Venezuela battles U.S. sabotage of electrical grid

By Sam Ordóñez

March 10 — Thousands of people filled the streets of Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, in celebration of the Bolivarian Day of Anti-Imperialism on March 9. This date has been observed since 2015 when U.S. President Barack Obama declared Venezuela to be an “unusual and extraordinary” threat to national security.

The Bolivarian masses also marched in response to attacks against the country’s electrical grid. A series of sabotages and cybernetic attacks against the electrical plant in the Bolivar state at El Guri, which supplies electricity to most of the country, began on March 7.

Speaking in front of the anti-imperialist march, the legitimate President Nicolás Maduro said that the opposition was responsible for the attacks against the electrical grid. The attacks came two weeks after the Venezuelan government declared that the coup attempt directed from Washington had failed.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Caracas, Juan Guaidó, the self-appointed “interim president,” indirectly threatened new, broader sabotage. Speaking from a megaphone in front of an opposition rally, he said, “We must announce with responsibility that this will become a fuel crisis.”

At the time of this writing, electricity is being gradually restored to the affected areas. According to government officials, there has been constant work to restore power and “normalize the situation” from the beginning of the attacks.

The coordinated use of international new media has been key to imperialism’s strategy in Venezuela. Until now all the major media have repeated the lies fed to them by National Security Adviser John Bolton, Sen. Marco Rubio and Special Envoy for Venezuela Elliott Abrams alleging that Maduro’s forces burned aid trucks at the border. On March 10, however, the New York Times released a report contradicting these claims and showing how the U.S. Agency for International Development truck had in fact been burned by opposition forces. (tinyurl.com/yz3k3dy9)

There can be no doubt that those U.S. operators who planned the coup will make any claim in their frenzy to conquer Venezuela. It’s not clear why the New York Times chose to break with the U.S. government at this time. This break clearly demonstrates how imperialism has lied and then used the media as a weapon in its attacks against Venezuela.

The new regime-change strategy

A month and a half after Juan Guaidó declared himself president, an act propelled by the United States, Nicolás Maduro remains in the presidential palace at Miraflores and the National Bolivarian Armed Forces (FANB) have remained loyal to the constitution.

On Feb. 23, the opposition attempted to bring trucks into the country from Colombia and Brazil, claiming that they contained “humanitarian aid.” Both the International Red Cross and the United Nations called the aid ploy a political move. Despite two days of violent attacks on the Colombian border, the trucks were unable to enter the country.

It was popular power mobilized to resist imperialism that defended Venezuela. On the border, the FANB was fighting alongside pro-government “collectivists,” or collectives, and civilian militias. The high levels of political consciousness and organization prevented a split inside the FANB that the U.S. and its puppet Juan Guaidó were looking for.

Continued on page 8

HIT THE STREETS TO DEFEND VENEZUELA!

Major demonstrations set for Washington, DC for March 16, March 30

March 16 - U.S. Hands off Venezuela!  
> 12pm at Lafayette Park

March 30 - No to NATO, War & Racism! No War on Venezuela!  
> 1pm at Lafayette Park

Go to nowaronvenezuela.org for more info.

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A new generation of socialists is coming

By Makasi Motema

The crowd roared when the head of the imperialist/capitalist state proclaimed that “America will remain a capitalist country.” Donald Trump made himself the standard-bearer of U.S. capitalism during his State of the Union address in February, and both parties lined up to follow.

But in spite of the thunderous response, the bipartisan cries of support for capitalism carried a hint of desperation. Why did Trump feel the need to rally Congress against the advance of socialism?

The reason is that young people are increasingly rejecting capitalism, and it frightens the ruling class. Young people have seen the harm caused by neoliberal capitalist regimes, and they are embracing socialism as the only viable alternative.

The lifetime of today’s youth has been marked by the dramatic stripping away of capitalism’s promises and the revelation of its cruel reality. Unlike their parents’ generation, today’s young people were told that they could not get a good job, go to a college degree. Under these terms, those who could saddled themselves with five- or six-figure student loan debts, only to be mauled by the post-2008 job market.

Entry-level jobs require not just a degree, but relevant experience. Gaining experience means shoudering the burden of an unpaid internship — giving away your labor power to a company for free while you find some other means to support yourself. With the pre-existing disadvantage of debilitating debt payments, the Millennial generation came of age in a world where even getting a job is an unfathomable dream.

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The capitalists have been given every chance to “reform” their system, and they have come up with nothing. “Hope and change” was nothing but hot air, and the current generation understands this. They know that capitalism can never, and will never, be fixed.

Capitalism is unsustainable. A dramatic transformation from a system based on theft to one based on meeting the needs of society is required. Capitalism brings with it imperialism, racism, patriarchy and environmental destruction. Today’s youth want no part of that future. They have seen the damage done at home and abroad. They demand a morally justifiable economic policy.

Young people desire a system where medical care is not a privilege of the rich. They demand a system with a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else. With no job security, no retirement plans, no escape from debt and seemingly no future, the current generation understands that the only means of survival is dismantling the old system and replacing it with something new. For today’s young people, socialism isn’t a fashionable new trend — it is a life raft in a sea of capitalist desperation.

A system that puts workers in control is the only rational option — the alternative is a life of economic instability.

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Young people desire a system where medical care is not a privilege of the rich. They demand a system with 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 debilitating debt payments, the Millennial generation came of age in a world where even getting a job is an unfathomable dream.

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The GSCS resolution included a clause of cannibalization and environmental destruction has taught them that capitalism is uncontainable. Any attempt by the ruling classes to contain it will fail, and these workers’ movements continue to grow and unite. The force of socialism cannot be stopped, no matter how much resistance it faces.

