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Global climate strikes

Earth crisis arouses millions

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

In Montreal, Quebec province, Canada, more than 500,000 people marched on Sept. 27 in an effort to halt the climate crisis, in the largest strike in the city’s history, according to organizers.

This and other Global Climate Strike events ended a week later, when 7.5 million people participated in 6,135 actions in 185 countries, along with over 70 national and international unions, and more than 800 organizations endorsing and marching. The Sept. 20-27 global mobilization was the largest turnout ever of people determined to defend the planet against exploitation and destruction. (globalclimatestrike.net)

Many marchers emphatically indicted the capitalist economy, corporate profit-making, and bought-and-sold politicians as responsible. In the U.S., some signs declared “Capitalism created climate crisis” and “Fossil

fools.” Slogans in England pointed out “Disaster capitalism = climate apocalypse” and called for “System change, not climate change.” In Scotland, angry signs proclaimed: “The rich get richer, the planet gets poorer” and “Save the bees or I’ll break your knees!”

The leadership of Indigenous peoples in protecting the Earth and its beings was highlighted in Montreal, where Indigenous youth led the march. Rosalie LaBillois (Mi’kmaw), co-chair of the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council, said: “We must ensure that our lands, waters, non-human beings, medicines and sacred sites are protected now and for the seven generations to come.” (turtleislandnews.com)

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde, AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek and other leaders, including Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg, marched with the Indigenous youth. Autumn Peltier (Wikwemikong), who marked her 15th birthday at the

march, was recently nominated for the International Children’s Peace Prize for her work as Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner.

Indigenous peoples in close relationship with the Earth have led in protection of the environment for millennia before the “green movements” of the 20th century. The intensified exploitation of the planet in the last century has seen heightened measures led by Indigenous people.

The Sacred Stone camp created in 2016 to block the pathway of the Dakota Access Pipeline became an international rallying site for environmental activists.

Indigenous environmental activists in Central and South America have been battling settler and corporate seizure and exploitation of their lands for centuries, long before the Amazon began burning.

Many activists have lost their lives in that struggle, including Berta Cáceres of Honduras, winner of the

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Indigenous youth lead massive Montreal Climate Strike, Sept. 27. PHOTO: TURTLE ISLAND NEWS



Brown Berets fight racism in Houston, Sept. 28. Read more on page 5.

Bigot Trump’s real crimes

Let us count the crimes the current U.S. president has committed against the working class and all the oppressed masses.

His campaign vilified Mexicans and other Central American migrants and refugees, calling them gangsters and rapists. In office, he shut down legal asylum, jailing migrants and separating parents from children, and restricted entry for Muslims.

All his life, Trump wore his misogyny openly, boasting of groping women. In office he appointed misogynist judges to federal courts and even the Supreme Court.

Long before he ran for office, Donald Trump waged a racist campaign against

the Central Park 5, Black and Latinx youths railroaded to jail on false accusations of raping a jogger, who were finally exonerated. In office, he railed against “s — thole countries,” all of which were countries in Africa or inhabited by people of African descent.

Among other things, this president has insulted people with disabilities for their disability, has tried to bar trans people from the military, and with all the above has committed grave crimes against the working and oppressed masses.

Yet the charges that the Democratic Party and various ruling-class sectors

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# ‘Stop the wars, save the planet!’

By Makasi Motema  
New York

Activists with the People’s Mobilization to Stop the U.S. War Machine gathered at Herald Square Sept. 22 to denounce U.S. imperialism and its role in the current climate crisis. People’s Mobilization is a coalition that includes Code Pink, the Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective, the International Action Center and many anti-war, environmental and other organizations.

The demonstration was scheduled to coincide with the opening of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

About 200 demonstrators correctly pointed out that the U.N. has often been a tool of U.S. imperialism, thereby completely failing to uphold its “three pillars:” peace and security, human rights and development. In actuality, the U.N. has either closed its eyes or been an active participant in the escalation of imperialist wars, decades of human rights violations in Palestine and the underdevelopment of the global South (countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean) for the benefit of Western finance capital.

Many of the activists in attendance also pointed out that the Pentagon is one of the planet’s leading polluters, emitting more greenhouse gases from its military operations than many industrialized nations. U.S. wars pose an imminent threat to civilians in targeted countries, but they also pose an existential threat to the entire biosphere, as the planet careens closer and closer to climate catastrophe.

The demonstration coincided with the U.S.’s increasing hostilities against Venezuela, China and Iran. Flailing from one target to the next in a futile attempt to shore up its deteriorating legitimacy, the U.S. policy of “maximum pressure” can be more accurately described as “maximum belligerency.”

First, there was the attempt to topple the Venezuelan government and replace the democratically elected leadership with a U.S. puppet. Then, the U.S. sought to fabricate



Makasi Motema at Sept. 22 rally.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

an international incident in the Strait of Hormuz as a pretext for war with Iran.

Now the U.S. has targeted the Chinese economy through an escalating trade war. And through all these hostile — though half-baked — stratagems, the U.S. has wielded deadly sanctions like a cudgel against any government that challenges its hegemony.

During the rally and march from Herald Square, organizers raised all these issues and ended their demonstration in front of the U.N. The challenge offered was clear: “Stop the wars, save the planet.” The leadership at the United Nations has shown that they lack the vision and courage to take actions necessary to ensure the survival of the species — but the people do. With each new generation, popular outrage against imperialist warmongering grows. Only the power of the masses can stop the U.S. war machine. And that power is growing every day.

*Motema spoke at the rally on behalf of Workers World Party.*



## Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, 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. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans

people are gunned down by cops and 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, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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

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# WORKERS WORLD

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# Legacy of the Sugar Land 95



The graves of the Sugar Land 95. PHOTO: FBISD

By Mirinda Crissman  
Houston

The Sugar Land 95 are the 95 unnamed African-American people buried in unmarked graves in the city of that name, 30 miles south of Houston. The people were buried on property sold to the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD) by the Texas prison system. The graves were unearthed during the summer of 2018 as construction workers were building a school. (See “Sugarland: A Crime Against Humanity,” WW, Sept. 10, 2018.)

On Sept. 23, the Houston Chapter of the National Black United Front, along with community members, activists, scholars and allies gathered at Fort Bend’s school board meeting to call attention to the ongoing, unjust treatment of the Sugar Land 95. The NBUF has been involved in the struggle to bring justice to the Sugar Land 95 since 2005.

Around the time of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Sugar Land and surrounding areas were called “The Hell Hole on the Brazos” due to the inhumane conditions for enslaved Black people working on plantations. After Emancipation, convict leasing was put in place, a system designed to keep freed Black people in “legal” slavery. This was sanctioned through a clause that still exists in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Under this system, the Texas Department of Corrections hired out prisoners — who were often Black and arrested by law enforcement for very little or no reason — to plantation owners as laborers. Convict leasing could be even worse than slavery because those exploiting the labor of the leased people had no economic stake whatsoever in their well-being, even in keeping them alive.

According to historian Robert Perkinson in “Texas Tough: The Rise of America’s Prison Empire,” more than 3,500 leased prisoners died in Texas between 1866 and 1912. Perkinson calculated there were more deaths under convict leasing than lynchings in that period.

Activist and historian Reginald Moore found a report in 2001 that FBISD planned to build a new school at the location where there had previously been a convict camp. As early as 2003, Moore began warning FBISD there were bodies at that site, likely those of prisoners forced into virtual slave labor.

The FBISD persisted despite many warnings. When construction began on the James Reese Career and Technical Center, the bodies were discovered and unearthed. Now the remains of the 95 are still in cardboard boxes at the construction site, according to FBISD attorney Robert Scamardo.

**Demanding respect for enslaved laborers worked to death**

At the school board meeting, Kofi Taharka of the NBUF listed the ways the school board had failed to do right by the 95 — before being escorted out by police for going over his allotted three minutes of speaking time.

Taharka stated: “We come before you not to appeal to your moral, political or legal conscience. For you have proven through your actions, relative to the Sugarland 95, that you have none.” He went on to list ways in which FBISD had failed: not listening to Reginald Moore’s warnings, not conducting proper surveys before construction, fighting legal oversight and failing to enlist culturally competent help. He noted FBISD had disparaged the communal descendants of the dead with insulting comments and by including them only in surface discussions without allowing real input. Before being “escorted” out, Taharka called on Superintendent Charles Dupre to resign.

Taharka and several other speakers called on FBISD to test the bodies for DNA to link them to their descendants before the reinterment process. Community activists Swatara Olushola said, “For a district to feel comfortable with making end-all-be-all decisions regarding these victims of crimes against humanity without the community, without their families, without their names, against the wishes of the court, is disgusting to me. You should be ashamed of yourselves.”

Another speaker, Salvador Herrera, began: “I’m actually here about [conditions at] James Reese Career and Technical Center, not about the Sugar Land 95, though I stand in solidarity with their efforts.” He went on to bring to light FBISD’s outrageous wage violations. Workers building the technical center had proof of wage theft and brought that to the Design and Construction Division, which is in charge of constructing buildings on city property. The workers were told they had “insufficient evidence.” Herrera called out FBISD for their unjust practices and asked how they would go about doing right by their construction workers in the future.

FBISD has continually and incorrectly insisted their intentions and actions are grounded in seeking dignity and respect for the 95. The school district’s track record speaks otherwise.

Reginald Moore reminded everyone at the meeting: “[The Sugar Land 95 are] being treated today in death the way they were treated when they were alive.” Despite all that was brought up in the heated meeting, FBISD voted to pay a funeral home \$284,375 to re-inter the 95 bodies without any DNA testing or input from descendants. But the fight to do right by the Sugar Land 95 is far from over. □

# Killer cop on trial Justice for Anthony Hill!

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

On March 9, 2015, promising musician and singer Anthony Hill was killed by DeKalb County Deputy Robert Olsen in the parking lot of Hill’s Chamblee apartment complex. Hill, 27, an African-American veteran of the Afghanistan war, had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and PTSD as a result of his military experiences. When the drugs prescribed by the Veterans Administration caused his jaw to lock, along with other debilitating effects, he had stopped taking them. ([tinyurl.com/y2hhhv5c](https://tinyurl.com/y2hhhv5c))

That night, Hill and his fiancée, Bridget Anderson, had plans to celebrate their anniversary. But in the early afternoon, Hill showed up at the apartment complex leasing office, wearing only shorts and no shoes, knocking on the door asking for help.

The office staff, accustomed to a polite, well-mannered tenant, were concerned about his erratic behavior and unsteady posture. They then called 911 seeking help for him. Two maintenance workers responded to his pleas that he didn’t know where he lived and took him back to his apartment.

