An unnatural disaster

Climate crisis wrecks Bahamas

By G. Dunkel

When Hurricane Dorian stalled over Grand Bahama and the Abacos Islands in the Bahamas for nearly 40 hours on Sept. 1-2, with sustained wind speeds of 185 miles an hour, it left piles of houses and buildings reduced to kindling and rubble, along with an untold number of deaths.

Dorian left no grocery stores, no gas stations, no electricity, no water, no food, no sanitation, no telephone or internet service for thousands of people. After a week, only very limited services have been restored. Rescue workers had not reached some of the more remote communities on the Abacos Islands as of Sunday, Sept. 8.

The extreme character of Dorian indicates that the crisis of climate change has made hurricanes hotter, wetter and slower — wreaking even more destruction. Small countries like the Bahamas, even if they are able to get their carbon footprint to negative, have little influence over the world’s climate.

Small countries are unable to change the conditions that the capitalist system has created worldwide. They certainly have the right to demand refuge from the storm’s destruction and aid from the big capitalist powers that are devastating the global environment. This is an issue for the progressive movement here in the U.S. to vigorously take up.

Haitian migrants hit hard

While all the communities in Marsh Harbour, a large town in the Abacos Islands, suffered substantial damage, the Marsh Harbour community called “The Mudd,” where many Haitian immigrants lived, many without documents, was completely demolished. Not a single house was left standing.

Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, speaking through a Creole interpreter, tried to reassure Haitians waiting for a boat to Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, that the government would treat them fairly. This was a hard sell, as in 2018 the Bahamian Royal Defense Forces helped deport 1,772 Haitians. The Family Action Network Movement of Miami, together with a number of Haitian community organizations, wrote an open letter to PM Minnis, asking for “a moratorium on all deportations and refrain from asking for work permits when immigrant families seek assistance.”

Help from Cuba, China

A number of countries are in the process of sending aid to the Bahamas. According to Telesur English, Cuba immediately sent 60 doctors and teachers to help. They will stay as long as is needed.

Socialist Cuba has much experience in minimizing the danger to its people from intense storms. It is recognized internationally for its ability to relocate people away from the coast when a hurricane approaches.

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El Paso, firme!

Delegation of FIRE (Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere) in El Paso Sept. 7-8 in solidarity with mobilization against white supremacy after racist mass shooting.

By Gloria Rubac

El Paso, Texas

The chants rang out loud and clear all weekend: “El Paso!” Then: “Firme!”

After the racist mass murders on Aug. 3, when a gunman killed 22 people and wounded 24 more, El Paso activists issued a call to action against white supremacy. This was followed by a weekend of actions to organize and educate people around the world about this important fact: What happened in Walmart wasn’t just a lone racist carrying out his twisted white supremacist ideas, but a continuation of a long history of anti-Mexican violence that has pervaded Texas at every turn.

Fernando Garcia, executive director of the Border Network for Human Rights, explained that talk in the media and by politicians blaming video games, mental health issues and availability of guns ignores the true issue of the ongoing history of racism against Mexicans, which has existed for centuries and is now being reinforced by the White House. “We challenge white supremacy,” said Garcia.

The events were organized by the Border Network, along with the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) and National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON). They were supported by dozens of organizations, from the Poor People’s Campaign, the Coalition to End Child Detention, Centro de Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos, La Mujer Obrera, Planned Parenthood and Usual Suspects.

Beginning with a press conference on Sept. 5, Garcia explained why the organizations planning the flurry of events were not using the popular slogan of “El Paso Strong.”

“I’m very disappointed with politicians
Southern revolutionaries meet in Atlanta

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Atlanta

A much anticipated gathering of Workers World Party members, candidates and friends met Sept. 7 in a local community center for all-day discussions on political questions, strategies and tactics facing revolutionaries in the Southern region. 

With participants’ ages ranging from 17 to the 70s and job experience from union autoworker to house cleaner, education worker and part-time wait staff — as well as a range of genders, sexualities and nationalities — the day-long meeting reflected the breadth of today’s working class.

Participants shared their experiences of organizing in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Washington, D.C., and New York City against police killings, anti-immigrant violence, gentrification, low wages, imperialist war, anti-trans bigotry, lack of health care, mass incarceration and white supremacy. In other words, the crimes of capitalism and imperialism were indicted by the lives and experiences of those in the room.

