec. 14 — Today marked the 45th anni- versary of the 1974 March Against Racism in Boston, when 25,000 people came out to say, “No to Racism” from around the country. Workers World Party held a forum here this afternoon to commemo- rate this important anniversary.

The Dec. 20, 1974, edition of WW news- paper featured a front page article by Andy Stapp, which began, “The most massive and militant demonstration against racism held anywhere in the United States for a decade took place today in the city of Boston.

The march was called by the Emergency National Mobilization Against Racism (ECNMAR), an organization set up to counter the rac- ist and fascist groups and right-wing groups that had been instigating lynch mob attacks on Black people here under the code slogan of “fighting busing.”

Later, the First Secretary of WW, was the keynote speaker. He was a national organizer of the March Against Racism and a Vietnam War veteran, who organized GIs to resist the war from the inside. The racist and fascists had created a climate of fear in the city after a federal court ordered desegregation of the Boston Public Schools.

Holmes told the meeting, “The move- ment was paralyzed. We decided to inter- vene and have a march. We were a small party; the march changed the party. We were coming to the defense of the Black community. We understood how racism is used to divide — this was the way to assert union power. Don’t mention racism. We don’t agree. We need this unity to defeat capitalism.”

Frank Neisser, a leader of WW in Boston and a march organizer, described the racist terror gripping Boston and recounted how Boston City Hall was taken over by the Klan in Mississippi in 1955. “De’Jaun told the police in Staten Island: Black Prisoner movement leader Shujaa Graham and former Black Panther Lawrence Hayes, both exonerated from death row; and two sisters of men on death row, Delia Perez Meyer, sister of Texas prisoner Louis Castro Perez, and Yvette Allen, sister of federal prisoner Billy Arthur.

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"We need to dismantle this unjust system: A quote from Troy Davis before his execution.

Historic 1974 March Against Racism commemorated
By Gloria Rubac
New York

The demonstration had to be defiant and in their lives.

Reading the part of Correia was Airicka Gordon-Taylor, a cousin of Emmett Till, killed by transit police in Oakland, Calif.; Aisha Salaam-Malone, sister of Yusef Salaam, one of the exoner- ated Central Park 5; Gwen Carr, mother of Yusef; Ellen Garonzik, legal aide to Staten Island Black Prisoner movement leader Shujaa Graham and former Black Panther Lawrence Hayes, both exonerated from death row; and two sisters of men on death row, Delia Perez Meyer, sister of Texas prisoner Louis Castro Perez, and Yvette Allen, sister of federal prisoner Billy Arthur.

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Workers World newspaper’s front page on 1974 Boston March Against Racism.

Revolutionary music closed the meet- ing performed by Kristin Turgeon, WW youth leader, and Steve Kirschbaum, vice president and a founder of USW Local 8751.
New Illinois labor law seeks to counter Janus decision

The Dec. 2 Labor Tribune reported that a bill to uphold rights of public sector unions, which are threatened by the Supreme Court’s 2018 Janus decision, was passed by the Illinois Legislature on Nov. 15. Ill. Gov. Pritzker promises to sign it. Written with the support of several public sector unions, led by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the law includes measures to protect unions’ ability to communicate directly with workers and protect workers’ privacy: At least once a month, employers must provide new employees’ contact information to the union and not give it to outside third parties which might be anti-union. Employers are prohibited from discouraging employees from becoming union members; all inquiries about union membership must be referred to bargaining reps; and union reps have the right to meet with new employees during working hours.

Ed Caumiant, regional director of AFSCME, told the Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council in late November that passage of the bill is a major victory for labor. It doesn’t reverse Janus, but aims to “mitigate its effects.” For example, the law allows members to leave unions, but only within specified annual 30-day periods. While unions’ enemies had hoped the SCOTUS decision would incite millions of workers to leave unions, the article concluded: “Instead, the vast majority of union members have resisted the temptation to freeload and continued as honorary, dues-paying members.” Many unions are behind similar laws in their states.

4,000 RNs in Calif. approve contract

The 4,000 registered nurses at eight Tenet hospitals across California voted overwhelmingly during the week of Nov. 18 to approve a new master contract, reported California Nurses Association/National Nurses United. “This new agreement is a win for the nurses and our patients, for our families and for the communities we serve,” said Diana McTeague, executive director of the hospital. “As nurses we are dedicated to providing optimal care for our patients, and we fought hard for a contract that supports that goal,” said Heather Baker, an RN at Twin Cities Community Hospital. The 3 ½-year agreement promotes the recruitment and retention of RNs and addresses issues raised at actions over the past year, including those at a one-day September strike. Nurses will receive rest periods of at least eight hours between shifts and adequate rest and meal breaks. The contract stipulates “standby/on-call” scheduling not be a substitute for regular scheduling and nurse-patient ratio must be maintained. Average wage increases include 13.5 percent for the first year and a half, and 3 percent increases thereafter, with step increases for eligible RNs and increases in standby/on-call pay. The hospitals must post “on-call” schedules 13 days in advance, and may not change them without consent of affected RNs. (nationalnursesunited.org, Nov. 22) CNA raises the bar for all nurses!

Support workers at Seattle’s Edgewater Hotel

Housekeepers and other workers at The Edgewater Hotel in Seattle, represented by UNITE HERE Local 8, voted to authorize a strike by 93 percent after the luxury waterfront hotel demanded a drastic wage cut. While the hotel’s revenue has grown by 70 percent recently, it wants workers to accept wages $2 an hour below those at other posh downtown hotels. Besides, the workers’ wages have not kept up with Seattle’s high cost of living since 2010. The hotel even refuses to guarantee the workers’ jobs if it is sold.

No wonder the workers began picketing the hotel Dec. 12 and 14, chanting “One job should be enough” Reina Martinez, a housekeeper there since 1989, reports, “I feel the effects of the heavy work. And not only me — all of my co-workers suffer. We need job security.” To support the workers, sign the pledge at tinyurl.com/rzhetko.

Nickel: ‘Do the right thing’

A protest erupted at Nike’s international headquarters here on Dec. 9 when over 400 workers demanded better treatment for women by male supervisors and a name change to the newly renovated Alberto–Salazar building. Salazar, head coach for the prestigious Nike Oregon Project, trains Olympic-bound runners. In September, Salazar was banned from coaching for four years for illegally doping and trafficking testosterone. In October, the Nike project was shut down. Nike CEO Mark Parker had been in close communica-

tion with Salazar to see if topical testoster-
on would trigger a positive drug test. Former Nike athlete Mary Cain, once called the “fastest girl in the world,” says Salazar was banned because of the dop-
ing scandal, but that he should have been banned by the company of its treatment of women.

In 2018 women in the company led an internal uprising over repeated harass-
ment by male supervisors who made vulgar, degrading comments to women workers. Former Project members, including Cain and Amanda Begley, have now come for-
word to expose the toxic culture created by the all-male coaching team.

