Say NO to abortion bans!

By Kathy Durkin

“Right to life, your name’s a lie! You don’t care if women die!” Those words are being chanted by pro-choice activists from coast to coast as the so-called “pro-life” movement against women’s reproductive rights takes aim at eradicating legal abortions. A slogan of the 1970s movement to legalize this basic right, it is being chanted today as the people’s fightback mounts against the intensified, dangerous attack on reproductive rights and health care.

Mass movement in the streets pressured the Supreme Court to legalize abortion in 1973 in Roe v. Wade. It will take a multinational, multigender, multigenerational and multi-organizational mass struggle to push back today’s right-wing offensive.

Since the Roe decision, conservatives have tried everything to hack away at and overturn it through state legislatures and courts. Decades of concerted attacks by reactionary forces have included murders, injuries, stalking and harassment of doctors, staff and clients. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics. Bombings and arson attacks have destroyed clinics.

The current race to severely restrict or ban abortions was spurred on by Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court appointment in 2018, bringing to five the number of conservative justices. The right-wing goal is for the court to overturn Roe and criminalize abortions, empowering states to prosecute and imprison those who have the procedures and/or medical providers.

States rush to protect or restrict abortions

In preemptive actions, some states, such as New York, Virginia, Kansas and Oregon have passed laws protecting abortion rights. Similar laws are being taken up in Vermont, Rhode Island and other states.

Thirty states have passed restrictive laws, including current outright abortion bans. These will harm women, especially those of color, poor, young, gender-oppressed people, workers, immigrants, the disabled, rural residents and domestic abuse survivors. Those with economic means will be able to travel out of state to access abortions, as they did in the past.

Twenty-five white Republican men voted for an Alabama abortion ban that will have racist impact. State Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison is one of four African-American senators who vehemently argued against it. She asked male senators if they had been raped or were victims of incest, since they were banning abortions for victims of these violent acts. Of course, they said no.

Some 32,000 pregnancies result annually from rape in the U.S. Can you imagine the psychological damage to a person who must carry such a pregnancy to term and the desperate acts they might commit to end it?

Legal abortions save lives

Prior to legalization, circumstances were dire for the many thousands of women who annually had botched underground or self-induced abortions. Hospital emergency rooms were filled with those who suffered injuries and infections. Thousands of women died. More will die, if these misogynists have their way.

Abortions have always occurred. Legalizing the procedures meant they were performed in sanitary conditions by medical professionals. This was a huge breakthrough, as pregnant people had a safe way to obtain them.

As states have restricted access to the procedure and forced abortion-providing clinics to close, pregnant individuals have resorted to desperate measures. Some states have already imprisoned women, particularly immigrants and women of color, for self-abortions or “endangering fetuses.” Even miscarriages are suspect.

When right-wing politicians claim to be “pro-life,” they are more than hypocritical. They would deny pregnant people safe medical care, sending many to turn to harmful abortion methods. More unintended pregnancies will occur, with little to no government support for parents or children.

Where is the purported concern for children’s lives? Sen. Coleman-Madison criticized Alabama’s government for already not providing adequate care for children or support services for low-income mothers, such as child care. She added an amendment to the abortion ban that would require the state to provide free prenatal care to women denied abortions and health care for their parents or children.

Continued on page 7

Workers rush to protect or restrict abortions

In preemptive actions, some states, such as New York, Virginia, Kansas and Oregon have passed laws protecting abortion rights. Similar laws are being taken up in Vermont, Rhode Island and other states.

Thirty states have passed restrictive laws, including current outright abortion bans. These will harm women, especially those of color, poor, young, gender-oppressed people, workers, immigrants, the disabled, rural residents and domestic abuse survivors. Those with economic means will be able to travel out of state to access abortions, as they did in the past.

Twenty-five white Republican men voted for an Alabama abortion ban that will have racist impact. State Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison is one of four African-American senators who vehemently argued against it. She asked male senators if they had been raped or were victims of incest, since they were banning abortions for victims of these violent acts. Of course, they said no.

Some 32,000 pregnancies result annually from rape in the U.S. Can you imagine the psychological damage to a person who must carry such a pregnancy to term and the desperate acts they might commit to end it?

Legal abortions save lives

Prior to legalization, circumstances were dire for the many thousands of women who annually had botched underground or self-induced abortions. Hospital emergency rooms were filled with those who suffered injuries and infections. Thousands of women died. More will die, if these misogynists have their way.

Abortions have always occurred. Legalizing the procedures meant they were performed in sanitary conditions by medical professionals. This was a huge breakthrough, as pregnant people had a safe way to obtain them.

As states have restricted access to the procedure and forced abortion-providing clinics to close, pregnant individuals have resorted to desperate measures. Some states have already imprisoned women, particularly immigrants and women of color, for self-abortions or “endangering fetuses.” Even miscarriages are suspect.

When right-wing politicians claim to be “pro-life,” they are more than hypocritical. They would deny pregnant people safe medical care, sending many to turn to harmful abortion methods. More unintended pregnancies will occur, with little to no government support for parents or children.

Where is the purported concern for children’s lives? Sen. Coleman-Madison criticized Alabama’s government for already not providing adequate care for children or support services for low-income mothers, such as child care. She added an amendment to the abortion ban that would require the state to provide free prenatal care to women denied abortions and health care for their parents or children.

Continued on page 7

Reproductive & gender justice now!

A new, vicious right-wing attack has been launched on access to abortion in the U.S. The Alabama State Legislature passed the most punitive and restrictive law in the United States on May 14, placing a total ban on abortions in the state, even in cases of rape or incest. The only possible exemption, very difficult to obtain, is if a pregnancy endangers the physical or mental health of a woman. The bill makes performing or attempting to perform an abortion a felony.

Alabama joins seven other states — so far — in passing laws that deftly flout the Constitutional protection to abortion guaranteed in the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. Roe limits abortion only after a fetus is “viable” — at about 24 weeks into pregnancy. Some of the new laws actually outlaw abortion at four weeks — earlier than most people could even suspect they were pregnant.

There has been an outpouring of outrage, protest and analysis about these violent legislative attacks. Some mainstream pundits see the campaign as a Republican ramp-up to the coming 2020 national elections. But the reasons go far deeper — centuries deep into the foundation of power and exploitation in the U.S. Continued on page 6

Zimbabwe & African liberation

Strategy for coming crisis

Support for Embassy protectors

Editorial: Abolish the police!

U.S. threatens war on Iran

Venezuela

Finland

Philippines

Korea
We celebrate on May 19 the birthdays of two world-bending revolutionaries, Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X. Born in 1890 in central Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh was the Marxist-Leninist communist who forged and led a people’s movement and army that defeated the invading imperialist might of both France and the United States and ultimately liberated Vietnam from colonialism.

Born in 1925 in the U.S., Malcolm X was the African-American leader who raised to global attention the concepts of Black nationalism, Black self-defense and the right of self-determination of Black peoples. Malcolm X also made a major contribution to the global movement for Pan-Africanism.

Neither met the other, yet their deeds and words intertwine, and together they continue to inspire us toward revolution.

At this moment, as the U.S. ruling class fans the deadly fires of racist hatred, Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh unite to give a profound lesson in building international solidarity with oppressed people and nations.