A new generation of socialists is coming

Continued from page 2

determined by one’s ability to pay and who has engaged in a deliberate act of discrimination against the Black/Hispanic population. This insult has only exacerbated racial tensions between the majority Black and Brown prison population, and the overwhelming white staff. Bryant also points to the removal of Tables from the visiting room. During our visit, prisoners could be seen juggling lunch trays in their laps while meeting with family members, or else they were forced to put trays on the floor and eat off the ground, presenting the indignity of this arrangement. Bryant slams the removal of proper tables and furniture as anachronistic and a likely violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The privilege of prisoners to get their release from incarceration is a serious issue, and the ongoing struggle for their freedom is an essential step towards a more just and equitable society.
Tufts University dining hall workers to take strike vote
By G. Lechat and Ed Childs
Boston
UNITE HERE Local 26 Dining Hall workers marched and rallied March 5, eight months into contract negotiations with Tufts University. Tufts has resisted unionization for years, but workers have been building power, and the momentum has been growing strong.
During the organizing drive, 75 percent of the workers signed union cards — the National Labor Relations Board requires at least 30 percent for a union representation election — and 127 out of 146 workers voted to join Local 26 in April 2018. Contract negotiations began last August; with community support, workers are fighting back against the largest single employer in the city of Erie, population 97,000. Imposing pay cuts — the largest single employer in the world's largest railroad equipment companies.
Ray Betler was paid $16 million in compensation last August; with the latest expansion, Wabtec has 27,000 employees, who have had their own struggles against Harvard and Northeastern universities as well as Marriott International, all came out to show support.
By Martha Grevatt
Wabtec is a company that supplies technology products and services to freight rail and passenger transit manufacturers. On Feb. 26, Wabtec announced a merger with GE Transportation. That very day, the company announced it would no longer abide by the contract terms that the United Electrical workers union had previously negotiated with General Electric in Erie, Pa.
Wabtec attempted to unilaterally impose major concessions, including forced overtime, pay cuts of up to 38 percent, a two-tier pay scale, extensive use of temporary workers, and arbitrary schedules.
UE Local 506, representing most of the 1,700 workers at the Erie plant, and Local 618, representing a smaller group of workers, who have had a 46-day strike last fall, were an especially strong contingent on the picket line. One Harvard union member, a veteran of the 22-day Harvard strike in 2016, came out to support her mom who is also a dining hall worker and a union activist at Tufts.
Local 26 has led the way in bringing the strike weapon back to the Boston area, and the 2016 Harvard strike has been an inspiration to workers far and wide. The Harvard strike showed the importance of organizing around the line, and striking strong leaders, not just growing the union to as many members as possible.
Without this effort, unions cannot fight effectively against management's cuts or contemplate a strike when necessary. So the Harvard strike empowers hotel workers to fight back and win.
The Northeasternand one-day strike followed, and reinforced the importance of student solidarity through groups like Harvard Student labor Action Movement, Huskies Organizing With Labor at Northeastern and now Tufts Dining Action Coalition. Support for strikers — from Erie to around the world — is absolutely amazing.
A crack has been made in the foundation of Washington’s alliance with Israel. The taboo against criticizing the Israeli occupation of a country in Congress has been broken. This was spearheaded by Congress members Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, who oppose U.S. support for Israel and champion Palestinian rights.

Congressional right-wingers assail Omar and her allies for criticizing the Israeli war crimes and calling for boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel. A Feb. 28 report from the United States Congress has condemned the “global Jewish financial interests.” This is the same rhetoric during his election campaign that Trump used to suppress her and Tlaib’s denunciations of “anti-Semitism—which they have suddenly for criticizing AIPAC and U.S. support for the Zionist state.”

By Kathy Durkin

“The letters the Sonic workers posted together to reclaim their lives.” The note was signed “Sonic, which advertises itself as ‘the trashiest company we have ever worked for’ nationalize the minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2023. If passed, the measure would benefit more than 2 million workers. But this alone will not stop exploitation in food service and other sectors. Workers need $15 an hour right now.”

Workers at three Sonic Drive-In restaurants in Ohio walked off the job in response to a decision by the company to cut workers’ tips. The 10 shortlisted employees took to the streets to demand that the company restore the tips that would not be taken out of base pay.

By Mike Kohlenbeck

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history but to make it—to bring about changes that put the workers and oppressed first instead of last. Workers World commemorates the socialist history of International Women’s Day, March 8, with a round-up of women’s protests for freedom, justice and equality the world over.

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A uniquely capitalist crisis

Hunger amid a glut of food

By Deirdre Griswold

The government has been keeping track. For perspective, 1.4 billion pounds of cheese translates to 7,000,000 tons." (Patch, Jan 16th Service).

The Des Moines Register wrote about the cheese glut back on Oct. 5, 2016, when it wrote about 1.2 billion pounds of cheese in refrigerated warehouses. It also reported on other stockpiles, including:

- 322 million pounds of butter (up 32 percent from the previous year)
- 1.52 billion pounds of frozen fruit, including 377 million pounds of strawberries and 383 million pounds of blueberries
- 1.31 billion pounds of frozen poultry (chicken and turkey), up 4 percent in 3 year

Where’s the national emergency?

Trump has just announced his proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Besides setting aside some $8.6 billion for his border wall, plus another increase in military spending, his new budget will reduce spending on domestic programs. The result is certain to be more hungry people.

The creature in the White House has declared a “national emergency” over a wall on the southern border. But 41 million people going hungry while food is stockpiled? To the billionaires who run the country, that’s not an emergency. It’s stockpiling? To the billionaires who run this country, that’s not an emergency. It’s hunger. Needing to put some food in your belly but not having any way to do it.

According to Move for Hunger, 41 million people in the U.S. go hungry every day. How can this possibly be? The agriculture industry in this country produces so much food that 20 percent of it is exported each year. But a large amount of what remains sits in warehouses. Here’s a recent description of the crisis developing in the dairy industry: “America is sitting on a massive surplus of cheese with a record 1.4 billion pounds of cheddar, American and Swiss in cold storage. … [The] cheese glut is now bigger than it’s ever been in the 100 years the government has been keeping track. For perspective, 1.4 billion pounds of cheese translates to 7,000,000 tons." (Patch, Jan 16th Service).

But in his campaign to “Make America Great Again,” Trump put tariffs on goods from China. This has caused China to retaliate with tariffs on U.S. imports, which is hurting U.S. farmers. And they know who is to blame. In a revealing piece by Illinois farmer Krista Swanson last Sept. 24 explained: “My family and I farm in Illinois, where farmers like us send about 30 percent of the corn and 60 percent of the soybeans we grow to other countries. Nationally, more than 20 percent of agricultural products are exported. “Expectations for big corn and soybean crops and surplus supplies, combined with the escalating trade conflict, are weighing down farm prices. Soybean prices approached a 10-year low this month. “Although the influence of U.S. trade policy cannot be completely isolated from other economic factors, the timing of trade conflicts has coincided with drops in market prices for many U.S. agricultural products. “Right now, farmers are facing inflation-adjusted incomes at the lowest level since 2009, and the outlook for 2019 is considerably worse.” (USA Today, Sept. 24)

So MAGA has come back to bite the very people he is supposed to represent. Tariffs rev up crisis of overproduction

What is never mentioned in the big business media when reporting on these surpluses is the phenomenon of capitalist overproduction. It is affecting all areas of the economy, and has led to across-the-board price declines in everything from petroleum to wheat.

