Uber stock flops after global rideshare workers strike

By Martha Grevatt

Uber/Lyft/Via/Juno drivers leveraged their collective power and went on strike May 8 in a global day of action to protest their employers’ greed.

Drivers held a number of solidarity rallies and urged consumers to turn off their rideshare apps and not “cross the picket line.” These actions raised the voices of drivers seeking higher wages, job security and a say on the job.

In the U.S., strikes and demonstrations took place in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, places in Connecticut, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

The historic action was initiated by Rideshare Drivers United-La (RDU-La), who networked with Chicago Rideshare Advocates and Gig Workers Rising.

News of the day of action went viral. The “apps off” protest gained recognition from unions, policymakers and grassroots activists. The AFL-CIO tweeted that members should turn off their Uber apps on May 8.

“It took on a life of its own, completely outside the control of the organizers in Chicago, LA and others who started this,” CRA co-founder and organizer Eli Martin told Workers World.

Drivers in Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, England, Kenya, Nigeria and other countries joined this historic strike. According to Martin, “We have been getting messages from drivers around the world and all around our nation, joining in solidarity,” including France, Japan, Uruguay and beyond.

Uber is the largest ride-hailing app company, with millions of drivers. Last year Uber executives were paid $145 million, with CEO Dara Khosrowshahi receiving $45 million.

Drivers do not fare as well.

Rideshare drivers are not classified as employees but as “independent contractors,” denying them many worker protections. They use their own cars and pay for gas, insurance and upkeep, while the companies get a large percentage of the fares. According to a 2018 Economic Policy Institute report, wages of Uber drivers averaged $9.21 an hour. Many drivers barely make minimum wage, and some even lose money.

Sending a message

In Boston rideshare drivers were joined on May 8 by supporters from United Steelworkers Local 8751 (the Boston School Bus Drivers Union) and Service Employees Local 888. The Boston Independent Rideshare Guild called the demonstration. As Felipe V. Martinez, a leading organizer of the Guild, told Workers World: “The rideshare drivers of America initiated a national campaign of solidarity. Let this be inspiration for all the workers around the country and around the world, whoever you may be, to stand for equality, for the common worker. The workers have risen and we will never give up. I now know the true meaning of solidarity, and I am proud to be a common worker.”

In New York City, Uber’s largest market, the International Workers’ Solidarity Network and the People’s Power Assembly called a solidarity rally with the drivers outside the New York Stock Exchange. Strike supporters constantly chanted, “Wall Street take a hike, workers of the world support the strike” and “We are all drivers today, workers demand decent pay!”

The latter was an important chant because decent pay is one big reason app drivers went on strike. According to a Vox article, most Uber/Lyft/Via/Juno drivers get a third of what passengers pay and make an average of $11.75 an hour. Half of it goes to cover an EZ-Pass and gas. (tinyurl.com/y4w2ye8c)

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Protesters tell Focus on Family

‘New York is a pro-choice town!’

By Siddika Degia

New York City

Times Square rang with chants for reproductive rights on May 4: “Not the church, not the state, women will decide their fate!” and “Get up, get down, New York is a pro-choice town!”

NYC for Abortion Rights, a coalition of groups with various political beliefs, and with strong participation by the People’s Power Assembly and Workers World Party, came out to tell the hate group Focus on the Family that its bigotry does not belong in New York City.

For the last 30 years, Focus on the Family has been an anti-abortion, anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ2s group. FOF organizes to make abortion illegal even in cases of rape and incest. It has spent millions of dollars on political candidates who are against same-sex marriage and oppose anti-discrimination legislation.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for profit. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out reproductive rights in anticipation of more right-wing rulings on abortion coming down from SCOTUS. In Times Square, FOF blasted their propaganda through live music, big speakers and graphic anti-choices videos. As NYC for Abortion Rights disrupted this anti-woman production, FOF made the conspiracy theory claim that the protesters were being paid by George Soros, and then contradictorily accused the coalition of being fascists!

The coalition protesters stood their ground. They showed FOF they were not welcome in NYC, chanting that women alone have the right to decide what to do with their bodies.

Workers World World is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bobbies on a regular basis.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class, women alone have the right to decide what to do with their bodies.

Fierce pro-choice advocates rally in Times Square, May 4.

In the U.S.

Uber stocks flop as global ridehare workers strike.

New York is a pro-choice town.

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Venezuelan Embassy Protectors fight eviction.

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Trump lleva guerra contra mujeres a O.N.U.

¡Palestina será libre!

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you.

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Scientists have issued yet another dire warning on the climate crisis. In what the New York Times described as a "landmark report," the United Nations released a 1,500-page report compiled by "hundreds of international experts and based on thousands of scientific studies" (9/4/2019) that "alerts the world that biodiversity around the planet is being lost at an alarming, unprecedented rate." Twenty or 30 years ago, most people might have skimmed this kind of article. Only those following the issue closely would have read the entire article, much less acted on it. Capitalists, and especially those in the global South must know to read such reports carefully, as the loss of homes, land and lives affects more and more people around the world.

The U.N.'s recent report, "UNEP/Global Environment Outlook 2019," (available at un.org) concludes that "civilization and humans are accelerating extinction and altering the natural world at a pace unprecedented in human history." It points out that this is not the first report about the Earth's ecosystem, but it does elaborate how "human life is intertwined with the fate of other species." The authors conclude that the devastation of nature has become so dire that piecemeal efforts are no longer adequate. It calls for "transformational changes that include curbing wasteful consumption, lessening agricultural footprint" and comes down on "illegal logging and fishing."

This report, like much other analysis, concludes that "humans" or "civilization" is to blame. But it is not "humans" in the abstract who are responsible for the decline in biodiversity or for climate change. It is the capitalist class and their system that are entirely at fault for creating this crisis.

The report calls for "transformational changes" — and that is important. But that is not enough. What is needed are revolutionary changes. What is needed is an end to capitalism and building socialism. This is needed now, not tomorrow.

Biodiversity — and humans — at extreme risk

The report's statistics on the natural world are indeed alarming. The rain forests of South America, like the jungles of the Congo, are awe inspiring, with an abundance of diverse and beautiful animal and plant life. Yet, much of this beauty is not only endangered, but necessary planetwide for the continuation of life itself.

There is awe of another kind, however, at what is happening to the species in these areas—which have already declined by an awful 20 percent.

According to the report, "Activities like farming, logging, poaching, fishing and mining are altering the natural environment, disrupting human history."

The report estimates that biodiversity loss will accelerate through 2050, just a short 31 years from now. As local climate changes, temperatures rise, fish, mammals, plants, birds, and insects evolve over millennia, the very existence of these species is in danger.

To save life on Earth

Build Workers World! Defend workers' rights

Healthy coral reefs flourish in socialist Cuba, world leader in sustainable development. Socialists of the worker families — the only class that really cares about life on Earth. Will the capitalists of the world allow the government to save a city of 10 million fairly and safely? Will they pay for it? Will the government be up to such a task without the intervention of the masses? Are these decisions being based on human need — or on profit?

By Teresa Gutierrez

It’s true that palm oil is useful to humans, especially for medicinal use such as prevention and treatment of cancer, dementia, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and malaria. But the real issue is about how decisions are made about the land and the species that live there. Capitalists are making those decisions merely to further their drive for profits.