In 1924—the year before Malcolm X was born—at the Fifth Congress of the Communist International in Moscow, Ho Chi Minh made a presentation during a session on the “National and colonial question.” He emphasized the importance of support for the Black liberation struggle in the U.S., saying in part: “It is well-known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well-known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery. … What everyone does not perhaps know is that after sixty-five years of so-called emancipation, [Black people in the U.S.] still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings.” (tinyurl.com/3q6ldkh)

Forty years later, in 1964, Malcolm X, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, put the Black liberation struggle in a worldwide context, saying: “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of [Black people] as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely U.S.[.] American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (Malcolm X Spokes)

And he acknowledged the centrality of the national liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, saying: “Viet Nam is the struggle of all third-world nations—the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama, tinyurl.com/k93cq2n)

The voices of both these revolts ring out with the clarion call of SOLIDARITY as the path to a future of justice and liberation.

They remind us that we of the multinational, multi-gender and multigenerational global working class have a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism.

We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti-LGBTQ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred. We can—and must—rise up in resistance.

El-Shabazz, put the Black liberation struggle in a worldwide context, saying: “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of [Black people] as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely U.S.[.] American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (Malcolm X Spokes)

And he acknowledged the centrality of the national liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, saying: “Viet Nam is the struggle of all third-world nations—the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama, tinyurl.com/k93cq2n)

The voices of both these revolts ring out with the clarion call of SOLIDARITY as the path to a future of justice and liberation.

They remind us that we of the multinational, multi- gender and multigenerational global working class have a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism.

We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti- LGBTQ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred. We can—and must—rise up in resistance.

El-Shabazz, put the Black liberation struggle in a worldwide context, saying: “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of [Black people] as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely U.S.[.] American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (Malcolm X Spokes)

And he acknowledged the centrality of the national liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, saying: “Viet Nam is the struggle of all third-world nations—the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama, tinyurl.com/k93cq2n)

The voices of both these revolts ring out with the clarion call of SOLIDARITY as the path to a future of justice and liberation.

They remind us that we of the multinational, multi- gender and multigenerational global working class have a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism.

We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti- LGBTQ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred. We can—and must—rise up in resistance.

El-Shabazz, put the Black liberation struggle in a worldwide context, saying: “It is incorrect to classify the revolt of [Black people] as simply a racial conflict of Black against white, or as a purely U.S.[.] American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.” (Malcolm X Spokes)

And he acknowledged the centrality of the national liberation war led by Ho Chi Minh to that global rebellion, saying: “Viet Nam is the struggle of all third-world nations—the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.” (1972 interview with Yuri Kochiyama, tinyurl.com/k93cq2n)

The voices of both these revolts ring out with the clarion call of SOLIDARITY as the path to a future of justice and liberation.

They remind us that we of the multinational, multi- gender and multigenerational global working class have a common oppressor in imperialist capitalism.

We can resist its racism, its anti-woman and anti- LGBTQ bigotry, its anti-immigrant hatred. We can—and must—rise up in resistance.
On African Liberation Day

End sanctions on Zimbabwe!

By Monica Moorehead

This May 25, which is celebrated as African Liberation Day and commemo-
rated worldwide, marks the 56th anniver-
sary of the founding of the Organization of Afri-

can Unity in 1963. The OAU rep-

resent the independent struggles on the Afri-
can continent against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism, and for a

united Africa, both in the past and in

the present.

The Brooklyn-based December 12th

Movement and Friends of Zimbabwe will

pay tribute to the legacy of ALD with a

protest on May 25 in Washington, D.C.,

demanding an end to the criminal sanc-

tions on Zimbabwe. This African nation,

once known as Rhodesia after the brutal

English colonizer Cecil Rhodes, fought a

heroic guerrilla war for liberation for

many decades. Rhodes first conquered

Zimbabwe with the gun in the late 1800s.

Guerrilla fighters from the Zimbabwe

African National Union and Zimbabwe

African People’s Union jointly formed

the ZANU-PF (Patriotic Front) to resist

the colonial regime of Ian Smith. The

Lancaster House Agreement, signed in

December 1979 with the Smith regime,

forced a compromise from the apart-

heid-like regime, which stated that the

majority of the millions of acres of land

stolen from the Indigenous people should

be returned to them by the white racist

landowners. Rhodesia became the inde-
pendent African state of Zimbabwe in

1980, but the settlers retained much of

the land.

For over 20 years, both U.S. and British
imperialists have imposed sanctions on

Zimbabwe as punishment for negoti-

ating the distribution of the land back to

its rightful owners, many of whom had

been guerrilla fighters in the war for

independence.

Brutal impact of U.S. sanctions

The May 25 protest will begin at the

African-American Civil War Museum

Plaza in Washington and then march to

the White House. It will highlight the

impact of these sanctions — an act of war

that is meant to turn the Zimbabwean

people against the democratically elected

government.

According to a press release from the

December 12 Movement International

Secretariat, these sanctions have caused:

• Shortages of medicines and medical

  supplies.

• Inability to purchase water treatment

  chemicals and mechanical parts.

• Increases in cholera and diabetes.

• Significant deterioration of Zimbabwe’s

  balance of payments position.

• Blockage of international access to

  credit markets.

• Significant rebuilding of the land

  economy.

• A significant buildup of external debt

  arrears.

• These increased government debt

  arrears resulted in Zimbabwe pri-

  vate companies finding it difficult to

  access offshore lending, thus crippling

  their operations.

• Lack of medical treatment and/or

  screening for HIV/AIDS.

• Declining external budgetary support

  (Zimbabwe's deficit has largely been

  financed from domestic borrowing,

  which has triggered high inflation).

• A radical decrease in life expectancy.

• An historic increase in unemployment,

  which ultimately hurts the overall qual-

  ity of living.

• Zimbabwe being falsely perceived as

  an unsafe and risky country to visit,

  thus drastically reducing the number of

  tourist arrivals.

The press release goes on to say: “The

United States’ Zimbabwe Democracy and

Economic Recovery Act of 2001 (ZIDERA)

and its sanctions violate international law

and the United Nations Charter in its blas-

tant interference in the internal affairs of

a sovereign nation. A land-locked, devel-

oping African nation like Zimbabwe, of 16

million people, poses no existential threat to

the ‘national security interest’ of the United

States. It is being punished for the ex-

ample it has set for other African coun-

tries in their fight for land reform—the only

road forward for development.”

Georgia

Protesters demand: ‘End inhumane jail conditions!’

By Jimmy Raynor

Atlanta

A militant demonstration of 200 people chanted and

marched from an Atlanta-area rail station to the Dekalb

County Jail May 15 to protest inhumane conditions inside

the jail. The demonstration marched through Memorial

Drive, a major road in Dekalb County.

Protestors blocked traffic until police attacked them in

the street and violently arrested four people. Although

many local and national groups. Organizers vow to be

back in the streets to continue this struggle.

Arielle Robinson contributed to this article.

New Jersey

High School youth protest fracked-gas power plant

By Michael Kramer

Ridgefield, N.J.

May 18 — Hundreds of New Jersey high school stu-

dents from Bergen and Hudson counties rallied and

marched today in Ridgefield to protest the construc-

tion of the North Bergen Liberty Generating Station in

neighboring North Bergen by the Japanese multi-

tional Mitsubishi.

The estimated cost of the plant is $1.5 billion. The

amount of greenhouse gases and particulate matter

that would be emitted from the plant into the air of

adjacent communities would be enormous. Large

numbers of Korean and Latinx people live in these

communities.

The action was organized with the help of Food &

Water Watch and the Sierra Club. Endorsers included

the Bergen County Audubon Society, Central Jersey

Coalition Against Endless War and Veterans For Peace.