Midwest farmers like Swanson are highly susceptible to the swings of the world market. They are not the small farmers of years gone by. When the economy is good, they are worth a lot of money, because modern agriculture requires expensive machinery. But when the economy goes sour, they can lose everything.

If even these large farmers are hurting now, you can be sure that overproduction is driving a lot of small farmers out of business and off the land. And, in fact, this has already happened. The rate of hunger is even higher among rural children than those living in cities. Some 86 percent of the counties with the highest rates of what is called “child food insecurity" are rural.

Overproduction is a uniquely capitalist problem. It is what leads to capitalist crises and a crash of the system. What is happening in agriculture may be exacerbated by Trump’s tariffs, but the underlying crime of growing hunger alongside a glut of food is the profit system itself.

Impact of global warming in Arctic community

Nome, Alaska

By G. Dunkel

Nome, Alaska, had back-to-back blizzards followed by rain, ending a February that saw temperatures in the upper 20s or low 30s. When the rain hit the snow, it turned into ice, which made the roads so treacherous that even taxis stopped running. The National Weather Service reported Nome got 76 inches of snow between Jan. 25 and Feb. 28. Since Nome is just 143 miles south of the Arctic Circle, rain and warm temperatures are unusual.

A single weather event may or may not be caused by global warming. But when you add the facts that the whole eastern half of the Bering Sea is ice-free, that its water temperature is 3 degrees warmer than usual; that Kotzebue Bay, a shallow arm of the Bering, is not frozen solid; that the Grand Idditarod Dog Race, a famous, 1,000-mile race from Anchorage to Nome, is building temporary bridges to cross water south of Nome; and that this latest unusual weather pattern is at least 2 years old—the only reasonable explanation of all these facts is global warming. Inuit elders began noticing warming signs in the 1980s.

Nome, a fly-in community since it is not connected to the rest of Alaska by road, is a hub for a number of smaller communities because it receives freight by barge. It’s only a hundred or so years old, the result of an early 20th century gold rush, with just under 3,700 people according to Mayor Richard Beneville. It is about 65 percent Inuit, with communities from the Inupiaq, Central Yupik and St. Lawrence Island peoples.

Unlike a number of Alaska’s municipalities, Nome is not a dry (alcohol-free) town, and it has a former substance abusers’ support group, that meets weekly in the Katikir Cultural Center. A fluctuating group of homeless people hang out in front of the bars on Front Street. The religious radio station KNOM reports that a new shelter has been set up to allow homeless people who were sleeping in snow banks to sleep under a roof. (tinyurl.com/vdhv6s)

With the beginning of what could be substantial trade between Europe and Asia through the Northwest Passage, there are capitalist dreams about turning Nome into a very profitable service port. This would require more investment, major dredging and workers used to living in an existing environment.

Over 6 feet of snow, topped with ice, creates major difficulties for workers who have to drive or walk to their jobs and for students who take a bus to school. Open water in the Bering Sea makes it very difficult to harvest sea mammals and fish that people in Nome, especially Native people, depend on for sustenance. It also opens their communities to flooding and erosion from winter storms.

Hunting for sustenance is important for Alaskans. It is the only state where the federal SNAP program (formerly the food stamp program) allows its benefits to be used to purchase tools for harvesting wild animals. The tools include „nets, lines, hooks, fishing rods, harpoons, knives and ice augers.”

But without ice, people can’t go ice fishing. Harvesting seals, a major food resource, is much harder when you have to tow them to land. The hunters who catch walruses (mammals that grow to between 2,000 and 5,000 pounds) have to process their catch 50 miles offshore in an open boat—much more difficult and dangerous than towing their catch a few miles to ice and processing it on a stable platform.

Global warming is making the hard lives of people living on the Alaska coast line, some in village communities like Utqiagvik that are close to 1,000 years old, much harder.

Disappearing sea ice.

PHOTO: KTOO.ORG

Low-Wage Capitalism

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

Capitalism at a Dead End

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

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

In September 2017, 18-year-old Anna Chambers was falsely detained and raped by two members of the New York Police Department in the back of a van in a Chipotle parking lot in South Brooklyn. While she was stumbling home, a friend collected her off the street and took her to the hospital where she underwent the humiliation and trauma of providing evidence for a rape kit. Incontrovertible physical proof of her rape was gathered against the two rapists: Richard Hall and Edward Martins. Despite this, all charges of rape, including murder if they were to escape, theft, violence and rape, there is no way for anyone, much less a petite teenager in handcuffs, to give a real shot of force on their families, [are] placed in transition and Honduras. Once they have managed to seek asylum across the border to escape violence, poverty and political corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Once they have managed to survive the dangerous trek, they are immediately faced with inhuman treatment by Border Patrol and Homeland Security agents. Children, forced to separate from their families, are placed in overcrowded detention facilities.

As the U.S. continues to augment its borders, hundreds of thousands of migrants are seeking asylum across the border to escape violence, poverty and political corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The state of California filed a lawsuit on March 4, while attorneys general in 20 states filed one on March 5. Despite this, all charges of rape, including murder if they were to escape, theft, violence and rape, there is no way for anyone, much less a petite teenager in handcuffs, to give a real shot of force on their families, [are] placed in transition and Honduras. Once they have managed to seek asylum across the border to escape violence, poverty and political corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Once they have managed to survive the dangerous trek, they are immediately faced with inhuman treatment by Border Patrol and Homeland Security agents. Children, forced to separate from their families, are placed in overcrowded detention facilities.

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Three days of war for light in Venezuela

By Marco Teruggi

A ghost town, that’s what Caracas looked like at midnight on Saturday, March 9. The power shutdown was almost total. Only crowded luxury restaurants, some service stations, pharmacies, hotels, and the few cars and motorcycles on the road had light. Silence and darkness, a Hollywood setting. Once again the power outage was accompanied by a special element: the appearance of a few hotspots and a very small police presence at key points.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, light returned to some parts of the country and to the city. In a few areas, power was fully restored early Sunday afternoon. In other words, thousands of people were left in the dark for more than three days, starting Thursday, March 7, at 5 p.m., the moment when the national emergency began that brought the whole country into an unknown space of time.