Their main discussion was on “What road to socialism?”

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigender and multigenerational organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to take control of the state and have 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 owns and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Workers World Party cadre?

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Prison reform? still a struggle in Pennsylvania

By Jerome “Hoagie” Coffey

In almost three decades in the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Association, I see more criminal justice reforms being proposed by Pennsylvania state legislators. From governors Robert Casey (1987-95) to Tom Wolf (2015-present), when I read these current proposals by some of the Pennsylvania legislators—Republicans and Democrats—it’s déjà vu all over again.

Allow me to give the historical backdrop. First and foremost, through the political and games and fear mongering that politicians have used for almost three decades to pass draconian legislation in Pennsylvania, for example, conservative politicians’ doublespeak with Willie Horton and super-predator propaganda tactics. And the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA) and the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association attempts to convince the Pennsylvania State Parole Board to accept these proposed applications, in particular of violent offenders, and keep them incarcerated after they show signs of rehabilitation.

District Attorney Larry Kraner, a progressive, removed the Pennsylvania District Attorney Officers from the PDAA. Kraner said “he believed that the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association was at least partly responsible for an explosion in the state’s prison population over the last decades, and that it continued to back ideas that would make the problem worse.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 16, 2018)

Prisons hold up real reforms

In Pennsylvania, the majority of state prisons are in economically disadvantaged rural communities. In fact, from 1987-2019, 19 of the 25 state prisons. When they closed SCI Greensburg and SCI Cresson, Pat Mullin, mayor of Cresson, said, “It’s going to hurt the restaurants, the hardware store, every business place here it’s going to be affected. Fifty hundred employees in one fell swoop—that’s an awful lot.” (Wall Street Journal, Feb. 10, 2013)

These rural communities, where the state prisons are located, benefit economically off of poor people—and “Huntingdon County, a region once powered by the Broad Top bituminous coal fields, but where state government is now the largest employer and criminal justice the top-ranking industry. State prisons there employ 1,120 people with a payroll totaling $5.1 million biweekly. That’s one job for every 40 county residents.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, June 10, 2018)

Some state legislators were disappointed with Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel for closing these state prisons, so they introduced legislation to let the community know in advance before closings. (Citizens Voice, Jan. 7, 2017)

Don’t be co-opted by rhetoric promoted by oppressors

Today people are paying that law-and-order rhetoric. The United States has nearly 5 percent of the world’s population and nearly 25 percent of its incarcerated people. More than 2.3 million people are behind bars in the U.S. on any given day, and the number of Black people incarcerated or under correctional control exceeds the total number of adults emancipated in 1865.

And Pennsylvania [Department of Corrections]— when it comes to rehabilitation—they living in the dark ages! Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association are running late, trying to instill fear in Pennsylvania constituents.

In 1995, Gov. Thomas Ridge’s campaign strategist, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), provided propaganda so he could win the state’s highest office. The campaign motto was “Toughen our criminal justice system for Pennsylvania”.

After being sworn in Jan. 17, 1995, Ridge ain’t waste no time. A day later, he signed a proclamation that the General Assembly be convened in a special and extraordinary session to consider legislation on crime. The special session began Jan. 23 and ended Oct. 31, 1995—during which 30 crime bills passed. ALEC was responsible for almost all of these bills. ALEC used Pennsylvania as a test run of the draconian legislation. Of course, Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association is responsible as well.

Gov. Edward Rendell, in his second term as governor, spent Stephen Liebischki from the Philadelphia Police Department was murdered in 2008, placed a moratorium on the Pennsylvania Parole Board under false pretenses—creating overcrowdedness in the Pennsylvania DOC.

At the same time, the Auditor General issued a $800 million revenue bond to build four new prisons, on top of paying $850,000 to a criminal justice professor at Temple University to write a 30-page report pertaining to “violent offenders eligible for parole.”

That recommendation was “risk assessment technology,” which allowed correctional “experts” such as Unit Managers who chair the Prison Unit Team, Correctional Counsellors, the Unit Team, Commissioned Correctional Officers, Psychology Staff Administrators, to have heavy input for parole candidates.