In 2013, 16-year-old Cain was signed by Nike and began training with Salazar. “I was 15. I signed because I wanted to become the best female athlete ever,” said Cain in a 2019 New York Times Op-ed video series about women athletes. “Instead I was emotionally and physically abused in a system designed by Alberto and endorsed by Nike.”

Cain was ordered to take birth control pills and diuretics to keep her weight to 144 pounds: “They were convinced that in order to get better I had to get thinner.”

Elite women athletes and dancers who reduce their body fat below 22 percent run the risk of compromising their health, with problems such as amenorrhea (abnormal loss of a menstrual cycle) and RED-S syndrome — energy depletion that affects metabolic bone, health, immunity, protein synthesis and cardiovascular health.

Cain experienced amenorrhea and broke bones during her Nike training. Tests on Begley revealed her body fat was only 11 to 12 percent. Cain and Begley said Salazar weighed them publicly and shamed them as “too fat” if they gained weight.

In 2015, Cain began having suicidal thoughts and started cutting herself. Salazar and the staff psychologist, who was not cer-
tified, ignored her when she spoke of the problems. Cain then decided to quit the team and stop trying to make the Olympics.

Dream crazy

When Alysia Montaño, one of the top three female runners in the world, announced she was going to have a baby, Nike paused her contract and stopped paying her health insur-

ance. This was in addition to her losing her sponsors during that time.

Cain also writes about her experience losing the kiss of death for a female athlete,” said Phoebe Wright, a runner sponsored by Nike from 2010 through 2016.

Nike company flyers distributed at the Dec. 9 protest warned Nike workers they would be fired if they spoke to the media. It is typical policy for sponsors to make ath-
letes sign confidentiality clauses to prevent them from fighting for change.

Other company flyers at the protest thanked the protesters for “walking with Nike” to celebrate what women bring to sports and to champion equality. Flyers also claimed that company management was committed to face-to-face time with workers to share ideas.

“Nike tells us to dream crazy; we say how about you stop treating our pregnancies like injuries,” said Montaño. “Then they tell us to believe in something; we say how about maternity leave? How about when you tell my daughter she can achieve anything, you back it up.”

Silent plight’ carolers show solidarity with county jail inmates

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Question: Where are holiday carolers unwelcome this time of year?

Answer: In the Cuyahoga County “Justice Center,” when they represent the Coalition to Stop the Inhumanity at the Cuyahoga County Jail, and they have changed the words “Silent night, holy night” to “Silent plight, violated rights.”

On Dec. 16, coalition members and sup-
porters entered the center, which houses both the jail and Cuyahoga County Courts. They had written for four carols and one Hanukkah song to draw atten-
tion to a range of issues including: deplorable conditions in the jail, the need for bail reform, cruel judges, harsh sentencing and housing juveniles in the adult jail. Before they could finish singing their second number, they were escorted out by Cleveland police.

The coalition was formed a year ago in response to a record number of preventable deaths inside the jail, along with documented reports of overcrowding, lockdowns, bad food and medical care, mistreatment by guards and other abuses. One of the group’s main demands is for bail reform: a high number of people held for nonviolent offenses would be out on the street if they could afford bail.

The county administration has made some improvements due to public pressure and negative media publicity, but serious rights violations are ongoing.
Trump’s order on ‘anti-Semitism’ aimed at Palestinian movement

By Kathy Durkin

President Donald Trump’s executive order issued Dec. 11 would deny federal funds from schools that allow “anti-Semitism” on their campuses, including some anti-Israel activities. It is intended to squelch defense of — or even discussion about — Palestinian rights, and is the result of intense reactionary efforts to do so.

That same day, the New York Times published an op-ed by Jared Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and adviser, describing anti-Semitism as “the founding sin of the American people.” He alleged that Israel is a racist state because “there exists a Jewish racist.” He emphasized: “Anti-Semitism is anti-Semitism,” a view vehemently denounced by the growing global movement which opposes Israeli oppression of Palestinians, occupation of their lands, illegal settlements, evictions of families, blockade of Gaza and racism toward African migrants.

Trump’s dictate frees speech rights by targeting campus groups that criticize Israel’s anti-Palestinian policies and oppose Washington’s political and financial support for Israel — to the tune of billions of dollars a year. It is specifically intended to suppress the burgeoning pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, which has won campus campaigns in over 300 colleges and universities across the U.S. since the United Nations approved a resolution supporting Palestinian self-determination.

The campaign is a “Palestinean-ized” [global movement for freedom, justice and equality, which] upholds the principle that Palestinians are entitled to non-intervention and self-determination, and is the result of the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the BDS calls urge action to pressure Israel to comply with international law and respect human rights.

The NAFTA Papers are filled with concern about anti-Semitism, he resorts to anti-Semitic tropes himself. He even uses anti-Jewish stereotypes when appealing to Jewish audiences for support. His election campaign ran ads with anti-Semitic overtones.

In an interview with Jewish people, in recognition of Trump’s evangelical Christian base, the White House featured two anti-Semitic ministers at a “Hanukkah” celebration following the executive-order-signing ceremony.

Trump praised Pastor Robert Jeffress, who spoke there. Right-Wing Watch reported Jeffress said in 2011 that Jewish people, Muslims and gay people “are destined for Hell.” (Dec. 13)

Re. John C. Hager, who founded Christians United for Israel, shockedingly said, “The Holocaust was part of God’s plan to return the Jews to Israel!” (NY Times, Dec. 13) He and Jeffress praised at the U.S. Embassy’s opening in Jerusalem.

And who can forget Trump’s calling neo-Nazi “very fine people” after they marched in Charlottesville, Va., chanting, “Jews will not replace us,” while carrying bats and torches and sporting swastikas.

Many progressive people call Trump a white nationalist, with good reason.

By Michael Kramer

On Dec. 9, 2019, the Washington Post released an investigative report entitled “The Pentagon Papers: A Secret History of the War.” The report was based on a review of hundreds of written and audio interviews conducted by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruct (SIGAR). Those interviewed included military officers, government officials and Afghan leaders who knew of the secret project.

The interviews revealed 300 names of those quoted in the Afghanistan Papers.

The project was a Defense Department-funded, top-secret history of the Vietnam War leaked to the public in 1971, “The Afghanistan Papers” project was evidence that successive U.S. administrations — G.W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump’s — have consistently lied to the U.S. people since the day they began Oct. 7, 2001.

Within days of “The Afghanistan Papers” release, anti-war military veterans from two organizations that have worked closely with each other over the years, Veterans For Peace and Against Face: Veterans Against the War, issued the following statement written by Afghanistan War veterans.

Veterans demand accountability for Afghanistan Papers

The release of the Afghanistan Papers this week has laid out in clear detail the failure of U.S. government to prevent malfeasance that reach the highest levels of the U.S. government. Every level of government bears responsibility for misleading the American public and for creating the conditions in which an unchecked military operates without accountability.

