U.S.-backed coup in Bolivia

Indigenous, workers resist

By John Catalinotto

Nov. 12 — From La Paz, journalist Marco Teruggi writes that 24 hours after the U.S.-backed coup in Bolivia, “There is no formal government, but there is the power of arms.” (pagina12.org)

Police and soldiers patrol at the behest of the coup leaders, while fascist gangs roam, beat and burn, the coup having “opened the doors to absolute impunity for those who are able to exercise power.” But, Teruggi adds, “[The] half of the country that voted for [President] Evo Morales exists and will not stand idly by.” Formal and informal organizations of Indigenous peoples, campesinos and workers are blockading roads, setting up self-defense units, and calling for “general resistance to the coup d’etat throughout the country.” (Follow more coverage at workers.org, including English translation of Teruggi’s on-the-ground reporting.)

Nov. 11 — In a message from his base in the Chapare region in central Bolivia, President Evo Morales said on the evening of Nov. 10: “I want to tell you, brothers and sisters, that the fight does not end here. We will continue this fight for equality, for peace.” (Al Jazeera, Nov. 11)

Earlier that day, a fascist-led coup backed by the Bolivian police and military, and receiving the full support of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in the Organization of American States, had forced Morales to resign from office. Fascist gangs had been moving toward La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital, from their anti-Morales strongholds in the east of the country. Since Oct. 20, when Morales won re-election, these gangs have attacked and beaten pro-Morales elected political leaders, burning their homes and offices across the country.

Immediately, the imperialist-controlled media worldwide tried to give their unanimous spin to the event, slandering the Morales government and its Movement toward Socialism (MAS) party, and charging it with electoral fraud, even though no evidence was ever given. Reporters repeated the lies of those who led the coup — ultra-rightist Fernando Camacho and former president and servant of the oligarchy, Carlos Mesa — to confuse the people of the world and accuse the MAS government of illegal activities.

Progressive governments, organizations and media worldwide have begun to fight back against this counterrevolutionary offensive. They have given priority to mobilizing to defend the life and liberty of Morales and those in his government.

They are also exposing the lies of the coup-makers, showing that what... Continued on page 6

U.S. hands off Bolivia!

On one day’s notice, on Nov. 11 in New York City, activists in opposition to the U.S.-backed coup in Bolivia gathered at the U.N. and marched to Trump Tower and ... in Philadelphia marched from City Hall to Amtrak’s 30th Street Station. Read more, pages 6-7.

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Workers World Weekly Newspaper workers.org
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011 212.627.2994
NYC subway protest demands:

No cops, no fares, full access, full service

By Siddika Degia

As New York City ends “stop and frisk” police harassment, the city implements another program to target Black and Brown people—the “fare evasion” campaign. Throughout subways and buses, commuters are seeing ads calling for people to pay the $2.75 fare or get ticketed $100.

At Metropolitan Transit Authority stations, commuters saw 500 new police last year to make sure people were not “fare beating.” Now New York Gov. Cuomo has a plan to add 20 percent more cops in the subway system.

The MTA claims that it is worth millions of dollars in debt. Yet it would cost $665 million to put those 500 extra cops on the subway to catch “fare beaters.”

Cops target Black and Brown people, as shown in statistics released by the New York Police Department itself. Some 682 arrests were made in the second quarter of 2019, the statistics released by the New York Police Department itself.

The MTA will continue this fight until that is won through peoples’ power. PPA and other groups are planning another action for Nov. 22.

For more information, go to peoplespowerassemblies.org/new-york-city-ppa or Facebook.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Participate in the fight to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else—unless they can pay for it. Workers are no closer to owning their labor than they were at the time of slavery, a seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youths and trans people are ginned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capital profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

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

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Interview with a Chavista: Temir Porras

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Ore.

Hands Off Venezuela PDX sponsored an Oct. 9 Skype event with Temir Porras, a revolutionary Chavista who served as a former chief of staff to both President Hugo Chávez and President Nicolás Maduro. He is a knowledgeable economist, who also served as Venezuela’s deputy minister for higher education and in the foreign ministry.

Porras pointed out that the desire for independence and national sovereignty runs deep among the Venezuelan people. The Americans were the first place in the Global South to achieve independence from colonialism, Simón Bolívar, the inspiration for the current Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela, began a continent-wide movement for independence from the Spanish empire in 1808.

Porras outlined the history of U.S. aggression toward Venezuela and how the coup mentality is now using the aggressive Monroe Doctrine, and the U.S. chauvinist aim to “civilize” the Western Hemisphere.

He pointed out the onslaught of U.S. repression against any country where popular forces demonstrate against imperialist penetration, and the U.S. portrayal of popular leaders, like Chávez, Maduro and President Evo Morales of Bolivia, as enemies of so-called liberal democracy.

In 1999, when Chávez was elected president, Porras began working with the Venezuelan government. He said that when Chávez called for a National Constituent Assembly, he was supported by 75 percent of the country. Porras called this Chávez’s democratic period which vindicated workers and poor people in Venezuela.

Porras said Chávez understood the importance of building a broad base of support. He made an effort to reach out to the most conservative factions to bring them into the conversations and to help them embrace the Constituent Assembly. Chávez also reached out to members of the upper classes who had much needed skills and expertise.

Porras recounted the history of the illegal U.S. sanctions imposed on Venezuela beginning in 2006. In January 2009, Trump increased the sanctions formerly imposed by both the Bush and Obama administrations.

Porras explained that any sanctions are illegal — that they are not authorized by the international community through the U.N.

In August the U.S. voted to impose secondary illegal sanctions which prevent other countries and businesses outside the U.S. from trading with the Venezuelan government.

At the end of his talk, Porras emphasized that U.S. sanctions have hurt the Venezuelan people on many levels and that the role of the U.S. is to oppose any attempts to undermine Venezuelan democracy and to fight for Venezuela’s right to self-determination.

A call to action: Save Rodney Reed!

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Thousands of protesters demonstrated outside the Bastrop County Jail in Texas for three hours Nov. 9, demanding “Free Rodney Reed!” Reed’s execution is scheduled for Nov. 20.

A busload of students from Prairie View University, one of the historically black Colleges and Universities, were there. A young man from Wisconsin drove to Texas with hundreds of large white flags – which he printed himself – reading INNOCENT! with a silhouette of a man behind bars. He was attaching them to 10-foot poles for all who wanted one.

The Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement took carloads from the S.H.P.E. Center in Houston to Austin. One of the drivers was Ozell Brandley, brother of Clarence Brandley, who was freed from Texas death row in 1999 after wrongfully spending 10 years awaiting execution.

Reed’s case has become the most publicized of the dozen death penalty cases in recent history. From celebrities like Oprah Winfrey, Beyoncé, LL Cool J, Rihanna, Dr. Phil McGraw and Kim Kardashian to national media like CNN, The New York Times and Democracy Now! Reed’s case is being recognized around the country as one of injustice.

Support keeps pouring in: from Steve Adler, the mayor of Austin; Texas Sen. Ted Cruz; Joe S. Vasquez, the Catholic Bishop of Austin; and the dozens of Texas legislators from both parties who have contacted the governor. Sister Helen Prejean, known for her book opposing the death penalty, “Dead Man Walking,” is an advocate for Reed.

If you are not one of the over 2.5 million people who have signed the petition to stop Reed’s execution, you must do it right now! Go to FreeRodneyReed.com. The scheduled execution is only days away and we need to stop it.