We are usually not consciously aware of all the things that depend on electricity: communications, payments, land and air transport to health systems, day and night schedules, water, food reserves and the possibility of studying or working. The shutdown prolonged total disruption on a country down almost to a stop, with its companies, institutions, homes and daily life, approaching an abyss as it entered an unknown space of time.

One can’t go far astray by speculating that the purpose of the shutdown was to trigger an apocalyptic frenzy. An article in Forbes on March 9 (a magazine that can’t be accused of being a friend of Chavismo) raised the possibility of a cyberattack to explain the outage: “In the case of Venezuela, the idea of a government remotely unleashing an electromagnetic attack against its power grid is actually quite realistic. Remote cyber operations rarely require a significant ground presence, making them the ideal deniable influence operation.”

This possibility opened up the possibility that the U.S. had carried out an attack to cut off Venezuela’s electricity. A country that is already dependent on electricity: communications, payments, hospitals, and declared Monday, March 11 a day off from work. A delegation of anti-war leaders from the U.S. are in Caracas to express solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution.

Continued from page 1

Feb. 23 was an important defeat for the Venezuelan opposition, even beyond their failure to get the trucks into the country, which failed, as Washington hoped to gather support among the NATO countries for intervention, just as it had for the attacks on the former Yugoslavia in 1999 or in Libya in 2011. Before Feb. 23, it seemed likely that several European countries such as Britain would join this intervention. The rest of the coalition would be the Lima Group, an organization of Latin American governments, some of which were recently targeted by U.S.-backed coups—Honduras in 2009 or Brazil in 2016.

However, the heroic Bolivarian demonstration of strength and resistance caused both the European Union and the Lima Group to rule out endorsing military action. If the U.S. government wants to invade, it will have to do it without the approval of the world’s public opinion. This makes it more difficult for the Trump administration to invade openly. The question now is what the new imperialism plan against Venezuela might be.

The attack against the electrical grid suggests that the plan is to destabilize and wear down the country.

The economic attacks from the U.S. will continue. Caracas and La Guaira have threatened to apply sanctions to countries trading with Venezuela. The sabotage and attack on this and other fronts, and are likely to be expanded to more critical sectors.

Another possibility is a dirty war, fought through rebel groups armed by the U.S. to apply enough pressure to collapse the Bolivarian social programs. The opposition has already a base of “guarimberos” or violent street fighters, that could serve as a starting point. In either case, the main battlefield is the economy. Imperialism’s plans to destabilize is a result of its own efforts to “destabilize the economy.” To defeat the new and desperate opposition attacks, it will be for the delivery of [so-called] humanitarian aid, or the lack of evidence for the attack, the ways in which the strikes were launched – as President Maduro pointed out – in a computerized, electromagnetic, scientific manner, and with in-house collusion.

Why U.S. chooses sabotage

Sabotage to the power grid of such magnitude can be framed by the sequence of events initiated at the beginning of this process: the resignation of Nicolás Maduro [as duly elected president of Venezuela]; the self-proclamation of Juan Guaidó; the meeting of the United Nations Security Council; Feb. 23 as the key date in the process, and Washington hoping to pressure the country to force Nicolás Maduro to abandon political power, whatever form it will take. Guaidó announced an extraordinary session of the National Assembly today, declaring a State of National Emergency, again calling on the Bolivarian National Armed Force with a last-chance warning. Other right-wing leaders reiterated they are in favor of calling for a violent remedy with intervention. For the battle, the core of the assault at this moment, is not over yet.


Translation by Michael Otto

Venezuela battles U.S. sabotage of electrical grid

Turn the Guns Around

By John Catalinotto

During the Vietnam War, U.S. draftees and enlisting threw a wrench into the Pentagon’s war machine, emerged as anti-war leaders and organized for a union in the armed forces. Letters and interviews of War resisters combine with memoir and historical research to highlight the relation between rank-and-file troop resistance and the struggle to smash state power from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese revolution.

Union leader and militant on the crisis

The following are excerpts from an interview with Stalin Pérez Borges, a union leader and veteran socialist militant in Venezuela. He is a member of the Workers Central (CBST) Advisory Council (LUCHAS) and of the Bolivarian Socialist Workers’ Central (CBST) Advisory Council. The original appeared in Spanish on Feb. 7—that is, long before the Feb. 23 showdown on the border. Translated by Pedro Alvarez from Aporrea. (Entire interview: tinyurl.com/y4tknu43)

Social and economic crisis in Venezuela

The economic and social crisis has grown exponentially for five years, and has gotten to this rotten state of hyper-inflation that we’re barely coping with. This is the cause for the huge discontent that we have at this stage and for the important change in the correlation of political power in this juncture. This is a consequence of three fundamental facts: two of them circumstantial, and one structural.

The circumstantial causes are: First, the economic sabotage and blockade, described by the government as “economic warfare,” this factor is the main determinant in the current economic and social crisis. Second, the sanctions and the blockade have caused a stagnation of 80 percent of what little was being produced in the country’s industry.

It also has led to plummeting in the high levels of imports of food, medicines, raw materials and machinery. It is also the cause of the hoarding and the fact that unscrupulous traders can set the price for all sorts of commodities, including the U.S. dollar.

The second circumstantial cause is corruption, impunity and insecurity, which have soared in the past five years. The level of corruption and ineptitude [by] government functionaries is major and damaging. In many cases it coincides with the sabotage by the elites and imperialists, with the complicity of military and civilian functionaries, regarding the speculative value of the market price of commodities that the people need.

The structural problem is that the national productive capacity is very low. This is also determined by the historic high level of oil income, which turned the local bourgeoisie into a very parasitic social class, always dependent on the price of oil. They prefer to import, rather than produce or export.

Under Chávez, despite some appropriate programs and plans to improve the development of national industry, this largely remained on paper. The levels of national production needed were never made a reality. Under Chávez, from 2007 to 2012, that low production capacity didn’t produce discontent as the high price of oil was enough to import luxury goods.