The Afghanistan Papers are filled with over 300 people detailing the systematic failure of the military to take any responsibility and blaming the “corruption” of the Afghan government for the Afghan failures. The military believes that the U.S. troops will never be held accountable for their actions.

Soldiers, contractors and veterans were routinely marginalized or persecuted in order to maintain the status quo in Afghanistan, up to and including the prosecution of Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning for their actions. The integrity of those heroes were questioned, while the lies were greedily driven by truth by a complicit media and government agencies.

Last year the U.S. war on Afghanistan killed more civilians than in any previous year. Every single line detailed in the Afghanistan Papers and every single page this week went on meant overwhelming consequences for families and individuals in Afghanistan, many who are already living in devastating poverty. The U.S. military killed countless villages and continues to create an atmosphere of fear and hatred with covert drone operations that kill thousands of innocent people.

According to the SIGAR, three days after these documents were released, proving three different administrations lied to the public and spent years covering up mismanagement, abuse and massive waste, Congress voted to pass the largest National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in history, funneling $737 billion to an already bloated military budget.

As veterinarians who have served in these wars and past wars, we are exasperated by Congressmen who lose the moral courage to do something about it, even when there is proof. We demand accountability in real and tangible ways. We are tired of seeing headlines that only result in a congressional member’s outraged tweet, statements on the campaign trail and slick TV spots, while nothing changes.

We demand real accountability:

• Immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops;
• The military IMMEDIATELY release all 300 names of those quoted in the Afghanistan Papers;
• Congressional hearings that include perjury trials for all those officials who knowingly lied in official and congressional testimony, including closed door session of the Armed Forces Committee;
• A special congressional committee to investigate fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement for the war in Afghanistan;
• A congressional tribunal allowing Afghan veterans to testify about their experiences;
• Repeal of the AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists)—which includes any subsequent AUMF to have a sunset clause;
• Recognition of Moral Injury as a legitimate diagnosis; and
• Reparations to each Afghan family who has lost a family member.

Download FREE these and other works by Sam Marcy at workers.org/books/

Super-rich promote bigotry

Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism and all bigotry are promoted, facilitated by the capitalist class which seeks to divide the multinational, multigendered working class and prevent its many sectors from uniting. Conservative politicians, white evangelicals and far-right groups spread this ideology, disseminated through social media and popular culture.

Individuals who assault Jewish people, of all male bigots, are also usually hostile to Muslims, people of African descent, Latin immigrants, women and LGBTQ+ people. Even if that isn’t the case, as in the recent attack at a Jewish-owned market in Jersey City, N.J., it shows the impact of anti-Semitism, as well as anger at police repression.

There has been a rise in hate crimes since Trump moved into the White House. His blatant promotion of racism, xenophobia, anti-Muslim hostility, and misogyny have emboldened the far right. The way to stop anti-Semitism is to build a strong multiracial movement that opposes all forms of bigotry.

Durkin’s grandparent’s fled anti-Jew- ish pogroms in 1907 in Eastern Poland, then annexed by annexed Russia.
By Deirdre Griswold

The United Nations established the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec. 3, 1992, in a victory for the worldwide struggle of people with disabilities. IDPD has been celebrated around the planet to promote an understanding and acceptance of the value that everyone—whatever their situation—gains from their interdependence, dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities.

For the fifth consecutive year, People’s Power Assemblies/NYC marked the IDPD with a 3-dec point inside Macy’s, which linked struggles for accessibility and against police repression in New York’s mass transit system.

In 2016, a U.S. Federal Transit Administration report card on accessibility in subway stations in major U.S. cities showed New York last at 22 percent (with Miami at 100 percent), far below San Francisco, Atlanta and Los Angeles. (Wall Street Journal, Jan. 29, 2016) The situation has not improved; with frequent elevator breakdowns, this city’s wheelchair access is probably less than 10 percent.

The PPA flyer declared: “We demand fully accessible transportation for all New Yorkers and real affordable housing and health care. We fight, each to their ability, against the murder, mass incarceration, warehousing and institutionalization of people with disabilities, especially Black and Brown folks.”

Speakers at Herald Square — New York’s busiest holiday shopping center — included disabled activists from Disabled in Action, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Communications Workers Local 1180 Committee on People with Disabilities, People’s Power Assemblies/NYC, and the WWP People with Disabilities Caucus.

Actions planned to ‘Abolish sanctions!’

By John Catalinotto

Organizers from New York-based anti-war, anti-racist and anti-imperialist organizations and defenders of human rights gathered at the Solidarity Center Dec. 14 to plan an ongoing campaign against Washington’s use of economic sanctions, calling such sanctions the “equivalent of war.”

Of about 50 organizers shared what they envisage: A target date of March 13-15 for a public protest in whatever places around the country and the world where people can organize one — March 4 on Wall Street in New York. Plus an ongoing education campaign involving mass outreach with social media, leaflets and teach-in-type discussions explaining the grave costs of sanctions. Organizers prepared a draft resolution that could be used by other organizations — for example, unions and local groups — to take a position against sanctions.

By looking at the impact of sanctions, some of the organizers — Colin Ashley of Peoples Power Assemblies/NYC and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center, who coordinated the meeting — were themselves not aware of the extent of sanctions and their impact on the lives of a third of the world’s population living in at least 39 countries.

These sanctions are mostly initiated by U.S. imperialism and applied through the United Nations. But sense of well-being and even self-worth depend on buying products they otherwise wouldn’t have taken an interest in or need for a comfortable life.

Advertising stimulates growth and competition

One of the big factors contributing to capitalist economic growth is advertising. Advertising has ballooned into such a huge consumption of the working class and of nature. The place to be, if you want to fight this decaying system, is in the struggle to organize for a workers’ world.

Socialist planning the only answer

For those who understand that economic growth under capitalism is ruining the world, there is but one answer: Not despair, or running away from the great concentrations of workers in the cities in order to hopefully find a simpler life.

There is nowhere to run. Capitalism’s despoothing of the environment is reaching into what have been the most pristine and unspoiled areas of the Earth: the vast polar wildernesses; the deepest oceans; the rain forests from the Amazon to Indonesia; the Australian outback; the mountain peaks from Everest to Kilimanjaro.

Socialism is the only alternative to capitalism. Surveys show that socialism has become the only popular among millennials. Socialism means a planned economy, run not for private profit but for the common good. Getting there is a huge job that requires wresting power away from the small class of exploiters who today run the show.

Only the multinational working class can do this. It is the working class, when conscious of its strength and united against the bosses, that has the power to transform society and end the exploitation of both people and nature. The place to be, if you want to fight this decaying system, is in the struggle to organize for a workers’ world.

People’s MTA and Workers World Party. A veteran of the transit accessibility struggle in Canada joined the protest and shared common experiences and strategies in the fight for access.

Then activists streamed through Macy’s department store on ramps to the floors, holding impromptu indoor rallies to tell people away from the mall that people are not invisible and that disabled people are not disposable. Workers and shoppers cheered and encouraged the protesters on, as they proceeded to the last stop during rush hour Penn Station, where they chanted and held street meetings. Travelers waiting for trains stood around to listen, building small crowds.