It’s all about the money

The criminal justice reform movement is gaining momentum because young activists are intelligent and unraveling the trickery and propaganda that politicians once manipulated the public with, using fear mongering, such as “soft on crime” rhetoric, to get elected. In addition, warehousing people in prisons has always been lucrative business for profiteers such as corporations and these “economically disadvantaged” rural communities.

“By counting prisoners as living in their prisons and not at their home addresses, Pennsylvania’s system for drawing political maps benefits white, rural voters at the expense of voters in urban areas, disproportionately affecting people of color,” said a study by two Villanova University professors of criminology, Brianna Rescher and Rory Kramer, in reference to the 2020 Census Bureau’s count. (Philadelphia Inquirer, July 11)

State Rep. Joanna McClinton (D-Phila.) has intro- duced a bill to have prisoners counted at their home address, not prison.

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The author of this "Manifesto" ignores the control by the corporations and ruling billionaires over the state apparatus—the FBI, COINTELPRO, the Pentagon, the police, the courts and the prisons. Here, police prepare to attack Indigenous and others protesting the Dakota Access pipeline in 2016.

By Scott Williams

writers across the range of socialist and communist groups are openly grappling with strategies to achieve socialism. Every viable socialist organization needs to analyze developments and look toward the future. With the growth of social-democratic organizations, how should social democrats view the path toward socialism?

Bhaskar Sunkara, the founder of Jacobin magazine as well as a former vice chair of the Democratic Socialists of America, is one of the most influential leaders in the growing U.S. socialist movement. Jacobin, with over 40,000 subscriber bases of online viewers, a month, is a major venue for ideological and practical debate. With 60,000 members, DSA has become the largest organization publicly identified with socialism.


Originally titled "Socialism in Our Time," "The Socialist Manifesto" is part historical analysis of writers' states and capitals. Coined by the Russian-American economist of socialism, and eventually a 15-point call to action which synthesizes Sunkara's interpretation of the myth and reality of the development of "class struggle social democracy.

Electoral road to 'democratic socialism'

Sunkara has never argued for a socialist revolution similar to those led by the Bolsheviks, the Chinese Communist Party or the July 26th Movement in Cuba. Throughout his book, Sunkara goes to great lengths to reiterate popular talking points on what he considers the limitations of these revolutions. One could find these in any bourgeois newspaper.

Sunkara acknowledges some failures of the social-democratic parties to build socialism. He acknowledges the shortcomings of the Social Democratic Party in Germany which, like the rest of the world, was the annihilation of German communism.

Seeking a hopeful example of successful social democracies, Sunkara examines what he considers the most humane social system ever constructed (p. 14). Sunkara laments the lost potential for 1970s Sweden to transition from social democracy to democratic socialism.

The main components of the capitalistic economy—the banks, major industries and the state—still remain under the control of a few Swedish families. Unsurprisingly, the 15 families who own the vast majority of the economy block legislation, create "labor-market"框架 which would allow workers eventually to collectively own these industries.

Today, no mention of Sweden's supply of the Nazis with iron ore, its pillaging of African nations, its sending of over 6,000 troops to Congo in 1960 in an effort that would eventually lead to the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, or of Sweden taking control of Congo's copper mines. Swedish imperialism, which even the so-called "social democrats" fail to mention, is omitted, much in the same way that the Marxist-Leninist concept of imperialism is ignored.

Sweden's transition from social democracy to democratic socialism in hypothetical thought exercises like this one about the U.S. in 2036: "With more decisions in the hands of ordinary people, civil life is full of political debate and new ideas. Even distributional questions are still not settled: a center-right party advocates for more market incentives and a reduction in the basic income; a center-left party questions traditional metrics of growth, proposing a happiness index instead; an internationalist left calls for more vigorous support for the workers' movement abroad and more extensive democratic planning at home. And yes, there is a Right calling for the restoration of capitalism, but its support diminishes over time, as it is more like monar- chism slowly lost supporters in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries" (pp. 27-28).