But from 2013 to date, with Maduro, a high price has been paid for this mistake. With the decreasing price of oil, there is no money for imports, nor for the national industry, including transnational companies, to receive the dollars that they used to be guaranteed due to the currency controls. The struggle of these sectors to seize a share of that income is the main reason why the conspiracies and the flight to the death haven’t stopped in 20 years of Chavista governments. And it is here, making use of this situation, that Yankee and European interests also play a role.

Scope and class character of the Jan. 23 ‘opposition’

The opposition’s demonstrations on Jan. 23 were impressively big. Those in Caracas and Valencia surprised both them and others. That has encouraged the opposition. The right-wing segments had largely surrendered after the elections for the congress (ANC). Since the election, until Jan. 23, they were absent at street demonstrations. They were focused on media campaigns against the government, taking advantage of the growing discontent because the government hasn’t been able to provide measures to end the “hyper-inflation” that is the “economic warfare.” And, they focused on the complexity of corrupt bureaucrats who have allowed speculation in the commercial sector.

As solutions, President Maduro has implemented distribution of food packages, carried out by the Local Committees of Distribution and Production (CLAP), and also Compensation Bonuses and continuous increases to the minimum wage and food ticket for workers. These are progressive measures, but they have not been enough to cover the loss of purchasing power of workers’ salaries.

So the right-wing demonstrations of Jan. 23 included the usual social base of middle-class people, plus some segments of workers, including some unions that earlier this year identified with Chávez.

Chavistas organized spectacular demonstrations after Jan. 23, the opposition made big efforts to turn out the same number of people, or more, as on that day in Caracas and Valencia. They demonstrated again on Feb. 2, but it wasn’t the same in numbers or expectations as on Jan. 23. Meanwhile the Chavista demonstration on Jan. 23 in Caracas was very well attended.

The feeling among the government-sympathizing popular class is very strong. On Jan. 26, 29, 30, 31 and Feb. 1 and 2, Chavistas organized surprisingly spectacular demonstrations in more than six cities. The Feb. 2 demonstration in Caracas was attended by large numbers of people, similar to those during the best days of Chavismo. So currently we have a Chavismo that is more motivated than the opposition to the offensive against the coup or invasion plans.

Chavistas have no visible routes of grassroots self-organizing. The United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) and government institutions are leading those demonstrations. The propaganda of the year is striking.

Internal rupture within the army?

Since before Jan. 10, the opposition and high-ranking members of the Trump administration, U.S. senators and some government, like that of Ivan Duque in Colombia, Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Mauricio Macri in Argentina, and Luis Almagro from the Organization of American States (OAS), have been waiting for the push for Maduro’s fall to come from segments of the Bolivarian National Army Forces (FANB).

However, until now that has failed. They have offered FANB members large sums of money and promises of amnesty and appointment to high positions. Ever since Guaidó proclaimed himself interim president, this usurper’s main proposi- tion has been at times spelling out about promoting a supposed Amnesty Law in favor of soldiers who rebel against Maduro’s government.

No signs have been seen inside or outside the FANB that a force may appear which is capable of risking a suicidal venture on the side of imperialism and its lackeys in the opposition. It is said that the imperialists are already considering a coup d’état.

Imperialism’s strategy

Imperialism’s aim has always been to oust the Chavista government at any cost. Since the moment Maduro came to power in 2013, they started the plan to overthrow him. Currently, they are even more urgency. They need to put an end to Maduro and the Bolivarian revolution, the cycle of instability and the progressive and more-or-less sovereign governments that arose in our continent under Chávez kicked off the revolutionary process and state achieving independence.

With Lenin Moreno’s treason in Ecuador and having regained complete control in Brazil and Argentina, and with a favorable intervention of executives in Latin America, imperialism does the rest. They want to oust Maduro and defeat the Bolivarian process with the least possible political cost. But if they don’t achieve this in the short term, they will try to do it at any cost. Trump represents a segment of imperialism that desperately wants to consolidate its political and military hegemony. They want to recover economic, financial and industrial supremacy, which they have been losing to China. Their power is mainly military.

Anti-imperialist sentiment deep

The anti-imperialist sentiment of our people is historic and runs very deep. It will be difficult to defeat us. It will be hard to convince a majority of the workers and poor people to accept the raising of the U.S. flag, as Guaidó and the right-wing political leaders who are with him have done in their public demonstrations.

They say that oil is the key, but that almost became a national strike against the British and Yankees and the military and their lackeys—a very similar anti-imperialist sentiment has grown. It was rebuffed or revived for more than 15 years with Chávez’s message. A rebellious sentiment of the working class is there. The repression stopped on Feb. 27 and 28, 1989 (dates of the mass uprising in Caracas called the Caracazo).

This found expression in the decisive, fuelestruggle of April 3, 2002, when an attempted military coup against Chávez was defeated. And it was demonstrated in the response to the bosses’ strike and oil sabotage from December 2002—and in all the resistance we have carried out, not letting the right wing oust Maduro.

The government continues to pay on the foreign debt in the middle of this imperialist economic blockade. It hasn’t taken any monopolies, such as the Polar group and others, when these same monopolies hoard food stocks or distrib- ute them arbitrarily and overpriced!

I say that its industrial zones are almost par- alyzed, that there are stagnant or nearly stagnant industrial sectors, that working conditions, salaries and salaries in important sectors, such as energy, oil, health and edu- cation have suffered to worrisome levels.

Capacity of Venezuelan govt. popular militias to take force

In a public statement by LUCHAS, we urgently requested the dispatch of army officers and soldiers to at least 11,000 military, police and emergency communi- ties and organizing the military aspect of anti-imperialist resistance. We need to make the civilian-military alliance a reality in the community. In that statement we said: “In this context, we encourage the people and workers to voluntarily join 100,000 or more Popular Defense Units in all neighborhoods, cities and corners of the country, for them to back up and strengthen an integral defense of the maternal land,” which President Maduro has asked to implement. Popular militias or those Popular Defense Units are a work in process. The Venezuelan Working Central has been working for years. There are already 2 million mili- tia members, many of whom are being called on to integrate other army forces as active, permanent soldiers. It’s said that the weapons capacity of the army is very modern, and the army has good logistics and functioning.