One rally speaker quoted from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” which has been used in the disability community’s fight for elevators for the MTA in both the courts and the streets: “We have come to this hallowed spot not because we expect anyone to cure us of our physical infirmities. That freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. ... Justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

Yudelovich is a person with emotional and hearing loss disabilities and an organizer for the WWP People with Disabilities Caucus.
‘What road to revolution?’

By Larry Holmes

This is a slightly edited version of a talk given by Workers World Party’s First Secretary at a public and lives-treamed forum Nov. 23 on “What Road to Socialism?” sponsored by the New York branch of Workers World Party.

Why do we even pose the question: “What road to socialism?” Because hundreds of millions of people on this planet are turning to socialism, to some idea of it. As we all know there are different ideas of what socialism is.

Tens of millions of those people are here in the U.S. They’re not exclusively young people, but a lot are. And thousands, probably tens of thousands, are activists. They’re doing campaign work for Bernie Sanders or Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or worker organizing, or support for migrants, or climate struggle work, and some are in the anti-racist movement.

There are also some who are influenced by the Democratic Socialists of America, the big umbrella with a leadership that is social democratic and reformist. Some of the leadership wants to save the Democratic Party; some of the leadership wants to save capitalism from reformism. But don’t confuse the leadership with the large numbers of people coming into the organization. Some of them don’t even mind: they want the hard core to defend theeu party, which is far from perfect, but our party is still a workers’ party.

Our job is to win some of them over to a communist cadre organization — to a revolutionary orientation as far as we’re concerned, socialism is concerned.

Winning revolutionary victories

How? It won’t be one way. This is a long-term political struggle that’s particularly inside the new sections of the working-class movement, as well as older sections. Will it involve an ideological struggle? Of course. Will it involve the necessity to demonstrate, once again, that capitalism can’t be reformed? To talk about [Vladimir] Lenin and the state? To talk about imperialism?

To talk about our obligation to the most oppressed sectors of our class? Yes. But also, it involves our approach to struggle — our entire approach to the struggle that will also be part of the struggle we are waging to win over as many as we can. We’re not opposed to participating in bourgeois elections, this either at a local or a national level. What we are opposed to is legitimating those elections. If we participate, that is, for the most part, to expose the system, to make clear that things are determined in courtrooms and legislatures and so on.

But let’s also know we’ve got power, especially when we are out in the streets in large numbers. The reformists have the opposite orientation. Keep the masses preoccupied. Keep them down, make it all about the candidates.

Imagine if some of these so-called progressive social democrats were asking all the young people to ‘shut it down’ in order to win Medicare for All or to cancel student loans. But that’s not their orientation.

The school of struggle

The struggle itself — whether it directly involves workers — is always a class struggle. Any police terror is part of the class struggle.

What all the great revolutionary leaders and theoreticians have taught us is that a struggle is a school. A struggle is a school.

The struggle is a school where the workers and oppressed learn how they can emancipate themselves. They learn from the status quo, challenge capital, and learn more and more with each struggle and ultimately become more revolutionary. They learn that there is no longer need the system or any kind of pretense, and they can take it all the way.

And it’s important for us to ponder that, because to a large extent, I think it’s in the course of the struggle that we will have the contest with the reformists and the social democrats. That’s the struggle. I’m guessing, will be critical for revolutionary forces in the working-class movement at the very least in the U.S.

Why? Because that is enough time for the next global capitalist crisis to develop, whether provoked by something in the financial markets or something else. Though you must consider sometimes things don’t turn around in terms of the struggle right away. Sometimes there’s shocking demoralization among the masses, as was the case during the Great Depression and the stock market crash of 1929. It took a while before the working class got on its feet.)

When the capitalist economic crisis comes

We haven’t talked a lot about the looming economic crisis. The International Monetary Fund held its annual meeting in October in Tokyo, but I didn’t read too much about it; had to read the financial papers. This was a heavy meeting. Some of the bankers and heads of banks in the U.S. are predicting that the U.S. is different in relation to the financial markets. It’s not.

The U.S. economy’s a little stronger, but that ain’t gonna last. The world capitalist system has not too long ago the head of the International Monetary Fund and recently she became the head of the European Central Bank. She said the country’s financial markets, particularly in the U.S., have completely lost touch with the global economy, which is sinking. Sooner or later, a major collapse of truth and free markets will come.

Mervyn King, a highly respected banker, spoke; he was the head of the Bank of England during the 2008 crisis. He said the world is in a dangerous situation. Go to any towns that factories and workers and unions, and now what they have is substance abuse. That’s from the deindustrialization of the 1980s to the 1990s, and now it got worse.

I won’t go into all the things that the bankers have to react to — they’re doing it, with low interest rates and so forth — but a lot of things also happened in terms of how it affected the working class. For example, the break up of another financial Armageddon.

There are a lot of articles circulating about what’s going on in the U.S. in terms of the Wall Street traders and coupon dinners are delusional.

What’s coming? We can’t say when, all we know is that an economic crisis is coming. It’s going to have a big impact. Let’s remember the social and political impact of the 2008 crisis when the capitalist financial system collapsed worldwide and almost died.

We will be in the school of struggle, and each struggle is a lesson that gets us closer to the workers and the oppressed.

Radicalization to deepen

The next crisis is going to push the radicalization that happened over the last 10 years even further, into deeper and more vast sections of the working class. The struggle won’t just be for a living wage, they’re going to break with the notion that things are determinate in courtrooms and legislatures and so on.

What happens when workers and the oppressed take over the struggle? They break with the notion that things are determined in courtrooms and legislatures and so on.

And, we know we’ve got power, especially when we are out in the streets in large numbers. The reformists have the opposite orientation. Keep the masses preoccupied. Keep them down, make it all about the candidates.

Imagine if some of these so-called progressive social democrats were asking all the young people to ‘shut it down’ in order to win Medicare for All or to cancel student loans. But that’s not their orientation.

What is the road to revolution? We want to make sure that our party, which is far from perfect, but utterly revolutionary, is not stuck in the past, but aimed toward the future. How do we do our work on a global scale, to act as a class, to be conscious and supportive of workers around the world. How can we influence our friends who call themselves communists, socialists and Marxists, and some of them are influenced by language and geography? That’s rough, but we have to take it if we’re on the revolutionary road.

Second, the youth. There was a time, some of the other progressive demands.

Second, the youth. There was a time, some of the other progressive demands.

And how do we struggle against the unnecessary, unhelpful and sometimes demoralizing fragmentation in the left movement? Who are the most radical, the most dynamic, the newest sector.

And how do we organize ourselves? Of course, there are a lot of differences in the political movement among those who call themselves communists and socialists and Marxists, and some of them are big. The problem is that the leaders that don’t want to keep jobs or earn a living wage. This is the new face of the global working class, and it’s not a sort of considered youth. They’re usually have their couple of centuries of struggle, and then they’ll get their degrees and their comfortable life.