Further elaborating, at the end of the book, Sunkara writes: "Our task is formidable. Democratic socialists must secure decisive majorities in legislatures while winning hegemony in the unions. Then our organizations must be willing to flex our social power in the form of mass mobilizations and political strikes to counter the structural power of cap- ital and ensure that our leaders choose confrontation over accommodation with elites. This is the sole way we'll not only make our reforms durable but break with capitalism entirely and bring about a world that values people over profit."'[1]

"Denial of class dictatorship"

This is a multi-party U.S. Congress striving toward democratic socialism denies the reality of the class dictatorship in which we currently live. This democratic transition to socialism ignores the control by the corporations and ruling billionaires of the state apparatus—the FBI, CONTELPRO, the Pentagon, the police, the courts, the priso- ners, etc.—and the impact of bourgeois control over education, the media, and religious and cultural institutions. The state enforces all forms of racist, ableist, misogynist, patriarchal, class oppression.

While it may be attractive to imagine a peaceful transition to socialism, this excuse denies that the history of the U.S. is one of occupation, economic sanctions, police and military violence, and geno- cidal attacks on every country that has attempted to break free from Wall Street domination. The question of which class will control the state—the billionaires or the working class—is not resolved by Sunkara's imagined scenarios. His gradual- istic hypothesis at best mediates class conflict, but it cannot lead to the estab- lishment of a bonafide workers' state.

V.L. Lenin's classic "The State and Revolution," based on lived, revolu- tionary experience, reads like a direct response to "The Socialist Manifesto" as it answers such utopian visions of social- ist transformation. Lenin writes in the first chapter: "If the state is the product of the irreconcilability of class antag- onisms, if it is a power standing above society and 'alienating' itself more and more from it; it is clear that the liberation of the oppressed class is impossible not only without a violent revolution, but also without the destruction of the apparatus of state power which was created by the ruling class and which is the embodiment of this 'alienation.'" Lenin goes on to challenge writers of his day who, like Sunkara, advocated for reform of capital- ist governing structures.

Imperialism, national liberation and anti-imperialism

Leninists have always pointed out how national liberation and socialism have been vitally connected over the past 100 years of socialist revolutions. Sam Mares, the founding chairperson of Workers World Party, explained this significance in 1983, writing: "Of all the great domes- tic political problems facing the working class and the oppressed class, none sur- passes in importance the relationship of national oppression to the class struggle. Indeed, one may say that it is at the heart of the basic social problem in the United States. It touches every form of social and national, and no sector of society is free from it."

Sunkara says the left should be "uni- versalist" and that a "democratic class politics is the best way to unite people against our common opponent and win the type of change that will help the most marginalized" (p. 236). This represents a dominant view within the DSA, which has downplayed the relevance of special oppressions such as racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ2S+ and anti-queer ("iden- tity politics") in favor of a purportedly class-focused approach.

Sunkara rarely mentions fighting rac- ism or other forms of oppression and key component of fighting for socialism. Throughout his chapter on the history of socialism in the U.S., the vast majority of his discussion focuses on Eugene Debs, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and later Michael Harrington and DSA.

There is no mention of the Black Panther Party, the Brown Berets, the Young Lords or any other national liberation struggles inside the U.S. which combined the struggle against racism and the struggle for socialism.

In the era of imperialism, supporting national liberation and fighting racism are fundamental to an international strategy. Anti-imperialism is often viewed as a distant priority in the efforts of China, Angola, Vietnam, Korea and beyond, calling them using social- ism to command a type of authoritarian capitalism which has proven, to date, to be a failure. As Marx advanced in a scintillatingly extended analysis in the "Composition of Political Economy" (p. 155), this analysis is shocking to those who have not noticed. Cubans fight against both the hands and the leaders' ability to mobilize and unite with the people to defend their revolution.

Sunkara holds the view that socialism can only be built in "developed" imperi- alist countries. This is similar to the view of Swedish social democracies over the vic- tories of billions of people from countries oppressed by imperialism, and the way he and others in DSA promote class over identity politics, reeks of chauvinism.

At the same time, Sunkara's "class- based," social-democratic gradualism represents a negation of the foundation of scientific Marxism: the irreconcilable- ity of class antagonisms between labor and capital. To argue that socialism can be achieved peacefully via the bourgeois electoral process is to mislead and disori- ent the working class and the oppressed. History—consider the bloody 1973 CIA coup in Chile—has proven the opposite.