Within a short time, Hill emerged from his second floor balcony naked and proceeded to climb down and wander around the grounds, sometimes crawling in a military style, peering around as if in a battle zone. Again, the two workers approached him, urging Hill to go home before the police came. To which Hill responded, “That’s OK. The police are my friends.”

That is when Olsen, who is white, showed up in his patrol car, and Hill, with his arms raised, moved at an uneven pace toward him.

Deputy Olsen got out of his car and



Anthony Hill

drew his gun, and, as Hill came closer, yelled for him to stop and fired two bullets into Hill’s body. Anthony Hill died at the scene.

Olsen maintains he feared for his life and was forced to shoot the unarmed man.

It has taken four-and-a-half years for a jury to hear this testimony, following an indictment of Olsen on multiple charges, including two counts of felony murder and violation of the oath of office.

The jury of 12 DeKalb County residents, seven women and five men who reflect the diverse composition of the metro Atlanta county, was seated Sept. 26, and the trial of Robert Olsen finally began.

Each witness, whether the leasing office staff or the maintenance workers, affirmed that Anthony Hill did not in any way threaten or frighten them and that they called 911 to get him help.

The long-awaited trial is expected to last another week or more.

A guilty verdict on the murder charges would be unprecedented in Georgia where almost no police, regardless of the evidence, are ever punished for killing a civilian. WW will continue to report on the trial of Robert Olsen. Justice for Anthony Hill! □

## Fight the power! Build Workers World!

As a newspaper that promotes revolutionary socialism, it’s essential to welcome change — especially long overdue change. Like throwing Christopher Columbus into the dustbin of world history with other false idols of colonialism and imperialism.

A movement has been afoot for several decades to eliminate Columbus Day, the second Monday in October, and rename it Indigenous Peoples’ Day. This country, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, was built on stolen lands. Indigenous Peoples’ Day calls attention to U.S. genocidal policies of warfare, massacres, smallpox blankets and forced assimilation.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day also commemorates and honors the great historical, cultural, social, economic and political contributions that Native nations and peoples have made across this country.

If you agree that it’s essential for Workers World to salute the importance of change this month, then it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program, which since 1977 has helped put out the paper. Members receive a



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends for a donation of a minimum of \$75 or \$100 or \$300 (only \$25 a month). Workers World appreciates your generosity!

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# GM strike and the global working class

By Martha Grevatt  
Lordstown, Ohio

September 29 marked two weeks on the picket line for nearly 50,000 General Motors workers. This was the second “Solidarity Sunday,” with supporters joining picket lines around the country. Rain did not stop non-GM UAW members and union staff from joining the lines outside plants in metro Detroit.

Outside the Lordstown, Ohio, assembly plant, idled since March, there was no sign that workers would go back to work without a decent contract. They want their plant—and three other plants GM has closed or plans to close—kept open with a product that will assure job security into the future. They want to protect health care benefits without the steep increases in worker costs GM is demanding.

Strikers want raises that keep up with inflation. Perhaps most importantly, they want to see wage and benefit parity, which means eliminating tiers and giving “temporary” workers permanent status. But GM wants to up the percentage of contingent workers, who are paid less, have bare-bones benefits, work flexible schedules (from the company’s standpoint), cannot accrue seniority and can be fired with little recourse.

Making even less money are janitors and others who work in the plants but are employed by Aramark, Caravan Knight and other third parties. Aramark workers at five GM plants are also on strike.

Signs reading “Everyone tier one — Solidarity forever” and “Temps lives matter” are now carried alongside the generic “UAW on strike” signs the union provided. Hip-hop videos from the picket lines, with lyrics addressing the mistreatment of temps, are going viral.

The rank and file is fed up, and everyone is striking for the betterment of the lowest paid.

Distractions, intimidation  
fail to break resolve

The federal government, along with GM bosses, may have hoped to distract strikers with the corruption scandal involving UAW leaders, who allowed concessions in the past. But plant workers know their primary battle is with the company. Not trusting Washington’s motives, especially under the anti-labor Trump administration, which recently appointed right-winger Eugene Scalia as Secretary of Labor, their attitude toward the bribe-taking and misappropriation of funds is “Let us clean up our own house.”

Strikers were not intimidated when GM abruptly canceled their health insurance when the walkout was barely underway. This created serious hardships during the process of switching to union-paid insurance. The suspension of benefits blew up into a public relations disaster for GM and CEO Mary Barra, who were seen as heartless.

On Sept. 25 GM informed the union that company-paid coverage would resume. Whether this would only be until the end of September or indefinitely while negotiations continue is still unclear.

This about-face led to some speculation that a tentative agreement might be imminent. But until then solidarity on the lines remains strong.

Global strike, global solidarity

On Sept. 9, over 10,000 South Korean autoworkers waged a three-day strike at all of the country’s GM plants, following that with partial strikes at selected plants. The strike is continuing, with primary demands for higher wages and permanent status for temporary workers.

The Korean Metal Workers Union, which represents GM workers, sent a letter of support to the UAW. In Mexico, five GM workers were fired after refusing to increase productivity. They did so in

solidarity with strikers here, realizing that raising production in their plant would be used to offset U.S. production losses due to the strike.

GM workers and their unions in Brazil, Canada and elsewhere have also sent solidarity messages. What’s needed is for the UAW to reciprocate and support struggling autoworkers worldwide. That will really give GM bosses and the shareholders on Wall Street something to worry about. □



WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

Retired FCA worker, Martha Grevatt, second from right, with GM strikers and their family at GM Lordstown, Ohio plant.

## What is ‘two tier’ and where did it come from?

There was a time when “concessions” referred to contract gains that labor wrested from management — sometimes after long strikes. The United Auto Workers contracts with Ford, General Motors and Chrysler (now FCA) once set the bar for what workers across the country, even non-unionized workers, could expect in terms of pay and benefits. The UAW led the way in winning employer-paid health insurance, which many workers still take for granted.

Now concession bargaining means the opposite — unions giving up hard-fought improvements to supposedly keep a company solvent, competitive and/or profitable (or to cut costs in the public sector and at “non-profits”). During the first federal bailout of Chrysler in 1979, the UAW took big pay cuts, gave up paid time off and made other givebacks to “save” the company.

Labor’s backward slide accelerated after the 1981 air traffic controllers strike was broken. The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization

struck over a range of issues, primarily working conditions. President Ronald Reagan fired everyone who refused to return to work.

The breaking of PATCO put labor on the defensive and givebacks became commonplace. Two-tier language began to appear in contracts, starting with the airline and grocery unions. Future workers hired after a certain date — the second tier — were locked into a lower pay scale. Workers made different wages while doing the same work side-by-side; two-tier made for a divided union membership.

The pitch made then to the rank and file by class-collaborationist union bureaucrats was along the lines of “It won’t hurt your paycheck.” Now two-tier language, in UAW contracts with the Detroit Three since 2007, has been replaced by multi-tier language. The temporaries employed by the Detroit Three, now about 7 to 10 percent of the workforce, are a third tier.

— Martha Grevatt

## SEIU 32BJ members #BuildingJustice



Thousands of Service Employees union (SEIU) 32BJ members held a spirited march and rally through Center City Philadelphia for #BuildingJustice on Sept. 26. Three thousand workers, who clean 120 office buildings across the city, are threatening to strike on Oct. 15 unless the wealthy owners of buildings, such as Comcast, PECO Energy Co. and the chemical manufacturing company FMC Corp., come to an agreement on a new contract.

“Philadelphia shouldn’t just be a city for the rich,” said Alisa Johnson, a cleaner and SEIU 32BJ member, at the rally. “We live and work here too. We are a part of this town too and we deserve living wages, benefits and respect. All we are asking for is for us to be able to take care of our families.”

Despite the largest commercial real estate boom Philadelphia has seen in decades, employers have proposed dramatic cuts to the cleaners’ benefits. Recognizing that most of those jobs are held by African Americans and migrants, SEIU 32BJ President Kyle Bragg said, “We are going to put a dent in Philadelphia’s high poverty rate by making sure that cleaning and building service jobs can truly become middle-class jobs.”

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

## Big pharma + big money = no blame



By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*This commentary was originally posted on prisonradio.org on Sept. 15.*

In recent days, we’ve heard of proposed settlements in civil suits involving big pharmaceutical companies, the very sources of opioid products (like OxyContin®, for example) that have left tens of thousands of people gripped in the hold of addiction.

Similarly, these products have led to tens of thousands of deaths, some 70,000 annually, according to some reports.

No man or woman on death row has come close to such a tally, and no corporate exec, no matter his legal liability, has come even close to such a fate.

This is especially vexing when we consider the ravages of the drug war, which has fueled mass incarceration for decades.

Young men, wearing hoodies and baseball caps turned backwards, engage in retail sales of untaxed drugs in the

ghetto and tenement streets of America. For this they have been attacked by police and federal agents with all the ferocity of war. In fact, it was a war, and people were treated like enemies of the state, and cast into prison for at least decades — some for life.

Enter Big Pharma, which launched drugs upon America on an industrial scale and made billions to boot!

Consider this simple fact: In one year, more Americans have died from corporate opioid products than the number of Americans who died in Vietnam, after 10 years of war!

For retail sellers of drugs, decades in prison await; for wholesale drug merchants, civil suits are the states’ responses.

Since when is the killing of thousands of people a civil tort?

When we witness the parameters of the drug war, we see it had nothing to do with drugs — and everything to do with state repression of the People, those from the ghettos and barrios of America. □

# Brown Berets march against white supremacy

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

The Brown Berets held a National Day of Action across the country on Sept. 28. Events were held from Fresno and Sacramento in California to Chicago, Oklahoma City, Houston and El Paso.

The focus was on white supremacy and solidarity with the families who lost loved ones in the racist killings in El Paso. In each city the seven key points of unity agreed to last summer by La National Mesa de los Brown Berets were read aloud. (See end of article.)

Here in Houston, as the march passed stores and gas stations, chants rang out of “Viva la Raza!” and “Viva Zapata!” People on the streets responded with raised fists: “Que viva!”

Cynthia Rivera read: “Brown Berets, leftist allies and members of our communities have had enough. ... We must unite! The Indigenous people of this land, regardless of what the United States labels us, must come together and fight for our children who today sit in cages. We must fight for our families who today are being ripped apart, fight for our children who today are being shot, not just by white supremacists but by police officers. ... It is time to fight back! Ya basta!”

Moving testimony was given by Janie Torres, the younger sister of Jose Campos Torres, who was beaten senseless by Houston cops in 1976 on Cinco de Mayo and thrown into a bayou to die. “Let’s see

if the w-tb--k can swim,” the cops said.