By Larry Holmes.
Attack on Bolivia and Venezuela followed the same playbook

By Marco Teruggi


The different steps followed by the coup d’état in Bolivia can be matched with what the right wing is desperately trying to pull off in Venezuela. Both processes have unfolded according to what appears to be a similar playbook. An analysis of the successive central coup moments reveals this.

Jeanine Añez’s coup d’état of Bolivia, took on the role that Juan Guaidó was called upon—and failed—to carry out in Venezuela. Añez, just like Guaidó, was a second-string leader of the opposition. Due to a combination of circumstances, she played a central role in fronting the coup d’état that forced President Evo Morales to resign on Nov. 10.

That’s not the only correlation between the two coups d’état. Both processes seem to follow the same scenario to be carried out by actors and repeated discourse, which mirror each other—both in the depths of real power as well as with the nominal representatives of that power.

“It’s a method applicable to any of our revolutions, which I have already gone into detail about in the book,” he explains, the phases of the new generation of warfare. In some cases they achieve the result, in others the complete result. In Venezuela this has not been possible,” explains Cris González, ambassador of Venezuela to Bolivia. He has been befriended with Juan Guaidó.

The parallel actions of the two coup processes begin from the premise supporting the coup d’état: the false claim of electoral fraud. González said: “In Bolivia the right-wing, or rather, the elite’s war on fraud, has been long before the elections and thus it was reported that there was going to be a fraud on Oct. 20. That very day there was talk of the worst coup scenario. Number one was that individuals who had already accepted the idea that there was going to be a fraudulent election before the end of the result. That was the appeal for support used to call out and legitimate the mobilizations that were launched before the votes were cast. That strategy is now facing worst crisis since his self-proclamation.

González said that the coup strategy has not changed. “I believe there is a war among who is the real enemy of the people: It’s the USA.” This means we can expect new actions will be taken against the government, the political process and the country, which will translate into a tightening of the economic blockade, as well as possible attacks that have not been seen before.

“What else remains?” asked González. “Weapons of mass destruction that have left a trail of pain, blood and death in the Middle East. The continent must be prepared to reject this. We cannot allow our continent to become a war zone.”

Actions planned to ‘Abolish sanctions’!

Continued from page 6

it is mainly the U.S. and its allies — in the European NATO countries, Japan and Australia — that are responsible for enforcing them.

A few reports gave examples of how these punitive sanctions work. Colette Pean from the December 12 Movement discussed the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe 20 years ago after that country seized some of the land farmed by white farmers for distribution to its citizens. She emphasized how the punitive economic effect hurt all of southern Africa.

Jaycon (JC) Rhee of the Korean group NorthSolid discussed how punitive sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (north Korea) helped bring about famine conditions in the mid-1990s. Underlining the international reach of the initiative, organizers reported that the call has already been posted on the website at sanctionskill.org in 12 languages and that more are coming, including languages that have official status on six continents. The following call has been endorsed by over 1,000 organizations and individuals as of Dec. 13.

Economic War – March 13-15, 2020

Sanctions Kill! Sanctions are War! End Sanctions Now!

Sanctions are imposed by the United States and its junior partners against countries that resist their agendas. They are a weapon of economic war, resulting in shortages of basic necessities, economic dislocation, chaotic hyperinflation, artificial famines, disease and poverty. In every country, the poorest and the weak—infants, children, the chronically ill and the elderly—suffer the worst impact of sanctions.

U.S. imposed sanctions violate international law and are a tool of regime change. They impact a third of humanity in 39 countries. They are a crime against humanity and should be illegal under international human rights law.

The U.S. economic dominance and its 800 military bases worldwide demand all other countries participate in acts of economic strangulation. They must end all normal trade relations — otherwise they risk having Wall Street’s guns pointed at them. The banks and financial institutions that are responsible for the devastation of our communities at home drive the plunder of countries abroad.

Many organizations have been fighting sanctions and economic war for some time. NOW is an opportunity to combine efforts to raise consciousness on this crucial issue. This broad campaign will include protests and demonstrations, lobbying, petitions, drives and all forms of educational efforts.

As an initial step for this campaign we encourage organizations to take educational efforts to be organized during the International Days of Action against U.S. Imposed Sanctions and Economic War on March 13-15.

Please add your endorsement and help spread the word at www.SanctionsKill.org.

Email: Info@SanctionsKill.org

PHOTO: A. Dequidt

Pro-Bolivian government demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela, March 30.
Algerians: ‘The system’ has a new president, but he’s not ours

By G. Dunkel

“The system” is what Algerians call the shadowy, highly corrupt group of Army officers, high-ranking politicians and businesspeople running their country. In February the news hit that Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the then-current president who had had a disabling stroke in 2013, was going to run for a fifth term as president. Tens of thousands of Algerians took to the streets all over this vast country, the largest in Africa, to protest him and his regime. After a month or so of weekly protests followed by Friday prayers involving hundreds of thousands of people — men, women, youth, families and elders who remembered the war for independence from France — Bouteflika resigned. The interim government, basically set up by the army, called for an election in July. Nobody registered as a candidate, so it was called off in June.

Weekly protests continued, even in the deadly heat of an Algerian summer, demanding “the system” be replaced by a fairer arrangement that didn’t just reward people at the top.

Dec. 12 presidential election

The interim government of Abdelkader Bensalah, who was speaker of the upper house, set Dec. 12 as the date for the next presidential election and undertook extensive political and organizational steps to prepare for it.

All the candidates that were vetted by the electoral commission were close collaborators — ministers and others — with the Bouteflika regime. The Hirak, the loose coalition that coordinated the 42 massive weekly national demonstrations leading up to Dec. 12, called for a boycott of the election, since all the candidates were part of “the system.”

The Dec. 12 demonstrations in Algiers were huge, and people stayed in the streets, even after the cops aggressively attacked protesters and singled out a few to beat and then arrest in front of French TV cameras. (There is a very large Algerian community in France.) There were photos of nearly empty polling places and lines of people waiting to stuff their ballots into a trash can.

In the Kabylie, a historically rebellious area east of Algiers, where Amazigh (Berber) is the main language, protesters broke into polling stations and found that ballot boxes had already been stuffed. (Al Jazeera, Dec. 14)

Algerian election officials, claiming turnout was close to 40 percent, declared Abdelmadjid Tebboune the winner in the first round with 26 percent of the votes cast.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy, a major secular, center-left political party, estimated the turnout was 8 percent, which is consistent with the reports of ballot stuffing and sparse crowds at many polling stations. (tinyurl.com/zg96s48)

Police reaction, according to the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, varied from region to region. In Algiers, it was aggressive and nasty but relatively restrained. French television and international press cameras were mainly located in Algeria’s capital.