By the end of "Our Planet," the viewer is committed to avoiding extinction. But are these extinctions natural, or are they due to the climate crisis? You might find yourself Googling "eco-warrior!"

All life is connected

If the natural world is in decline, it is an understatement to say that humans are dramatically impacted — because the relationship is as decisive as life and death. Humans cannot live without food security, clean water, clean air — and these are dramatically and negatively affected by climate change.

Humans are producing more food than ever now. But if there are no bees or other insects to help pollinate fruits and vegetables, people won’t have these foods to eat.

Only a fraction of the living creatures on Earth, about 1 million species, have been identified. Scientists estimate there may be 8 million plant and animal species still to identify. But these and other species may cease to exist before the world can recognize them. There are "currently tens to hundreds of times higher than they have been in the past 20 million years." (New York Times, May 6)

Land is being ravaged. Forests being cleared for farmland, for unplanned roads and cities that mainly aid the travel of capital, have meant that "three-quarters of the world’s land area has been significantly altered."

Though tropical jungles and rainforests provide medicines — like the ingredients for aspirin — the unplanned, uncontrolled exploitation of these resources for corporate profit is also driving plant species toward disappearance.

What then for humanity? As the Earth is changed by fossil fuels, as ice caps melt away, the warming of the globe and rising seas result in danger for all the planet’s biodiversity. Just as walruses lose space, so do humans find themselves uprooted and endangered.

Jakarta, Indonesia, is one of many examples. A city of 10 million, Jakarta’s sinking land is the result of rising seas and sinking land. Models predict that by 2050, 95 percent of north Jakarta could be submerged. (Wired, May 2)

Who is to blame?

Who decides what is planted, where and how to log? Who has the equipment to enter the rainforest and pilfer its resources? Who decides that palm trees are more important than keeping the rainforest’s land inhabited by its indigenous species?

It is not adequate to say “humans” are making these decisions. An impoverished worker in Kerala, India, may have no choice but to place fishing nets and ropes that trap and kill sea turtles. That worker must eat and support a family.

But who will stop the Trumps of the world from buying and selling ivory? That act has killed off nearly 7,000 elephants — wondrous social, communicative, memory-bearing creatures — in the last two years alone.

Who decides when to practice agricultural monoculture rather than grow more than one crop and thus replenish the soil’s natural nutrients? Who decides where, when and how much to clear in the Amazonian forest? With a fascist president in Brazil who is a climate-change denier, who will protect the Amazon? The U.N. can publish all the groundbreaking reports it wants, but that won’t and can’t stop President Jair Bolsonaro.

Will the capitalists of Indonesia allow the government to save a city of 10 million fairly and safely? Will they pay for it? Will the government be up to such a task without the intervention of the masses?

Who decides these decisions being based on human need — or on profit?

By the end of "Our Planet," the viewer is committed to avoiding extinction. But are these extinctions natural, or are they due to the climate crisis? You might find yourself Googling "eco-warrior!"

Build Workers World! Defend workers’ rights

Established to honor the historic 1886 struggle of Chicago workers for the 8-hour day, May Day marks the worldwide fight for workers rights. On May 1, let’s give a loud cheer to workers everywhere. May Day’s goods news this year: Education workers all over the U.S., from K-12 schools to universities, started a strike wave to organize for higher wages and better working conditions. Meanwhile McDonald’s and Google workers have joined low-wage McDonald’s workers in striking workouts.

While Trump and the global ruling class are wagering a big bet on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, his administration is making war on Central American migrants and refugees seeking entry into the U.S. Workers are threatened with deportation after escaping horrific conditions caused by U.S. intervention in their home countries. Neo-fascist U.S. policies separate infants and children from their parents at the border and jail undernarked crossing the border alone.

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

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

By Dianne Mathiews
Atlanta

Supporters packed the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals courtroom on May 3 to witness a latest appeal to overturn the 2002 trial for Imam Jamil Al-Amin, formerly known as H. Rap Brown.

Al-Amin was convicted in 2002 of killing a Fulton County Sheriff's deputy and wounding a second during a shootout in Atlanta’s West End neighborhood, a chaotic scene captured on videotape.

The issue at the hearing was the prosecutor’s repeated violations, in the original trial, of Al-Amin’s constitutional right not to testify. They went so far as to present a mock cross examination of Al-Amin to indicate his guilt.

Two lower courts have agreed the prosecutor’s actions violated his constitutional rights, but claimed the abundance of evidence validated his conviction.

If the three-judge Appeals Court panel rules in Al-Amin’s favor, it would be a significant expansion of what type of courtroom inequities and violations by the state would trigger a new trial. That there is no real consequence currently for a prosecutor violating a defendant’s rights is the crux of Al-Amin’s appeal.

At his trial, Al-Amin, informed, also questioned the so-called weighty evidence.

For example, the surviving deputy consistently identified Brown as the shooter. He testified Al-Amin was 6 feet, 5 inches. Al-Amin’s fingerprints were not found on the guns identified as those used to shoot the deputy.

Furthermore, there was a blood trail leaving the scene and eyewitnesses saw a wounded man in the area. Otis Jackson confessed to the shooting, knew details of the event, had been shot and knocked on neighbors’ doors seeking help after the shootout. The state deemed his confession not believable.

An FBI agent was at the scene imme- diately after the shooting and conducted the investigation and capture of Al-Amin. This is important because of the decades-long effort of COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) to “neutralize” H. Rap Brown, referred to in a 1967 FBI memo.

Persecution of a Black revolutionary

Since his teenage years, Brown was an activist against racial injustice. He was part of Mississippi Freedom Summer, organized voter registration in Alabama and in 1967 became chairperson of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), one of the most dynamic Black Power organizations.

A fiery speaker, Brown spoke across the country, rallying Black people to demand the rights that had been promised them by recently passed civil rights laws.

He was charged with “inciting a riot” following a 1967 speech at the Chicago Md., although the Kerner Commission report totally debunked that account, faulting the local police for fires that hap- pened after Brown left the area.

Nonetheless, the “H. Rap Brown law” was passed by Congress, making it a crime to cross state lines to incite a riot.

While in Attica Prison from 1971-76 on a charge of attempted robbery, Brown converted to Islam and changed his name to Jamil Al-Amin. Following his release, he moved to Atlanta, opened a grocery store in the West End and became Imam of the nearby mosque. He organized the community to get rid of drug dealers and arrest criminals, helped seniors remain in their homes and set up youth programs.

Brown was recognized nationally and internationally as a religious leader.

In 2002, following his conviction and sentencing to life in prison without parole, Al-Amin was sent to Georgia’s maximum security prison in Brundidge.

When Muslim prisoners petitioned the state to have him serve as their Imam, Georgia determined he was a “too high-risk” prisoner. The federal Bureau of Prisons took over his housing. In 2007 he was sent to a Colorado supermax facility and kept in solitary for seven years in an underground cell. He is currently in a Tucson federal penitentiary.

The many supporters in the court- room reflected his decades of struggle. There were former members of SNCC, Muslims from multiple cities, West End neighbors, Pam Africa of International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and members of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Workers World Party and Georgia student organizations.

For additional information, visit imamjamilactionnetwork.org.
Workers’ Solidarity Day: an essential initiative

By Martha Grevatt

This article is based on a talk by Martha Grevatt at the Workers World Party National strategic meeting held May 11-12 in Newark, N.J. Grevatt is a member of the Executive Committee of the WWP Interim Central Committee, a managing editor of this newspaper and a long-time union activist.