The featured speaker at the rally was the anti-capitalist

investigative author professor Naomi Klein of Rutgers

University.

But it was the high school students who gave most

of the talks at the rally, and they gave them in three

languages: Korean, Spanish and English.

“Today we live in a world where we have to fight for

the privilege to breathe clean air. No amount of money

is worth risking our lungs and our health,” said Yoon

Yung Kim.

“I am committed to protesting and marching until

this project is finally rejected,” added Arturo Garcia.

The action highlighted the growing activism of high

school students — especially around environmental

issues.
Political organization of the working class

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

By Larry Holmes

This is a slightly edited version of a document prepared for the May 11-12 Workers World Party national strategy meeting in Newark, N.J. Holmes is WWP's first secretary.

Chances are that some time before the 2020 elections, the next global capitalist economic crisis will arrive. The crisis has been coming for a long time, and managers of the capitalist system no longer have the means to stop or delay it. That crisis will be more severe than anything we’ve experienced, and it will change everything.

The chances of a wider imperialist war, along with the prospect of all kinds of wild political gyrations both in the U.S. and around the world will increase exponentially. The class struggle will intensify in ways that we can only imagine.

Material basis for challenges facing the working-class movement

The challenges facing the working class, both the small percentage of organized workers and the much larger unorganized working class, should not be a surprise or a mystery to revolutionaries who have a real understanding of Marxism. Some believe that the reason that organized labor has lost ground is because it’s not militant enough. Of course that’s true, but it is a variable within a larger problem.

The latest phase of capitalist development, including the impact of new technology on the productive forces, a more globalized organization and the even greater role of finance capital over productive capital, has objectively strengthened the hand of capital over labor. Economic developments have rendered the working class more atomized and unable to defend its interests—that is, at least until labor transforms itself in a revolutionary direction, enabling it to turn weaknesses into strengths. The expansion of precarious or gig work and the contraction of union-wage jobs, especially in manufacturing, has made it far more difficult to organize workers through traditional unionization and collective bargaining toward the end of getting an incrementally larger portion of the wealth that workers create.

Marx’s solution: Organize politically

Marx predicted the crisis that the working class is in today, and he showed the way out of the crisis. In the orientation documents that Marx prepared for the first workers’ international convened in 1864, he warned that in due time the labor movement must evolve beyond merely attending to the immediate economic demands of workers in the workplace into a movement that encompasses the entire working class.

Marx argued that the labor movement can’t remain static and narrowly focused on industry and geography, but become international in scope and organization, and that labor must become not just a supporter, but a leader in all the issues facing the working class. Most importantly, Marx declared that as soon as it was able to do so, the labor movement must lead the struggle to end capitalism and not merely fight capitalism over workers’ demands. In essence, Marx foresaw that the only way forward for labor was to become a revolutionary political movement.

A central tenet of Marxism that even many who consider themselves Marxists tend to forget is that the outcome of the day-to-day struggle is that while we fight for reforms, we must be able to see past them. Ultimately, there is only so much that the capitalist class can concede to the working class and still hold on to their system.

The concessions that workers force capitalism to make in the course of the class struggle are not permanent and are bound to be reversed so long as the capitalist system remains in power. This contradiction is truer as capitalism sinks into a deeper crisis.

Our opposition to the notion that capitalism can be reformed is because that notion is false. If capitalism could be reformed, then there would be no need for the class struggle or socialist revolution. Actually, the fundamental reason why capitalism is so unpopular right now, and the ruling class is so fearful of the working class rising up to make revolution, is precisely because after a very, very long time, the masses are realizing that capitalism can’t be reformed in such a way that everyone’s needs can be met. All this speaks to the urgent need to open up a new phase in the organization of workers. That phase is the organization of workers on the basis of political consciousness.

We must also use solidarity days to show that all the struggles—the women’s struggle, the anti-racist struggle, the LGBTQ2S struggle, the struggle against war and fascism, the struggle for accessibility and the climate change struggle—are ALL workers’ struggles and that it’s important that these struggles be waged in the name of the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class.

Larry Holmes, First Secretary, Workers World Party

From class consciousness to revolutionary consciousness

There are several overlapping levels of organizing on the basis of political consciousness. The most basic level of political consciousness is a factor in the upsurge of the workers’ struggle globally, the universal unpopularity of capitalism and the growing popularity of socialism, especially in the U.S. It is why today, the super-rich are scared to death of the prospect of class struggle and revolution.

The need now is for this political consciousness to be nurtured, organized and focused in a way that helps the growing class struggle and the further development of revolutionary consciousness.

If the mass growth of political consciousness can be turned into concrete solidarity with the workers’ struggle, then it becomes one of the factors that can reverse the advantage that capital has over labor, due to the vast changes in capitalist development. There are recent positive and negative examples of how transforming political consciousness into solidarity affects the outcome of a struggle.

Difference between low-wage organizing campaign and education workers’ revolt

Imagine if the unions involved in organizing low-wage workers for $15 and a union would have called on the entire working class to rise up in support of these demands. There were good things about the low-wage worker organizing campaign, and concessions were won on the local level, but it never realized its potential because of the narrow orientation of most of the leadership in the organized labor movement.

Consider how turning this struggle into a truly mass militant struggle would have helped fast food workers feel more powerful. Unfortunately, the unions involved in organizing low-wage workers, for the most part, kept tight control over the campaign, limiting its militancy.

Continued on page 5

Striking education workers in Charleston, West Virginia, Feb. 26, 2018
Rand Corp. tells U.S. 
Spend billions on weakening Russia

The author is an anti-militarist activist and expert who writes for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto. By Manlio Dinucci

May 21 – Force your opponent to stretch too far and lose his balance, then take him down. This is no judo maneuver, but the Rand Corporation’s plan to combat Russia.

The Rand Corp. is the most influential U.S. think tank, with a staff of thousands of experts. It presents itself as the world’s most reliable source of intelligence and political analysis for the U.S. rulers and their allies.

Rand prides itself on having contributed to the long-term strategy that enabled the United States to emerge victorious from the Cold War, forcing the Soviet Union to consume its economic resources in its strategic confrontation with the U.S.

This model inspired the new plan, “Overextending and Unbalancing Russia,” published by Rand. The plan examines “options that the United States and its allies could pursue across economic, political and military areas to—overextend and unbalance—Russia’s economy and armed forces and the regime’s political standing at home and abroad.” (rand.org)

According to its analysts, Russia remains a powerful competitor of the United States in some fundamental fields. For this reason, the U.S. must pursue, together with its allies, an overall long-term strategy that exploits Russia’s vulnerabilities.

Rand then analyzes various ways to force Russia to lose its balance and indicates for each way the probability of success and the benefits, costs and risks for the U.S.

Rand analysts believe that Russia’s greatest vulnerability is economic, due to its high dependence on oil and gas exports, whose revenues can be reduced by increasing sanctions and increasing U.S. energy exports.

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

The proposal for Workers’ Solidarity Days on a monthly basis, and the establishment of an International Workers’ Solidarity Network, is an attempt to assist in pulling workers into active solidarity with workers’ struggles. It is an experiment in organizing workers based on political consciousness.

The purpose of Workers’ Solidarity Days and an International Workers’ Solidarity Network is to neither replace nor oppose traditional labor unions. We must be in the organized labor movement and fight on a rank-and-file basis to push organized labor in a revolutionary direction.