We also call for the formation of “Simón Bolívar International Brigades” of soli- darity with Venezuela. And we call for: 1) the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), national unions, federations and other social movements and organizations to organize and mobilize a bigger army and a bigger Popular Defense Unit; 2) the American States (OAS), have been wait- ing to put on its agenda the application of the Monroe Doctrine in favor of soldiers who rebel against Maduro’s government. It was the Monroe Doctrine that triggered the war in Iraq. As solutions, President Maduro has implemented distribution of food packages, carried out by the Local Committees of Distribution and Production (CLAP), and also Compensation Bonuses and contin- uous increases to the minimum wage and food ticket for workers. These are progressive measures, but they have not been enough to cover the loss of purchasing power of workers’ salaries.

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Interview from Venezuela

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International Working Women’s Day, March 8, is celebrated in many countries to acknowledge the struggles for women’s equality and liberation in all spheres of life. These struggles can take many forms—marches, rallies, teach-ins, strikes, direct action, walkouts.

Millions of women, including gender-nonconforming people—in oppressed countries and across the world—in the workplaces, in communities, in the capital centers— are aware that the origins of IWDW are pro-socialist, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist.

These same women have also been inspired by the current #MeToo movement, initiated by Tarana Burke, a Black woman, and many other women of color victimized by sexual and racist misconduct.

Before the present White House regime came to power in 2016, IWDW had been marginalized in the U.S., especially when compared to its politically conservative counterpart, Labor Day, which is celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

Even when Congress declared Women’s History Month in 1975, little was known about the role played by the women of mass movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s in winning this proclamation.

But as Bob Dylan’s classic lyric states, “the times they are a-changin’.” Nothing stays the same, including in the belly of the beast, the United States.

The ushering in of the misogynist, white supremacist Trump government, coupled with the #MeToo and TimesUp movements, have helped elevate much-needed attention to the significance of IWDW among sectors of U.S. society, especially women of all ages, nationalities and gender expression.

Due to these movements, Barry Jenkins, an award-winning Black director, expressed his support for more women directors during his Feb. 23 Spirit Independent Awards ceremony.

And on March 8, NBA TV, a channel dedicated to games and news for the male-dominated National Basketball Association, paid tribute to the women who play in front of and behind the camera in helping to make the NBA the second most popular U.S. pro sport, behind the National Football League.

Even the sports conglomerate, Nike, created an inspiring TV ad for Women’s History Month, voiced by Serena Williams, showing women and girl athletes, including those who are transgender, and their role in the sport as a powerful platform for change.

Notwithstanding this progress, mainstream media have failed to explain the real-class roots of IWDW, just as with the founding of International Workers Day or May Day, which brought about the eight-hour workday in the U.S. for our civilian and military war-workers. Regardless of times, the real goal of IWDW is to build solidarity for revolutionary change that includes women and gender-nonconforming people—365 days a year, regardless of borders.

No, this is no mistake by our editors—repeating a headline used seven times in Workers World since this brave transgender soldier and whistleblower Chelsea Manning was sent for nearly 200 years in prison seven years ago. It is, however, one we didn’t repeat after she received a presidential commutation of her sentence in January 2017.

The U.S. government is persecuting Manning because it hates the truth and refuses to share that truth with the people. Washington despises whistleblowers like Manning, Edward Snowden and the media organization WikiLeaks who expose the crimes of the CIA, Pentagon and State Department—crimes that they commit worldwide to protect and expand the property and profits of the super-rich who rule the U.S.

While on active duty in Iraq as an intelligence analyst, Manning released 700,000 classified and sensitive military and diplomatic documents. They revealed details about modern imperialist wars never before made public. This included the infamous “Collateral Murder” tape of a U.S. “Apache” attack helicopter firing on civilians in Baghdad in 2007, killing 11 adults, including two Reuters journalists.

By revealing the crimes of U.S. imperialism, Manning and WikiLeaks carried out a service to humanity. No one should be punished for exposing crimes against humanity. By releasing this truth, they set an example that can inspire anyone working for the U.S. state apparatus—its military or civil-ian organizations—who has any sort of feeling of solidarity with the world’s oppressed.

Manning was ordered this March to testify before a grand jury investigating those who are trying to reveal these crimes. She refused to say more than she already had at her own trial.

U.S. investigators are trying to build a case against WikiLeaks and against its founder, Julian Assange, who has been in asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since 2012. The U.S. hoped to use Manning’s testimony against Assange and his organization.

Called to testify March 7, Manning objected to the secret nature of the fed-eral grand jury and refused to answer on constitutional grounds. The next day she was arrested and placed in a civil prison, where she may be forced to remain for the life of the grand jury—potentially 18 months—unless she agrees to testify.

Manning has said she will refuse to talk. This is a heroic position for any political prisoner and even more so for Manning because of the increased oppression and brutal treatment to which transgender people are often subjected in prison.

For all of the points made above, Workers World repeats the demand we made during the seven years Manning was in military prison: Free Chelsea Manning!
Union leader, anti-fascist

Béla Lugosi: More than just an actor

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

Hungarian actor Béla Lugosi was crowned “Hollywood’s Prince of Darkness” for his portrayal of the vampire Count Dracula. But for new people know he was a union leader and anti-fascist who fought real-life monsters.

From actor to activist

Lugosi was born Béla Ferenc Dészö Blaskó on Oct. 20, 1882, in Lugos, Kingdom of Hungary, Austria-Hungary (now Lugoj, Romania), 50 miles south of the castle of Vlad III (Vlad Dracula). The young Lugosi was drawn to the arts. He expressed his theatrical aspirations to his father, a conservative banker, who rejected his son’s career choice. Already a rebellious spirit, Lugosi ran away from home to follow his dreams at 15.

After working odd jobs and as a miner and machinist, Lugosi made his stage debut in 1907 under the stage name Béla Lugosi the following year. Critics called him “the Laurence Olivier of Hungary,” and he was invited to join the Black Box company in 1909.

During World War I, Lugosi enlisted in the Austro-Hungarian Army and obtained the rank of captain in the 49th Division Ski Patrol. He was injured during combat. Once his service was completed, he returned to acting.

As the cinema gained popularity as an art form, Lugosi starred in some of Hungary’s early silent films. He remained in the National Theatre until 1918 when he answered the call for workers’ revolution.

Daily existence in Hungary was a nightmare few could escape. Lugosi had long protested the low wages, exploitative working conditions and treatment of young actors. He soon recognized the contributions artists could make to political struggles.