Reed, who is African American, was convicted of raping and murdering a young white woman, Stacey Stites, in 1996. He was sentenced to death for a traffic violation. But at the time of his arrest, Reed was 19 years old and remained in jail awaiting his trial.

A racist frame-up to protect violent cop

The real reason Reed took the hit for this murder is that the actual killer was very likely the white cop who was engaged to Stites, Jimmy Fennell. All evidence points to him, and in the last few weeks people have given sworn statements that he confessed to the killing. Fennell recently served 10 years in prison for kidnaping and raping a woman he stopped for a traffic violation. But at the time of the crime against Stites, local cops were covering up for him.

The Death Penalty Information Center’s Executive Director, Karen Parker, told the Texas Observer, a progressive news magazine, that the Reed case has generated so much interest because it’s about the important issues of transparency and justice.

Reed will likely present for a hearing on his case on Nov. 13. He asked his family during a visit Nov. 1 to gather people to rally outside at noon and then attend the 1:30 hearing. The Rev. Al Sharpton will be one of many speakers.

An all-night protest outside the Bastrop County Jail this Saturday

An all-night protest outside the Bastrop County Jail this Saturday evening, Nov. 15, will call on Texas legislators to oppose the execution of Rodney Reed. The protest will start at 5:30 p.m. at the Bastrop County Jail. It will continue until Reed is freed from Texas death row. The protest is on the same day Reed’s execution is scheduled.

To renew or write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. To find out how to put Workers World in your will, write to the program.

Help build Workers World — for today and for the future!
Gay youths, Black and white, led break-through struggles against racism and Jim Crow apartheid in North Carolina — the Durham and Greensboro sit-in freedom struggles — during the early 1960s, and won victories that reverberated throughout the Deep South.


Quinton Baker, African-American and gay, was a key leader. Baker was born on the coastal plain of North Carolina in 1942. While not transistor in today’s terms, Baker explained: “When you speak the way I speak in the South, you stand out. For a lot of people my speech pattern was feminine. The attitude was one of quiet acceptance.”

Baker was a senior in an all-black high school on Feb. 1, 1960, when four African-American students at Agricultural and Technical College ordered coffee at a Greensboro, N.C., restaurant from a counter that only served whites. They were refused service.

The next morning, 27 Black A&T students ordered coffee at that counter. “We were prepared to keep coming for two years if we have to,” vowed one youth.

The “sit-ins” electrified the South. One week later, the movement sparked similar protests in North Carolina cities with historically Black colleges: Durham, Elizabeth City, High Point and Winston-Salem. The sit-ins at lunch counters spread from Nashville, Tenn., to Tallahassee, Fla.

Sears noted, “By the end of March, 68 cities in the Southern states reported sit-ins, including a walk-in at the all-white swimming pool in Biloxi, Miss., a read-in at the library in St. Petersburg, Fla., and kneel-ins at all-white churches.

Hundreds of youth activists were arrested and locked up, where they faced serious charges. City officials in Greensboro, S.C., gave the go-ahead to turn power hoses on student demonstrators and then held them in an open stockade in 40-degree weather. Tallahassee cops tear gassed gay youth activists. Klan mobs met Civil Rights demonstrators with fists and clubs in Bessemer and Montgomery, Ala.

This struggle marked the qualitative opening of a youth-led Civil Rights Movement. It began the larger anti-racist freedom struggle of the 1960s and 1970s.

By May 1960, a few businesses [ended white-supremacist segregation of their lunch counters within one year, the struggle won desegregation of lunch counters in 126 Southern cities. Baker was drawn into this vortex of struggle. He [ended] the fall of 1960 when he would enter North Carolina College in Durham. Black college students were organizing. Lacey Street, the other native of Greenville, led the NAACP chapter at NCC.

Baker later recalled, “By the time I got to college I was so ready [for struggle] that it became almost more important to me than the academic work. My first semester I was in the NAACP and demonstrating. I didn’t stop for the four years I was there!”

As Baker organized boycotts, sit-ins, rallies and student demonstrations, his tactical and organizational skills became renowned. He helped other young leaders to develop. He became president of the NAACP student organization and an NAACP Commander.

Baker later recalled, “A lot of student leaders were often gay,” adding that the men weren’t often aware of lesbian activists. [He] worked closely with two gay, white anti-racist activists.

Anti-racist struggle awakens white activists

Pat Cusick, like other white youth [active] in the struggle, had grown up under white supremacist indoctrination. These youth had to break with racist ideology — to put their bodies on the line to end Jim Crow laws.

Cusick worked at a General Electric plant in Rome, Ga. The voice of Lillian Smith, a Southern anti-racist white writer, reached Cusick after she sent a letter to the New York Times railing the 1954 Supreme Court decision that ended racial segregation in schools. Smith did not use the word lesbian to describe herself, had a female life-partner.

Cusick [attended] the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He worked as a campus custodian in 1962 while he studied mathematics. When he met James Baldwin, African-American and gay, came to Durham to speak to the students, Cusick failed to realize the struggle.

Baker was there, too. He explains: “We were interested in [Baldwin] because of his racial analysis and his analysis of our condition, more so than his writing hav- ing sexual undertones. He came [to] sup- port what we were doing.”

Cusick became an activist in the “ban the bomb” movement. He later said, “It was easier for me to [oppose] the war in Vietnam and form the Student Peace Union than to get involved in civil rights. I never even considered gay rights.”

An openly gay white youth, John Dunne, also joined the SPU. Sears wrote, “John Dunne was a leader in the first plan, where Pat [Cusick] talked with other gay men who shared his passion for social justice.”

The white SPU activists began a systematic desegregation effort in Chapel Hill, including organizing boycotts of white-segregationist businesses.

Dunne returned to Chapel Hill on May 20, 1963, from Birmingham, Ala., where he had been arrested for [loitering and failure to obey orders of an officer]. There, he worked to locate Black youth who [were] arrested after Bull Connor’s police force turned power hoses on 600 schoolchildren. — Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” after being arrested for leading the Good Friday march there. The profound impact of the Birmingham demonstrations was felt throughout the South, including Durham, where young Civil Rights activists readied themselves to wage “an all-out war against segregation.”

Baker helps lead Chapel Hill movement

Baker [became] a prominent, tireless leader of the deepening Durham protest movement. He agreed in 1963 to work with the Chapel Hill Movement, too. With Baker and another Chapel Hill teens involved, Sears explained, “tactics changed from picketing to sit-ins and marches. As the summer of 1963 began, activists were organizing three marches a week, while picketing numerous white-owned segregated businesses. Cusick recalls Baker teaching demonstra- tors how to fall and protect themselves from the police. When criticized by more liberal elements from Chapel Hill for using these tactics to break the law, Baker said, “We would reply, ‘If you agree with my cause, then you need to act on [that] fact. Don’t worry about my tactics. Concentrate on what you’re doing that supports the cause that we both believe in.”

Cusick described the impact of the arrest of 34 demonstrators, including himself, on July 19, in what [became] a turning point in the Chapel Hill freedom movement. “Like most whites, [for me] a policeman was a friendly image. There is nothing like [getting] your head whipped, your teeth knocked in, and your ribs punched. You come to a [different] kind of knowledge...”