Initiatives begin as proposals. Then proposals become reality. That is the goal with Workers’ Solidarity Day and the International Workers’ Solidarity Network: to make the monthly solidarity days, originally a proposal, essentially “a May Day every month.”

The Solidarity Day is not a one-off event. It makes the first big push on May Day. In general, workers get it. Once a year is not enough, not by a longshot. Let’s have an International Workers’ Day each and every month: That’s the pitch and it resonates.

One of the results of the successful May Day campaign was that the IWPN accomplished a lot. A call to action was drafted and sent out. The call has gotten around 400 signers from around the country and around the world. There is a website and a presence on social media. And a name for the group spearheading this initiative – International Workers’ Solidarity Network.

Leaflets have been given out, as well as visibility with placards and banners. The word is getting out. From May Day and Shop & Shop picket lines to the annual remembrance of the Kent and Jackson State killings. And of course the courageous Uber, Lyft and other rideshare walkouts.

The date for the first solidarity day is June 1. For now there’s a continuum from May 1 to June 1: It’s the first of the month. June 1 is a Saturday. What will happen after June 1 still has to be developed. There will be an emphasis on solidarity with migrants under the theme of “No Walls in the Workers’ Struggle.” There is also the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Back the Movement for Black Liberation Rebellion. Some areas will need to bring in local struggles, such as the laundry workers in New York or teachers where they are in motion. Internationalism is a big piece of this. Don’t be afraid to customize.

Of all the historical mass units that the IWPN has helped develop, the IWSN has much in common with CULA – Center for United Labor Action – a formation that was truly engaged in the class struggle of the 1970s. For Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Mory organized the party with the slogan “Face to face on May 11 in Newark.

Martha Grevatt speaking on May 11 in Newark.

With the IPO, Uber’s corporate owners are set to make billions, all while drivers are left in poverty and go bankrupt.” (Uber Boast bubble) Sea, company, called an IPO [Initial Public Offering] on the stock market on May 10.)

Upwards of 75 Uber drivers, joined by other rideshare workers and community supporters, held a demonstration outside of Uber’s Green Hub in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Drivers Union and the Philadelphia Limousine Association organized the action.

The demonstration was entirely worker-led and reflected the multinationals and intergenerational demographic of rideshare workers. Fliers listing the drivers’ demands were printed in Spanish, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and English. Many drivers brought homemade signs, led chants and gave speeches to the crowd in various languages.

The main demands were an 8/20 split on fares; a minimum wage of at least $20 an hour after expenses; deactivation protection for drivers and the creation of an oversight board of workers with enforceable power; and no changes to Terms of Service agreements without bargaining directly with drivers and their union representatives.

Many workers remarked that Uber and Lyft have been systematically lowering drivers’ take-home pay without giving workers a say in the policies that impact them, forcing many to work longer hours. Drivers had to live day to day. Workers responded enthusiastically to signs from the International Workers’ Solidarity Network, particularly one that read, “Uber profits – stolen pay from drivers.”

After a spirited rally in the parking lot, drivers marched directly to the front doors of the Uber office demanding to speak with a manager to deliver their demands. Eventually, after stalling, an Uber manager did agree to hear from them.

Drivers and supporters held a rally and press conference outside Uber’s hub in Chambly, a suburb of Atlanta, where they addressed their working conditions and demands. The rally drew extensive media coverage. Later, the focus of the strike shifted to Lyft’s offices. Drivers announced a statewide meeting later this month to grow their organization.

Rideshare Drivers United-LA, formed in 2018, organized a 24-hour strike with drivers shutting down their apps from midnight to midnight. Drivers set up a picket outside of Los Angeles International Airport. An RDU-LA press release demanded “major reforms to the industry to make it fair, dignified and sustainable.” Lyft driver Karin Bayumi was quoted, “Uber estimates that 15 percent of their revenues come from airport pickups. We provide an essential service, but Uber and Lyft investors are the only ones reaping the benefits.”

They work to 24 hours a day.

We have a goal with Workers’ Solidarity Day and the IWPN that there will be an emphasis on solidarity with migrants under the theme of “No Walls in the Workers’ Struggle.” There is also the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Back the Movement for Black Liberation Rebellion. Some areas will need to bring in local struggles, such as the laundry workers in New York or teachers where they are in motion. Internationalism is a big piece of this. Don’t be afraid to customize.

Of all the historical mass units that the IWPN has helped develop, the IWSN has much in common with CULA – Center for United Labor Action – a formation that was truly engaged in the class struggle of the 1970s. Back then Workers Party and Workers World Party not only led the struggle of the 1970s but also spearheaded the first International Workers Solidarity Network.

The IWPN is in a deep, protracted crisis; two, capitalism is in a deep, protracted crisis; two, workers are fighting back. A New York Uber spokesperson claimed that the New York Taxi Workers Alliance was not a real union and therefore not a voice for rideshare drivers. (Vox, May 9)

What Uber fails to realize is that the strike was very successful because it is only the beginning of the gig-economy app drivers organizing and rising up.

As we all know, “The workers united will never be defeated!”

Contributors to this article included Ben Carroll, Siddika Dogia, Steve Kirschbaum, Mike Kühlbeck and Diana Mathiowetz.

Workers are demanding that companies pay drivers 80 to 85 percent of the fare and end “arbitrary and unjust deactivations.” “Deactivation” is rideshare company lingo for barring a driver from work for an indefinite length of time. As Caroline Said explained in the Oct. 14, 2018, San Francisco Chronicle, “In the easy-easy, easy-go gig world, workers can be deativated with the click of a button or, more often, the soulless calculations of an algorithm.”

After learning of the May 8 coordinated actions, the 21,000-member strong New York Taxi Workers Alliance voted to demonstrate in solidarity with the striking drivers. Taxi drivers rallied at Uber and Lyft’s NYC headquarters in Long Island City, the Independent Drivers Guild, which according to a May 7 article in AM New York is funded partially by Uber, did not encourage its workers to go on strike but instead cooperated with the company.

NYTWA Executive Director Bhairavi Desai said in a public statement: “Uber and Lyft wrote in their 5th filings that they think they pay drivers too much already. With the IPO, Uber’s corporate owners are set to make billions, all while drivers labor costs down to barely above — and in some cases below — the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, with no benefits. Since less money for workers means more money for the bosses, one might expect managers to flock to these super-exploitative companies in droves. However, the falling price of Uber stock reflects two problems for the investing class: one, capitalism is in a deep, protracted crisis; two, workers are fighting back.

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After learning of the May 8 coordinated actions, the 21,000-member strong New York Taxi Workers Alliance voted to demonstrate in solidarity with the striking drivers. Taxi drivers rallied at Uber and Lyft’s NYC headquarters in Long Island City, the Independent Drivers Guild, which according to a May 7 article in AM New York is funded partially by Uber, did not encourage its workers to go on strike but instead cooperated with the company.