Revolutionary poetry by Torres’ nephew, Johnny Torres, was warmly welcomed. One poem was based on the Mexican legend of La Llorana, a mother who out of desperation drowned her children and then spent the rest of her life crying and looking for them.

“This is for every Indigenous mother who has lost her child in the crossfire of this war. Our mothers never sleep, they still roam the night, looking for their missing children. ... They can’t fight this war alone. The president terrorist damaged all the mothers’ hearts with one stone. Some people don’t ask about the lost children, but La Llorana does.”

Greetings of solidarity were given by Chiwo Luzolo of the African People’s Socialist Party. Members of the Nation of Islam, the Museo Guadalupe Aztlan and Workers World Party were in attendance.

The names of each person murdered in the El Paso Walmart on Aug. 3 were read, followed by a moment of silence. The rally ended with Milin Andy Cuetzpalin drumming and singing an Indigenous Mexican song asking for strength and protection.

The points of unity of the Brown Berets, per their press release, include:

- “Armed self-defense if necessary to protect our families, our children and our communities from white supremacists.”
- “Education — We are advocating for a real education that teaches the children who they truly are and how enriching their history is. How this is stolen land!



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Houston march, Sept. 28.

How people from Europe invaded this land. How this land was chopped up and sold through a capitalist system and how today the U.S. imperialist nation continues to profit from our labor, our incarceration and even our death because we do NOT have an educational system that is teaching the truth!”

- “Culture — We should not be ashamed of our communities, languages, food, music and artistic impressions. We encourage our communities to express themselves and tell the true story of the Chicana and Chicano community.”
- “Economics — Under capitalism our people have been subjugated and exploited for hundreds of years while serving the white ruling class whose luxuries were bought with our blood. We must

establish a new sustainable economic system that serves the needs of the people and not the desires of a handful of rich people sitting on their hoard of stolen treasure.”

- “Spiritual — We believe in the spiritual ways and practices of our indigenous ancestors. We must boycott and protest leaders of the faith community that support white supremacist policies and the attacks on our people, whether documented or not. This includes support for our LGBTQ+ communities whom for decades have been the target of religious bigots. Ya Basta!”
- “Science/Environmentalism — Mother Earth is under attack. Climate change is real! We believe that unless we play an active role, we as humans will be destroyed. Ya Basta!”
- “Electoral power — Politicians who wish to deny us the rights they are so proud to hold, who still steal from us, and who seek to deny us our humanity must be held accountable for their hypocrisy and inhumanity. If nothing is done, then there is only one solution. REVOLUTION! We have had many great revolutionaries throughout our history. And to quote from Emiliano Zapata, ‘If there is not justice for the people, let there be no peace for the government.’ We call on our allies, from Brown Berets nationwide, to other leftists to unite, organize, and mobilize our gente, to join us in this struggle because we are all in this together.” □

## In NYC, movement declares: Independence for Puerto Rico!



Puerto Rican activists, Sept. 21.

WW PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ

By Teresa Gutierrez  
New York

It is a fact that the oldest colony in the Americas is Puerto Rico. It stands to reason, therefore, that one of the longest resistance struggles against U.S. imperialism is Puerto Rican.

That fact came to life again this year as event after event led to a massive uprising that resulted in toppling the corrupt government of Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

This people’s movement on the island came in the wake of the disastrous consequences of Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island in September 2017. About 3,000 people died in that hurricane, and thousands more became climate refugees as they were forced to flee the island.

The governor’s corruption had been well known, but when leaked chats exposed vile homophobia, misogyny and elitist contempt even for hurricane victims, the people said basta — enough.

This rise in the movement was recently reflected in New York City. A large number of Puerto Ricans have historically resided here, with a rich history of

resistance, including the formation of the inspiring Young Lords in the revolutionary period of the late 1960s and 70s.

On Sept. 21, over 600 Puerto Ricans and their supporters marched under the banner of the Frente Independentista Boricua (Boricua Independence Front) from Columbus Circle to the United Nations.

The Frente is a united coalition comprised of A Call to Action in Puerto Rico, Committees of the Boricua Resistance, ProLibertad, Patria y Cultura, Nationalist Party — Junta de NY and NJ, NY Socialist Front, Comité del PIP de Nueva York, Virtual Boricua, Puerto Rican Workers’ Revolutionary Party (P RTP - Macheteros) and NY Boricua Resistance.

This new umbrella of groups reflects growing unity in the movement and a determination to fight for independence till victory.

Lorraine Liriano Chavez told Workers World: “El Frente Independentista Boricua is committed to the independence of Puerto Rico and will continue to educate, organize and protest. We will support the struggle of our sisters and

*Continued on page 10*

## NYC activists welcome Bolivarian leader

Jorge Arreaza, minister of foreign affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, was greeted with cheers and applause on Sept. 26 as he entered Holyrood Episcopal Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Arreaza spoke at the invitation of the church’s Ministry of Solidarity with the Peoples. The occasion was a welcoming meeting in solidarity with the Venezuelan delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

The event was organized by a broad coalition of anti-war and anti-imperialist organizations to show support for Venezuela as it faces deadly U.S. sanctions and the threat of military intervention. Arreaza described the history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the coups it has backed.

The United States is now trying to get other countries to invade Venezuela after the recent activation of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), also known as the Rio Treaty, by the Organization of American States. A 1947 agreement among many countries of the Americas, including the U.S., the treaty states that an attack against one member is to be considered an attack against all. But it is the U.S. that is attacking Venezuela! Venezuela hasn’t attacked any nation.

Arreaza said other belligerent actions of the U.S. government, along with invoking the TIAR treaty to go after Venezuela, are causing the people of Venezuela to appeal to the people of the U.S. to “stop the war against Venezuela, stop the war against Iran.”



Jorge Arreaza.

He noted that Venezuela is a country full of many riches, including gold, petroleum and other minerals. While it has been oppressed by Britain, Spain and the U.S., “We are going to be completely independent,” Arreaza affirmed.

He noted that Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Venezuela are resisting U.S. economic war, defending their sovereignty and the freedom of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Gail Walker of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, who chaired the meeting, said the Bolivarian Republic is now under the same kind of attack that Cuba has faced. “As we have stood in solidarity with Cuba, we stand in solidarity with Venezuela,” she stated to applause.

Father Luis Barrios, pastor of Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz, gave a warm welcome to the crowd, declaring “La lucha sigue” — the struggle continues. Roger Wareham of the December 12 Movement, who introduced Arreaza, connected the situation in Venezuela to that in Zimbabwe and other countries facing U.S. sanctions.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan



# Climate justice, system cha

*The following is a slightly edited talk given by WW editor Deirdre Griswold at a Sept. 28 forum titled “The Climate Crisis, A Marxist View,” organized by the Boston branch of Workers World Party.*

As you all know by now, a 16-year-old named Greta Thunberg recently crossed the Atlantic by herself on a solar-powered sailboat to dramatize the need to end the world’s dependence on fossil fuels. Her anger helped inspire millions of other young people, who marched all over the world last weekend demanding action to turn back the climate crisis.

This is a global movement, because climate change is global. And it can affect people of all classes. But certainly not to the same extent. The poorest people face dying just for lack of water. They have to endure factory or field work in 115-degree heat with no shade or air conditioning. If they survive one of the terrible storms that are the new normal, like the ones that have devastated Puerto Rico and part of the Bahamas, they see their flimsy homes blown away.

But the better off can jet away from horrible weather, moving from one mansion to another.

Anger has grown around the world, especially toward the United States government and corporations, which have historically contributed by far the most to global warming and have done little to change.

This newly invigorated movement of young people versus climate disaster is very vocal and inspiring. They are the ones who will live long enough to experience this ominous future. But they are up against a system that will pat them on the head and sing their praises while knifing them in the back.

So they must be prepared not only for the effects of climate change, but for the huge political and economic struggle that is needed to turn things around.

## How imperialists ‘opened up’ the world

Let’s go back in history several decades to the period of the early 1990s. It’s not too long ago, but it’s at least a decade before today’s fighters for climate justice were even born. That’s when scientists first began alerting the world to the dangers of climate change.

And it’s also when the promoters of capitalism used their powerful media to trumpet the victory of their system over

the part of the socialist bloc led by the Soviet Union. They were predicting that the end of the Cold War would usher in a period of great world stability and prosperity, led by the self-proclaimed “democratic” capitalist countries of the West.

And they were saying that, with the downfall of the USSR and Eastern Europe, then China, socialist North Korea and Cuba would be next.

At the same time, they were pooh-poohing what climate scientists were telling them about global warming. The propagandists for capitalism were triumphantly declaring the beginning of a new era of “freedom.” But what it really meant was the freedom of the giant corporations to go almost anywhere and exploit the natural resources and the workers of the world.

The imperialist countries, the U.S. foremost among them, then proceeded to “open up” whole areas of the world, like prying open an oyster, to be devoured in one gulp.

And where there was resistance to being “opened up,” the imperialists invented excuses for unending wars, military occupations and so-called “police actions” for control of areas rich in carbon resources like oil and gas, particularly in Southwest Asia and Northern Africa. Think of the wars and attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen — most of which continue to this day.

All this has taken a terrible toll on the planet, but it seldom gets mentioned, including the fact that the Pentagon is the world’s biggest polluter — something our comrade Sara Flounders has written about extensively in Workers World newspaper.

But now that period of triumphalism is over. We’re living in a different time. Confidence in this system has been shattered by many things, including climate change, but also the precarious nature of capitalism itself, with its boom-and-bust cycles. For months now the stock markets have been jittery over an anticipated crash of the global capitalist economy. And investors are particularly worried about the impact of Trump’s trade war with China.

Imagine, the whole U.S. financial structure being dependent on the market in China for U.S. commodities! China used to be one of the very poorest of the large countries in the world. But it had a great



Deirdre Griswold

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

revolution, and that has changed everything. I’ll get back to China again later.

The powers that be — in Marxist terms, the capitalist ruling class — are now trying to stay on top of this dynamic young climate movement that has sprung up. This movement is demanding action now to hold off and hopefully reverse the growing climate disaster — which threatens every living thing on this planet.

Ignorance is not the reason global temperatures are rising. Scientists and scientific agencies have been raising the alarm with the U.S. government for more than 40 years.

That’s how long climate scientists have been meeting with political leaders, briefing them and pleading with them to do something to stop this impending train wreck.

And it has absolutely been proven that the country responsible for the largest accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is the U.S. It is also true that this country has done the most to sabotage and prevent any meaningful international agreements on climate change.