In jail, Cusick and fellow activist pris- oners, including the famous “Chapel Hill Seven,” talked about the connection to the Civil Rights Movement. Those white people who got beat up with me, went to jail with me, sat down with me, it is very difficult to question their commitment.” As civil disobedience spread, more activists — Black and white — went to jail. On Jan. 12, 1964, the Chapel Hill Freedom Committee organized a 13-mile march from Chapel Hill to Durham. There, at least 500 crowded into the First Baptist Church to hear CORE national chairman, Floyd McKissick, and John Knowles, a gay white author of “A Separate Peace,” speak.

CORE leader James Farmer told the cheering crowd, “Unless Chapel Hill is an open city by Feb. 1, it will become the focal point of all our efforts. All our resources, staff funds and training will be centered here.”

In April 1964, Baker, Cusick and Dunne were sentenced to six months, the maximum for one year and three years of hard labor, respectively. By July 2, the struggle had forced President Lyndon Johnson to sign the Civil Rights Act that barred racist seg- regation of public accommodations.

Cusick concluded: Quinton Baker was the “tactician who brought the connection” to the [North Carolina] statewide movement. ☑
By Dante Strobino

Hundreds of labor and community activists gathered at Bennett College Nov. 1-3 in Greensboro, N.C., to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre. On Nov. 3, 1979, the American Nazi Party and Ku Klux Klan of North Carolina ambushed a Communist Workers Party rally in Greensboro and shot several demonstrators, killing five textile plant union organizers in broad daylight.

The massacre was captured by TV cameras. Due to the collusion of the Greensboro Police Department, FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, then a division of the U.S. Department of Justice, with the Klan and Nazis, the murderers were acquitted by two all-white juries.

The recent conference honored the contributions of the five members of the CWP who were killed: Sandra Smith, William Sampson, Dr. James Waller, Dr. Michael Nathan and Cesar Cauce.

Rev. William Barber II and Joyce Johnson hosted the conference, along with many other local activists from the Greensboro community who built the Beloved Community Center and the Faith Community Church to continue the pursuit for justice and reconciliation. Cultural and faith-based programs were featured to draw a wider community base, including a play by Emily Mann, author of the New York Times performance by Contra-Tiempo. There was also a memorial day of praise and worship church services. Rev. William Barber II, leader of the Poor People’s Campaign of 2018, addressed the crowd via video.

The conference hosted eight workshops on “Educational and Movement Building,” taking up the role each sector plays in building the movement. Workshop topics included youth and intergenerational organizing, labor and worker justice, legal and policy work, and faith-based and religious work. Other major focal points were climate change and environmental justice, struggles against racism and white supremacy, gender equity, justice for immigrants, building local power, and cultural work and the arts.

Remembering the five labor activists
Conference participants continually stressed that the CWP’s had all focused on labor organizing in the South before they were murdered. Sandra Smith, who was African American, had been the Bennett College student body president, a worker at Cone Mills Revolution plant in Greensboro and chairperson of the union organizing committee there, and then a worker at Cannon Mills in Kannapolis, N.C.

William Sampson led a surge of rank-and-file union activity for worker health and safety at Cone Mills White Oak plant. He was president-elect of Clothing and Textile Workers (ACTWU) Local 1391.

Dr. James Waller, a founding member of the Carolina Brown Lung Association, screened workers for byssinosis (a lung disease caused by inhaling textile fiber dust), and fought for compensation for those sickened by it. Waller worked at Cone Mills Granite plant on Haw River, N.C., was elected president of ACTWU Local 1137-7 and led the local in a strike against pay cuts in July 1978. Later that year, he was elected national president of the CWP-led Trade Union Educational League (TUEL).

Dr. Michael Nathan was chief of pediatrics at Lincoln Community Health Clinic in Durham, N.C., which was instrumental in saving black and low-income children. He played an important role in helping workers unionize at Duke Hospital. He was also a main organizer of a major medical aid effort for freedom fighters in Zimbabwe in 1977-78.

Cesar Cauce was a data terminal operator at Duke Hospital and a leader of the union organizing drive there in 1978-79. He was also active with the Duke Women’s Organizing Committee, which united hospital workers with members of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 77 and Operating Engineers Local 467 at Duke.

Conference participants stressed that the CWP’s were doing more than organizing unions. They sought to build a broad movement to challenge white supremacy and capitalism by building a mass base of resistance among the most oppressed workers.

Members of UE Local 150 attend the Greensboro Massacre conference and commemoration, Nov. 2.

Eric Gill, financial secretary of UNITE HERE Local 5, stated at the labor workshop: “They were not just organizing a union, but organizing a revolutionary core of workers to fundamentally transform society.” He referred to the seven-city strike that UNITE HERE led in 2018, which involved 7,000 workers at Marriott hotels. Their slogan was “One job should be enough,” which Gill said is “our generation’s fight for the eight-hour workday.”

Carrying forward workplace organizing today
Bertha “Cookie” Bradley, a 21-year worker at Wendy’s, was a CWP member in Durham in 1979. Her experience helped her become a leader of the Fight for $15 per hour — today’s minimum wage movement. She stated that her long-term political commitment helped her fight the bosses, who offered her a $50,000 salary as district manager to stop her from speaking out publicly and organizing her co-workers. She refused the offer in solidarity with the workers and also to maintain her role as a worker in her movement. Bradley stressed the importance of on-one organizing as critical in building broad workplace and community involvement in the working-class movement. She also stressed the need to connect workplace struggles with community movements for social justice. “We must organize the unorganized. Invest in the dis-invested. Our society has dis-invested in low-wage workers. You can see this dis-investment in schools, neighborhoods and housing,” she stated.

Jim Wrenn, who survived multiple gunshot wounds from the massacre, pointed out, “We were on the verge of launching an independent, progressive rank-and-file textile workers union in North Carolina.” He spoke of the TUEL’s efforts to build rank-and-file leadership, increase democracy inside unions, including the ACTWU, and expand union organizing among the state’s textile workers.

TUEL activists won leadership in several union locals in North Carolina and organized support for six labor strikes around the state in 1978 and four in 1979. Early in 1979, in reaction to TUEL’s emphasis on rank-and-file labor organizing, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 1391 of Workers World newspaper.

Some coverage of the Greensboro Massacre in 1979 issues of Workers World newspaper.

Black Workers for Justice founded
Wrenn explained that the Greensboro massacre was a setback to union organizing in North Carolina, which unleashed a period of intense anti-union and anti-communist attacks on workers. He noted that the Greensboro tissue of TUEL and an intense period of red-baiting — but influenced by the victorious 1978 Rocky Mount sanitation workers strike — and organized Black Workers for Justice in North Carolina.

The BWJ’s community-based, rank-and-file, in-plant organizing committees across the state led to the establishment of the Southern Workers Assembly, which seeks to organize workers across the South and host workers’ schools. The SWA launched the Southern Workers Medicare for All campaign.

Wrenn called on everyone to support the SWA as a way to carry on the struggle for which the CWP’s gave their lives 40 years ago.

‘Shoutout to Chicago Teachers Union’

The conference labor panel also discussed the growing strike wave across the U.S. Todd Warren, a Greensboro elementary school teacher and president of the Guilford County Association of Educators, raised the Chicago Teachers Union’s actions. He praised their recent strike, which not only took up workplace concerns, but raised major issues affecting students and their communities, such as smaller class sizes and affordable housing.

“The 1979 attack was an attack on organized labor,” stated Warren. “Shoutout to Chicago Teachers Union which struck in 2012, setting off a wave of teacher strikes across the country. They were bargaining for the collective bargain.”