NYTWA Executive Director Bhairavi Desai said in a public statement: “Uber and Lyft wrote in their 5th filings that they think they pay drivers too much already. With the IPO, Uber’s corporate owners are set to make billions, all while drivers
Sarah Collins Rudolph refers to herself as the “fifth little girl” from the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., that killed four Black girls in 1963— Carol Denise McNair, 11 years old; Carole Robertson, 14; Cynthia Wesley, 14; and Addie Mae Collins, 14. Sarah is captured in a famous photograph in which she stands between the burial sites of her three sisters. Her sister and the three others were exhumed by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while she remained in the hospital. In 1973, four years after the historic Stonewall Rebellion, an arson attack killed 32 people at the Upstairs Lounge, a gay bar and haven in New Orleans—a city and country where there was an estimated 60,000 LGBTQ people out of a population of 600,000 who were gay and lesbian. Because being openly gay during that time was so dangerous, families kept their queerness hidden from the bodies of many who were shot by the hands of the world itself. She has lived with that day every day, and today she is witnessing the vile racism of Trump and every other white supremacist and neo-Nazi whom this administration emboldens and enables.

As workers without work, we matter. We are up against this period of capitalism where we should understand a key characteristic to be the attempt of finance capital to take as many with it as possible. In the course of its death, the world system is the carrier of history. We do not have to reach backwards to tally deaths of this country would have it, many of those survivors who we mean when we say capitalism is dying. History is the very human development which could destroy it. Unfortunately we do not have the favor of the revolutionary fervor of the 1960s. We have 2019, for whatever it’s worth. And as it stands right now, I believe it’s worth $280 trillion, half of which is being held hostage by 1 in 10. It’s worth. And as it stands right now, I believe it’s worth... We must do this for the Birmingham Four, for Flint, for the Haymarket Martyrs, for Sandra Iblond, for Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Haiti, Libya, for the gravediggers of capitalism, and for the future of and the infinite possibilities of humanity.

We must do this for the Birmingham Four, for Flint, for Stonewall, for Mumia, for Leonard Peltier, for Leslie Feinberg, for the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory workers, for the Haymarket Martyrs, for Sandra Iblond, for Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Haiti, Libya, for the gravediggers of capitalism, and for the future of and the infinite possibilities of humanity. We've got to prepare our class to become manifest revolutionaries who are caught on a high wire between our class, it requires a level of rigor that wrestles with the most winning way possible. We must tell the truth about what is happening to our class, and we must be truthful in the role we hope to and can play as revolutionaries. We've got to prepare our class to become manifest revolutionaries who are caught on a high wire between... We've got to prepare our class to become manifest revolutionaries who are caught on a high wire between...
Fighting retaliation at Google and Boeing

Two mega-billion-dollar U.S.-based international corporations retaliated recently against employees who dared to organize for better working conditions.

About 20,000 Google workers staged a multicontinent walkout last November demanding changes in how sexual misconduct allegations are handled. An internal email published April 26 by Wired reported that two employee activists behind the protest accrued Google of retaliation. Google denied it.

Employee activist Claire Stapleton was demoted from marketing manager after the walkout. Only after her lawyer contacted Google did management conduct an investigation and walk back the punishment. “While my work has been restored,” said Stapleton, “the environment remains hostile.” Meredith Whittaker, who co-signed the email, said her role has been “changed dramatically.” She was told she had to give up her role at the AI Now Institute at New York University, which she co-founded, and to “focus on work on artificial intelligence ethics. The words aren’t only the ones. Google has a culture of retaliation, which too often works to silence women, people of color, and gender minorities.” (bbc.com, April 23)

In November 2018, Richard Mester, who brought 30 years of engineering experience to Boeing in South Carolina where he has been a flight safety inspector for five years, was suddenly fired — along with two other employees — for allegedly failing to report a bird strike (when a bird collides with a plane). Impossible, said Mester, who had just been elected a union shop steward. The three workers filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging there was no bird strike, but that it was just an excuse to fire workers in the ongoing International Association of Machinists unionization drive. Boeing filed an objection. The NLRB refused to comment.

“Boeing has no qualms about squashing any possibility of a union down here,” Mester told the May 3 Guardian. IAM Associate General Counsel Bill Haller explained: “[Boeing wanted] to send the message that if you support the union you’re going to get fired. They’re not being subtle.” In an email to the Guardian, Boeing denied retaliation.

In addition to accusing Boeing of springing on workers who voted in the election, the union is seeking $20 million in a price-fixing case — the largest involving a federal contractor. “They started writing people up for things that were the norm. They’ve targeted union supporters,” said an unidentified Boeing worker hoping to avoid retaliation.

Mester noted that after the union vote, Boeing increased the workload of workers who had just been elected a union shop steward. “Our story aren’t the only ones. Google has a culture of retaliation, which too often works to silence women, people of color, and gender minorities.” (bbc.com, April 23)

Rutgers faculty win historic contract!

In a late-night bargaining session, on the brink of a strike (which would have been the first in the university’s 253 years), 3,000 full-time faculty and graduate workers at Rutgers University won a victory with a robust seven-year contract. They organized jointly with the American Association of University Professors and the American Federation of Teachers. During more than a year of pickets and protests, the union won support online and in the classroom with a creative social media campaign as well as “picket with your professor” events.

The workers gained equal pay for female faculty, security and dignity. Now there is equal pay for equal work for female faculty, faculty of color and for faculty in the Newark and Camden campuses.

All faculty can now apply for equity correction if they believe their peers are unjustly earning more. Significant pay increases will help the lowest-paid members. Graduate workers will see their pay increase from $25,969 to $30,162 over the course of the contract. The union also won $20 million for diversity hiring and the guarantee of a workplace free of harassment and stalking, enforced by binding arbitration.

The contract revises the “green card” policy, so that faculty can now sponsor non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty for permanent residency. NTT workers, often the most exploited, will have grievance procedures. Graduate employees and NTT faculty also won greater job security. The union won language requiring academic freedom that applies to social media. Though this is an historic victory, nearly 3,000 part-time adjuncts still await a contract, fair salaries and health care. Stay tuned. (Rutgers AAPU.org, April 17).

100 Years Later
Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution
By Deirdre Griswold

Contents: From Marx’s view of social evolution to Lenin’s “imperialism” • Social gains in the early years of Soviet power • “Whose state? Whose power?” • Meaning all nationalities • External and internal problems, strengths and setbacks • To the 0.001 percent — you’re cheating too soon

Download it free from www.workers.org/books

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchis and Sue Davis

Farmworkers win big over Darigold

By Jim McMahan

Seattle

The United Farm Workers union just scored a big victory over 500-farm dairy producer Darigold in the Pacific Northwest. For years farmworkers have been struggling at Darigold against racist and sexist harassment, along with brutal and unsafe working conditions.

The “Darigold Dozens” — 12 dairy farm workers — filed a wage and hour lawsuit against Darigold member Ruby Ridge farm in 2009. The dozen have finally won their lawsuit and will recover the wages they charge were stolen by Ruby Ridge. Darigold has also agreed to drop its lawsuit against the UFW and the 12 individual workers, which was filed in retaliation for the workers seeking to recover their wages.

In April the UFW held a large picket line at a Starbucks shareholders’ meeting in Seattle. Starbucks is a huge consumer of Darigold milk. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson came to the UFW picket line and spoke out in solidarity with the workers during the Darigold struggle.

The UFW vowed in a press release that it is still continuing its fight to protect workers at Darigold from retaliation, sexual harassment and unsafe, even deadly, working conditions. [1]

Farmworkers picket to demand Starbucks pressure Darigold, one of their primary suppliers.