Conference after conference has been held involving many world bodies as the impact of global warming has become ever more alarming. Some 30 years ago, when George H.W. Bush was president, he actually signed into law something called the Global Change Research Act. It established a program to “understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.”

What happened after that? Nothing.

A few fig leaves were pasted on to keep the scientists quiet, but business went on as usual. The fracking industry, which breaks up shale rock deep underground to extract oil and gas, became a new booming business in the U.S. And when Indigenous people and their allies tried to stop the Dakota oil pipeline from crossing their lands, they were violently attacked by local and federal police.

Large marches of hundreds of thousands of people demanding the phasing out of greenhouse gases have come and gone — but the huge energy corporations continue to dominate the political agenda on both a federal and local level. They have blocked any meaningful efforts to limit global warming. They have also conspired to spread outrageous lies in the mass media, pushing climate denial and pooh-poohing environmentalists.

## With disasters, mass movement grows

Climate change has become more and more destructive. Hundreds of thousands

of people around the globe have lost their lives — from drought; from killer hurricanes, cyclones and tornadoes; from landslides and flooding; from raging wildfires. Species are disappearing. Indigenous peoples, who have contributed the least to global warming, are feeling its effects most.

So it was inevitable that a mass movement would eventually take to the streets over this life-and-death question. And it has, with the very young now in the spotlight, after the recent global demonstrations.

In the U.S., the big corporations and financial institutions keep an iron grip on the government and state power in order to guarantee that nothing interferes with their private profit. They see with alarm these changes in mass consciousness. Their response?

They undermine anything that would hurt their profits. But at the same time many give lip service to going green. How many polluting energy companies have added some green or a cute bug or flower to their logos? How many expensive ads have they taken out patting themselves on the back for doing so little?

And then there is the billionaire president of the United States, Donald Trump, who promotes climate denial and has packed his cabinet with the worst polluters. That’s what he should be impeached for!! That and his racism, sexism, bigotry and torture of immigrants.

Of course, he’s an easy target for the progressive movement. But once he’s gone — and he will be gone eventually — the class of billionaires who put him there will still control the economy and the government.

That is, until there’s a huge working-class upsurge, bigger than anything we’ve ever seen in this country. And it’s coming.

What can we do to help develop this upsurge?

## Class unity and social change

We are revolutionaries. We are for the overthrow of this capitalist system, root and branch, and the establishment of a new, socialist order where the working class holds the power and makes the decisions about the economy.

We know that one of the biggest tasks in preparing for any revolutionary movement among the workers is to overcome the divisions that demagogues like Trump use to divide the working class. Every issue he harps on — whether it’s blaming immigrants for the broken-down system of social welfare, or attacking people of



Boston climate protest, Sept. 20.

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

# Change and the working class

color while defending racist, fascist elements like the neo-Nazis — everything is aimed at keeping our class from uniting and fighting billionaires like him.

Why does he focus his anger so much on im/migrants? We should never forget that it was immigrant workers, mostly Latinx, who revived the fighting spirit of May Day back in 2006, when a million demonstrated instead of going to work that day. That scared the pants off the bosses. Immigrants have been organizing low-wage workers all over this country, showing what real unions can do. Trump wants vulnerable whites to blame immigrants for their problems, instead of uniting with immigrants to fight their real enemy: the bosses.

By the way, many of the migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. and in Europe are doing so because their home countries have been devastated by imperialist wars, by right-wing repressive governments put in power by the imperialists — and by climate change, which is already making vast areas of the world uninhabitable, from Central America to central Africa.

And when Trump isn't blaming China for the loss of jobs here, he's blaming the environmental movement for the layoffs of coal miners and other workers in polluting industries. We can't let Trump and his ilk make a show of bonding with coal miners who are losing their jobs. We have to demand that any program for cleaning up the environment must include a guarantee of jobs and retraining for any workers who are displaced.

We also need to point out that the coal companies which have pulled out of Appalachia and left mining families struggling to survive didn't just fold their businesses. They started laying off thousands of coal miners when they discovered that mountaintop removal was cheaper and required less human labor than underground mining. And many of these U.S. coal companies also moved their operations to Australia and other countries where they could rake in even bigger profits.

The environmental movement has in the past been regarded as mainly a middle-class movement, not a working-class movement. In fact, demagogues like Trump claim to be friends of workers who could lose their jobs in a green economy.

That's ludicrous coming from this boss who became famous on television for firing people. But we have to remember this very important fact: Many workers in this country are having a really rough time. Even as the costs of housing and education and health care have soared, and the incomes of the super-rich have hit the stratosphere, real wages for workers have declined and many newer jobs are just part-time and extremely precarious gigs.

So the first consideration for many workers is: Will I have a job? How can I think about what might happen to the planet tomorrow when I have to think about paying my bills today? About putting food on the table today.

## Make the bosses pay, not the workers!

In the climate justice movement, we have to struggle for solutions that don't put the financial burden on the working class. Can we be for a carbon tax, for example? It's the billionaires who got us into this mess. They must pay, not the workers.

But the problem has now become so huge that these so-called "solutions" to the climate crisis are totally inadequate,



Global Climate Strike march, New York City, Sept. 20.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

less than a bandaid on a gaping wound. And that's why, in recent years, slogans for "System change, not climate change" and signs that denounce capitalism have become increasingly popular, especially with young people.

Is it so difficult to guarantee coal miners that they will get help finding other jobs, and thereby win them over to the need to shut down the coal mines? China didn't think so. It did close down most of its coal mines, and it did help the miners resettle and be retrained for new jobs.

So let's talk about China and what it has been able to accomplish in greening the environment.

But first, let's dispel some of the lies about China's record on combating climate change.

We hear again and again that China is the world's worst polluter. What's completely left out of the equation is that China is the world's most populous country. When you look at greenhouse gas emissions per person, China drops to number 16 in the world, not number one.

What are the top polluting countries per person? Saudi Arabia, which has a very small population, Australia and the U.S., which continues to contribute the lion's share of global emissions per capita.

But there's another huge factor that must be considered in order to evaluate what China has to do to be sustainable. China is now the world's largest exporter of manufactured goods. U.S. corporations have moved a lot of their factory production to China and other countries where wages are lower. That is the main reason that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as a whole are now slightly below China's. But per capita, the U.S. emissions are still almost four times those of China.

Reducing emissions requires the ability to plan and control production, which China can do, and a capitalist country like the U.S. just can't do.

If a profit can be made from something, big business will go for it. If that something also helps the environment, the bosses will be sure to get the government to throw them some extra money. But capitalist business is driven by the bottom line — by how much profit can be made. There is no meaningful planning for the future. Each day corporate

decisions have to be made to please the investors and stockholders, or the company is allowed to die and the capital behind it goes elsewhere.

## Economic planning is the key

It is impossible to reverse the momentum toward disaster without economic planning.

In order to have sustainable development, a country has to have a plan for its economy. There are only a few countries today with planned economies, i.e., socialist economies. Most notable are China and Cuba. Cuba's tremendous achievements in sustainability are well known. But what about China?

People's China is not capitalist. It is a socialist country born out of a great, earth-shaking revolution. It started out extremely poor and underdeveloped. But after much internal struggle, the leading Communist Party in recent decades has allowed capitalist enterprises to operate there in order to stimulate the growth of its economy. Since then, according to the World Bank, China has lifted more than 850 million people out of extreme poverty — more than two and a half times the entire population of the U.S.

It is now a much more powerful and developed country. And while this development of capitalist relations within China has brought significant internal problems, it has not overwhelmed the state, which continues to be controlled by the Communist Party, a party with 90 million members. What this means is that Chinese economic development, especially the infrastructure, continues to be centrally planned, which accounts for its enormous successes.

It is not the U.S. but China that now leads the world in scientific-technological development. By 2016, China exceeded the U.S. in the number of scientific papers released, according to the Nature Index. China develops five-year plans for economic development with built-in mechanisms to reduce greenhouse emissions.

These plans are not wish lists. They are carried through, and they have made a huge dent in pollution. China leads the world in production of solar panels — one of the imports now taxed heavily by the Trump administration. It is electrifying

its cities and has become the world's biggest producer of electric cars.

But we are still left with a world that is mostly ruled by capitalists and that is headed toward even greater destruction.

The great thing about the growth of a movement is that it shows there is hope — that we don't have to accept a fate that would mean the end of everything. No matter how dire the situation is, we can't give in to pessimism. Changing conditions do change people's consciousness, and that new consciousness is moving in the direction of revolution against the powers that be.

There is an historical analogy I want to bring up. It's a grim one, but it shows how great disasters can be the spur to needed social change.

In the 14th century, from 1347 to 1351, Europe was ravaged by the bubonic plague.

In just those four years, one-third of Europe's population at the time — some 25 million people — died of the plague. This terrible disease had already wiped out a similar proportion of the peoples of East and Southeast Asia.

Europe had been stagnant for centuries under the oppressive system of feudalism. But so many people of all classes, especially the peasants, died from the plague that the manor system, the structure of feudalism, fell apart.

It must have seemed like the end of the world. But many of those who survived left the manors, looking for work. And because there was such a shortage of laborers, they were able to demand higher wages. It was the beginning of the end for feudalism. Eventually, upheavals brought to power a new class system, capitalism, which revolutionized the means of production and produced the working class on a world scale.

We are faced now with a tremendous existential crisis, even bigger than the plague. We shouldn't underestimate the suffering it will bring. But we cannot lapse into despair and passivity. Let it be the spur to a revolutionary transfer of power to this great worldwide working class, which must take place if we are to bring human economic activity into harmony with life on our beautiful planet. □

# Scapegoating the homeless for climate crisis

By Judy Greenspan  
Bay Area, Calif.

Two weeks ago, when President Donald Trump flew to California for two days to fundraise for his election campaign, his trip was shrouded in secrecy. No one knew until the last minute where he was going to be. Yet in that short amount of time, Trump was able to attack and scapegoat poor and homeless people in San Francisco and Los Angeles with racist and false allegations.

One of the first statements out of Trump’s mouth when he returned to Washington, D.C., was that the homeless population of San Francisco was responsible for pollution, and they had to be stopped. He said he would direct the Environmental Protection Agency to cite the city of San Francisco for violating environmental rules by allowing homeless people to dump their “used needles” in storm drains leading to the ocean. This president, who pulled out of the Paris Agreement on climate change last year, is suddenly concerned about pollution and environmental damage!