However, especially at a time when conditions are creating the potential for revolutionary transformation, revolutionaries can influence the trade unions from the inside as well as the outside.

The extent to which Workers’ Solidarity Days will succeed is something we can’t know yet. If it is flawed or premature, we may need to change our strategy, but we cannot change our direction and that is to intervene more consistently and methodically in the working-class struggle. If Workers’ Solidarity Days are successful, that could create the basis for organizing Workers’ Assemblies, as well as become a source of recruitment into the party.

Rand Corp. advises U.S. imperialism to use sanctions to prevent Russia from exporting gas to Europe.

The June 1 Workers’ Solidarity Day will be in solidarity with workers’ struggles in Russia. It is likely that the harsh lessons that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections will become a catalyst for the formation of a mass workers’ party.

This is the future that the Rand Corporation, the most influential think tank of the deep state, envisions. Rand expresses the needs of the unelected center of real power held by the economic, financial and military oligarchies, presenting the strategic choices not only for the USA but for the entire West.

The “options” provided by the plan are, in reality, only variants of the war strategy itself, the price of which, in terms of sacrifices and risks, is paid by all the people.

Rand Corp. advises U.S. imperialism to use sanctions to prevent Russia from exporting gas to Europe.

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

The June 1 Workers’ Solidarity Day will be in solidarity with workers’ struggles in Russia. It is likely that the harsh lessons that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections will become a catalyst for the formation of a mass workers’ party.

This is the future that the Rand Corporation, the most influential think tank of the deep state, envisions. Rand expresses the needs of the unelected center of real power held by the economic, financial and military oligarchies, presenting the strategic choices not only for the USA but for the entire West.

The “options” provided by the plan are, in reality, only variants of the war strategy itself, the price of which, in terms of sacrifices and risks, is paid by all the people.

A global general strike this fall about climate change: What’s the alternative? Students all over the world have been walking out of classes and holding fairly militant protests to save the planet from climate change. The forces in this movement are calling for a global general strike on Friday, Sept. 27. This could provide an extraordinary opportunity for left forces in the working-class movement.

It is interesting that forces organizing around climate change have chosen to call this global general strike in September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year.

Rand Corp. tells U.S. Spend billions on weakening Russia

Political organization of the working class

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

The proposal for Workers’ Solidarity Days on a monthly basis, and the establishment of an International Workers’ Solidarity Network, is an attempt to assist in pulling workers into active solidarity with workers’ struggles. It is an experiment in organizing workers based on political consciousness.

The purpose of Workers’ Solidarity Days and an International Workers’ Solidarity Network is to neither replace nor oppose traditional labor unions. We must be in the organized labor movement and fight on a rank-and-file basis to push organized labor in a revolutionary direction.

However, especially at a time when conditions are creating the potential for revolutionary transformation, revolutionaries can influence the trade unions from the inside as well as the outside.

The extent to which Workers’ Solidarity Days will succeed is something we can’t know yet. If it is flawed or premature, we may need to change our strategy, but we cannot change our direction and that is to intervene more consistently and methodically in the working-class struggle. If Workers’ Solidarity Days are successful, that could create the basis for organizing Workers’ Assemblies, as well as become a source of recruitment into the party.

The period that we are in is bound to give rise to calls for a mass workers’ party. It is likely that the harsh lessons that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections will become a catalyst for the formation of a mass workers’ party.

This is the future that the Rand Corporation, the most influential think tank of the deep state, envisions. Rand expresses the needs of the unelected center of real power held by the economic, financial and military oligarchies, presenting the strategic choices not only for the USA but for the entire West.

The “options” provided by the plan are, in reality, only variants of the war strategy itself, the price of which, in terms of sacrifices and risks, is paid by all the people.

A global general strike this fall about climate change: What’s the alternative? Students all over the world have been walking out of classes and holding fairly militant protests to save the planet from climate change. The forces in this movement are calling for a global general strike on Friday, Sept. 27. This could provide an extraordinary opportunity for left forces in the working-class movement.

It is interesting that forces organizing around climate change have chosen to call this global general strike in September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year.

Rand Corp. advises U.S. imperialism to use sanctions to prevent Russia from exporting gas to Europe.

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

The June 1 Workers’ Solidarity Day will be in solidarity with workers’ struggles in Russia. It is likely that the harsh lessons that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections will become a catalyst for the formation of a mass workers’ party.

This is the future that the Rand Corporation, the most influential think tank of the deep state, envisions. Rand expresses the needs of the unelected center of real power held by the economic, financial and military oligarchies, presenting the strategic choices not only for the USA but for the entire West.

The “options” provided by the plan are, in reality, only variants of the war strategy itself, the price of which, in terms of sacrifices and risks, is paid by all the people.

A global general strike this fall about climate change: What’s the alternative? Students all over the world have been walking out of classes and holding fairly militant protests to save the planet from climate change. The forces in this movement are calling for a global general strike on Friday, Sept. 27. This could provide an extraordinary opportunity for left forces in the working-class movement.

It is interesting that forces organizing around climate change have chosen to call this global general strike in September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year.

Rand Corp. advises U.S. imperialism to use sanctions to prevent Russia from exporting gas to Europe.

A STRATEGY FOR THE COMING CRISIS

The June 1 Workers’ Solidarity Day will be in solidarity with workers’ struggles in Russia. It is likely that the harsh lessons that many activists will learn from the outcome of the U.S. elections will become a catalyst for the formation of a mass workers’ party.

This is the future that the Rand Corporation, the most influential think tank of the deep state, envisions. Rand expresses the needs of the unelected center of real power held by the economic, financial and military oligarchies, presenting the strategic choices not only for the USA but for the entire West.

The “options” provided by the plan are, in reality, only variants of the war strategy itself, the price of which, in terms of sacrifices and risks, is paid by all the people.

A global general strike this fall about climate change: What’s the alternative? Students all over the world have been walking out of classes and holding fairly militant protests to save the planet from climate change. The forces in this movement are calling for a global general strike on Friday, Sept. 27. This could provide an extraordinary opportunity for left forces in the working-class movement.

It is interesting that forces organizing around climate change have chosen to call this global general strike in September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year. September, as the culmination of their protests this year.
Subjugating the bodies of women and gender-oppressed people is part and parcel to this drive against socialism and liberation. It should come as no surprise, then, that a recent wave of legislation in the [mostly] booming South (Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas and Utah to severely restrict or ban abortion outright. Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Tennessee are currently in the process of passing their own laws to either ban or severely restrict abortion.

As a failed Texan put it even—if we denied the death penalty for people who performed or obtained abortions. This is a clear attack against our class that will have far-reaching ramifications for the women and people of oppressed genders, especially the most vulnerable.

The attack on liberation

It’s with the same breath that someone like Trump renews and strengthens the assault on trans people and migrants when #MeToo crashes against the rocks by women of color, walked out in strike by women of color, walked out in strike for reproductive justice issues to the picket line as a brutal weapon in the ongoing and escalating mass, militant, rank-and-file worker movement, and work issue on the offensive, educating our class on this.

As the opportunities for profit continue to dwindle, and the United States finds itself in an ever-increasing multipolar world, fascism becomes more and more appealing to the ruling class. As resistance to capitalism grows, big business and the imperialist bloc are threatened. The greatest fight these men have ever waged was, the Homefront in the battle against Nazism and fascism, the WOKE Brigade. We must, all of us – cis, trans, Black, Brown and White – do everything in our power to let the ruling class know: We will not go softly back into biological, cis hetero bondage. As women and gender oppressed people have been in the forefront of the battle against Nazism and White supremacy, so too will we unleash the greatest fight these men have ever seen.