Ultimately, Sunkara's brand of socialism is to be reconciled with a new generation of anti-communist intellectuals as well as the more privileged sectors of the work- ing class, who see no future beyond impe- rialist capitalism; a future under which they compromise on essential socialist values.

Opposing U.S. imperialism at every turn, supporting the abolition of the cap- italist state, fighting racism, and other forms; fighting racism and all forms of oppression; and defending countries that still remain under colonialism: socialism from imperialist attacks are key principles of a revolution- ary strategy.

Turning back the clock on imperialism's delay

"Social democracy was always predi- cated on economic expansion" (p. 123). Sunkara is correct in that social democracy has made gains in periods of imperi- alist expansion.

Unfortunately for social democracy, the owners of capital face a systemic cri- sis. The growth of high-tech capitalist production—originally designed to maxi- mize profits by minimizing the number of workers—has become so capital-inten- sive that it leads to which Marx explained was "the falling rate of profit." In fact, this is an underlying cause of the current economic crisis which has plun- dered the earth so thoroughly that all life is threatened. As Marx explained, the capitalists must "expand or die," and at this time they are struggling to open new markets and grow their profits. Precisely because the system is so productive, capitalism has entered..."
Italian communist discusses European imperialism

By John Catalinotto
New York

Alessio Arena, secretary general of the Italian communist group Fronte Popolare (Popular Front), spoke to a full house at the Solidarity Center in Manhattan on Sept. 5 about the role of European imperialism in the world and the central role of German imperialism in controlling the direction of the European Union.

For the past two decades, the ‘jobless recovery’ has been thrown out of the labor market while capitalists invest stolen wages in the financial sector rather than into productive economy. The global labor market has doubled in the past 30 years, while the capitalists have at their disposal a larger reserve army of labor, as Marxists put it. They no longer need as many comparatively privileged workers in the imperialist countries. While super-riparianism, moderate austerity, low wages, shorter life expectancies and the expansion of mass incarceration are symptoms of the crisis of imperialism.

Given this context, Sunkara has absurdly sought to turn back time to an idealized compromise between the capitalists and the workers.

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The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA led a delegation of Communications Workers locals marching with District 1 at New York City’s Labor Day on Sept. 7. Militant AFA International President Sara Nelson, with Vice President Dennis Trafaaer, CWA District 1 (left), and a third CWA member, were there, fired up and ready for action.

Nelson is the union leader who confronted President Trump on the lockout he imposed on workers during the 35-day federal government shutdown of 2018-19. With Nelson urging tough action, AFA issued a joint statement, along with unions representing U.S. pilots and air traffic controllers, that air travel became unsafe, as unpaid air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration workers refused to show up for work, shutting down air travel and some airports.

The day after Nelson’s public call for a general strike, led by the Transportation Security Administration workers refused to show up for work, shutting down air travel and some airports.

In a call to action, the National Writers Union, UAW Local 1981 urged union members at the march to join the contingent to support “tens of thousands of workers and their families, locked up and locked out at the U.S./Mexican border … to demand an end to racist raids and deportations against immigrants already here, and to abolish ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

For U.S.-based anti-imperialists it was educational to share experiences. He expects to continue fighting for socialist revo

Revolutionary socialist, Leninist and communist parties have seen growth in recent years, although, for now, nothing as dramatic asDSA. These organizations, like Workers World Party, tie their politics to the experiences of successful revolutions across the world that have occurred since the Bolshevik Revolution, including their analysis of capitalism; imperialism; racism; gender, sexuality and ableist oppressions; defense of socialist countries; and solidarity with the most oppressed. We must dedicate ourselves to popularizing these principles of Leninism and continue fighting for socialist revolution.
Climate crisis cries out for social change

By Joshua Hawks

The climate crisis has surged to the forefront of many discussions recently, from the Greta Thunberg movement to everyday conversations between individuals concerned about the alarming state of the environment. Massive wildfires are raging in Africa and the Amazon. The latter were likely started by wealthy landowners, backed by Brazil’s far-right Bolsonaro administration, to clear more land for ranching and development. Iceland’s Okjökull glacier has disappeared. Municipal water sources are running dry in Chennai, the capital of India’s Tamil Nadu state. Hurricanes have ravaged the Bahamas. These are just a few recent examples of a growing and compounding climate crisis.