Needless to say, Trump’s comments

were met by a firestorm of anger from San Francisco’s environmental and homeless activists and even elected officials. David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, said, “Trump has less standing to complain about pollution and homelessness than pretty much anybody, since his administration is actively gutting the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws that protect us all from pollution.” (mercurynews.com, Sept. 19)

Save the Bay and three other local environmental organizations have just filed a major lawsuit against Trump’s EPA to save California’s wetlands, which have been stripped of protection by Trump.

If Trump had done his homework, he would have learned that the Bay Area has one of the safest and most effective water systems in the country, which filters out all solids before sewage waters reach the bay. According to San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Trump’s claims are ridiculous. He told the Mercury News that “absolutely no debris flows out into the Bay or the ocean.”

Homeless advocates also attacked Trump’s comments. Advocates point

out that homelessness has been increasing much faster than services. It is well known that housing costs have skyrocketed in the Bay Area, so that most working people, even those with two incomes in their family, cannot afford to live in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley or nearby communities.

Lack of real affordable housing is the main reason for homelessness. While Bay Area mayors were incensed with Trump’s anti-homeless remarks, their administrations have been part of the attacks on homeless communities. Throughout the Bay Area, homeless encampments have been taken down and destroyed by the police; homeless people are cited and arrested for sleeping outside; and people’s cars and RVs are routinely ticketed and towed. Bay Area mayors, while administering poorly funded services to the homeless community, have received major contributions from developers and business interests.

Homelessness is a crisis of monumental proportions in California, perhaps the wealthiest state in the country. Trump visited the rich while he was here and



Homeless in San Francisco.

used his visit to viciously attack some of the most vulnerable of the working class — the homeless population.

Save the Bay’s Director Lewis said it clearly in a statement to the media: “The way to reduce the impacts from homeless encampments is to reduce homelessness.”

In other words, people need homes. Clearly the capitalist system does not have solutions to the environmental or the homeless crisis. Socialism, a system that puts people’s needs before company profits, is the only system that can provide homes for everyone and save the Earth. □

## While rate of abortion declines

# Title X gag rule will only increase need for abortion

*Bulletin: A poll released Sept. 30 by Hart Research Associates shows that about two-thirds (62 percent) of voters nationally believe Medicaid should cover abortion as part of comprehensive reproductive health care. In some congressional districts, support for Medicaid coverage of abortion is stronger, with 7 in 10 voters favoring it. Congress passed the Hyde Amendment banning Medicaid coverage of abortion in 1976. This is a monumental shift in the struggle to overturn the ban, headed by young women of color, particularly All\* Above All, and supported by the entire reproductive justice movement.*

By Sue Davis

The Guttmacher Institute issued a report Sept. 18 that the rate of abortion in the U.S. declined 8 percent between 2014 and 2017. It’s now at an historic low since abortion was legalized in 1973.

Despite abortion foes’ passage of hundreds of state restrictions during those years, the institute concluded that such laws were not the main reason for the decrease. Rather increased use of contraceptives accounted for the decrease, especially long-acting reversible birth control methods, free under the Affordable Care Act as essential preventive health care.

Guttmacher issued a statement in honor of Sept. 26, World Contraception Day, stating that the “vast number of unintended pregnancies, in both the U.S. and abroad, are among people who are either not using any contraception or are using it inconsistently.” However, it noted that 91 percent of U.S. women are dissatisfied with many methods of contraception, citing side effects and lack of sexual pleasure.

The institute stressed that “attempts to ‘reduce abortion’ through coercive restrictions are a direct violation of people’s dignity, bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.”

Guttmacher reported a 25 percent increase in medication abortions, which accounted for 39 percent of all abortions under clinical supervision. The Food and Drug Administration approved the

two-abortion-pill regimen in 2000. The first pill, mifepristone, blocks pregnancy-enabling hormones; the second, misoprostol, causes uterine contractions. While the first pill is tightly controlled and only dispensed with a physician’s prescription, the second is sold over the counter in many countries, including Mexico. When both pills are taken during pregnancies up to 10 weeks, they are 98 percent effective. The second taken alone is 80 percent effective.

Meanwhile, access to abortion varied based on regions and states. The number of clinics declined in the Midwest by 6 percent and in the South by 9 percent, while the number increased in the Northeast by 16 percent and the West by 9 percent. Some 89 percent of U.S. counties have no clinics that provide abortion services, imposing hardships for 38 percent of reproductive-age women (15-44) living there.

Guttmacher noted an increase in self-managed abortions, reported by nonhospital clinics — from 12 percent in 2014 to 18 percent in 2017. However, the authors concluded that it was “unlikely that an increase in self-managed abortion could account for most of the national decline in abortion incidence during this study period.”

A Sept. 20 New York Times article, “Why America’s abortion rate might be higher than it appears” speculated that the decline in clinically supervised medical and surgical abortions is due to the “invisible” increase in self-managed care. “You can go online,” said Abigail R.A. Aiken, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, “and you can fill out a form and you can get this safe and effective technology delivered to your home.”

Aid Access, a service set up by a Dutch doctor, offers online counseling by a doctor along with mail-order pills. The service reported 21,000 requests for self-induced abortions last year. Plan C, which provides how-to information about self-managed medical abortions, reports about 40,000 visitors a month. Social media is spreading the word of how to protect privacy, lower costs and help prevent shame with self-managed care.

### ‘When contraception is limited, more unintended pregnancies’

The reactionary, racist, misogynous Trump-Pence administration aimed to reduce access to abortion by exercising state power over reproductive health care for 4 million low-income women and gender-oppressed people, predominantly people of color, youth, rural residents, immigrants, people with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence.

By significantly adulterating the rules for Title X of the Public Health Services Act — passed in 1970 during the Nixon era — the revamped regulations, which went into effect on Aug. 19, do not allow providers enrolled in the Title X program to conduct abortions alongside their other services or to offer patients abortion referrals.

The primary target of what is popularly referred to as the “domestic gag rule” is Planned Parenthood, which has been the largest private provider of essential reproductive health services like contraception, testing for cancers, treating sexually transmitted infections and abortions. Planned Parenthood stood up to the Trump-Pence assault by opting out of Title X on Aug. 19.

As part of the administration’s reactionary agenda, it opened up participation in Title X to religious-based groups, which disapprove of most methods of birth control and do not offer comprehensive reproductive health care. The administration also promotes so-called “conscience clauses,” under the guise of religious freedom, so health care providers can deny certain services, such as pharmacists refusing to dispense emergency contraception. A Sept. 19 Rewire News article noted that “when contraception access is limited, there are more unintended pregnancies.”

Trump’s misnamed Department of Health and Human Services has increased funding for abstinence-only programs (now referred to as “sexual risk avoidance”) and only sanctions sexual expression in opposite-sex marriage. The DHHS defines methods of birth control by their failure rates and demonizes abortion as causing lifelong emotional and physical

harm. However, the American Journal of Public Health reports that in conservative states abstinence-only education actually increased teen pregnancies.

### Appeals court hears arguments on gag rule

Eleven judges in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 23 in San Francisco heard arguments requesting a preliminary injunction against the gag rule, brought by 23 states and a number of reproductive rights organizations, including Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union’s Reproductive Freedom Project.

The Sept. 24 Rewire News reported that government lawyers tried to downplay the consequences of the Title X changes. They argued that of all Title X grantees, only 18 have left the program, representing 20 percent of providers. However, Planned Parenthood, which refused to accept the new regulations, provides about 40 percent of all Title X’s services.

Countering government arguments, Ruth Harlow, ACLU senior staff attorney in its RFP, stated that five states are no longer in the Title X program, and Title X funding has ended completely or has funding gaps in 28 states. More than 500 Title X service sites have closed. Harlow stressed that the consequences of the gag rule are still being revealed. Other lawyers for the plaintiffs focused on the harm the gag rule was causing, including higher fees and long delays in obtaining services.

In accordance with a 1991 Supreme Court ruling, agency decision making must be “reasoned and rational rather than arbitrary and capricious” based on the full administrative record. But even government lawyers had to concede that such a record did not exist at this time. A ruling is expected in several weeks.

Obviously, if the court rules in favor of a temporary injunction, that will go a long way to restoring reproductive health services to 4 million low-income people. But if it doesn’t, then those who support reproductive justice will need to raise holy hell. □



# Workers march to end climate crisis

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

That climate crisis is a workers’ issue was emphatically affirmed by the IndustriALL Global Union when it called on all affiliates to take part in the September Global Climate Strike actions.



PHOTO: KAREN HAMMER  
Environmental activist Darryl E. Jordan (Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Council) on the left and FCA UAW worker, Erin Kennedy, on the right, demonstrating outside GM world headquarters September 27.

IndustriALL represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors, giving it the power to challenge multinational companies on a global level.

Founded in 2012, the organization brought together former worldwide union federations and affiliates of the International Metalworkers’ Federation; the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions; and the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers’ Federation.

In issuing a global call on Sept. 19, IndustriALL’s general secretary, Valter Sanches, stated: “The climate crisis is real, it is urgent, and it is a threat to working people and communities. The crisis has social and economic dimensions, not just environmental ones. The bridge to a sustainable future and a stable climate is a Just Transition that protects workers, their families, and the communities that depend on them.” ([tinyurl.com/y3vcbt3c](https://tinyurl.com/y3vcbt3c))

Beyond participation in Climate Strike week, IndustriALL recommended actions affiliates can take, like putting pressure on companies responsible for global warming to pay for remediation and a sustainable transition for workers and communities.

Other unions, trades councils and federations from around the world declared their support for the climate actions, including those in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and the U.S. The South African Federation of Trade Unions and the Federation of Unions of South Africa, together representing 1.3 million workers, signed on.

Eight U.S.-based unions endorsed local participation in the Climate Strike, including the Service Employees union (SEIU), representing nearly 1.9 million members; the Massachusetts Teachers Association; and United Electrical Workers (UE). The UE members joined Warehouse Workers For Justice in Chicago at a Sept. 20 rally to support Amazon tech workers who walked out to protest the company’s giant carbon footprint.

Labor participated in force in New York City’s Sept. 20 march of a quarter of a million people, including 1199 SEIU, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance,



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL  
NYC march, Sept. 21.



Amazon workers, Seattle.

the Communication Workers, the New York State Nurses Association and the Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York.

On Sept. 27, rank-and-file autoworkers joined with Detroit environmental activists to rally outside General Motors’ world headquarters and express solidarity with the worldwide climate strike and with GM workers striking in the U.S. □

## Global climate strikes—Earth crisis arouses millions

Continued from page 1

prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015. Her death was linked to U.S.-trained Honduran special forces. Cáceres was opposing an internationally funded hydroelectric dam. (See “Behind the murder of Berta Cáceres,” WW, March 19, 2017.)