Workers’ Solidarity Day: an essential initiative

Continued from page 5

In other words the party did a lot of work with a section of our class camp, the most oppressed sector, who most certainly did not have a legal right to strike or engage in collective bargaining — although there were strikes and rebellions and demands were negotiated. But the point was: Solidarity was not conditional on these workers being organized in a traditional union structure.

A lot of retooling is imperative when turning our face to the working class of the 21st century. Now there needs to be an understanding on the ever-changing character of the working class. Sam Marcy wrote about this in the ground-breaking 1986 work, “High Tech, Low Pay.” But a great deal has changed since then. Work is more precarious and more contingent workers. There is far less income or job security in today’s gig economy.

Nevertheless the fundamental class antagonisms, between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, remain. That is why one can read Marx and feel like he’s writing about life today. He also used the word “precarious” to describe working class life in 1848. But he never saw any segment of the working class as “too hard to organize,” and revolutionaries can’t fall into that trap when it comes to gig workers. The Uber and Lyft drivers, Google workers, Amazon workers, fast food workers, etc., are going to organize in spite of and around anyone who thinks that way.

Precarity and inhumanity will continue under capitalism. It’s only when the proletariat seizes the means of production and takes hold of the repressive state apparatus that we will see needs come before profit. Only the working class can carry out this historic task. The vanguard has to turn its face toward our class.

Workers’ Solidarity Day is a mechanism to conduct this necessary work.

Go to workersolidarity.net for different leaflets that can be downloaded. [1]
In many European countries, people celebrated the end of World War II, but in Nazi Germany, the Allies had overthrown the Nazi regime. However, the war was not yet over, and the Allies had to deal with the aftermath of the Nazi regime's crimes.

Hardly anyone would speak of how the Allied governments ignored Moscow’s repeated requests to open a front in the West, to free the Jews from their concentration camps. It was not until after the war that the Allies occupied Europe. The unconditional surrender of the Nazi regime came on May 8, 1945.

The Allied forces entered the camps of the Nazi regime, including Mauthausen Concentration Camp. The camp was located in Austria, near Linz, and was one of the largest camps in Europe. The camp was used to hold political prisoners from Spain.

In Mauthausen, unlike in other Nazi camps, the resistance movement was well organized. The prisoners had access to a radio that members of the SS were prohibited from using. The prisoners used the radio to coordinate their resistance efforts.

The prisoners knew that they had to act fast to prevent the Nazi regime from destroying the evidence of their crimes. They organized a resistance group called the Mauthausen International Committee (MICH). This group was formed by the Spanish prisoners and was led by Arturo Zampedri.

The MICH began to organize acts of rebellion, including thefts and destruction of the camp’s administration offices. The prisoners were also involved in drilling holes in the walls of the camp to allow the SS to enter the interior of the compound.

On May 19, 1945, two armored vehicles of the U.S. Army entered the camp. The urban guards of the camp were ready to risk everything: The pistols and the bottles of benzene were ready. They were weaving a spider’s web. In the camp confusion reigned. Some of the prisoners were in chains, with their hands bound to their sides. The entrance door, over hundreds of prisoners. The banner reads: "The anti-fascist Spaniards salute the liberating forces.”

The question is obvious: Who had liberated Mauthausen before the U.S. troops arrived? Resistance was organized inside the camp, led by Spanish communists ([who were there because Mauthausen Concentration Camp was the main place where the Mauthausen International Committee (MICH) was operating]. The prisoners were part of the Spanish resistance movement against the Nazi regime.

At the end of April, Mauthausen Concentration Camp was liberated by the U.S. troops. The prisoners had been using a radio that members of the SS were prohibited from using. The prisoners used the radio to coordinate their resistance efforts.

The prisoners were aware of the importance of the war against fascism. They knew that the war was not yet over, and they were determined to prevent the Nazis from destroying the evidence of their crimes. The prisoners were,set to act fast to prevent the Nazi regime from destroying the evidence of their crimes. The prisoners were part of the Spanish resistance movement against the Nazi regime.

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May Day march attacked by police

By Rémy Herrera

Herrera is a Marxist economist and researcher at France’s Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). He works at the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne. May Day march in Paris and wrote this article May 5. Workers World staff translated it.

May Day off to a strong start

The 220 demonstrations that took place throughout France on May 1 brought together nearly 300,000 people. For now, let us focus on the parade in Paris that brought together 80,000 people (unions’ attendance figures). The majority of the participants were workers. Tens of thousands of the participants were harrassers of the protesters, as they always are on May Day. It was really special.

Let us start at the beginning. The initial rally point was planned for Montparnasse, south of the capital. The procession was supposed to start at 2:30 p.m., but, by midday, the police—who also came in droves—had their own event with the workers.

Many demonstrators were already there, and midday at the foot of the Montparnasse tower. Tens of thousands of people had arrived, including labor union activists who were alongside the Yellow Vests movement and the Black Bloc [anarchists]. Ecological activists were also there. Police headquarters had banned their march on the climate crisis, which was planned for that morning in the Latin Quarter. They had all passed through the barriers of “preventive controls” installed by the police, who were stopping the passersby, searching backpacks and confiscating masks, protective glasses and helmets. At around 12:15 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., as the usual peaceful preparations were being made, the procession of trade unionists with thousands of demonstrators, committed marchers, a large number of Yellow Vests, a few Black Bloc groups, and others advanced toward the beginning of the route. They overtook the unionists who had been marching and took the lead of the entire group.

Sudden, brutal police attack

Regular cops and CRS riot police immediately cut off the march and blocked the surrounding streets. Then they reached the Place d’Italie, where the police ran in the dense air at the dense crowd and tear gas pellets at ground level. If there were any warnings to the people to desist, no one heard them. First came the blows from police clubs. Then bottles were thrown, and there were clashes with the protest- ers, committed marchers, a large number of Yellow Vests, a few Black Bloc groups, and others advanced toward the beginning of the route. The Paris Police Prefecture quickly denied what many eyewitnesses observed—that labor unionists had been deliberately attacked.

About an hour and a half after the proces- sion was finally allowed to enter the area occupied by the crowd and in reaction to the rush, demonstra- tors had to push back as best they could toward the starting point. To set the tone. Nothing could have upset the demonstrators more and got them angry. This was a police provocation. And for what purpose? Injured people with bloody faces were treated by street medics, heroic volunteers. Chants of “Here it goes!” “Revolution!” and “Another one is vital!” were repeated and applauded.

Until 2:15 p.m., those who arrived on time in Montparnasse were harassed by police as described. The police police intervention immediately plunged the crowd into panic. It was a remarkably well-organized attack caused by the instructions of the Minister of the Interior Christophe Castaner and his new police prefect, Didier Lallement. Before bursting out in the clouds of smoke, people had to run in all direc- tions to seek refuge somewhere—under a building’s porch, into an unбаррикaded shop nearby or toward the nearest adjacent street to be able to breathe and try to open their eyes. Unionists unions were harassed, trampled, orchestra were dis- located and lunch snacks were trampled. Groups of friends were scattered, haggard. The president had warned everyone that those who joined the protests were accom- plices of the “caisseurs” [breakers], the looters and the Black Bloc. In the face of the new French democracy of President Emmanuel Macron’s party, La République en marche [The Republic on the march], participating in International Workers’ Day was under- taken at one’s own risk.