Warren related the recent Chicago organizing to work in North Carolina and throughout the South: “Teachers and public workers have many restrictions on our union organizing like right-to-work and a ban on public sector collective bargaining. These are all Jim Crow laws.” He connected these struggles to the CWP’s, whom he praised as leading the way in North Carolina in fighting against racism and for workers power to push back white supremacy and capitalism. (1)
In Bolivia, Indigenous, workers resist

Continued from page 1

happened was a fascist takeover with the collusion of the police and military — and imperialist backing — that has crushed all democratic norms in Bolivia. The charge of electoral fraud is a phony pretext for the coup.

World leaders denounce coup

Among those denouncing the coup d’état are Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, the recently freed Brazilian leader Lula Da Silva, President-elect Alberto Fernández and Vice President-elect Cristina Fernández de Kirchner of Argentina, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, Colombian political leader Gustavo Petro, social-democratic leaders Pablo Iglesias of Spain and Jeremy Corbyn of Britain, and many other social movements, political parties and well-known individuals worldwide.

The Mexican foreign minister, in addition to denouncing the coup in Bolivia, has offered Mexico’s Embassy in La Paz as a secure place for persecuted Bolivian politicians to seek asylum. Already about 20 members of MAS are there.

In the United States, numerous anti-imperialist and anti-war organizations are supporting emergency demonstrations on Nov. 11 — for example, one in New York City at the Bolivian Consulate — to protest the coup. Workers World Party issued a call to its members and friends around the country “to support any demonstrations defending the life and freedom of Evo Morales and other members of his government and protesting the U.S.-backed coup in Bolivia.”

Why the rich hate Morales

Evo Morales was the first Indigenous person to become Bolivia’s president. First elected in 2006, he was in charge of this pluri-national country until Nov. 10. Some 36-39 percent of Bolivia’s 11.6 million people are Indigenous. Bolivia’s tiny oligarchy of super-rich, mostly of European descent, have imposed an ideology of anti-Indigenous racism that is now aimed at Morales. Naturally, the rich also hate him for his policies. Over the last 13 years, the MAS government has used some of Bolivia’s wealth to lift 20 percent of the people out of abject poverty. But the rich want it all for themselves.

Morales also joined Venezuela, Ecuador, Cuba and Nicaragua to establish Latin American organizations that allowed some economic sovereignty, instead of being subservient to U.S. and EU imperialism. In 2008, he stopped sending Bolivian Army officers to the infamous “School of the Americas,” where the U.S. trained them in repression. These steps, along with MAS’s nationalization of what had been big profit centers for imperialist-based monopolies, made Morales a target of U.S. imperialism.

Long before the Oct. 20 vote, the Bolivian right wing made it clear they would not respect the results of the election. Their coup had nothing to do with electoral fraud, which was never proven. Even an OAS declaration on Nov. 10 — issued two days early in order to pile on pressure for Morales to resign — vaguely referred to “irregularities” and not fraud. Immediately after the Oct. 20 election showed that Morales had won another five-year term, Bolivian counterrevolutionaries, from their bases in eastern cities like Santa Cruz — stronghold of coup leader Camacho — mobilized fascist gangs. They marched toward La Paz, their “black troops” wearing face masks as they beat people and torched homes, including the house of Morales’ sister.

In La Paz these gangs took to the streets and fought to wrest control of public places from the government’s supporters. Above La Paz is the city of El Alto, a neighborhood of 140,000 Indigenous city more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is a stronghold of support for the government. Reports and videos showed tens of thousands of people in the streets supporting Morales, including Indigenous organizations and the Confederation of Bolivian Workers.

On the morning of Nov. 10, the Army clarified its position. General Williams Kaliman, the top commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, “suggested” to the president that he resign his mandate. The threat was clear.

While the scenario might differ a bit from a classic coup d’état in which the officers order their troops to seize the government, it is still a fascist coup based on anti-Indigenous racism, financed by the oligarchy and by imperialism, and supported by the police and the army.

Demonstrations Nov. 11 in New York City and elsewhere will underscore that every progressive person and organization should condemn the coup and defend the lives and freedom of Evo Morales and other MAS leaders, in solidarity with the people of Bolivia.

Workers World has covered these events in more detail online, mainly in translations of articles by Marco Teruggi, which are available at workers.org.
Why U.S. imperialism hates Evo Morales

A look at these excerpts from Bolivian President Evo Morales’ speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 24, shows why the U.S. State Department and the CIA targeted the progressive Latin American leader.

Once again we meet in the most important multilateral organization of humanity to reflect and analyze collectively on the global problems that concern the peoples of the world.

We note with concern the multilateral system’s deterioration, which is the product of unilateral measures promoted by some states that have decided to ignore the commitments, good faith and global strategies that unites us between states, within the framework of international law and the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

We invite in this forum to discuss and find solutions to the serious threats facing humanity and life on the planet.

The threat to Mother Earth

Our house, Mother Earth (Pacha Mama), is our only home and is irreplaceable. It increasingly suffers more fires, more floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts and other catastrophes.

Each year is hotter than the previous one, the snows are greater, the level of the oceans grows. Every day we suffer the disappearance of species, soil erosion, desertification and deforestation.

Sisters and brothers, we are warned that if we follow this course of action, by the year 2100 we will reach an increase of 3°C Celsius. That would imply massive and devastating changes.

The consequences of climate change will condemn, according to data from our organization [the U.N.], millions of people to poverty, hunger, no potable water, losing their homes, forced displacement, more refugee crises and new armed conflicts.

Sisters and brothers, in recent weeks we have been surprised by the forest fires that have been unleashed in different parts of the planet: in the Amazon, in Oceania and Africa, affecting flora, fauna and biodiversity.

In recent weeks, fires have broken out in Bolivia, which we have been fighting against, using our financial, technical and human resources.

Our country has spent more than $145 million to mitigate fires.

We thank the international community for their timely cooperation in our fight against the fires, as well as their commitment to participate in postfire actions.

Military spending and world poverty

The arms race, military spending, technology at the service of death and the unscrupulous arms trade have increased.

The financial system remains undemocratic, inequitable and unstable, which unscrupulous arms trade have increased.

We meet in this forum to discuss and find solutions to very complex problems. Technology has meant a qualitative leap for humanity. However, it is necessary that from this multilateral body agreements on the matters be established with the participation of all States.

The root problem: The capitalist system

Sisters and brothers, it is essential to talk about the structural causes of the different crises:

Transnational companies control food, water, nonrenewable resources, weapons, technology and our personal data. They intend to commercialize everything, to accumulate more capital.

The world is being controlled by a global oligarchy; only a handful of billionaires define the political and economic destiny of humanity.

Twenty-six people have the same wealth as 3.8 billion people. That is unfair, that is immoral, that is unacceptable.

The underlying problem lies in the model of production and consumerism, in the ownership of natural resources and in the unequal distribution of wealth.

Let’s say it very clearly: The root of the problem is in the capitalist system.

That is why the United Nations is more relevant and important than ever. Individual efforts are insufficient and only joint action and unity will give us an opportunity to overcome them.

As we have already said, the responsibility of our generation is to give the next a fairer and more humane world.

That will only be achieved if we work together to consolidate a multipolar world, with common rules, defending multilateralism and the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.