The Sept. 27 Global Climate Strike actions swept from Sweden to Morocco to Canada, from New Zealand to India to Italy. In Argentina, people marched in Buenos Aires to the Plaza de Mayo, location of historic resistance to oppression in that country. Around the rim of the imperiled Amazon, rainforest people demonstrated in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

### U.S. part of global actions

In the U.S., there were many determined rallies across the country, typified by two actions that took place on the East Coast and the West Coast.

In Atlanta, more than 200 people marched Sept. 27 in a militant demonstration calling for immediate solutions to the climate crisis. The group Extinction Rebellion chanted and took over streets, concentrating first on the Buckhead Business District, the ritziest

part of city. After blocking traffic and taking arrests there, they moved on to the Midtown Business District. Once again they blocked a major intersection, taking 19 arrests in all. The youthful multinational group kept up their spirited action on a day with a record heat level in the high 90s.

On Sept. 25, climate strike activists closed down the main streets in the San Francisco Financial District and blocked entrances to major banks. Carrying signs and banners and chanting, “People, yes! Profits, no! Big Oil has got to go!” they shut down Wells Fargo, Chase Manhattan, Citibank and Bank of America for several hours. Seven people were arrested for blocking all the doors and driveways of Wells Fargo, one of the biggest financial supporters of Big Oil.

Workers World Party participated in and helped organize a march from one of the blocked street intersections to a local Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters. Led by QUIT (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism), the group blocked the driveway used by ICE buses and strongly made the connection between the climate crisis and intensifying attacks on im/migrants.

On Sept. 27, hundreds of young people and their supporters picketed at the gates of Chevron’s corporate headquarters in San Ramon, Calif., in the San Francisco Bay Area. The young demonstrators not only called for Chevron to stop using fossil fuel, the youth demanded that Chevron stop poisoning the air and endangering the lives of poor communities of color surrounding their plants. Many banners held Chevron responsible for funding and profiting from wars for oil around the world.

A delegation of Youth Vs. the Apocalypse, the main organizer of the event, was invited behind the gates to meet with Chevron officials. The delegation reported back that, unsurprisingly, Chevron would not make any

commitment to stop producing fossil fuel or polluting the air in poor communities around the bay.

Also contributing to this article were Kathy Durkin, Judy Greenspan and Jimmy Raynor.



WW PHOTO: JIMMY RAYNOR  
On the way to Atlanta’s Midtown Business District, Sept. 27.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN  
Closing the street, San Francisco Financial District, Sept. 25.



PHOTO: UNITED NATIONS  
Autumn Peltier (Wikwemikong) addresses the U.N. General Assembly on World Water Day, March 22, 2018.

**“Unnatural Disasters”**  
**Workers World articles on the climate crisis, 2001–12**  
**Available at [tinyurl.com/y5y6nhwh/](https://tinyurl.com/y5y6nhwh/)**



# Biden’s time in Ukraine

That Joe Biden’s interaction with Ukrainian leaders has become a central question in the attempt to impeach the well-hated Donald Trump should mislead no one about the former vice president’s virtues. Biden is a faithful servant of U.S. imperialism, and nowhere was that more clear than with his role intervening in and interfering with Ukraine’s politics to benefit U.S. finance capital.

The establishment magazine, *Foreign Affairs*, made this clear in an Oct. 30, 2016, article: “No one in the U.S. government has wielded more influence over Ukraine than Vice President Joe Biden.” The article even called Biden “the Obama administration’s point person on Ukraine policy.”

At the time Biden worked in tandem with Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of state when the U.S. boosted the anti-Russian grouping in Ukraine leading up to the “Maidan revolution” there. Victoria Nuland, the State Department’s agent in Ukraine, boasted that the U.S. poured \$5 billion into subverting Ukrainian politics in that period.

Biden’s role was to rally support for the regime in Kiev against Russia and the regions in eastern Ukraine that rebelled against the U.S.-backed, right-wing regime. It was in his hands to withhold aid if the competing forces in the new Ukrainian regime strayed from serving U.S. corporate and strategic interests.

The 2016 *Foreign Affairs* article noted Biden’s “long track record of promoting a robust American role in Eastern Europe — from supporting NATO’s enlargement to pushing for U.S. military intervention in the Balkans in the 1990s.”

In other words, Biden was, and is, an imperialist politician, with a record of supporting U.S. and NATO expansion eastward, and he took an active part in U.S. warmaking, subversion and political intervention. From 2014 to 2016, Biden acted as an old-time colonial governor for the U.S. in Ukraine. He got the new government a \$17.5 billion International Monetary Fund package and guided the reorganization of the gas industry and the police force there.

He oversaw privatization and austerity in service to finance capital, including raising the retirement age for workers. He helped introduce fracking. His son Hunter Biden became an executive in the gas production company, Burisma Holdings.

Trump tried to show that Biden threatened the Ukraine’s leaders to serve the narrow interests of his family. That’s the kind of corruption Trump understands. It is no less a crime against the Ukrainian people, however, to threaten that country’s leaders into imposing policies serving the general interests of U.S. monopoly capitalism. □

## Bigot Trump’s real crimes

*Continued from page 1*

have attempted to use against this president have been those most isolated from the working class and people facing oppression.

First, they investigated POTUS’s relations with the Russian president, attempting to link him with aiding Trump’s election. That failed.

Now the impeachment charges involve Trump’s attempt to use a U.S.-installed Ukrainian regime against Biden, one of the more likely Democratic candidates for president next year.

The first year of the Trump administration brought smiles to the faces of the ruling class as he cut taxes for the rich and the corporations and opened up new areas of the Earth to the wanton exploitation of natural resources. Now they are smiling less. Business is shaky, and the boast to “make [U.S.] America great again” has cost the U.S. strategically and economically.

Impeachment seems possible, perhaps also to Trump, who exploded against those Democrats attacking him. In his usual blatantly racist style, he called those Democrats heading the House investigation against him “savages,” singling out Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and the rest of “the Squad,” plus Adam Schiff and Jerrold Nadler — four women of color and two Jewish men. The president also hinted that his impeachment might bring on a civil war.

These verbal crimes are worthy of a mass mobilization to get rid of the president. But what’s really needed is not a legal maneuver that replaces blatant Trump with subservient Mike Pence, but one that sweeps out the whole racist, bigoted, money-grubbing gang. □

## In NYC, movement declares: Independence for Puerto Rico!

*Continued from page 5*

brothers in the archipelago. We recognize that our struggle for liberation is within a larger framework of justice against capitalism and imperialism. Our solidarity with working-class communities in the U.S., Latin America, Africa and Asia is paramount to our liberation.”

Also for the Frente, Ana M. Lopez told WW: “Our former political prisoners that participated in the march and rally on Sept. 21 were by and large living or born in the U.S. They dedicated their lives for the independence of Puerto Rico. Already two-thirds of our people live in the U.S., thus we are the engine within the ‘belly of

the beast’ that will bring our decolonization and freedom at last.”

Another Frente organizer Nephyr Rodriguez added, “It was evident, the growing number of youths that participated demonstrating great pride in their identities of being Puerto Rican.” He continued, “These youth are supporting our right to have a free and independent nation.”

The Frente is not stopping after this successful march. On Oct. 5, the movement will hold the Third Peoples’ Assembly from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Overthrow, 256 Grand Street, Brooklyn.

These assemblies mirror the peoples’ assemblies that emerged after the

toppling of Gov. Rosselló. Spurred by the victory of bringing down a corrupt governor, the people of Puerto Rico are now holding serious discussions throughout the island of what’s next to keep the movement going through these peoples’ assemblies.

It is clear that no corrupt government, no hurricane, no U.S. imperialism can stop the yearning of the Puerto Rico people for independence. Si se puede! □



Former political prisoner, Oscar Rivera, second from left, with Workers World Party members Marsha Goldberg, Teresa Gutierrez and Richard Kossally at Sept. 21 rally.

## Haitians demand president leave

By G. Dunkel

Beginning in the middle of September, tens of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets in the capital, Port au Prince, as well as in Saint-Marc (Artibonite), Cap Haïtien (northern Haiti), Jacmel and Cayes (southern Haiti) and Gonaïves (central), in a boiling rage demanding President Jovenel Moïse leave office.

Even after the police used live ammunition to disperse the protests and admitted to killing six people, thousands have stayed in the streets. A group of Haitian exiles in Montreal (Le Regroupement des

Haïtiens de Montréal contre l’Occupation d’Haïti) cites sources estimating that the cops have killed dozens of Haitians and wounded hundreds.

Starting early in 2018, Haitians began looking around their neighborhoods for any concrete results from the \$4.3 billion that Venezuela had provided to Haiti in low-cost loans covering oil sales from Petrocaribe. They didn’t find any. They began asking: “Kot Kòb Petwo Karibe a?” (“Where is the Petrocaribe money?”)

Two massive national demonstrations last October and November protested government corruption and huge price hikes for fuel. This year, protests and demonstrations, strikes, petitions and public meetings have focused on the severe gas shortage, combined with double-digit inflation and unemployment.

The lack of a government budget for over two years, along with widespread strikes demanding unpaid wages — from hospitals to the courts, from tax offices to local government agencies — have left

Haitians hungrier and angrier. Scarcity of fuel means less food in the markets and less electricity.

### Haiti erupts in protest in late September

The protesters in the streets made it clear that they blamed President Moïse. And they were more than willing to take on those who support him.

Sen. Jean Marie Ralph Fethière of Moïse’s party — called the Party of Bald Headed Haitians (PHTK) — was confronted by demonstrators while leaving Parliament on Sept. 23. He drew his pistol, firing into the air and then the ground. A parliamentary security guard was shot in the stomach and a well-known Associated Press photographer was hit in the cheek.

Demonstrators later surrounded the Parliament and disrupted its proceedings by pounding on lampposts with rocks and chanting. Some even managed to slip into the building and confront the parliamentarians directly.

While the cops were killing demonstrators, there were also reports of police stations being sacked. Vant Bèf, a Haitian internet news service, reported on Sept. 27 that a police station in

Saint-Marc was occupied by demonstrators, who took arms, bullet-proof vests, shields and office supplies.

On Sept. 28, when protesters seized the police station in Cité Soleil, the poorest neighborhood in Port au Prince, they took not only what was inside the building but also its tin roof, according to a video shown on France’s TV5. In Delmas and Carrefour, both better-off neighborhoods, there was some looting, car windows were smashed and a few were burned. The supermarket Rois des Rois, a short distance from the National Palace, was also looted and burned. In Cap Haïtien, the cops armed vigilantes who shot up demonstrators who were demanding the resignation and imprisonment of Moïse.