A tag placed near La Rotonde, a famous luxury restaurant, proclaimed: “Repression on the march.” Its windows were protected by wooden boards. Macron had celebrated there in anticipation of his victory against ultra-rightist Marine Le Pen, on April 23, 2017, the evening of the first round of pres- idential elections

Among the many who paid the price of the attack, a marcher who was injured in the proces- sation was General Confederation of Labor (CGT) Secretary General Philippe Martinez. However, since the begin- ning of the Yellow Vests’ mobilization in November, he had been overly cautious and reluctant to openly support the protests. He was trying to keep the Confederation away from the popular rebellion, even though his union’s rank-and-file members have been demonstrating with the Yellow Vests since they began—on a daily basis in the streets. Union members have constantly pushed the CGT leadership to be more resolutely committed to working alongside the Yellow Vests. Everyone marched together, faced cops

However, everyone marched together on May 1, a happy thing. But the police vio- lence was unprecedented. Parade security forces were targeted. Clearly identifiable CGT members were repeatedly attacked and beaten by police. Martinez, who was positioned at the front of the labor union procession, had to be hastily spirited away by his security guards. A lot of other demo- nstrators were brutalized, too; many peo- ple suffered at the hands of the police.

Some people may have claimed that Black Bloc forces wanted to move for- ward to attack CGT leaders, but witnesses at the scene saw police attack members of the CGT and Solidaires unions with no provocation. The Paris Police Prefecture quickly denied what many eyewitnesses observed—that labor unionists had been deliberately attacked.

About an hour and a half after the pro- cession was finally allowed to enter the area occupied by the crowd and in reaction to the rush, demonstra- tors had to push back as best they could toward the starting point. To set the tone. Nothing could have upset the demonstrators more and got them angry. This was a police provocation. And for what purpose? Injured people with bloody faces were treated by street medics, heroic volunteers. Chants of “Here it goes!” “Revolution!” and “Another one is vital!” were repeated and applauded.

May Day march in Paris.

The mass of demonstrators who had the courage to arrive were forced to retreat again under waves of water cannons and a flood of tear gas grenades.

Under such conditions, is it surpris- ing to learn that these innovative polic- ical methods—encouraging the cops to make physical “contact” — caused rela- tively harsh clashes to take place at the end of the march route?

State, media try to stop march

In other words, the Parisian parade, in addition to having twice the num- ber of participants as attended last year, according to the CGT, was tense. In the days leading up to May 1, the Ministry of the Interior was sending out commu- niques and tweets spewing pro- paganda—generously relayed by the domesticated media—meant to drama- tize the situation, to frighten and strongly dissuade people from going on the march. In short, it was intended to prevent the Workers’ Day parade from taking place. The alarmist media hype forewarned that this May Day would be “the worst,” “the apocalypse” and “a civil war.” It prom- ised that Paris would become the “capital of the riot.” Therefore, those who chose to join the march and the struggle this year had to overcome widespread apprehension and fear—which was skillfully manipu- lated from the top by political authorities. A result of this fear campaign was that no children marched in this year’s parade. Today, people in France can no longer march as a family. Everyone thought of the mind-boggling and incredible, but very real police attacks on the Yellow Vest move- ment in the last six months which have caused terrible injuries, disfigurements, loss of limbs and eyes, and amputations. For this May Day parade—after 25 weeks of mobilizing by the Yellow Vests, and more than two years of workers fight- ing against “labor laws” —7,500 members of the security forces, wearing armor and equipped for combat, had been deployed in the capital.

Throughout the route from Montparnasse to Place d’Italie, this over- whelming, oppressive police presence crushed and enclosed the procession, as if it was a trap. The police regularly interrupted the march by forming bot- tle-ncks, closing off surrounding streets and dividing it into smaller sections to “better manage it.” Cops surrounded it, muzzled it and blocked it, sometimes prohibiting entry or exit. They chanted it by gassing people. And they prevented it from com- pletely its journey. In many places, police launched offensives, suddenly charging everyone and everything in their path and removing targeted individuals, according to the new doctrine being implemented.

“We have to struggle for unity”

It is in this complicated, often confus- ing, sometimes chaotic context that Yellow Vests and red ponchos of the unionists have learned to blend in on the streets of Paris. Also true of those wearing black T-shirts. The desire for convergence was very widely shared and affirmed by the demonstrators.

“Regrettably” according to the same beat, but many demands overlap, such as “We have to struggle for unity.” “We have no choice.” “This is an emergency” and “Everything can change for the better or for the worse.”

The French ruling classes have managed to numb a large number of France’s popu- lation to the army’s bombardments of peo- ple in the global South. Now they are trying to make the people of France indifferent to the misfortunes, suffering and repression that overwhelm the poorest and least for- tunate among their compatriots at home by exhuming the figure of the “inner enemy.”

With police clubs, tear gas and crude li- esties, President Macron and his govern- ment—the only ones responsible for this outburst of violence on May 1—are lead- ing the country straight down the path of a transition resembling the entryway into a form of neoliberalism that dares not say its name. This would be smooth, refined, softened neoliberalism, with a distinguishing feature: It smiles. But it is still frightening.

“It represents the dictatorship of state authorities who represent high finance capitalism; they simulate popular participation while at the same time dissolving social ties and draining the blood from the people, destroying their happiness.”

This could be the new page in France’s history that this president is writing for the people. If the man who presents him- self as “the rampart against the fascism” of Marine Le Pen looked in the mirror, he would see that he is none other than her double.

Looking closely at this head of state who is being sold to the people with the image of the “best guarantor of democ- racy” shows that he is really itsegradig- ger. After all, didn’t he declare— shortly before the Yellow Vest insurrection erupted—that Marshal Henri-Philippe Pétain was “also a great soldier”? (Pétain headed the Nazi-collaborationist Vichy government during World War II.)
Much has been revealed about the world’s two largest economies in the fallout from the tariffs imposed by the U.S. government on goods from China — and that country’s response.

When the Trump administration announced on May 10 that it was imposing a new 25 percent tariff on $200 billion worth of goods imported from China, nothing dramatic happened in the stock markets of the two countries. The Shanghai composite stock index fell only slightly and is still up by 15 percent for the year.

Trump then tweeted a warning: “China should not retaliate — will only get worse!” His imperialist arrogance had no effect. In less than two hours, China did retaliate, but carefully. It announced it would put tariffs ranging up to 25 percent on $60 billion worth of U.S. goods.

That was later on the same day, May 10. In reaction to this news, the U.S. stock market then plunged 647 points on Monday, May 13 — the biggest drop so far in 2019. So which economy is more fragile and unstable? That of the wealthy imperialist U.S. or that of People’s China?

Why did talks break down?

The move by Washington to impose new tariffs on Chinese goods came after a breakdown in trade talks. According to the New York Times: “The United States and China were nearing a trade deal that would lift tariffs, open the Chinese market to American companies and strengthen China’s intellectual property protections. But discussions fell apart last weekend, when China called for substantial changes to the negotiating text that both countries had been using as a blueprint for a sweeping trade pact. American officials said that China claimed that provisions of the deal would be in violation of Chinese laws — which could not be easily changed — and that the United States was demanding too much and giving too little.” (May 10)

If this interpretation is correct, it shows several things.