Hungary: supporter of 1919 revolution

Lugosi supported the Hungarian Communist Party and was found in December 1918, and his sister, Béla Kun. Following the example of revolutionary Russia, a mass uprising overthrew the old regime beholden to the ruling class. The Hungarian Soviet Republic was founded on March 21, 1919.

While the Red Flag of the fledgling republic waved over the parliament building for only 13 days, “Kun’s government introduced the first legal protections for ethnic minorities, the 8-hour workday and higher national wages.

Lugosi led a demonstration of actors in March 1919 and emerged as a high-profile organizer. He was instrumental in founding the Free Organization of Theatre Employees and members of the film industry in the National Trade Union of Actors, and acted as its general secretary.

The NTUA’s first statutory congress began on April 17, 1919. Lugosi’s speech included the words: “Half a year ago, I launched the struggle with the decision that the national trade union of socialist actors should be established.” (Arthur Lenning, “The Immortal Count: The Life and Films of Béla Lugosi”)

Among Lugosi’s articles published in “Színészképző Lapja” (“The Actor’s Page”) was one that discussed the exploitation of actors: “The former ruling class kept the community of actors in ignorance by means of various lies, corrupted it morally and materially, and finally scorched and despised it for what resulted from its own vices. The actor, subsisting on starvation wages and demoralized, was often driven, albeit reluctantly, to place himself at the disposal of the ruling class. Martyrdom was the price of enthusiasm for acting.”

The dreams of a new nation were short-lived when the Hungarian Soviet Republic was overthrown on Aug. 6, 1919. Historian Eugen Weber, author of “Varieties of Fascism: Doctrines of Revolution in the Twentieth Century,” describes the successor government as the “highly conservative rule of aristocratic cabinets headed mostly by great landed magnates.”

Lugosi organized for the union on the set of “The Raven,” which co-starred Boris Karloff, a SAG member who was famous for portraying Frankenstein’s monster, in 1935. 

By World War II, Hungarian dictator Miklós Horthy allied with Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. In opposition, Lugosi helped form the Hungarian-American Council for Democracy, calling for “Naziism to be wiped out everywhere.”

As a member of American-Hungarian Relief Inc., Lugosi was a keynote speaker at an Aug. 28, 1944, rally in Los Angeles.

He demanded Washington rescue Hungarian Jewish refugees, pressure Horthy’s Nazi-puppet regime and ease immigration restrictions.

Dr. Rafael Medoff and J. David Spurlock wrote, “He may have portrayed savage villains on the silver screen, but in real life Béla Lugosi raised his voice in protest against the savage persecution of the Jews in his native Hungary.” (Jewish Ledger, Jan. 3, 2011)

Years of typecasting led to fewer roles for Lugosi. The lack of income, combined with a morphine addiction brought on by physical ailments, left him nearly destitute. Lugosi died at his Los Angeles home on Aug. 16, 1956. He was buried in one of his “Dracula” capes.

Lugosi was best remembered for his work in leading and supporting roles in over 100 films. But his contributions to the struggle for workers’ rights and the anti-fascist cause must be remembered as part of his enduring legacy.


Incertidumbre eléctrica y política en Venezuela

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formalmente la intervención humanitaria, legislativa y política en Venezuela.

Nicólao Maduro habló poco más tarde frente al Palacio de Miraflores. Informó acerca de la cronología de los cinco ataques, tanto físicos a estaciones de generación, como electromagnéticos a redes de transmisión, y cibernéticos al sistema de control automatizado. Afirmó que el 70 por ciento de lo que se había logrado hasta hasta el viernes en la noche volvió a ser dañado el sábado al mediodía. Cuando las responsabilidades fueron asignadas, las denuncias se hicieron contra el sistema eléctrico. La empresa, sin embargo, reclamó la “intervención ilegal” en las redes de transmisión.

Las desconcentraciones de las movilizaciones se realizaron en una ciudad con tranquilidad.

Se trata de una pulsedada que resulta estabilizar el sistema eléctrico y que no se ha presentado con anterioridad en diferentes partes de Venezuela – disminuir los daños encadenados que trae la crisis. Sin embargo, el gobierno de Nicolás Maduro ha sido criticado por su incapacidad para mitigar los daños causados por los incidentes.

El finalizar de la tarde trajo incertidumbre respecto a lo inmediato y lo que vendrá en próximos días. Uno de los temas que se discute es la elección de un nuevo gobierno en el que se pueda establecer un orden democrático y transparente.

Los días han pasado sin una reducción significativa a los niveles anteriores. La normalización de la situación se ha visto obstaculizada por la falta de seguridad y orden.

La expectativa es que se logre un acuerdo entre el gobierno y la oposición para establecer un régimen estable y democrático en el país.
Venezuela se moviliza contra el imperialismo y el sabotaje eléctrico

Por Sam Ordóñez

10 de marzo - El día 9 de marzo se llevó a cabo la marcha antiimperialista billionaire Juan Guaidó, quien habló con un megáfono, anunció que convocaría a una nueva movilización que se ha organizado cada mañana del sábado. A esa hora la oposición ya estaba concentrada en la avenida Victoría, en Caracas, para la movilización convocada por Juan Guaidó el pasado lunes. Era la principal actividad en agenda luego de 24 horas de cortes que han demandado a los sectores populares y a las corporaciones de la administración pública. El martes, el chavismo por su parte iniciaba su movilización en el centro-oeste del país. La nueva estrategia de cambio de régimen

Ya un mes y medio después de la autoconvocación de Juan Guaidó, sigue Nicolás Maduro en el palacio de Miraflores. La Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (FANB) sigue en la defensa de la Constitución. El día 23 de febrero se intentó invadir camiones llenos de supuesta "ayuda humanitaria" que según Nicolás Maduro "ni ayuda, ni humanitaria era". A pesar de dos días de ataques violentos en la frontera con Colombia, la oposición no logró entrar a los camiones. Venezuela se defendió ese día porque el poder popular se movilizó contra el imperialismo. La FANB en la frontera lucharía junto a los colectivos chavistas y los milicias civiles. La consciencia y la organización del pueblo chavista podría evitar la ruptura de la FANB que buscan los Estados Unidos y su lacayo Juan Guaidó. La oposición venezolana sufrirá un derroche importante el 23 de febrero, mucho más importante que no poder entrar a los camiones, cosa que nunca fue su objetivo principal. Buscarán, mediante provocaciones violentas y manipulación de los imágenes, fabricar un pretexto para la intervención militar de una coalición internacional.