On Facebook and YouTube, some of the protests in Haiti have been covered in real time with uncensored interviews. While everyone wanted Moïse to leave, a number of protesters raised the issue of the Haitian bourgeoisie’s support of foreign intervention, the lack of education, health care, the need for jobs and security, and the right to protest peacefully.

The spirit of the people comes across in

*Continued on page 11*



Port-au-Prince, Sept. 28.



## WW Commentary

## Astronomical imperialism!

## Part 2

By Janet Mayes

Part 1 ran in the Sept. 26 issue of *Workers World newspaper*. Read the entire article online at [workers.org](http://workers.org).

Contemporary scientists and the public are fascinated by the possible existence of life on other planets and their satellites, and have built huge telescopes that examine the origin of the universe by peering backward in time. Moon landings and stories about projected colonies on and beyond Mars stimulate people's imaginations.

## Astronomical science age-old

However, in reality, astronomical science has been around ever since humans looked skyward. For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples in what is now "Australia," have handed down through storytelling their knowledge about the constellations to accurately predict the seasons, when to plant and more. Pacific Islanders navigated the Pacific Ocean by the stars, passing down their knowledge through song from generation to generation.

Ancient and Indigenous peoples studied the stars for timekeeping, designing calendars and predicting eclipses. These include the East African peoples of Nomoratunga, the Sumerians and Akkadians of ancient Mesopotamia, the Minoans, Indus Valley peoples and peoples living in China as early as 3,000 BCE.

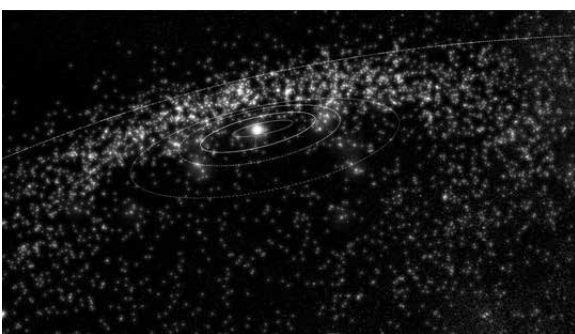
In the Western Hemisphere, the Aztecs developed a complex calendar and the Incas used their knowledge of astronomy in agriculture. For the Papago Indigenous of Arizona, Sicangu Oyate Lakota and other Indigenous peoples, their knowledge of the skies played a major part in agriculture and other essential areas of their lives.

Astronomical developments occurred in the Muslim world, as early as the 9th century CE, in the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, mostly written in Arabic. Ulugh Beg, a 15th century Muslim sultan, known for his precise astronomical measurements, built in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the largest observatory in Central Asia at the time.

In 1609, Galileo perfected the telescope and proved that Copernicus was right: The earth revolves around the sun. The Vatican found him "suspect of heresy" and put him under house arrest for life.

In another example of science for its own sake, scientists recently substantiated Einstein's theory of general relativity using the Keck Observatory, Gemini Observatory and Subaru Telescope in Hawai'i.

Historically, however, astronomical science has not always advanced scientific knowledge, but has been harnessed for warfare, plundering and colonizing. In 1504, Columbus successfully threatened Indigenous people of Xaymaca with a lunar eclipse, predicted by his mariner's



Asterank's database lists over 600,000 asteroids. Using that information, Asterank, owned by Planetary Resources, explains, "[W]e can estimate the costs and rewards of mining asteroids."

almanac, unless they provided food for his crew. British colonialists renamed the island Jamaica.

European conquerors steered their ships using celestial navigation. Right after Galileo perfected the telescope, he showed the Doge (leader) of Venice how to identify enemy ships 10 times farther away than they previously could.

"Accessory to War: The Unspoken Alliance Between Astrophysics and the Military," a book written by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and historian Avis Lang, chronicles the historical use of astronomy for war and conquest up to the present day.

## The space 'Gold Rush'

Between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter lies the asteroid belt replete with precious metals, including iron, nickel, gold, cobalt and platinum. Tyson suggests the first trillionaire will be an asteroid miner. Space mining companies, including Planetary Resources, estimate the asteroid Davida is worth \$100 trillion, over five times the U.S. gross domestic product.

How will countries and private asteroid prospecting companies get there? When split into hydrogen and oxygen, water becomes rocket fuel. So, the first order of business is to mine for water on the moon, eventually using it as a launching pad for reaching nearby water-laden asteroids from which to travel farther. According to Science Focus, Planetary Resources aims "to bake the water out of these rocks, turning them into Space Age petrol stations." ([tinyurl.com/y4pebs7w](http://tinyurl.com/y4pebs7w)) Not to mention plucking water from the icy rocks in Saturn's rings.

However, the biggest payload is nearby and plentiful for the scooping. Lunar dust, the upper layer of the moon's regolith (layer of unconsolidated rocky material covering bedrock), abounds in helium-3, an estimated 1 million tons. When brought to Earth and processed, it is theorized that 25 percent of lunar helium-3 might provide an alternative clean energy source for the entire Earth for five centuries. It is valued at an estimated \$5 billion a ton.

## Companies vie for riches

Among the companies vying for the booty are Moon Express and NanoRacks. Some have partnered with

the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to stake out claims starting in 2020.

The British-based Asteroid Mining Corporation, after touting its benign motives, boasts: "[W]e will also gain a much deeper understanding about humans as a species and as a civilisation [sic], finding answers to ... questions, such as 'Are we alone in the Universe?' and get incredibly rich in the process." ([tinyurl.com/y58jpvzf](http://tinyurl.com/y58jpvzf)) The company predicts asteroids will be mined by 2030.

Britain, France, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg and Russia are also in the space race. These countries, along with China and North Korea, are parties to the Outer Space Treaty that covers cooperation and peaceful utilization of space. It forbids national appropriation of celestial bodies but allows a state to maintain jurisdiction over a space object. The treaty does not protect against space tourism, estimated by Swiss bank UBS to be worth \$805 billion by 2030, nor does it cover mining by private and public entities.

It is not surprising that China and North Korea have developed sophisticated space programs for their own economic and strategic protection. Their leaders know the U.S. history of breaking treaties, going back to the plundering of Indigenous lands and resources, and are quite cognizant of corporations' financial motives and imperialist governments' military and strategic goals.

Because China has now landed two rovers on the moon, with the third scheduled for December 2019, Washington has ratcheted up funding to establish dominance over the moon as quickly as possible. Some corporate profiteers may be concerned that China is exploring the potential of obtaining helium-3 to make it available on Earth before Western companies and governments can obtain the gas and reap mega-profits from its sale—and predominate on the moon to protect their assets.

## Billionaires invest in space ventures

Billionaire Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, has invested in multimillion-dollar space ventures. His SpaceX ticket to the moon is estimated to cost \$35 million. His company recently signed a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA to facilitate space settlement and travel to Mars. In preparation for Hurricane Dorian, SpaceX coordinated with its partners at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Kennedy Space Center to protect its facilities there.

Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg is on the board of Starshot, whose mission is to reach Alpha Centauri within a generation. Alpha Centauri is the closest planetary system to the solar system — 4.37 light-years or 25.7 trillion miles from the Sun.

Other billionaires who have invested millions of dollars in space ventures include Amazon owner Jeff Bezos, who established the Blue Origin company; Richard Branson, whose spaceflight company Virgin Galactic is part of the Virgin Group; and Google co-founder, Larry Page, backer of the space-mining company Planetary Resources. They make massive investments in these projects rather than pay decent salaries to the workers whose labor they exploit to make them rich.

In June, NASA announced it will open the International Space Station to non-NASA employees to conduct "commercial and marketing activities" to fund ongoing missions on the station. Boeing and SpaceX are slated to replace Russian-made rockets that currently carry

astronauts to the station at \$82 million a seat.

## Profiteers plan to plunder solar system

To mine for extraterrestrial gold, private companies are setting their sights on exerting dominance over the moon and other areas of space, as so-called "explorers" plundered and grabbed Indigenous lands around the globe. Employing well-funded research and development, they are mapping out areas to occupy, first on the moon and then on Mars. Their sights are far-ranging, perhaps extending to establishing societies on a moon of Jupiter or Saturn. The history of rampant imperialist ecological destruction precludes the preservation of these solar bodies.

Shockingly, Musk has advocated exploding nuclear bombs on Martian poles to chemically warm its atmosphere for human habitation. (Business Insider, 2019)

Martin Elvis, astrophysicist, and Tony Mulligan, philosopher, propose, in the September issue of *Acta Astronautica*, that humans use up only one-eighth of the resources available in the solar system — i.e., for ownership and plundering, with the rest set aside as "wilderness." ([tinyurl.com/y5qrz6v8](http://tinyurl.com/y5qrz6v8)) But the historical encroachment on U.S. public lands shows how profiteers will grab any land they can to make super-profits.

## No corporate land grabs anywhere!

Environmental exploiter-in-chief Trump issued a proclamation that opened over 2 million acres of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah for corporate mining and drilling in December 2017. A long-time struggle by five Native nations won national monument status for the park to protect Indigenous cultural sites in 2016. These nations, joined by scientific organizations, conservation groups and others are legally contesting Trump's action.

It is intriguing to imagine possible life on exoplanets and their moons which could be in the habitable "Goldilocks zone" — meaning not too hot and not too cold. The newest, projected telescopes are well-equipped to locate such entities for future settlements. These telescopes are not just designed for "pure" science, even though the literature about the projected Thirty Meter Telescope claims otherwise.

Significantly, the Kānaka Maoli people in Hawai'i are protesting TMT's installation on Mauna Kea because it is a sacred site for all Pacific Islanders, a conservation site and the watershed for Hawai'i, the Big Island.

It is not unreasonable to assume that some obscenely wealthy individuals are planning their "escape route" from Earth's impending climate catastrophe. Searching for new sites in space on which to establish these "elite" societies would appeal to them more than pooling their resources to save this planet.

However, to combat the growing climate crisis, the focus should be on stopping capitalist degradation of this planet. Everyone who is concerned about this growing disaster should join the protests to confront global warming caused by greenhouse gases. Ultimately, system change is crucial for the sake of all life on planet Earth.

*Janet Mayes, an amateur astronomer, authored a science fiction novel about U.S. hegemony in space, "Beyond the Horse's Eye, a Fantasy Out of Time," under the pen name Janet Rose. A review can be found at [tinyurl.com/y6fzefun](http://tinyurl.com/y6fzefun).*

*Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.*

## Haitians demand president leave

Continued from page 10

these videos. They are confronting cops who shoot to kill, but still they run and dance through the streets, to the sound of rara (festival) bands, waving leafy branches of hope and demanding that President Jovenel leave. In Gonaïves, bands of protesters waved machetes.