The inroads of the capitalist market in China have produced a class of trade negotiators who were willing to make significant concessions to the U.S. in order to promote Chinese businesses.

The U.S. was pushing for changes to China’s laws that would weaken the role of the state in ownership and control of the economy.

When leaders of the government and the Communist Party reviewed these concessions, they saw them as incompatible with China’s socialist roots and an attack on its state-owned industries and financial institutions. They pulled the agreement back.

China’s socialist roots

China is the fastest-growing large economy in the world, set to surpass the U.S. in a few years. It has developed from a time of wrenching poverty for the great mass of its people to prosperity for the majority in the span of just two generations. Indeed, China plans to have completely eliminated poverty by 2020 — next year — based on its official statistics.

But the times are changing. Not only has People’s China been on the rise, but conditions for workers in the U.S. have deteriorated, leading to increased class struggle at home.

The U.S. government has accumulated enormous debt after years of giveaways to the corporations and banks, plus the great cost of maintaining U.S. military forces on bases around the world. The U.S. uses many of these bases to actively engage in shoring up repressive regimes that otherwise would have been overthrown by the people long ago.

Debt is weighing down on the U.S. economy, even as changing technology is eating workers’ jobs and opportunities vie with each other to reduce costs at the expense of wages.

To sum up, the U.S. has seen the capitalist part of its economy grow, accompanied by the loss of millions of U.S. jobs, and the U.S. has become increasingly dependent upon China to compete with the state and state-owned industry.

If what is being reported is true, it would indicate that the prevailing view in China’s Party leadership is that its trade negotiations were giving in too much to pressure from U.S. imperialists.

This is good news for our future development as a socialist country.

USA: Hands off Iran!

As if the White House gang felt incomplete simply leveling economic threats against China, making hostile comments about Russia and imposing illegal sanctions — illegal because they amount to collective punishment of the populations — on Venezuela, Cuba and north Korea — they have once again put the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK in the crosshairs.

The Trump gang, in a show of force, has sent an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Persian Gulf, near Iran’s coastline. They asked the Pentagon to supply a plan for sending 120,000 U.S. troops to prepare for an invasion. They have also attempted to stop Iran’s 5 million barrels a day of oil exports. Their planned aggression is aimed at the U.S. allies who are necessary for the Iranian economy. Stopping them raises the price other sellers of petroleum can demand — something important for U.S. oil companies trying to increase exports of fracked oil.

In May 2018, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear accord with Iran signed by the Barack Obama administration. That had opened up trade with Iran from both the U.S. and European Union countries in return for Iran stopping its nuclear program.

U.S. officials claim, without giving evidence, that Iran poses a threat to U.S. troops in the region. Some U.S. allies have remarked that this kind of claim sounds much like George W. Bush’s 2002-03 claims that Iraq possessed “weapons of mass destruction.”

The speed of Bush’s “Big Lie” led to the March 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. What followed was a civil war that threatened to drive the troops out. Only a U.S.-instigated civil war that divided and destroyed much of Iraq prevented a U.S. defeat.

Before a Brussels meeting this May 13 that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said his government was worried about a conflict and an unintended escalation. Germany’s Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told Pompeo his country doesn’t want to see a conflict. And France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian urged Europeans to remain united in support of Iran’s state and nuclear deal. (New York Times, May 13)

While no serious resistance can be expected from the European imperialists to U.S. aggression, it was obvious that none of the governments saw the U.S. moves as something they could openly sign on to. Instead, they were attempting to set up a peaceful path for Iran to make trade deals while avoiding the U.S.-controlled global financial system. Iranians themselves are in a much stronger position than Iraq was in 2003 to resist a U.S. attack and make it costly. An Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander commented on the growing strength of his country’s defense forces, saying the U.S. military presence in the Gulf used to be a serious threat but now represents a target.

If the Pompeo-Bolton-Abrams gang think a few Trump tweets and the movement of warships will bring the rest of the world to its knees, they need to face a new reality. Cubans are organizing rationing to withstand hard economic times; Venezuelans already smashed three imperialist attempts; the DPRK said it would continue to defend itself; and the Iranians are staying strong.

This resistance from around the world should also serve as a warning to the U.S. government on goods from China — and thereby discount its great socialist resistance against both world imperialism and the internal parasitic classes of landlords and comprador capitalists — should ask themselves this: Why then is China so different from India or Indonesia or Brazil?

Those who put China’s tremendous achievements down solely to the capitalist market — and thereby discount its great socialist revolution against both world imperialism and the internal parasitic classes of landlords and comprador capitalists — should ask themselves this: Why then is China so different from India or Indonesia or Brazil?
Koreans reject U.S. efforts ‘to overthrow our system’

By Deirdre Griswold

Once again, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has refused to be intimidated by the U.S. imperialist government and its threats to the DPRK’s sovereignty and socialist system.

After the U.S. State Department, headed by notorious right-winger Mike Pompeo, issued a statement on “Supporting Freedom in North Korea,” the DPRK Foreign Ministry responded May 11 with a press release castigating the U.S. for “turning its back on the June 12 [2018] DPRK-U.S. joint statement committing to establish new bilateral relations.” That joint statement was issued after an historic summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

The north Korean release concludes that the State Department is not only obstructing any attempts to improve relations, but that the “American ulterior intention” is to “overthrow our system.”

For a while, the current U.S. president appeared to be softened by the hostile attitude of the U.S. ruling class toward the north Korean government. But when Trump met with Kim Jong Un and shook his hand, it was only a gesture—one that Trump’s two most influential advisers on foreign affairs, war hawks John Bolton and Mike Pompeo, immediately overruled.

U.S. unable to turn back

Korean Revolution

The hostility of the world’s biggest imperialist power toward the DPRK has prevailed since that country’s establishment in 1948. Even before that, at the end of World War II, U.S. armed forces, they went to Cuba to lead the struggle against Japanese colonial rule, Washington and Wall Street were determined to prevent a revolution in the world.

The forces led by Kim Il Sung liberated the north and eventually began a process of socialist construction there, while U.S. troops occupied the south and installed a series of right-wing governments.

The refusal of the U.S. to accept the great and popular Korean socialist revolution, which had begun in the struggle against Japanese imperialism, led to the horrendous imperialist war of 1950-53. The U.S. using the cloak of the United Nations, launched one of the most uneven and ferocious military assaults the world has ever seen.

From 1950 to 1953, U.S. planes bombed every structure in north Korea over one story. Millions were killed. Yet the West would not bow down.

The war ended in a stalemate with the south, which has so cruelly separated Koreans for 23 years. The U.S. has refused to sign a peace treaty with the DPRK. While the north built up an independent socialist economy, the south remains saddled with U.S. military occupation.

The largest overseas U.S. military base in the world, Camp Humphreys, is in south Korea. It exists to prevent a rapprochement between the south and the north.

That the majority of Koreans fervently want such a rapprochement was made clear to the world last year when a joint north-south delegation received an ecstatic welcome at the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, south Korea.

The only person not cheering the joint north-south athletic cooperation was U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who could be seen in news clips slumping down in his seat as south Koreans around him jumped to their feet, applauding the delegation.

The rising progressive movement in the United States should embrace the desire of the Korean people to end the state of war that still exists between Washington and the DPRK and push to end U.S. occupation of the south, which has so cruelly separated Korean families for almost 75 years.