In Constantine, the largest city in eastern Algeria, the protest reportedly went off without major bashes. In the Kabylie, which has about 9 million people, there wasn’t much police presence, but a vicious attack, with cops firing rubber bullets, took place in Haizer. (www.tsa-algerie.com)

In Oran, the police made over 400 arrests in a “brutal fashion,” beating people with their clubs and liberally using tear gas, according to local newspaper Le Matin d’Algerie (Dec. 13).

The Hirak was able to hold its weekly protests in a number of cities Dec. 13. It is not clear how this presidential election is going to affect the ongoing struggle in Algeria. ()

Britain’s Trump wins: Workers need anti-racist unity

Continued from page 1

been devastated by mine and factory closings.

Labor Party moderates have jumped on the anti-Corbyn bandwagon, blaming his left turn for Labor’s losses and slamming him as “anti-Semitic” for criticizing Israeli apartheid. Corbyn has said he will resign as party leader.

Democrats in the U.S., including presidential candidate Joe Biden, are citing the British election results as evidence that their party needs to move toward the center.

While the capitalist media — including the notorious British tabloids — are calling the vote a Conservative “landslide,” young people are already in the streets raising the slogan “Not my prime minister.” A poll before the election showed a majority of voters under 35 supporting Labor.

Johnson does not have overwhelming popular support. The Tories received 43.6 percent of the popular vote. With a voter turnout of 67 percent, that’s less than 30 percent of all eligible voters. Many immigrants, who now face more hate crimes and discrimination, could not vote.

The coming attacks on the workers and oppressed will be brutal. But Marxists understand that class struggle is the driving force of history. The coming attacks on the workers and oppressed living in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland will meet mass resistance. The protests will grow.

What else must revolutionary socialists keep in mind going forward?

Workers World Party founder and late Chairperson Sam Marcy stated in a 1972 document, a statement he repeated often, “The acid test for a revolutionary workers’ party is its position on the national question.” To deny the centrality of racism, xenophobia and occupation — national oppression — “in analyzing Brexit and the Tory advances is to fail that test.”

Now is the time to build global, multinational class solidarity on both sides of the Atlantic. ()

Atlanta residents fight eviction

About 100 people, mostly from the Peoplestown neighborhood in South Atlanta rallied at City Hall on Dec. 16, protesting the attempt by the city to evict long time residents, Robert and Bertha Darden and Tanya Washington, and their family members.

After the outside rally and press conference, the group marched into Mayor Keisha Bottoms’ office and took it over. The mayor was in hiding and refused to meet with the community people. They remained in her office until midnight but intend to continue to force a meeting.

— Photo and caption by Jimmy Raynor

The Labor Party — progressive but reformist “democratic socialists” — has suffered a setback. But Marxists understand that class struggle is the driving force of history. The coming attacks on the workers and oppressed living in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland will meet mass resistance. The protests will grow.

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Now is the time to build global, multinational class solidarity on both sides of the Atlantic. ()

Workers World Press

Workers need anti-racist unity
France: Workers’ militant resistance confronts gov’t intransigence

By G. Dunkel

Dec. 16 — The general strike in France has lasted 12 days as of today. Transportation is barely hanging on, with just 10 to 30 percent of scheduled trains running. Cars and buses spend hours in traffic jams. Bicycle lanes are jam-packed. Cafés, restaurants, hotels and stores report losing major amounts of year-end holiday business. Traffic jams in the region that includes Paris have lasted as long as they are at their worst when mass transit is running normally.

The public reaction to the strike is surprising. Despite the tremendous inconvenience, a strong majority supports the unions’ objections to the government’s plan to impose major pension cuts. Many believe the government has left the workers no choice, pushing them out on strike. In addition, the government minister in charge of its retirement project was forced to resign today because of “financial improprieties.”

The federation of unions inside the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) — transportation, railroad workers, chemical industry, and mining and energy — has issued a public warning to the government. “It has a week to announce the withdrawal of its proposal and to relaunch real negotiations to improve the retirement system,” the strike will continue while the CGT waits.

The French Democratic Labor Confederation (CFDT), which is the largest labor confederation in the private sector, has firmly supported the way the government proposed restructuring the retirement system. Yet what it can’t support are government plans to make workers stay on the job year longer to get a full pension. So on Dec. 11 the CFDT announced it would fully participate in the next national protest march on Dec. 17 and in the general strike.

On Dec. 11, all the left-wing parties in France, some of which are radical more in name than practice, held an open meeting for the first time in 29 years. Attendees included the Communist Party of France (PCF), which called the meeting; France Unbowed (France insoumise); Workers Struggle (LO); the New Anti-capitalist Party; the Socialist Party; and the Greens.

The union confederations CGT and Sud were also present. The meeting was widely covered by the French press. Fabien Roussel, the leader of the PCF, summed up the meeting: “There was unanimity against the government reform. We are asking for its proposal to be withdrawn. We are all united on this point and call for a mobilization for Dec. 17.” (Le Monde, Dec. 11-12)

President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe claim that the protests against the pension reform are “a Frankenstein’s monster,” and the people voted to elect him, that means the people gave him a mandate to impose these changes on the retirement system.

French workers ask why the government, which had participated in two years of discussions, did not propose a concrete plan regarding the pensions until the massive Dec. 5 national demonstration and another six days of a general strike.

Fight for socialism enters new decade

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infinite es una mentira absoluta.

Por ejemplo, un número abrumador de informes aparecieron en todos los medios corporativos en los Estados Unidos que dicen “frase electoral” como la razón por la que Morales fuera derrocado, sin una pizca de evidencia. Nunca debemos permitir que estas mentiras se cuelen en los medios progresistas que existen.

Con respecto al poder del estado, notamos que el gobierno bolivariano de Venezuela ha logrado durante el transcurso de 2019 defenderse contra un ataque imperialista total y el intento de organizar un golpe de estado. Hasta ahora, el gobierno de Nicolás Maduro ha mantenido su apoyo de las Fuerzas Armadas Bolivianas y ha organizado milicias populares de trabajadores armado-

dos y agricultores.

Deberíamos continuar apoyando al gobierno venezolano y su uso justos de las fuerzas estatales contra las pandillas reac-
cionarias respaldadas por el imperialismo estadounidense.

También debíamos aplaudir cualquier intento de los movimientos populares o gobiernos de romper el monopolio de la clase dominante sobre la violencia. Como el líder revolucionario ruso V.I. Lenin señaló hace más de un siglo que este es un paso difícil pero necesario para el éxito de cualquier revolución que intente poner en el poder a las clases trabajadoras y explotadas.

La organización de milicias populares en Venezuela es un ejemplo de tal intento. Debemos seguir nuestro apoyo político a todos esos intentos. La lucha de clases latinoamericana se encuentra en una nueva fase. Las masas obreras y campesinas en América Latina luchando contra sus desplazados enemigos de la clase dominante, con cualquier medio que puedan emplear, merecen nuestro apoyo.

Workers march in the streets of Dragaunig, Dec. 10, to say no to pension reform.

Defendamos levantamientos populares de América Latina

Workers World editorial

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worker and community power to fight for public schools.