Bolivia’s achievements

Sisters and brothers, in Bolivia we have taken very important steps:

- We are the country with the highest economic growth in South America, with an average of 4.9 percent in the last six years.
- Between 2003 and 2019, the gross domestic product increased from $9,574 billion to $40.885 billion.
- We have the lowest unemployment in the region. It fell from 8.1 percent in 2004 to 4.2 percent in 2018.
- Extreme poverty fell from 38.2 percent to 15.2 percent in 13 years.
- Life expectancy increased by nine years.
- The minimum wage rose from $80 to $310.
- The gender gap in land titling for women was reduced; 138,788 women received land in 2003 and 1,011,249 up to 2018.
- Bolivia ranks as the third country in the world with the highest participation of women in Parliament. More than 50 percent of Parliament is made up of women.
- Bolivia was declared a territory free of illiteracy in 2008.
- School dropout rate fell from 4.5 percent to 1.5 percent between 2005 and 2018.
- The infant mortality rate was reduced by 56 percent.
- We are in the process of implementing the Universal Health System, which will guarantee that 100 percent of Bolivians access free, dignified service, with quality and warmth.
- We passed a law to provide free health care for cancer patients.

The above data are part of the achievements of our democratic and cultural revolution, which have given Bolivia political, economic and social stability.

Sisters and brothers: How did we achieve these achievements in such a short time? How is it that Bolivia has taken the path to defeat poverty and underdevelopment?

Thanks to the conscience of the people, of the social movements, of the Indigenous, peasants, workers, professionals, of men and women of the countryside and of the cities.

We nationalized our natural resources and our strategic companies. We have taken control of our destiny.

We are building a Community and Productive Social Economic Model, which recognizes basic services (water, electricity, telecommunications) as a human right.

Today we can say with pride and optimism that Bolivia has a future.

Bolivia’s right of access to the Pacific Ocean

Sisters and brothers, there is a pending issue in the region, the sea is indispensable for life, for the integration and development of the peoples.

Therefore, Bolivia will not give up its right to sovereign access to the Pacific Ocean.

In 2013 and 2018, the International Court of Justice of the Hague, through its decisions, ruled on this. [Mores here cites rulings that show that Bolivia has the right to a coastline, which was lost to Chile in a late 19th century war, but which can still be resolved by negotiations between the two countries.] Sisters and brothers, this judicial decision has not ended the controversy. On the contrary, it is explicit in recognizing that it continues and emphasizes that it does not close off the possibility of both states finding a solution.

Therefore, the United Nations Organization must monitor and demand full compliance with the decisions of the court, so that both peoples continue negotiating in good faith, to close open wounds. It is possible to promote a good neighborhood spirit, and open a new time in our relationship, to forge mutually acceptable and lasting solutions.

Sisters and brothers, our countries face diverse and conflicting situations, which must be approached in a sovereign manner and solutions must be found through dialogue and bicameral means, in favor of the interests of the people.

Bolivia, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations, ratifies its rejection of the economic and financial blockade imposed against Cuba, which violates all human rights.

Finally, sisters and brothers, I take this opportunity to thank all member countries for their support in the various initiatives promoted by Bolivia.

This year: The International Year of Indigenous Languages, The Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and The Declaration of June 21 as International Solstice Day.

To conclude, we ratify our commitment to consolidate a new world order of peace with social justice, in harmony with Mother Earth to Live Well [Vivir Bien], respecting the dignity and identity of the peoples.

Complete speech available in English at undocs.org/en/A/74/PV.3 pp. 36/60.
By Monica Moorehead

Institutionalized bigotry, be it racism, gender oppression or LGBTQ2S+ oppression, has impacted every sector of U.S. society. The form may vary, but the intent is the same — to promote racial, patriarchal and other divisions to keep the bosses and bankers in power and the multinational working class powerless, with misinformation.

Hollywood movies cannot be separated from this stark reality, especially where cultural racism is concerned. For many years, people of color — be they Black, Brown, Latins, Native or Asian — were invisible when it came to being seen at all on the big or small screen (television). And once they got a rare chance to perform, they were forcibly locked into playing meaning- and degrading roles. These portrayals have evolved over time, thanks to social evolution and civil rights, but the forms of negative and degrading roles. These portrayals have remained the same. Only the forms of negativity in front of or behind the camera, the few movies that have a Black or Asian protagonist. Along with the decrease in the roles played by actors of color, the Academy has a notorious history of excluding the performances of actors of color, especially in the Best Acting categories. For many years, the Academy has been criticized for not recognizing the brilliance of actors of color, and it has never had to deal with the stench of racism.

The movie’s powerful soundtrack was written by Terence Blanchard and the stunning cinematography was done by John Toll. The cinematic footage of Harriet showing Tubman leading enslaved women, men and children to freedom as the voice of the great Nina Simone singing “Sinnerman” is heard in the background. But the heart and soul of the movie is Erivo’s marvelous performance. There isn’t one moment throughout the film that you don’t believe she is actually Harriet Tubman or, as she came to be known, Moses. The screening scene of the movie shows her leading a squad of Black Union Army troops into battle against Confederate soldiers in South Carolina.

Some controversy

Like any other movie, “Harriet” is not without some controversy. Some have criticized that Tubman is played by Erivo, because she is of Nigerian and British descent. This is an unjustified criticism, since clearly Erivo is a person of African descent. Another controversy centers around a particular protagonist. Along with the historical quotas with who explored Tubman and her family, there is a Black bounty hunter of runaways: Bigger Long, acted brilliantly by Omar J. Dorsey. Lesley’s cousin, explains, “In the corrupting system of slavery, there were people who worked for the wrong side.” (BuzzFeedNews.com, Nov. 6) A younger bounty hunter, Walter, played by Henry Hunter Hall — Lemmons’ and Hall’s son — is won over to Tubman’s cause.

Whether the Bigger Long character is historically accurate or not, such traits to the cause of freedom unfortunately did exist. Dorsey’s character is a reminder that not all roles played by actors of color are heroic, one-dimensional or appealing to all, compared to the ones that Black pioneering actors like Sidney Poitier were forced to play to win over the sensibilities of white audiences.

With all the accolades “Harriet” has won from critics and audiences, the next big test will come with award season in the coming few months. We’ll see if Erivo, Lemmons and the film itself receive Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations. The Academy has a notorious history of excluding the performances of actors of color, especially in the Best Acting categories.

Forerunner to Black Lives Matter

Before she died at the age of either 91 or 93, Harriet Tubman was a supporter of the women’s suffrage movement. She was a suffragist, and her strong, firm stands for fighting against sexism in Auburn, N.Y., where she is buried. In many ways, Tubman gave birth to the current-day Black Lives Matter movement, founded in 2012 by Black queer women after the racist murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida.

Tubman put the fear into white supremacist slave owners everywhere with her daring raids into the South to free her people. She was a friend of the great abolitionist John Brown, assisting him in the plot to raid Harpers Ferry to arm enslaved people. There is a fleeting glance of Brown in the movie once the Fugitive Slave Act was passed.

To quote Larson from the introduction to her book: “Tubman has been guided by an interior life shaped by a particular slave experience. Suffering under the lash, disabled by a near-fatal head injury, forced to play to win over the sensibilities of white audiences and Academy Award nominations. The Academy has a notorious history of excluding the performances of actors of color, especially in the Best Acting categories. Whether the Bigger Long character is historically accurate or not, such traits to the cause of freedom unfortunately did exist. Dorsey’s character is a reminder that not all roles played by actors of color are heroic, one-dimensional or appealing to all, compared to the ones that Black pioneering actors like Sidney Poitier were forced to play to win over the sensibilities of white audiences.