A bizarre banquet of anti-Cuba dreamers needs to wake up

By Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada

Between 1993 and 2013, Alarcon was President of the National Assembly of People’s Power of Cuba. This article was published on April 19 at porseso.net and translated by WW Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

After three months of threats and threats and on two stages—the State Department in Washington, D.C., and a theater in Miami—the U.S. administration finally announced what it intends to do to intensify its economic war against Cuba.

On April 17, at midmorning in a ceremony of barely a few minutes in the capital, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the administration would fully implement Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. He offered no further explanation, although he did say that as of May 2, “Cuban-Americans” will be able to bring suits before U.S. courts against those who use in any way the properties they claim belong to them or their families.

There were no questions. No text was delivered to answer the questions that such a decision must have provoked among those who remember that for 23 years, presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump had used the cloak of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act to pursue their families.

Official statements were immediately made by Spanish, Canadian, Mexican and European Union authorities who, in addition to protesting, warned that they will take necessary measures to neutralize any attempt to harm their legitimate interests.

They also pointed out that they are capable of taking these measures, considering that there is no shortage of U.S.-based investments in their countries.

The most notorious spectacle was reserved for Miami. National Security Advisor John Bolton played the main role. His audience was the remaining members of those who were part of the 2506 Brigade, that is, the wreckage of that U.S.-backed counter-revolutionary movement, and “their” mansions.

Now Bolton promises that they are going to sell those mansions. They should be repurchased by their own people.

In the spectacle: “Even in our most feverish dreams, we could not conceive that a U.S. government would do it. No one ever did. Forget Reagan. Forget Bush.”

Excited, the skillful managing lawyer of Helms-Burton [Gutierrez] believes the time has come to “recover” the large properties stolen by his great-grandfather.

An unabashed dreamer, Bolton, for his part, invited people to make a toast to the Monroe Doctrine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.


“Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba” by Leslie Feinberg.

This ground-breaking book is a compilation of 25 articles about same-sex love and sex/gender variance in Cuba’s pre- and post-revolutionary history. Available at major online bookstores.
La semana pasada, en el 22 de abril, el Presidente Donald Trump llevó su guerra a los derechos de las mujeres y las personas no conformes con el género a la ONU. Es terriblemente irónico que el gobierno de Trump amenazara con vetar la resolución de la ONU sobre el fin de la violencia sexual durante las guerras y los conflictos hostiles si la ONU no estuviera de acuerdo con su agenda anti-mujeres, anti-género oprimida.

El borrador inicial de la resolución decía: “Las entidades de las Naciones Unidas y los donantes brindarán servicios de salud integrales y no discriminatorios, incluidos servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, psicosociales, legales y medios de subsistencia y otros servicios multisectoriales para sobrevivientes de violencia sexual, teniendo en cuenta las necesidades específicas de las personas con discapacidad”.

La administración de Trump exigió que se eliminara la frase “salud sexual y reproductiva” porque podría interpretarse como un apoyo al derecho al aborto. Incluso después de que el representante alemán que presentó la resolución aceptó eliminar esa frase, los EE. UU. se opusieron a la frase original, “servicios de salud integrales”, en la resolución original del 2008.

Después de que se eliminara toda referencia a la atención médica de la resolución final, así como a la “educa ción integral en sexualidad”, que protegería los derechos de las personas homosexuales, transgénero y no confor mes con el género, fue aprobada por una votación de 13 miembros del Consejo de Seguridad. Incluyendo los Estados Unidos, no hay votos en contra, con Rusia y China absteniéndose.

Pero hubo una protesta mundial inmediata. Los representantes de Alemania, Bélgica, Gran Bretaña y Francia no se limitaron a protestar contra el acoso esco lar de los Estados Unidos, sino que también lo hicieron muchos representantes de los 90 países que participaron en la resolución.

Llamando a la posición de los Estados Unidos “intolerable e incomprensible”, el Embajador de Francia, François Delattre, declaró que “las mujeres y las niñas que sufren la violencia sexual en conflicto, y que obviamente no eligieron quedarse embarazadas, deberían tener el derecho de terminarlo su embarazo.”

Además de las diputadas, varias personas promi nentes se manifestaron en contra de la política de los EE. UU., incluyendo la Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Alemania, Heiko Maas, y la actriz Angelina Jolie, en un artículo de opinión en The Washington Post el 24 de abril.

Las dos personas galardonadas con el Premio Nobel de la Paz de 2018, Nadia Murad, sobreviviente de la esclavitud del grupo del Estado Islámico de mujeres y niñas yacintas en Irak, y Denis Mukwege, ginecólogo congoleño, emitieron una declaración: “Simplemente no hay excusa mordaza global”, que prohíbe toda financiación federal para las organizaciones internacionales que brindan asesoramiento sobre el aborto, incluso si también brindan nutrición e higiene, tratamiento para la malaria, tuberculosis y enfermedades tropicales; y atención a la salud maternoinfantil.

Es reprensible el hecho de que EE. UU. puedan armar al resto del mundo para que queden atrapados detrás de sus políticas totalmente misóginas e insensibles que causan daño irreparable a mujeres, niñas, hombres, sus familias y comunidades en todo el mundo.

El baño de la mujer que se oponen al patriarcado capitalista, racista, sexista, anti-LGBTQ2S del 1% que controla este país. Continuando con la lucha para eliminar a Trump y todos sus perpetradores de la guerra y la violación de la clase dominante burguesa.

Por Sue Davis

La guerra contra mujeres a O.N.U.

Los conservadores furiosos enfocaron su ira en ella, incluso un video publicado por el asesor principal de campaña de Trump. El video intentó presentar el lanzamiento de cohetes de Ucrania, otro lugar donde la intervención de Estados Unidos ha alimentado la guerra y la destrucción, como un ataque palestino contra Israel. (HAreetz.com, 5 de mayo)

Incluso los medios de comunicación burgueses admitieron que el tenue e falso ataque del 5 de mayo fue pro movido por Israel para que la nación de los palestinos pueda tratar de limpiar su imagen, ¡esta vez organizando una próxima competencia de canto de Eurovisión en Tel Aviv! El hecho es que los palestinos continúan resistiendo y exigiendo el fin de la ocupación, nada menos.

En un artículo de opinión publicado en Aljazeera.com, Haidar Eid, profesor asociado de la Universidad Al-Aqsa en Gaza, declaró: “Nosotros, los palestinos en Gaza, ya hemos hecho nuestra elección. No moriremos de manera deshonrosa una muerte lenta mientras agra denezamos a nuestros asesinos el autogolpe que presenta la esclavitud al invasor como un hecho consumado.

“No. Continuaremos luchando por nuestra dignidad, por nuestro mismo y por nuestros hijos”, continúa Eid. “Nosotros, miembros de la sociedad civil palestina, hemos sostenido durante mucho tiempo que el camino a seguir debería ser el poder del pueblo, la única fuerza capaz de enfrentar la enorme asimetría del poder en la lucha contra Israel. ¡No queremos migajas de pan. Queremos regresar a nuestras tierras, queremos que nuestros derechos conforme al derecho internacional sean reconocidos!” (6 de mayo)

La llamada de Eid nos recuerda aquí en los EE. UU. Ejerces nuestro “poder popular” para continuar nuestra máxima solidaridad con el pueblo palestino.

Por Sue Davis