2015: With a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid/Medicare sparked a renewed movement of disabled people, with hundreds arrested at Congressional hearings.

2016: Thousands of people demonstrated in hundreds of cities in June demanding “Close the Camps.” Galvanized by continuing federal imprisonment of immigrants seeking asylum at the southern border, protesters began to accurately denounce such imprisonment “concentration camps” where parents and children were brutally separated and people were housed indefinitely in life-threatening circumstances.

2017: In September millions turned out internationally in the Global Climate Strike. While Greta Thunberg of Sweden became the mainframe face of the strike, it was initiated by young people of all nationalities in their teens all over the world, like Ruth Weaver of Massachusetts who said, “The real planet killers at work here are the corporations. . . . This is not our fault but now it is our responsibility to take on these corporations.” (Workers World, Sept. 24)

International resistance and struggle against imperial capitalism continued in 2019 as China celebrated the 70th anniversary of its communist revolution, and Cuba, Bolivarian Venezuela and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (north Korea) continued strong and committed to the road to socialism, despite U.S. attempts at economic destabilization and “regime change.”

In 2016 and 2019 enormous international protests and strikes, many led by Indigenous peoples and some called by labor union and environmental coalitions, exploded against capitalist austerity measures and neocolonial exploitation in Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Mali, Puerto Rico, Honduras and elsewhere.

This communist review of the decade reveals that growing mass consciousness and resistance to capitalist slavery, police abuse, attacks on the Affordable Care Act and racism are spreading worldwide, like Ruth Weaver of Massachusetts who said, “The real planet killers at work here are the corporations. . . . This is not our fault but now it is our responsibility to take on these corporations.” (Workers World, Sept. 24)

In 2017, Tanita Burke, an African-American activist began using the phrase “Me Too” in 2006 on social media to raise awareness of an epidemic of sexual abuse and assault, especially against girls and women of color. #MeToo went viral in 2017 after women tweeted their personal experiences of abuse, often by men in positions of power. In January a massive Women’s March protested predatory and abusive Trump’s inauguration as president, and low-wage women workers began using #MeToo to fight sexual abuse in the workplace and for $15 an hour.

2017: After a murderous Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Va., neo-Nazis in Virginia on Aug. 12, a powerful coalition of anti-racist, anti-fascist forces pulled down a Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., on Aug. 14. The bold act accelerated protests challenging racist monuments and flags, and scores were defaced, pulled down, legally challenged and removed.

2018: Socialism became a mainstream media buzz word, as a record number of U.S. workers went on strike or held work stoppages, starting with the West Virginia education workers walking out and ending with a national strike by Marriott Hotel workers winning protections against sexual abuse and for immigrants. Attacks on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid/Medicare sparked a renewed movement of disabled people, with hundreds arrested at Congressional hearings.

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Continued from the page 9

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2019: Of thousands of people demonstrated in hundreds of cities in June demanding “Close the Camps.” Galvanized by continuing federal imprisonment of immigrants seeking asylum at the southern border, protesters began to accurately denounce such imprisonment “concentration camps” where parents and children were brutally separated and people were housed indefinitely in life-threatening circumstances.

2019: In September millions turned out internationally in the Global Climate Strike. While Greta Thunberg of Sweden became the mainframe face of the strike, it was initiated by young people of all nationalities in their teens all over the world, like Ruth Weaver of Massachusetts who said, “The real planet killers at work here are the corporations. . . . This is not our fault but now it is our responsibility to take on these corporations.” (Workers World, Sept. 24)

International resistance and struggle against imperial capitalism continued in 2019 as China celebrated the 70th anniversary of its communist revolution, and Cuba, Bolivarian Venezuela and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (north Korea) continued strong and committed to the road to socialism, despite U.S. attempts at economic destabilization and “regime change.”

In 2016 and 2019 enormous international protests and strikes, many led by Indigenous peoples and some called by labor union and environmental coalitions, exploded against capitalist austerity measures and neocolonial exploitation in Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Mali, Puerto Rico, Honduras and elsewhere.

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Behind the U.S.-China anti-lobby campaign

The facts about Xinjiang

By Sara Flounders

In order to evaluate the claims of massive human rights violations of the Uyghurs, an ethnic and religious minority in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, it is important to know a few facts. Xinjiang Province in the far western region of China is an arid, mountainous and still largely underdeveloped region. Xinjiang has the oil and natural gas reserves and is currently China's largest natural-gas-producing region. At home, Xinjiang borders diverse ethnic groups, including Turkic-speaking Muslim Uyghurs, Tibetans, Tajiks, Hui and Han peoples.

Xinjiang borders five Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, where more than one million U.S. troops and even more mercenaries, contractors and secret agents have operated for over four decades in an endless U.S. war. What is happening in Xinjiang today must be seen in the context of what has been happening throughout Central Asia. Xinjiang is a major logistics center for China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. Xinjiang is the gateway to Central and West Asia, as well as to European markets.

The network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) was set up in the city of Kashgar in Xinjiang's far west as it is now connected to Pakistan's rail network, which is the China Economic Corridor, a project of the BRI.

The U.S. government is deeply hostile to this vast economic development project and is leading China in a very different plan. This campaign is part of the U.S. military's "Pivot to Asia," along with naval threats to China Sea and support for separatist movements in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet.

No U.N. report on Xinjiang

The U.S. and its corporate media charge that the Chinese government has rounded up 1 million people, mostly Uyghurs, into concentration camps. News reports cite the United Nations as their source.

The Chinese government conducted a New Year's Eve investigatory report by Ben Norton and Ajit Singh titled, "No, the UN did not report China is creating 'concentration camps' for Uighur Muslims." (The Grayzone.com, Aug. 23, 2018) They expose how this widely publicized claim is based entirely on unverified allegations by a single U.S. government member, Gay McDougall, on an "independent committee" with an official sounding name, "The Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has confirmed that no U.N. body or official has made such a charge against China.

CIA/NED-funded 'human rights'

After this fraudulent news story received wide coverage, it was followed by "reports" from the Washington-based Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders. This group receives most of its funds from U.S. government sources. The Network has also been linked National Endowment for Democracy, a major source of funding for U.S. "regime change" operations around the world.

The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders shares the same Washington address as Human Rights Watch. The HHRC's major source of attacks on governments targeted by the U.S., such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Syria and China, is the Washington Post, a long called for sanctions against China.

The CHRD's sources include Radio Free Asia, a news agency funded for decades by the U.S. government. The World Uighur Congress, another source of sensationalized reports, is also funded by NED. The same U.S. government funding is behind the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation and the Uyghur National Association.

The authors of the Grayzone article cite years of detailed IRA filings to back up their claim. They list millions of dollars in government funding — to generate false reports.

This whole network of supposedly impartial civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, think tanks and news sources operate under the cover of "human rights" to promote sanctions and war.