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The U.S. Civil War: ‘The unfinished revolution’

The slightly edited two chapters below are from a 1974 essay written by a Workers World Party founding member, Vincent Copeland, who reintroduced the pamphlet, “A Voice from Harpers Ferry,” by Osborne P. Anderson, a former enslaved Black man, who wrote a first-hand account in 1865 about the raid on Harpers Ferry, led by John Brown in 1859. Anderson was one of the few survivors of the raid. Go to workers.org/book/a-voice-from-harpers-ferry/ to download or to order the 2000 edition of the book.

By Vince Copeland

Much has been written about the Harpers Ferry raid. But Osborne P. Anderson’s story — in the words of W.E.B. Du Bois, “the most interesting book on Harpers Ferry,” by Osborne P. Anderson, who reintroduced the pamphlet, “A Voice from Harpers Ferry,” by Vincent Copeland, who reintroduced — is something of a special significance that has been too long neglected.

First, Anderson was one of the actual participants. And being Black, he might be expected to have a somewhat different view of the affair than even the most inspired white supporters of John Brown. Second, he apparently wrote the pamphlet, “A Voice from Harpers Ferry,” by Osborne P. Anderson, who reintroduced, with the hope of encouraging a general slave insurrection.

And third, he obviously expected other whites to imitate the action of John Brown and help supply the arms for the insurrection, as well as take up arms themselves.

He was interested, like most other Black and white abolitionists of that very revolutionary period, in continuing the revolution that John Brown’s band had begun. But he seems to have based his optimism upon the possibilities of a slave insurrection, rather more than upon white support, which he must have thought of as an important auxiliary force rather than as the main body of struggle.

It looks as though many of the slaves who accepted guns the moment guns were offered to them. He pointed out what few subsequent narrators of the event have: namely, that the seventeen revolutionaries who died at Harpers Ferry (before the legal lynching of Brown and the others after the trial), nine were Black. Eight whites and two blacks of the original band were killed in the conflict in addition to the hastily armed seven Black slaves. Two other Blacks were executed with John.

History has finally given Brown tremendous credit for what was indeed a tremendous feat. But Brown had been planning it for decades and the others in the band had been thinking for months and for years about how to strike this drama.

What about the seven nameless Black people who died for Black freedom with no prior notice whatever? They, too, no doubt, had thought for years about freedom — their own freedom. They had lacked all possibility, all weapons, all communication for strategy. But they confronted with an opportunity given them by strangers, most of whom were of the same race as the hated master class, they gave their lives in a moment and apparently without a qualm.

History, even revolutionary history, treats them as fillers of blank spaces. Did they simply take the guns and shoot and get shot like so many extras in the movies?

Anderson did not think so. Although he does not expand upon the facts when he refers to the number of “colored” men killed, his emphasis upon the number is obviously not due just to his racial pride. It must always be borne in mind that he was speaking to a generation to which this incident would conjure up an extremely earthshaking perspective. And even the slightest emphasis would go a long way.

A different Civil War

The Civil War may have begun by the time his story was published, but it is clear from the text that it had not begun by the time his story was published. But it is clear from the text that it had not begun for him.

His optimism that the U.S. government would never wage ruthless war against the slave owners was speaking to a generation to which this incident would conjure up an extremely earthshaking perspective. And even the slightest emphasis would go a long way.

The war that Anderson had in mind would have required not just a few white guerrillas, no matter how brave and ready to die, but an all-out participation of the slave owners, along with the slavers, a fairly massive support from the North. He must have felt — and with good reason — that this would paralyze the U.S. government (which was already divided between “Freedom” and pro-slavery forces) so that especially with Lincoln now president, it would not be able to intervene powerfully on the side of the South, as it had done in the case of Brown’s raid.

What actually happened was that the South seceded before such a war could be started and in effect started its own counterrevolutionary war. When the fighting erupted, it was counterrevolutionary war. When the fighting erupted, it seemed at first to have very little to do with slavery. The official battle cry in the North was not “Liberate the Slaves,” but “Preserve the Union.”

Right up until Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, it must have appeared to Anderson (and many thousands of other passionate Black and white abolitionists in the North) that the Northern capitalist government would never fight. Even after Lincoln’s election and even after several states had seceded, it must have appeared that the U.S. government would never wage ruthless war against the slave owners.

The formal Confederacy was already established before Lincoln was inaugurated. And Lincoln waited more than a month before he struck back. And even then he acted only under the prod of South Carolina’s provocative attack on Sumter. It was, of course, a war against slavery that had come, rather than a war of revolution.

The ending of slavery as an institution was a victory for the bourgeoisie. But it was a revolution most unsatisfactory with bourgeois revolutionary ideas. And when the fighting ended, the nation was paralyzing the U.S. government.

Where the signs denouncing racism and white supremacy took to the streets again on Nov. 9 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy held their national convention at the Atlanta Marriott Northeast hotel.

In order to gather the 400 people reported on the front page of the Nov. 9 Atlanta Journal Constitution, Black people were bused in from other states to the invitation-only event. Prominent members of the Grand Old Party, including Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, helped increase the audience.

Outsiders, several hundred people marched from nearby Centennial Olympic Park to the Georgia World Congress Center to denounce Trump’s racist policies and rhetoric and call for his removal from office. Organizations that initiated the demonstration included the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice, the Georgia NAACP and Refuse Fascism.

Opponents of white supremacy took to the streets again on Nov. 9 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy held their national convention at the Atlanta Marriott Northeast hotel.

The UDC was founded in 1894 and today has been a champion of the “Lost Cause” version of Civil War history, erecting some 450 monuments, buildings, plaques and other tributes to the Confederacy across the country. As the movement to remove these vestiges of racist propaganda grows, the UDC has filed countless lawsuits to prevent universities, cities, counties and states from altering their “public donation” in any way.

Scores of Brookhaven and Chamblee police barricaded the streets leading into the business complex where the hotel is located, preventing demonstrators from taking their anti-racist message to convention attendees. Reporters were also denied access to the hotel.

Numerous drivers on busy Clairmont Road honked their horns in support of the signs denouncing racism and white supremacy.

The protest to expose the ongoing racist activities of this organizational relic of the past was called by the Front Line Organization Working to End Racism (FLOWER) Coalition.
According to a poll by YouGov in September 2019, 70 percent of millennials—people born between 1981 and 1996—would vote for a socialist. One-third view communism favorably compared to capitalism. When asked which future world do they believe the government should guarantee them, 45 percent support a socialist future and 50 percent believe the world would be better off with capitalism.

One in five believe the world would be better off if private property were abolished. When it comes to reforms, totally free college is the most popular proposal. Millennials are twice as likely as their elders to wish the government could guarantee freedom. That’s compared to 94 percent of people over 74 choosing the Democratic Party.

Communism’s popularity among millennials is growing quickly, with their support increasing by 8 percent in the last year. Meanwhile, 45 percent of millennials view Marxism favorably. One in five believe the world would be better off if private property were abolished. When it comes to reforms, totally free college is the most popular proposal. Millennials are twice as likely as their elders to wish the government could guarantee freedom. That’s compared to 94 percent of people over 74 choosing the Democratic Party.

What are the conditions and experiences that created all these “red millennials”? This is the generation that occupied Wall Street, that led Black Lives Matter, that went on strike for climate justice, that fought in the streets to build a workers’ movement. And they look forward to many young millennials leading the class struggle.