The fight for abortion access is also another link in the ongoing struggle against capitalism’s treatment of people as property. As Jenny Arras said to the Birmingham News: “This law is dangerous. … It says: ‘We will make your bodies and your children—this is about everyone. We need cis men to form “Dr. George Tiller Brigades” to support our work. We must, all of us – cis and trans, Black, Brown and White – do everything in our power to let the ruling class know: We will not go softly back into biological, cis hetero bondage. As women and gender oppressed people have been in the forefront of the battle against Nazism and White supremacy, so too will we unleash the greatest fight these men have ever seen.

When women and gender oppressed people say, “We won’t go back” with regards to the struggle for abortion, we must be clear. We can’t only mean that we won’t go back to giving ourselves abortions with coat hangers, as some desperate women did in a world before abortion was legal. We must also mean that we won’t go back to the hushed voices, the secret networks, the home remedies and the shamefull secrets.

In order to succeed, our struggle against patriarchy needs to approach a new level of resistance. We will need to build solid, militant and strategic fightback against any attempt to force us to bear children, stay with our abusers or be detained. We need to go on the offensive, educating our class on this.

We can’t only mean that we won’t go back to giving ourselves abortions with coat hangers, as some desperate women did in a world before abortion was legal. We must also mean that we won’t go back to the hushed voices, the secret networks, the home remedies and the shamefull secrets.

As women and gender oppressed people have been in the forefront of the battle against Nazism and White supremacy, so too will we unleash the greatest fight these men have ever seen.

The fight for abortion access is also another link in the ongoing struggle against capitalism’s treatment of people as property. As Jenny Arras said to the Birmingham News: “This law is dangerous. … It says: ‘We will make your bodies and your children—this is about everyone. We need cis men to form “Dr. George Tiller Brigades” to support our work. We must, all of us – cis and trans, Black, Brown and White – do everything in our power to let the ruling class know: We will not go softly back into biological, cis hetero bondage. As women and gender oppressed people have been in the forefront of the battle against Nazism and White supremacy, so too will we unleash the greatest fight these men have ever seen.

We need to go on the offensive, educating our class on this. We must, all of us – cis and trans, Black, Brown and White – do everything in our power to let the ruling class know: We will not go softly back into biological, cis hetero bondage. As women and gender oppressed people have been in the forefront of the battle against Nazism and White supremacy, so too will we unleash the greatest fight these men have ever seen.
Thousands protest Alabama working class and oppressed fight abortion ban

By Devin Cole Mobile, Ala.

On May 15, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed into law the most restrictive abortion law in the U.S. The reaction from working-class and oppressed people of Alabama has been extraordinary. In less than a week, thousands have organized, marched and rallied — from Huntsville to Mobile, from Birmingham to Montgomery — to protest the law.

The law makes providing an abortion a felony punishable by up to 99 years in prison unless it’s to save a woman’s life with no consideration for pregnancy by incest or rape. This directly affects not only cis gender women, but transgender men, nonbinary people with a uterus and intersex people, all of whom are capable of getting pregnant and all of whom deserve reproductive justice.

This fascist state law is currently unenforceable under existing federal law, but the reactionary leaders of Alabama know this. It is part of their plan.

Their plan is for Alabama and several other states to propose and pass illegal, restrictive laws to challenge and overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that guarantees women a fundamental “right to privacy” that protects the freedom to get an abortion.

Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Ohio and, as of a few days ago, Missouri, are among the states trailing Alabama in their attempts to have Roe v. Wade overturned with “heartbeat bills” that rely on myths, lies and reactionary patriarchal thought and practice as justification for repression.

The weekend of May 18–19, this writer, who traveled from Florida, joined hundreds of working people — trans, cis, queer, Black, white, Brown, dis/abled and other oppressed groups — at Bienville Square in downtown Mobile, Ala., to chant, march and “shut it down” in protest of the violent law.

Speakers on May 18 included people of all genders, races, nationalities and dis/abilities, from youth to a former abortion provider. All these expressed anger, disgust and fear of this bill and of the rising tide of right-wing extremism that bears down closer and closer on the working class with each passing day. Most notably present was Chikesia Clemons, a Black woman brutalized in a south Alabama Waffle House by armed police last year.

A handful of reactionary, anti-abortion counterprotesters showed up but were quickly outmaneuvered by the organizers. The religion-spouting anti-abortionists were eventually kicked out of the park by cops surveilling the rally — for having alcohol. After a few people spoke, including the newly formed Alabama Coalition for Reproductive Rights representative who read a manifesto against the reactionary legislature, a march started. Led by the ACRR and the Mobile Bay Green Party, about 100 people marched several blocks through the city and shut down at least one intersection for a number of minutes.

Those participating included Clemons, STRIVE (Social Trans Initiative), Workers World Party and Socialist Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Along the way, people driving by honked and raised fists in support of the march. After the march, more speakers urged recommitment to the fight for free, safe, on-demand abortion and other reproductive rights. On the second day of Mobile protests, hundreds of people again flooded Bienville Square to chant and shout against this heinous law. On both days, protesters wore black to signify the current lack of health care and reproductive justice for working-class Black people.

About 1,000 people rallied in Huntsville under the slogan, “My Body, My Choice,” at Butler Green Park May 19. The rally had to be moved from its original site because so many people indicated Continued on page 9

Say NO to abortion bans!

Continued from page 1

children up to age 13. The conservative white male majority struck it down.

Neither Georgia nor Alabama has expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Alabama has the country’s second-highest infant mortality rate, while Georgia ranks seventh. Georgia has the highest rate of maternal mortality and the largest number of cervical cancer deaths — which disproportionately impact Black women and also those high in number of pregnancy-related deaths.

“They say get back”

Protests against these vile laws have taken place around the country, especially in Midwestern and Southern states where reproductive rights are under the severest attack. Momentum is building.

Activists from the Western New York Resistance Revival Chorus, Western New York Peace Center, New York Abortion Access Fund and Workers World Party gathered May 14 in Bidwell Park in Buffalo, N.Y. They were there in solidarity with people affected by the anti-abortion laws passed in Alabama and other states.

Over the decades, Buffalo has been the site of massive mobilizations to stop right-wing attacks on abortion access. Dr. Barnett Slepian was fatally shot there by an anti-abortion fanatic in 1998.

Rally speakers pointed out that laws criminalizing those who have and those who provide abortions are a way to disenfranchise poor people and generate more prison labor. The rally drew support from community and passersby — some of whom joined in.

Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia signed a “heartbeat bill” on May 7, the first of what would become a wave of anti-abortion legislation across the South. In Atlanta, protesters congregated outside the Capitol minutes later and vowed to challenge the law. Jalesha Jackson, Georgia Coordinator for SisterSong, denounced it: “It is about controlling the decisions of low-income women with guilt and denying us the agency in our own reproductive lives.” (SisterSong Facebook)

This bill bans anyone who has a uterus from seeking abortion after the sixth week of pregnancy — when many people do not even know they are pregnant. This bill would criminalize those who go out of state to seek abortions and those who assist them. There is specific language that those who suffer from miscarriages could face prison time if the state proves they caused their miscarriages.

This anti-abortion law, along with others signed in Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi and Louisiana are attacks against working-class women, transgender men and non-binary people. But those impacted are asserting they will not allow these laws to be implemented.