CIA-funded terror

Central Asia has experienced the worst forms of U.S. military power. Beginning in 1979, the CIA, operating with the ISI (Pakistani Intelligence Service) and Saudi Arabia, funded and equipped reactionary Mujahedeen forces in Afghanistan to bring down a revolutionary government there. The U.S. cultivated and promoted extreme religious fanatics, based in Saudi Arabia, against progressive secular regimes in the region. This reactionary force was also weaponized against the Soviet Union and an anti-imperialist Islamic current represented by the Iranian Revolution.

For four decades, the CIA and secret Pakistani ISI forces in Afghanistan sought to recruit and fund Islamic groups, planning to use them as a future terror force in China. Chechynas from Russia's Caucasus region were recruited for the same reason. Both groups were funnelled into Syria in the U.S.-regime change operation there. These fanatical religious forces, along with other small ethnic groups, formed the backbone of the Islamic State group (ISIS) and Al-Qaida.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center bombing, the very forces that U.S. intelligence hoped to train in Afghanistan used advanced weapons and expertise. The U.S. government included the Afghan Taliban and Al-Qaeda in their list of terrorists.

On Oct. 3, 2017, Pakistan and the United States agreed to train in Pakistan and Afghanistan Al-Qaeda and other terror units, these forces played key roles in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. These forces played key roles in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. These forces played key roles in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan. These forces played key roles in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

China is determined to follow a different path than the U.S. and its imperialist allies. China's action comes after terror attacks and explosions have killed hundreds of civilians in busy shopping areas and crowded train stations across the country.

China has dealt with the problem of religious extremism by setting up large-scale vocational education and training centers. Rather than creating worse underdevelopment through bombing campaigns, it is seeking to engage the population in education, skill development and rapid economic and infrastructure development.

The terrorist attacks in Xinjiang have stopped since the reeducation campaign began in 2017.

Two worldviews of Xinjiang

In July of this year, 22 countries, most in Europe plus Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, sent a letter to the U.N. Human Rights Council criticizing China for mass arbitrary detentions and other violations against Muslims in the Xinjiang region. The statement did not include a single signature from a Muslim-majority state.

Days later, a far larger group of 47 countries, most in Europe and the Americas, sent a letter in defence of China's policies. These countries expressed their firm support of China's counterterrorism and deradicalization measures in Xinjiang.

China is working with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the U.N. to sign the document.

A further statement on Oct. 31 to the Third Committee of the U.N. General Assembly explained that a number of diplomats, international organizations, officials and leaders traveled to Xinjiang to witness the progress of the human rights cause and the outcomes of counterterrorism and deradicalization.

"What they saw and heard in Xinjiang completely contradicted what was reported in the [Western] media," said the statement.

Merchants flood into Syria

The U.S. regime-change effort to overturn the government of Syria funneled more than 100,000 foreign mercenaries and fanatical jihadists to fight the war. They were well-equipped with advanced military gear, provisions and paychecks.

One-third of the Syrian population was uprooted in the war. Millions of refugees flooded into Europe and neighboring countries.

Beginning in 2013, thousands of Uyghur fighters were smuggled into Syria to train with the extremist groups known as the Turkistan Islamic Party. Fighting alongside Al-Qaeda and Al-Nusra terrorists, these forces played key roles in several battles.

Reuters, Associated Press and New York Times all reported that up to 5,000 Turkic-speaking Muslim Uyghurs from Xinjiang were fighting in various "militant" groups in Syria.

In 2018, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China was named as a terrorist region by the U.S. government. The U.S. lâu entered Xinjiang as a terrorist region.

John Kirby, who worked for the CIA between 1990 and 2004 and confirmed widespread use of systematic torture, was prosecuted by the Obama administration for revealing classified information and sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Chelemba Manning's release of tens of thousands of government documents confirming torture and abuse, in addition to horrific photos of mass killings, have led to her continued incarceration, Julian Assange of Wikileaks is imprisoned in Britain and faces deportation to the U.S. for his role in disseminating these documents.

Rewriting history

How much of the coverage of Xinjiang is intended to deflect world attention from the continuing crimes of U.S. wars – from Afghanistan to Syria? In 2014 a Senate CIA Torture Report confirmed that a torture program, called "Detention and Interrogation Program," had been approved by top U.S. officials. Only a 524-page Executive Summary of its 6,000 page report was released, but it was enough to confirm that the CIA program was far more brutal and extensive than had previously been released.

Workers' Daily
Defendamos levantamientos populares de América Latina

Las manifestaciones y huelgas populares y masivas contra el gobierno han desafiado a los regímenes corruptos y antiguerreros que gobernan varios países de América Latina, cuestionando los cuestionables periodos en sus países son de meses. Estos países incluyen Puerto Rico, Haití, Ecuador, Chile y Colombia. ¿Cómo los regímenes locales y sus patrocinadores en Washington reaccionaron a estas revueltas, y a luchas similares en otros países de la región, continúa lección para también para progresistas y revolucionarios en los Estados Unidos que desean apoyar estas revueltas populares contra los regímenes dictadurales? Si bien cada uno de estos países tiene sus propios problemas específicos, todos sus gobiernos han impuesto políticas neoliberales para hacerlo. Las fuerzas que se oponen al cambio, o que son presionadas para hacerlo, el pueblo venezolano.

En una entrevista de Margaret Flowers, "¡Imperialismo estadounidense, fuera de América del Sur y el Caribe!", publicada el 7 de diciembre en populismo.com, la entrevista entrega un mensaje que puede ser enviado a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

Protesta en Caracas, Venezuela defiende al gobierno pro Morales en Bolivia, 30 de marzo de 2019.

El poder estatal boliviano, que ahora cumple plenamente un régimen golpista de facto sin posición constitucional, abrió fuego con munición real contra manifestaciones masivas de pueblos y trabajadores indígenas en El Alto y Cochabamba. La gente continúa la resistencia masiva en condiciones difíciles.

Lecciones de solidaridad durante la crisis capitalista

La brutalidad y la crueldad de la clase dominante, especialmente desde que se implementó el neoliberalismo en el mundo, son un instrumento de cambio de régimen. La gran mayoría de los principales políticos están en contra, la mayoría de los principales políticos están en contra.

Los EUA han impuesto sanciones que son una arma de guerra económica que provoca escasez crónica, hiperinflación, hambre, hambrunas artificiales, enfermedades y pobreza. En todos los países, los más pobres y los más débiles – lactantes, niños, enfermos crónicos y ancianos – son los más afectados por las sanciones.

Los EUA han impuesto sanciones que han violado las leyes internacionales y son un instrumento de cambio de régimen. Dichas sanciones afectan una tercera parte de la humanidad en 39 países. Imponer sanciones es un delito contra la humanidad que es utilizado como incentivo militar, para derrocar gobiernos y movimientos populares. Las sanciones proporcionan apoyo económico y militar a las fuerzas de derecha pro-EUA. La amenaza de sanciones de EUA a Caracas, Venezuela, fue aparentemente suavizada por la crisis de la economía venezolana.

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

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

Para más informacion: LowWageCapitalism.com