A majority of those polled viewed Donald Trump as the greatest single threat to world peace. He continues the classic anti-communist crusade, calling Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and other progressives “Communists” and “anti-American.” Meanwhile, the Democratic Party leadership faces a challenge from “democratic socialists” within their party, creating a divide over whether they continue to be the unabashed party of neoliberal imperialism or cede ground to those pushing a more progressive agenda. Old guard Democratic Party leaders such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi continue to defend market-oriented, capitalist perspectives. While the Democrats foundered, socialist and communist parties in the U.S. are growing as the entire world grapples with the demise of capitalism.

Capitalists celebrate fall of Berlin Wall, but socialism advances

When the Berlin Wall came down 30 years ago, it ushered in a global counter-revolution and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Capitalist apologists proclaimed the end of history, declaring capitalism to be the world’s permanent economic system.

Yet after three decades of capitalism in the former German Democratic Republic, Eastern Europe and the former USSR, polls show a majority in those countries prefer the life they had under socialism. They have experienced the contrast between a system which guaranteed jobs, a social security net, free education and health care, versus the ills of capitalism: unemployment, homelessness, wage theft, low pay, illiteracy, right-wing nationalism, lack of mental health support, to name a few.

In China today, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty and serious steps are being taken to address the climate emergency. The people of Cuba live longer than people in the U.S. Reality runs counter to all the capitalist propaganda that “socialism is a good idea, but it can’t work” or that the U.S. “saved the world” from communist “slavery” and “dictatorship.”

Pro-socialist governments in countries like Venezuela and Bolivia, currently under siege by U.S.-backed, right-wing forces, have made tremendous gains for the people and built grassroots movements after winning bourgeois elections. However, the primary question remains: Which class will control the banks, major industries, the media and civil society—along with the state apparatus? This question will be decisive for the survival of humanity and all life on the planet.

Socialist revolution is, in fact, the only real alternative to the capitalist system of exploitation and the growing danger of fascism.

Since our founding 60 years ago, Workers World Party has steadfastly defended the socialist camp and its endeavors to transform the world. We look forward to young millennial communists joining our ranks and fighting in the streets to build a workers’ world!

Haiti: A rain of protest as poverty worsens

By G. Dunkel

Haiti is devastated. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, one of the poorest in the world, is getting poorer. Some 3.67 million people—35 percent of all Haitians live on less than $2 a day. They don’t have enough money to guarantee enough food for their households. This flow from the fact that 60 percent of all Haitians live on less than $2 a day, according to the U.N. Development Program.

With some neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince, especially Cité Soleil, have large concentrations of poor people, most of the poverty in Haiti is found in rural areas. Heart-wrenching reports describe people with treatable cuts or contusions dying from their wounds because they don’t have the few dollars to pay for a doctor.

The Haitian government’s National Coordination of Food Security office calculates the country’s inflation rate at 22.6 percent. It reports that drought, caused by global warming, has lowered crop production in many parts of the country by as much as 12 percent.

For the past two months, hundreds of thousands of Haitians all over the country have marched, protested, built barricades and roadblocks, shut down schools, factories and transportation, and kept up the pressure even as the cops killed over 35 people and wounded over 250, according to Amnesty International. (tinyurl.com/skipsgy7)

The Haitian people are not just protest- ing because there are not enough jobs, health care and housing to replace the hundreds of thousands of homes destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. The New York Times, in a long, detailed Nov. 4 editorial, acknowledges the "rampant corruption" and "lawlessness and endless other indignities" that have "steadily worsened the lives of people." While the Times does fault the U.S. government for only calling for "Good Luck" and not showing much concern, it proposes "long-term international assistance" to get Haiti "back on its feet."

Haiti has a long experience with international "assistance." Former President Bill Clinton, who proclaimed his long-term "connection" with Haiti, was basically in charge of spending $33 billion of international relief aid raised after Haiti’s devastation from the 2010 earthquake. He made certain that almost all of this vast sum never passed through Haitian hands. It circulated through U.S. businesses and banks with a strong presence inside the Capitol Beltway, as Jacob Kushner details in the Oct. 11 Guardian. (tinyurl.com/ty9te5v)

Kushner also details a $70 million port project created by the U.S. Agency for International Development to replace the port facilities destroyed by the 2010 earthquake. Haitians had no input into the design or location of this new port. The project went over budget, and USAID was so embarrassed that it didn’t inform its Haitian partners.

What Haiti needs is aid—not designed by the U.S. government to benefit U.S. companies and banks. What Haiti needs is aid designed by the Haitian people, used to remedy all the damages inflicted over nearly four centuries by U.S. and French imperialism.

El juicio político no es suficiente

Continúa de la página 12

propio destino. Entre los muchos pasos tomados por la Comuna para trasladar el poder político a la clase trabajadora estaba la elección directa de quienes lo representaran en la Comuna, y la capacidad de retirar inmediatamente del cargo a cualquiera que no cumpliera con la voluntad del pueblo. No hubo que esperar seis años (el mandato de un distrito estatal) para que se adoptara una ley constitucional que permitiera no solo el voto a mujeres, sino también a trabajadores y trabajadoras de la sierra, que no eran electores en la época histórica de la Revolución Guaraní. (Continúa en la página 12)

By Virginia Kansas

Since our founding 60 years ago, Workers World Party has steadfastly defended the socialist camp and its endeavors to transform the world. We look forward to young millennial communists joining our ranks and fighting in the streets to build a workers’ world!
‘U.S. does not have the moral authority to criticize Cuba’

The government of President Donald Trump has initiated an escalation in its aggression against Cuba, with the adoption of unconventional measures to prevent the supply of fuel to our country from various markets, through sanctions and threats to vessels, shipper, and insurance companies. In this context, in addition to affecting the economy, is to damage the living standard of Cuban families.

In April of this year, the filing of law suits in U.S. courts against Cuban, U.S. and third-country entities was authorized under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. Remittances to Cuban citizens were restricted; the granting of visas was reduced and consular services limited; an agreement between baseball federations was canceled; individual trips by U.S. citizens were canceled, along with cruise ship stops and direct flights to Cuban airports, except for Havana; the leasing of airplanes with more than ten percent U.S. components and the acquisition of technologies and equipment with the same was prohibited; commercial promotional activities and cultural and educational exchanges ceased.

The United States government does not have the least moral authority to criticize Cuba or anyone else in the area of human rights:

Artículo 9: No se tiene menos autoridad moral para criticar a Cuba o a cualquier otro en la área de derechos humanos:

Article 3: Right to life [of the 1948 U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights]

The deaths of civilians caused by U.S. troops in various latitudes, and the use of torture merit condemnation; as well as the murder of African Americans by police and migrants by border patrols; the deaths of unaccompanied minors in immigration detention, and the abusive and racially disproportionate use of the death penalty, applicable to minors and the mentally handicapped.

Article 9: No one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest

In the United States, there are 2.3 million individuals incarcerated, a quarter of the planet’s prison population, and in one year 10.5 million arrests are made.

Article 25: Right to health

There are 28.5 million citizens without medical insurance, and millions with low incomes will be deprived of coverage with the measures announced.

Article 1: Right to dignity and freedom

Repression and police surveillance of immigrants, the separation of families, the separation of parents and indefinite detention of more than 2,400 children, and the deportation of 21,000, and brutal measures that threaten the children of illegal immigrants who were raised and educated in the United States are intolerable.

Article 11: Due process

This U.S. government holds prisoners indefinitely, in legal limbo, without defense, courts, or due process, in the Guantanamo Bay naval base on our territory usurped by the United States.