Georgia district attorneys of Fulton, Dekalb, Cobb and Gwinnett counties have said they would not prosecute those who seek abortions.

The Feminist Women’s Health Center in Atlanta, a health clinic that provides services to intersex and trans people, in addition to cisgender women, has reassured supporters that the clinic will continue to provide abortions to all who need them and fight to ensure that this bill does not go into effect in January 2020.

“We say fight back”

Fed up with online petitions and polite lobbying, pro-choice activists took over the Louisiana State Capitol rotunda in Baton Rouge on May 15. Their protest followed state House and Senate committee votes in favor of an abortion ban.

Members of the New Orleans Abortion Fund, Women With A Vision, New Orleans People’s Assembly and the New Orleans Workers Group chanted: “Not the church, not the state! Rich men won’t decide our fate!” They also demanded a hike in the hourly minimum wage, fully funded child care centers, an investigation of Black maternal deaths in Louisiana and an end to mass incarceration.

Ten people were arrested and charged with criminal destruction of property for pouring “blood” on the floor. The groups vowed to send this message: “The time is now to stop business as usual. This is just the beginning.”

Once news of the act hit the news and social media, thousands of messages of support poured in. Significantly, most Louisiana legislators are puppets of the reactionary American Legislative Exchange Council, an arm of the billionaire Koch brothers.

Over 50 organizations, including Planned Parenthood, SisterSong and the Women’s March have called for a National Day of Action to Stop the Bans on May 21. Over 400 demonstrations are planned. The coalition vows to “fight back against this unconstitutional attempt to gut Roe and punish women.” (stopabortionbans.org)

Nigel Bouvar, Gavrielle Gemma and Arielle Robinson contributed reports.
Endurance in the January 23rd Commune

By Marco Teruggi

Caracas

Teruggi is an Argentine journalist and political analyst. This article was published in Workers World on May 16 in pagina12.com.ar. Translation by Workers World Managing Editor John Catalinotto.

Caracas is several different cities at once. The neighbors turn their backs on each other, often fear each other. In the east is the hotheaded news of Juan Guaidó and the opposition; in the center is the territory of Chavista majorities, the Miraflores Palace, the centers of power. In the east, people live in foothills, while in the west they live in mountains.

One of these mountains is where you find the neighborhood of 23 de Enero, where there has been a wave of popular resistance since the emergence of Hugo Chávez. It’s there that people established several collectives, which is the nucleus of one of the forms of Chavismo.

The word collective has come to embody the right-wing myth meant to demonize the revolution. According to this myth, the collectives are criminal gangs dedicated to carrying out the dirty work of the state security forces, such as preventing opposition mobilizations. Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said the United States should classify the collectives as terrorist organizations.

One of the collectives is called January 23rd—that of the Alexis Vive (Alexis Lives) Patriotic Forces, named after the late socialist who was assassinated in his presence at the entrance to the neighborhood, where above a high arch you can read: “Welcome, Socialist Commune El Panal 2019.” Upon entering, you will find the communal bakery and a large mural, which is a typical neighborhood in Caracas with children, wearing school uniforms, newsstands, murals, motorcycles, music and people seeking shade to avoid the Caribbean sun.

―We are a radical communal movement; we believe that we should be merged with the masses. This is a necessary, outside the revolution nothing,” says Longa. According to many studies, the most cost-effective service is provided when the working class, trade unions and the welfare state. The Alexis, like other collectives, is the target of media and political attacks from the right. “They [the reactionaries] see the collectives as the cornerstone to generate social explosion they seek,” he says. The sector of January 23rd that houses the Patriotic Forces and the Community Panal 2021 is calm. The organization manages to provide answers to problems such as insecurity and tackles the daily struggle represented by the economic situation.

The picture is complex among the popular masses in Caracas and even more so in the cities far from the capital. This is a product of the economic and financial policies declared by the United States and also of its own errors: “We make mistakes, but we think that the dirty laundry of the revolution should be washed internally; inside the revolution we should make any changes necessary, outside the revolution nothing,” says Longa.

The day I visited, an activity took place in the field: The Ministry of People's Power in the Communities delivered tools for production. Communes from the west of Caracas came to the activity. The people debated about the economic situation, about the difficulties and necessities of maintaining production of goods, about prices, about the meetings between the United States and Russia—all this can take place [even] in a context of peace within the country.
Anti-war activists protest eviction of Venezuela embassy protectors

By John Steffin

Washington, D.C.

Around 200 people marched and then gathered at the Venezuelan embassy in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 18, to show solidarity with Venezuela and the last of the embassy protectors, who had been forcibly removed from the embassy by police two days earlier. For 36 days, anti-war activists and journalists in the U.S. had been staying inside the embassy to prevent the U.S. from installing agents of right-wing pretender to Venezuela’s presidency Juan Guaidó.

Under the Vienna Convention, an embassy is the property of an elected government. Regardless of whether the U.S. likes that government or not, it has no right to seize its embassy. While Trump’s National Security Adviser John Bolton tweeted on May 19 that Guaidó is the “democratically elected government of Venezuela,” this is blatantly false. Last year, a presidential election was held and the enthroned elected Nicolás Maduro, Guaidó, who arbitrarily declared himself the president Jan. 23 without an election, has no legal right to the embassy.

The struggle to defend the embassy, then, has been a way to use the U.S.’s blatant disregard for international law and the sovereignty of other nations. Over the previous week, repression and resistance at the embassy had both escalated. On the night of May 13, the D.C. police broke into the embassy, but having no legal basis for removing the protectors, they tried to scare them out with a show of force. The activists, however, did not back down. Their lawyer, who was on the premises, asserted the legal right of the protectors to be there. No arrests were made that night.

Two days later, the Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the embassy and successfully delivered food aid to the protectors, despite attacks by opposition forces who had created a blockade around the building. Over the last two days, the activists prevented forceful eviction, arrested Embassy Protection Collective.


Activists gathered in the Boston Common May 18 to denounce the attempted U.S. coup in Venezuela and express solidarity with the recently arrested Embassy Protection Collective.

Code Pink member Trish Gallagher recounted her experience spending three nights in the embassy several weeks ago. She described the siege that the Venezuelan right wing, with the full cooperation of the Secret Service and D.C. police, had created to prevent food from entering the building.

Several speakers compared the blockade of the embassy to the sanctions applied to Venezuela that prevent the government from importing food or medicine. Brian Shea from Workers World Party also compared the sanctions to the bureaucratic barriers put in place to limit the access of workers and oppressed in the U.S. to Medicaid and other social services.

The action, initiated by the Committee for Peace and Human Rights and the International Action Center, was attended by members of Code Pink, the Boston Venezuela Solidarity Committee, Veterans for Peace, Refuse Fascism and WWP.

— Workers World Boston bureau

Endurance in the Jan. 23rd Commune

Continued from page 8

such instability, as long as the popular organization plays a central role within the structure of Chavismo to build and defend the country. “We always knew that this moment would come, that sooner or later we would have to face the empire,” Longa says. “We can expect everything from them; they bet on surgical operations ranging from assassination to the imprisonment of the president; they seek to generate friction in the Bolivarian National Armed Forces to achieve a rupture that will lead us to a civil war; they put U.S. contractors [mercenaries] with Colombian paramilitaries to generate Syria-like scenarios.”