Moïse was elected in 2016 in a process marked by very low turnout. Hundreds of thousands of Haiti's citizens had lost their

IDs and the government was very slow in replacing them. Still, the United States endorsed the election. Even though serious charges of corruption have been made against Moïse and his predecessor, Michel Martelly, and their party, the PHTK—even though the rights of Haitians to peacefully protest have been denied—the U.S. government and ruling class still support their guy in Port au Prince.

Without such support, he and his gang would be blown away. □



MO FOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

'No hay planeta B', Battery Park, Nueva York, 20 de septiembre.

# ¡Hagamos a las corporaciones, bancos y el Pentágono pagar por las reparaciones climáticas!

## MUNDO OBRERO editorial

La huelga climática global del 20 al 27 de septiembre exige un examen inquebrantable de las raíces de la crisis climática. A pesar de las afirmaciones que niegan las razones del cambio de la clima, la evidencia científica masiva muestra que la liberación de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, principalmente la quema de combustibles fósiles, ha desestabilizado tanto el sistema de autorregulación de la Tierra que la humanidad ahora está sufriendo una cascada de catástrofes no naturales.

En los últimos años, hemos visto niveles históricos de destrucción y muerte en el hemisferio occidental, recientemente en las Bahamas, Puerto Rico y la costa este de los EE.UU. Todos los días escuchamos sobre una nueva tragedia climática en otras partes del mundo, desde incendios que devoran las selvas tropicales del Amazonas y África Central, tormentas e inundaciones más intensas, glaciares que se derriten rápidamente, hasta el 41 por ciento de las especies de insectos globales que disminuyeron en la última década, lo que amenaza “consecuencias catastróficas tanto para los ecosistemas del planeta como para la supervivencia de la [humanidad]”, según la revista Biological Conservation. ([tinyurl.com/yxkhbbqc](https://tinyurl.com/yxkhbbqc))

Pero si bien esta es una crisis global, no tiene que convertirse en una catástrofe mundial irreversible. Hay evidencia de que se puede avanzar en esta grave situación, que no es causada por los “seres humanos” en general, sino por un sistema económico global insostenible: el capitalismo, la propiedad privada y la producción de cualquier cosa que pueda venderse para beneficio privado, donde la línea de fondo supera todas las demás consideraciones.

### Cuba, China lideran el camino; el capitalismo EE.UU. frena el progreso

En 2016, la Federación de Vida Silvestre Mundial reconoció a la Cuba socialista como el único país del mundo en lograr un desarrollo sostenible, con su firme compromiso con la salud ambiental, incluidos los años de esfuerzo en la reforestación. ([tinyurl.com/yyh6nqxs](https://tinyurl.com/yyh6nqxs))

Además, incluso la revista de negocios Forbes de este año tuvo que admitir: “China se convertirá en la superpotencia mundial de energía renovable”. China ha demostrado su compromiso, afirmado en 2014, para detener la crisis climática. Un ejemplo de muchos es que en cuatro años redujo la contaminación del aire de las plantas de carbón en un 32 por ciento en promedio en las ciudades afectadas. (Workers World, 23 de abril)

Mientras tanto, Estados Unidos se ha retirado del Acuerdo Climático de París, aunque este acuerdo es solo un primer paso débil para reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero. Y la administración actual, con su propiedad sin control por parte de las grandes empresas a pesar de la apariencia “populista” de Trump, está revocando rápidamente las regulaciones sobre la contaminación. Desde el gas metano hasta el vertido de químicos y las emisiones de los automóviles a los desechos tóxicos del Pentágono, Estados Unidos es, con mucho, el mayor contaminante del mundo.

Por un lado, tenemos un gobierno de EE.UU. comprado y destinado al beneficio capitalista, al infierno con la humanidad y todas las especies de vida. Por otro lado, están estos dos estados obreros, Cuba y China, que están demostrando que las economías socialistas planificadas pueden colocar a las personas por delante de las ganancias, y eso debe incluir la salud del planeta.

El motor que impulsa la crisis climática

es el capitalismo, un sistema incapaz de planificar cualquier cosa que pueda disminuir las ganancias de la clase propietaria de los medios de producción. Los mercados de acciones y bonos se mueven hacia arriba y hacia abajo según las proyecciones de ganancias. Las ganancias para el 1% tienen prioridad sobre todo lo demás, incluso si eso significa matar la tierra y sus pueblos.

La solución a esta crisis es el socialismo, en el que la propiedad pública de los medios de producción permite a la sociedad llevar a cabo una planificación a largo plazo para el bien del 99% de la humanidad y la supervivencia del planeta. Especialmente para los jóvenes, qué sistema controlará el futuro es una pregunta apremiante.

### Una demanda inmediata: reparaciones climáticas

Claramente, es necesario derrocar al capitalismo para poner fin a la crisis climática. Pero, ¿qué acción es posible ahora, aquí dentro de las entrañas de la bestia, mientras seguimos el camino hacia el socialismo?

Podemos exigir y atacar ahora por reparaciones climáticas. Los delincuentes climáticos deben pagar de inmediato miles de millones. Estos son los Grandes Monopolios, las corporaciones contaminantes y los bancos que financian la destrucción del medio ambiente, y la Gran Máquina de Guerra, el Pentágono y el complejo militar-industrial que libran una guerra por el petróleo y las ganancias. Luchar por las reparaciones sería un retroceso significativo contra el capitalismo mientras luchamos por el cambio del sistema.

Las reparaciones deben ir a los pueblos indígenas de todo el mundo, quienes han estado a la cabeza para proteger el planeta mientras enfrentan siglos de depredación en sus tierras y vidas. Las mujeres indígenas y las personas de dos espíritus deben ser especialmente reconocidas por

su liderazgo en la organización para la vida del mundo, desde Standing Rock en los Estados Unidos hasta Brasil, India y Honduras.

Las reparaciones deben abordar el racismo ambiental dirigido a las personas de color en el Sur Global, así como en los EE.UU., desde las personas negras y morenas inundadas por los desechos corporativos de granjas porcinas durante los huracanes en Carolina del Norte, hasta las comunidades afroamericanas, como Uniontown, Alabama, utilizados como vertedero de desechos para plantas a carbón.

Las reparaciones deben ir a países enteros devastados por la guerra de los EE.UU. y las sanciones por el petróleo y las ganancias, contra Corea del norte, Vietnam, Irán, Irak, Libia, Siria y Venezuela, y para compensar el sabotaje económico y los esfuerzos de cambio de régimen emprendidos por los EE.UU., incluidos Cuba y América Central. El impacto de muchas de estas guerras ha producido refugiados, incluidos los refugiados climáticos que ya no pueden mantener la vida en sus países de origen.

Durante años, los Grandes Monopolios y la Gran Máquina de Guerra han visto acercarse la crisis climática y han estado elaborando sus propios planes privados sobre cómo mantenerse ganando beneficios.

El Poder Popular de la huelga climática tiene sus propios planes para el futuro y puede exigir miles de millones en reparaciones que el capitalismo le debe al planeta. Esos miles de millones pueden ser aprovechados por los líderes indígenas, por los organizadores de las comunidades locales negras y morenas, por los trabajadores que unen su lucha contra los patrones con la lucha por el medio ambiente, por activistas y científicos dedicados a aprender de los triunfos de Cuba y China.

Debemos exigir reparaciones climáticas, ¡para construir un futuro global en el camino hacia el socialismo! □

## Crisis climática un problema de la clase obrera, ¡y la clase obrera tiene el poder de detenerla!

*Esta declaración fue distribuida en acciones de huelga climática por la Red Internacional de Solidaridad con los Trabajadores.*

Todos estamos enojados. Todos en estas acciones en todo el mundo sabemos que nuestro futuro depende de enfrentar el cambio climático. La conversación que importa ahora es: ¿Quién es responsable de ello y quién puede solucionarlo?

Aquí y en el extranjero, el impacto recae desproporcionadamente en los más oprimidos: comunidades de color, especialmente pueblos indígenas, personas con discapacidades, mujeres y oprimidos por género, la comunidad LGBTQ2S+ y los jóvenes. La mayoría de nosotros somos trabajadores, incluidos jóvenes y estudiantes. Los patrones climáticos salvajes y los desastres no naturales nos dejan su

mayor huella.

¿Puede el capitalismo solucionar los problemas que crea?

Algunos en el movimiento climático simplemente culpan a la “actividad humana” sin ponerla directamente en el gran petróleo, el gran carbón, la industria automotriz, las empresas de servicios públicos y los bancos de los que toman prestados o el mayor contaminador del mundo, el Pentágono.

Y algunos incluso sugerirían que apelar al motivo de las ganancias (convencer a los capitalistas de que abandonar los combustibles fósiles es bueno para los negocios o someterlos a “precios climáticos”) puede resolver la crisis. Ese es un pensamiento ingenuo. Los capitalistas causaron el calentamiento global y difícilmente se puede confiar en revertirlo. Calculan la ganancia económica a

corto plazo sin tener en cuenta la enorme huella de carbono que están dejando sus acciones de toma de ganancias. Solo ellos tienen los medios para escapar de las consecuencias.

Solidaridad de la clase trabajadora para salvar el medio ambiente

Los activistas ambientales, en su mayoría jóvenes, hicieron un llamado para “huelgas climáticas” el 20 y 27 de septiembre. Este es un verdadero paso adelante. Las huelgas han ganado salarios más altos, pensiones, reconocimiento sindical y similares. Pero también hay huelgas políticas, como el Primero de Mayo de 2006, cuando millones de inmigrantes y sus partidarios forzaron la derrota de un proyecto de ley antiinmigrante en el Congreso.

Mantengamos viva la conversación sobre la huelga climática más allá del 20 al 27 de septiembre, no solo en las

escuelas sino también en el trabajo, en los sindicatos, en nuestras comunidades. Y debemos luchar contra el racismo ambiental, defender los reclamos de tierras indígenas y exigir la autodeterminación para las naciones oprimidas que sufren los impactos más graves.

La crisis climática es un problema de la clase trabajadora. Nosotros entendemos esto. Es por eso que varias organizaciones laborales de la ciudad de Nueva York están instando a los miembros del sindicato a apoyar las huelgas climática. Es por eso que los trabajadores de Amazon están saliendo para protestar por la forma en que la compañía ha contribuido a la crisis climática.

Tenemos el poder de proteger la vida en el planeta. ¡Nada se mueve sin nosotros! Y las acciones de masas son las que traen un cambio real. □