Article 25: Right to personal well-being

In the richest country, 40 million U.S. residents live in poverty, 18.8 million of them in extreme poverty. 25.7 percent of these children live in poverty at the end of last year. More than half a million of its citizens sleep on the streets.

Article 26: Right to education

Quality education is not accessible to the majority. Half of adults cannot read a book written at an eighth grade level. These lack of education allow against their government for stripping them of environmental rights.

Article 2: Non-discrimination

Women earn approximately 85 percent of average male income in the United States, and must work 39 more days a year to match them. There are widespread complaints of sexual harassment.

The average wealth of white families is seven times greater than that of Afro-descendant families. [In those families] the death rate of children under one year of age and mothers in childbirth is twice that of whites.

There is a disproportionate racial pattern in the U.S. prison population and in the length of prison sentences.

Article 13: Freedom to travel

The illegal Helms-Burton Act guides the aggressive conduct of the United States against Cuba. Its essence is the open and clear sense of violating the right to self-determination and independence of the Cuban nation. It asserts U.S. legal authority over the commercial and financial relations of any country with Cuba, and establishes the supposed primacy of the law and the jurisdiction of the United States over third countries.

The blockade is a serious violation of international law, the United Nations Charter, and the postulates of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

It is the effectiveness of the Cuban socialist state, the state and the patriotism, revolutionary convictions, solidarity, consensus and unity of our people that, despite the limitations, has allowed Cuba to overcome the serious challenges imposed.

The United States government prevents exercise of youth democratic demonstration in our America, again invokes the outdated, aggressive Monroe Doctrine and “gangster diplomacy,” deploys the Fourth Fleet and increasing the presence and power of its military bases in the region.

The United States representative offends this Assembly with unacceptable interventionist language to refer to the heroic Venezuelan people, their civic-military union, and the Bolivarian Chavista government, headed by President Nicolás Maduro Moros, to whom we express unwavering solidarity.

By move General Raúl Castro pointed out on April 10, before the National Assembly of People’s Power, “Despite its immense power, imperialism does not have the capacity to suppress the voice of a united people, proud of its history and the freedom conquered with so much sacrifice.”

Italian army recruiting drive

See Naples and die’

By Manlio Dinucci

Published in the Italian web newspaper, R Manifesto, Nov. 5. Translation by John Catalinotto.

Naples, and not Rome, was the focus of Armed Forces Day on Nov. 4 (in Italy). Five battalions of troops paraded along the Caracciolo seafront. But the highlight was an interforce exhibition area, which for five days drew mainly young people and children to Piazza del Plebiscito, the largest square of the city, near the waterfront. They could board a fighter [plane], by a helicopter with a flight simulator, admire a Predator drone, enter a tank, train with military “unblocks” to do the port to visit an amphibious assault ship and two missile frigates.

It was a huge “War Festival” set up for a specific purpose: recruitment. Seventy percent of young people who want to enlist in Italy’s military live in the South, especially in Campania and Sicily, where youth unemployment is 33.6 percent, compared to the European Union average of 15.2 percent. For these youth, the only source of “secure” employment is the army. However, after the screening [process], the number of recruits has been less than needed.

The Armed Forces need more personnel, as they are engaged in 35 missions in 22 countries from Eastern Europe and the Balkans to Africa, the Middle East and [other regions in] Asia. These are the “peace missions” carried out where NATO, under U.S. command, has unleashed – with Italy’s active participation – the wars that have demolished entire states and destabilized entire regions.

To maintain adequate forces and armaments, such as the Italian F-35 deployed by NATO in Iceland, as shown on the TV station RAI on Nov. 4. Italy spends about 25 billion euros a year on military expenditures. [1 euro = $1.11 as of Nov. 6]

In 2018, Italian military spending [rose] from 13th to 11th place in the world, but the U.S. and NATO are pressing for a further increase, especially as a result of their escalation against Russia.

Last June, the first government of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte [allocated] 2 billion euros to add to military spending. Last October, in the prime minister’s meeting with NATO Secretary General [ Jens Stoltenberg], the second Conte government pledged to increase military spending by about 7 billion euros starting in 2020. (La Stampa, Oct. 11)

Thus, [spending] is going to go from a military expenditure of about 70 million euros a day to one of about 87 million a day. These public funds are taken away from fundamental productive investments, especially in regions such as Campania [where Naples is located] to reduce unemployment, starting with the youth.

Naples: U.S./NATO military hub

The “investments” made in Naples are quite different. The city has acquired a growing role as the seat of some of the most important NATO military commands. The Command of the U.S. Naval Forces in European is based in Naples-Capodichino, operating under the orders of U.S. Admiral [James Foggo III], who also commands U.S. Naval Forces for Africa and the Joint Allied Forces (JFC Naples), with headquarters at Lago Patria (Naples).

Every two years, JFC Naples takes command of the NATO Response Force, a joint force for military operations in the “area of responsibility” of the Allied Supreme Commander in Europe, who is always a U.S. general.

Since 2017, the hub of strategic direction has been operating in the Lago Patria headquarters. NATO for the South is a center of intelligence – that is to epigones – concentrating on the Middle East and Africa.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet, based in Gaeta [about 60 miles north of Naples on the coast], is subordinate to the command in Naples. And, as U.S. Vice-Admiral Lisa Franchetti informed the public, it operates “from the North Pole to the South Pole.”

This is the role of Naples in NATO’s framework, as defined by Italian President Sergio Mattarella, in his Nov. 4 message: “[It is] an alliance to which we have freely chosen to contribute for the protection of peace in the international context, to the protection of the weakest and most oppressed and of human rights.”

Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla speaks at U.N. on Nov. 7.

The following was edited from a statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, during a presentation of the U.N. resolution, “The necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,” in New York City, Nov. 7, 2019, Year 61 of the Revolution. Go to the Granma English website at tinyurl.com/txl8ce2/ to read the entire speech.

The U.S. proposal to end the blockade was 188 “yes” votes to 3 “no” votes cast by the U.S., Israel and Brazil.


En Bolivia solo existe el poder de las armas

Por Marco Teruggi
La Paz, Bolivia

Publicado el 12 de noviembre por pagina22.com.ar.

El centro de La Paz se ha transformado en un mar de aros de barricadas, colas para comprar en los pocos negocios que abren, transporte detenido, vecinos apostados en las esquinas atravesadas por alambres de pías y chapas de hierro. Cerca de la Plaza Murillo, centro del poder político, pasan grupos con cascos, escudos, máscaras antígenas, banderas de Bolivia, contingentes de policías apostándose y midiendo refuerzo a la Fuerza Armada Nacional (FAB).

El lunes a la noche y corre un miedo: que baje la ciudad de El Alto. Las escenas vistas durante la tarde volvieron a recordar a muchos del centro y la zona sur de La Paz que la mitad del país que votó a Evo Morales existe y no se quedará de brazos cruzados.

Lo que se pensaba que pasaría en El Alto sucedió, y fueron miles de vecinos en gran mayoría de la nación aymara, que salieron a las calles a hacer frente al gobierno de Estado, a defender el proceso de cambio, y algo muy profundo: la bandera golpeada de una nación a la que salieron a las calles a hacer frente al golpe de Estado, a defender el proceso de cambio, desde sus hombres, las mujeres, la mitad del país que votó a Evo Morales existe y no se quedará de brazos cruzados.

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