Power of the people

Political time in Venezuela offers few moments of surface tranquility, although in this area, as in most of western Caracas, Guaidó’s emergency never translated into mobilizations of support for him. Chavismo has deep roots—of identity, cultural, organizational: “The proof that Chavismo exists is the popular rank and file and is the resistance that we have had in this period, which has consolidated Chavismo. The people are convinced that the strategic line that Chávez proposed is the correct line. The communes, the power of the people will prevail—regardless of the mistakes of some leaders who are gambling on the stagnation of the revolutionary process, which are part of the contradictions of the process,” says Longa.

At any moment, Longa raises the idea of a Syrian model, where a “new Syria” is possible with the workers and civil society seizing power. “We can get to live such a life,” he says.

Alabama working class and oppressed fight abortion ban

Continued from page 7

they would attend.

On the same day, in downtown Birmingham, 2,000 people joined the March for Reproductive Freedom from Kelly Ingram Park. Doctors wearing white coats expressed outrage at the ban’s criminalization of physicians who perform abortions. The march ended in a rally at the park, a site of many famous protests for justice over the years, including the 1963 Children’s March for Black Civil Rights and the 2011 Una Familia, Una Alabama rally against the state’s “Juan Crow” anti-migrant law.

The Montgomery March for Reproductive Freedom began May 19 at the Court Square Fountain. The location is historically significant as the city’s main area for enslaved African people were sold. It’s just a few steps from the corner where Rosa Parks challenged racist segregation in 1955 by refusing to move to the “back of the bus.” One marcher protested using religious beliefs to justify condemn the abortion ban, saying: “There’s separation of church and state for a reason, and [they’re] bringing the church into the Legislature.” (tinyurl.com/y3hfh6int)

A popular chant from the people fighting for reproductive rights and justice for all in Mobile was “One voice! Pro-choice!”

The call signifies a growing unity among the working class against the repression that we are fighting to eradicate. There is no doubt that this struggle for reproductive justice will continue.”

— Workers World workers.org May 23, 2019 Page 9

How Duterte rigged the elections

May 14 statement by Jose Maria Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

As I have predicted, Duterte was successful in rigging the May 13 elections to deliver to his candidates a false victory in the crucial senatorial race. As I have pointed out, he has to rig the elections because he has the power and the criminal personality and motivation to do so because clean and honest elections would have allowed the opposition senatorial candidates to win and frustrate his greed for power and plunder.

The rigging included the deployment of huge amounts of public and private funds to generate propaganda in various forms in favor of the regime and against the opposition, the use of the military and police for red-tagging, mass intimidation, selective murders and splitting the opposition by the recognition of martial law in Mindanao and declaration of trouble spots in Luzon and the Visayas and, most important of all, complete control of the Comelec [Commission on Elections] and the deputization of military and police personnel for electoral functions.

Duterte is driven like crazy to rig the elections by all means within his power because of his scheme to establish a full-blown fascist dictatorship by scrapping the 1987 constitution under the pretext of shifting to federalism and to prevent impeachment and indefinitely his possible arrest and prosecution before the International Criminal Court for his gross and systematic human rights violations, especially the mass murder of suspects in his bogus war on drugs as well as in his war on the people's revolutionary movement.

We can therefore expect that Duterte will use his false electoral victory to adopt and implement more draconian measures to suppress the legal democratic opposition as well as the people's revolutionary movement. He gives no choice to the broad masses of the people but to unite and raise the level of their resistance. The certain worsening of the socio-economic and political crisis will further drive the Duterte regime to commit crimes against the people and will at the same time incite the people, especially the toiling masses of workers and peasants, to fight back.

Duterte's policies and acts of tyranny, treason, mass murder, plunder and swindling will eventually bring about the people's resistance that is strong enough to end his rule. Elections are insufficient and ineffective in overthrowing a despotic monster like Duterte. By rigging the elections and continuing his tyrannical rule, Duterte has brought about the conditions favorable for the rise of the legal mass protest movement as well as of the more potent armed revolutionary mass movement.
May 20—Another U.S.-initiated cri- sis reached an ominous level this past week with the announcement of a further threat that Iran suddenly presented a new, unspecified threat, serious enough to send a U.S. naval aircraft carrier battle group churning toward the Persian Gulf, along with U.S.-B.52 Stratofortress bombers and plans for 120,000 troops to the surround- ing region.

No evidence or information was pro- vided regarding the supposed looming threat.

The latest “maximum pressure” threats against Iran follow weeks of military threats and extreme sanctions against Venezuela, an escalating trade war with China, rattling up a harsher level of sanctions against Cuba, firing an intercon- tinental ballistic missile across People’s Korea, and escalating a further sanction.

In an effort to mask the growing cap- italistic economic instability, Trump’s strategy seems to be lurching from one manufactured war scare to another, keep whole parts of the world locked in apprehension, as new demands are raised on them.

Washington suddenly demanded that even such countries as China, Japan, and India, who had a temporary U.S. waiver on Iranian oil purchases, immediately stop importing any Iranian oil, despite signed contracts, or face U.S. sanctions against their economies.

Imperialist allies of U.S. corporate power sharply cautioned against the lat- est wild moves. The opposition of these European allies, who are also rivals, was based on the impact that cutting Iranian oil has on their own economies.

On May 15, British Major General Chris Ghika, the deputy commander of the U.S.-led coalition fighting the so-called Islamic State group, publicly challenged the wild claims of the Trump-Bolton-Pompeo White House.

“There has been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria,” Ghika told Pentagon reporters. (cnn.com, May 14)

Germany’s Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called the U.S. threats “ill advised,” unilateral and a “false alarm.” “Maximum pressure always carries the risk of an unintended escalation.” (nhc- news.com, May 16)

Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen warned: “No one in Europe wants a second Iran.” (nytimes.com, May 19)

He said it is particularly provocative that the U.S. re-imposed sanctions against Iran after pulling out of the signed agree- ment with Iran and that it has threatened Iran after pulling out of the signed agree- ment with Iran.

Even the compliant Gulf State monarchies voiced apprehension. Anwar Gargash, the foreign minister for the United Arab Emirates, said, “I don’t think it’s in anyone’s interest to see a flare up, a confronta- tion, with Iran.” (chron.com, May 16)

U.S. Congressional mem- bers, usually compliant on U.S. military moves from both Democrats and Republicans, demanded more information.

Many raised the disaster of the U.S. inva- sion and occupation of Iraq and the false information in 2003.

Threats escalate

U.S. hostility toward Iran and Pentagon think it’s in anyone’s interest to see a flare up, a confronta- tion, with Iran.

The radical demands and mass partic- ipation of the Iranian revolution and the use of nationalized oil revenue for devel- opment made a dramatic improvement in the standards of health, education, hous- ing and infrastructure in Iran.

Under decades of U.S. and Western press- sure to halt Iran’s economic development, Iran negotiated and signed an agreement in 2015 to halt its programs to develop nuclear energy. Iran never had nuclear weapons. But just like every industrial- ized country, Iran needed nuclear energy for industrial and medical use.

The long-term deal on Iran’s nuclear program with a group of world powers—the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany—was known as the P5+1 Accord. Five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, plus Germany, signed the agreement with Iran.

It was hoped that the signature among six powerful nations would bind the U.S. to honor the agreement.

Under the accord, Iran agreed to give access to international inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to any and every site connected to the possi- ble development of nuclear energy.

Under the agreement, Iran’s uranium stockpile of low-enriched uranium was reduced by 98 percent and shipped to Russia.

Iran abided by every clause in this oner- ous international agreement.