¿Quién habría formado parte de esta coalición? Por una parte se buscaba el apoyo de los países que forman la OTAN (que intervino en Yugoslavia en 1999) y luego en Líbia en 2011); Estados Unidos, Reino Unido y otros países europeos. Por otra sería el Grupo de Lima, con la importancia excepcional de México que rompió con el resto del grupo. Este es un grupo de países latinoamericanos de derecha, varias de las cuales sufrieron golpes y sabotajes estadounidenses recientes (Honduras en 2009 y Brasil en 2016).

Pero después de la heroica demostración de fuerza por parte de la revolución bolivariana, la Unión Europea salió en contra de la intervención militar, como también lo hizo el Grupo de Lima. Si los Estados Unidos no pueden llevar todas sus maniobras, lo tendrá que hacer sin el apoyo de ninguna organización internacional.

Todo esto dificulta una invasión militar abierta. Entonces, ¿cómo han cambiado los planetas del imperialismo en Venezuela? El ataque contra el sistema democrático de Venezuela, que ya amenaza con sancionar a terceros países que negocian con Venezuela. Los sabotajes y los ataques cibernéticos también seguirán, y probablemente se ampliarán a otras intradurías. Otro posible resultado es la guerra sucia, crear grupos rebeldes y suministrarles armas. En este caso, para poner un golpe y colapsar los programas sociales. Ya cuenta la oposición con sus grupos "guerreros" como base para esto.

En ambos casos, la guerra económica es la clave. La estrategia desestabilizadora del imperialismo se basa principalmente en "hacer gritar a la economía." Romper el control que sigue ejerciendo la oligarquía venezolana sobre la economía debe ser la prioridad junto a seguir construyendo la organización popular en el país.

Fracturas en la clase gobernante de EEUU

Es importante el dato de que fue el presidente Obama quien primero clasificó a Venezuela como una amenaza a la seguridad nacional, declaración que justificaba las sanciones unilaterales. La actual política injerencista contra Venezuela es producto directo de la política de Obama. Históricamente, las diferencias entre los dos partidos estadounidenses desaparecen en cuanto a la política externa. Solo falta ver cómo los líderes del partido Demócrata como Nancy Pelosi aceptarán sin preguntas las mentiras sobre Venezuela que difunden Rubio y Bolton. Esta unidad entre los dos bandos del Partido de la clase gobernante se sirve para proteger al sistema imperialista, asegurando que EEUU tomará acción para asegurar las condiciones que se requieran. Pelosi podría haber desmentido la narrativa sobre Venezuela, y frustrar al gobierno de Trump en el proceso, pero los líderes Demócratas siempre ponen los intereses del imperialismo encima de todo.

Al final, como resultado del fracaso de la maniobra golpista de febrero 23, se están produciendo fracturas en esa unidad. La decisión del New York Times de romper con las mentiras de Abrams, Rubio y Bolton, y la señal más reciente de estas tensiones.

Desde el inicio del intento de golpe de estado algunos oficiales electos como Ilhan Omar, representativa del estado de Minnesota, han declarado públicamente su oposición al golpe de estado. Por eso, y por solidaridad con Palestina, los líderes del partido Demócrata han atacado ferozmente a Omar.

Venezuela sigue bajo una amenaza imperialista, en forma de sabotaje y ataques económicos. Hace falta que el movimiento progresista en Estados Unidos se aproveche de las rupturas que se están produciendo en la clase gobernante para intensificar la campaña antiimperialista y acabar con las sanciones.

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Todo esto dificulta una invasión militar abierta. Entonces, ¿cómo han cambiado los planetas del imperialismo en Venezuela? El ataque contra el sistema democrático de Venezuela, que ya amenaza con sancionar a terceros países que negocian con Venezuela. Los sabotajes y los ataques cibernéticos también seguirán, y probablemente se ampliarán a otras intradurías. Otro posible resultado es la guerra sucia, crear grupos rebeldes y suministrarles armas. En este caso, para poner un golpe y colapsar los programas sociales. Ya cuenta la oposición con sus grupos "guerreros" como base para esto.

En ambos casos, la guerra económica es la clave. La estrategia desestabilizadora del imperialismo se basa principalmente en "hacer gritar a la economía." Romper el control que sigue ejerciendo la oligarquía venezolana sobre la economía debe ser la prioridad junto a seguir construyendo la organización popular en el país.

Fracturas en la clase gobernante de EEUU

Es importante el dato de que fue el presidente Obama quien primero clasificó a Venezuela como una amenaza a la seguridad nacional, declaración que justificaba las sanciones unilaterales. La actual política injerencista contra Venezuela es producto directo de la política de Obama. Históricamente, las diferencias entre los dos partidos estadounidenses desaparecen en cuanto a la política externa. Solo falta ver cómo los líderes del partido Demócrata como Nancy Pelosi aceptarán sin preguntas las mentiras sobre Venezuela que difunden Rubio y Bolton. Esta unidad entre los dos bandos del Partido de la clase gobernante se sirve para proteger al sistema imperialista, asegurando que EEUU tomará acción para asegurar las condiciones que se requieran. Pelosi podría haber desmentido la narrativa sobre Venezuela, y frustrar al gobierno de Trump en el proceso, pero los líderes Demócratas siempre ponen los intereses del imperialismo encima de todo.

Al final, como resultado del fracaso de la maniobra golpista de febrero 23, se están produciendo fracturas en esa unidad. La decisión del New York Times de romper con las mentiras de Abrams, Rubio y Bolton, y la señal más reciente de estas tensiones.

Desde el inicio del intento de golpe de estado algunos oficiales electos como Ilhan Omar, representativa del estado de Minnesota, han declarado públicamente su oposición al golpe de estado. Por eso, y por solidaridad con Palestina, los líderes del partido Demócrata han atacado ferozmente a Omar.

Venezuela sigue bajo una amenaza imperialista, en forma de sabotaje y ataques económicos. Hace falta que el movimiento progresista en Estados Unidos se aproveche de las rupturas que se están produciendo en la clase gobernante para intensificar la campaña antiimperialista y acabar con las sanciones.

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