In return the debilitating economic sanctions were to be lifted and Iran was to be able to access billions in frozen funds. The key part of the agreement was that Iran could resume selling oil on inter- national markets and use the global finan- cial system for trade.

Now the U.S. government has violated these key provisions on Iran’s ability to sell its oil. Besides military threats, the U.S. has also threatened to stop Iran from exporting any oil to its customers. These exports are necessary for the Iranian economy.

Just as with U.S. sanctions against Venezuela, Zimbabwe and other countries, the sanctions are collective punishment— outlawed by international law—that hurt the population in general in these coun- tries. Sanctions against Iran in the 1990s killed 1.5 million people, including half a million children under five years of age.

U.S. broken treaties

However, just three years after signing the accord, in May 2018, Trump arrogantly voided the long-term, legally binding international agreement. In November 2018 Trump went even further. He rein- stated sanctions targeting not only Iran but any country trading with Iran.

This unilateral breach led to a sharp downturn in Iran’s econ- omy. Iranian currency lost 80 percent of its value. The annual inflation rate quadrupled, driving away foreign investors and trig- gering protests against the regime.

Initially the five other signers opposed the U.S.- imposed sanctions and attempted to find an alternative payment mech- anism aimed at helping international companies trade with Iran without facing U.S. penalties.

The latest dire threats of war are an all-out effort by the Trump administration to break up any support for Iran and block any form of exchange.

The U.S. government has never honored any of the more than 500 treaties it signed with the Indigenous Nations, many of which were ratified.

Just as with the most recent example of agreements it has pulled out of include the forced revision of the NAFTA Free Trade Agreement signed with Mexico and Canada and sabotage of the Paris Agreement on climate change. It refusal to sign international treaties on human rights, child labor, rights of labor, rights of women and against landmines confirms its lawless status.

But while refusing to abide by any interna- tional agreements, U.S. imperialism’s new demand that every country must abide by U.S. laws and participate in stran- dings, it failed to mention Iran. Venezuela, Cuba and north Korea is a dangerous new step in its piracy and gangster politics.}

Koreans protest outrageous U.S. seizure of ship

Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA) — A spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea made the following statement on Tuesday.

“The United States committed an unlawful and outrageous act of dispos- sessing our cargo ship by forcibly taking it to Guam (U.S.), linking the ship to the “sanctions resolutions” of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and its domestic “sanctions acts,” all being imposed against the DPRK. The UNSC’s “sanctions resolutions” on the DPRK, which the U.S. has employed as one of the grounds for its disposes- sion of our cargo ship, have flagrantly infringed upon the sovereignty of our state, and therefore, we have categori- cally rejected and condemned the whole of them all along. Moreover, the United States’ impudent act of forcing other countries into obser- vance of its domestic law is indeed a wanton violation of the universally accepted interna- tional laws which make clear that in no case can a sovereign state be an object of jurisdiction of other countries. The latest U.S. act constitutes an exten- sion of the American method of calculation for bringing the DPRK to its knees by means of “maximum pressure” and an outright denial of any possibility of dialog and negotiation.

The DPRK deserves the support of all those who cherish self-determination and the right of every country to decide its own destiny.

The U.S. should ponder over the con- sequences its heinous act might have on the future developments and immediately release the ship. The Korean people’s courageous history of choosing socialism and defend- ing their sovereign decades of not just threats but horrendous attacks by the imperialist U.S. government and the capitalistic countries around the world.

We will carefully watch every move of the United States thereafter. (drpk.org)
Como si la pandilla de la Casa Blanca se sintiera incompleta simplemente nivellando las amenazas económicamente la China, haciendo comentarios hostiles sobre Rusia e imponiendo sanciones ilegales —ílegales porque equivalentes a un castigo colectivo de las poblaciones — sobre Venezuela, Cuba y Corea del Norte, una vez más han puesto la República Islámica de Irán en la mira de las imperialistas estadunidenses.

La pandilla Trump, en una demostración de fuerza, ha enviado un portaviones y bombardeos B-52 al Golfo Pérsico, cerca de la costa de Irán. Le pidieron al Pentágono que proporcionara un plan para enviar 120.000 tropas de los Estados Unidos para preparar una invasión. También intentaron impedir que Irán exportara petróleo a sus clientes. Estas exportaciones son necesarias para la economía iraní. Determinar el precio que otros vendedores de petróleo pueden demandar, algo importante para las compañías petroleras estadunidenses que intentan aumentar las exportaciones de petróleo franqueado.

En mayo de 2018, Trump sacó a Estados Unidos del acuerdo nuclear con Irán firmado por la administración Obama y aprobado por el senado estadounidense. La Casa Blanca, al parecer, ha vuelto a cambiar su posición con regularidad.

Mientras una gran lucha interna, el gobierno Trump destruyó el acuerdo nuclear con Irán. (New York Times, 2 de mayo)

Si bien no se puede esperar una resistencia seria de los imperialistas europeos a la agresión de los Estados Unidos, el gobierno de EE.UU. dijo que no había ningún voto de los movimientos de los Estados Unidos para algo a lo que no podían adherirse abiertamente. En su lugar, están inten- tando establecer un camino para que Irán realice acuer- dos comerciales mientras evite el sistema financiero global controlado por los Estados Unidos.

Los propios iraníes están en una posición mucho más fuerte de lo que fue Irak en 2003 para resistir un ata- que de los Estados Unidos y hacerlo costoso. Un coman- dante de la Guardia Revolucionaria iraní comentó sobre la creciente fuerza de las fuerzas de defensa de su país, diciendo que la presencia militar de los Estados Unidos en el Golfo solía ser una amenaza grave, pero ahora representa un objetivo. (reuters.com, 12 de mayo)

Si la pandilla Pompeo-Bolton-Albrooms piensa en algu- nos tuits de Trump y el movimiento de los buques de guerra hará que el resto del mundo se arrodille, deben enfrentar una nueva realidad. Los cubanos están organi- zando el racionamiento para soportar tiempos económi- cos difíciles; Venezuela ya aplastó tres intentos de golpe; la RPDC dijo que continuaría defoliándose; y los ira- níes se mantienen fuertes.

Esta resistencia de todo el mundo también debería alertar a los anticomunistas dentro de los Estados Unidos a mantenerse fuertes y oponerse a cualquier nuevo movimiento agresivo tanto de la pandilla de la Casa Blanca como de los líderes del Partido Demócrata. La pandilla ha de acuerdo con esta agresión. ¡US manos fuera de Irán! ☐

El 15 de mayo: Venezuela recibe cargamento de China – 1.525.400 unidades de medicamentos y 450.000 pares de insumos médicos quirúrgicos.

Lo que revelan las relaciones comerciales entre EE.UU. y China

Mucho se ha revelado acerca de las dos economías más grandes del mundo a raíz de los aranceles impuestos por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos a los productos de China — y la respuesta de ese país.

Cuando el gobierno del presidente Trump anunció el 10 de mayo que imponía un nuevo aran- cel del 25 por ciento a bienes importados de China por un valor de $200 mil millones, no sucedió nada dramático en las economías de los países que impusieron aranceles. Las economías de los países que impusieron aranceles a bienes de Estados Unidos en la finalidad de que las importaciones de Estados Unidos aumenten el precio que otros vendedores de petróleo pueden demandar, algo importante para las compañías petroleras estadunidenses que intentan aumentar las exportaciones de petróleo francado.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.

En menos de dos horas, China tomó medidas.

“China no debería tomar represalias, sólo emprenderá”

Su arrogancia imperialista no tuvo efecto.