Despite the severity of the crisis, developed capitalist nations—which are overwhelmingly responsible for creating the climate crisis—are either not moving fast enough to decarbonize or, in the case of the U.S., are actually moving backward.

U.S. and Germany spew out emissions

Under the Trump administration, the U.S. has abounded its climate commitments, becoming a leader in the Global South. In 2018, carbon emissions surged 3.4 percent, the largest increase in over a decade, after falling slightly since 2005.

Germany, often touted as the gold standard of green economics, has seen its carbon emissions stall at 209 levels, barely budging in the past decade. It remains Europe’s largest producer and user of coal power, with New York City under a third of German electricity production, despite it having built more than 30,000 wind turbines over the past two decades. Just 10 nuclear reactors could produce the same amount of carbon-free energy as all the wind turbines in Germany, yet the country decided to shutter its existing reactors as fast as possible after the Fukushima multiple-reactor meltdown, while keeping heavily polluting coal power plants and mines open.

New coal mines have even been opened in an already “greenly” green country, and emissions from the transport sector have shot up 20 percent since 1995, despite over 20 years of pushing the so-called Greenpeace, or energy transition (tinyurl.com/yagw4m9v). German leaders have resigned themselves to the fact that they will not meet their own climate goals in the timeframe originally set out. The path forward for capitalist countries like Germany is murkier than ever.

Yet not all countries are stuck in reverse or when it comes to addressing the climate crisis. Socialist countries with economies that incorporate significant degrees of public ownership and economic planning, like Cuba and China, have proven capable of making rapid, drastic changes, the kinds of changes necessary to keep the planet from facing total catastrophic collapse.

Cuba, China restore forests

According to a report by the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture printed in the newspaper Granma, the nation has nearly tri- pled forested acreage in the past 25-year period that began in 1992, from 13 percent to over 30 percent today. (tinyurl.com/y6gbmkow)

The World Economic Forum reported last year that China deployed 600,000 troops to plant millions of new trees, tar- geting heavily industrialized Hebei prov- ence, which has been the source of much of nearby Beijing’s air pollution woes. The government plans to increase the forested area in the Hebei province from 15.4 percent to 30 percent by 2020. It also seeks to increase forest cover to 26 percent nationwide by 2035. From 1990 to 2015, it added half a million square kilometers of forest area, with a goal of adding 4.5 million square kilometers by 2030. This amounts to new forested areas the size of Ireland — part of a “Great Green Wall” to hold back desertif- ication and clean up the country’s air. (tinyurl.com/y3ddruxc)

Meanwhile Canada, which like Germany is often held up by the corporate media as an example of a “green” capitalistic country, contributes more to the defores- tation of primary, untouched woodland than any other country. A 2014 study by the University of Maryland, Greenpeace, the World Resources Institute and other groups found Canada responsible for 24 percent of global deforestation. There is no political will at federal or provincial levels for conserving primary forest anywhere in Canada, as told Canada.com. “Most logging done in Canada is still to day done in virgin forests.” (tinyurl.com/y373proj6)

China’s ‘war on pollution’

China’s war on pollution is a political will (or lack thereof) forms the underlying cause of both the capital- ist West’s inability to address the climate crisis and socialist nations’ ability to act in a big way on environmental issues. After announcing a “war on pollution” in 2014, major Chinese cities have achieved an aver- age 32 percent reduction in air pollution. While the Western media pumped out sensationalized story after story on Beijing’s infamous smoggy skies, they’re almost silent now that blue skies are the norm in the Chinese city. Yet the remarkable, rapid growth of Beijing’s air (and water) quality (virtually in every other Chinese city) should be headline news in all the world’s papers, saga that presents a success story that other countries can learn from, especially developing countries.

A decade later Scholarly dinosaur “China: Reform and Revolution in the People’s Republic,” Ajit Singh of the University of Manitoba quotes Michael Greenstone, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the University of Chicago: “We don’t have a historical example of a country achiev- ing rapid reductions in air pollution. It’s remarkable. What these last four years have demonstrated quite loudly is that air pollution can be conquered. Not solved, but conquered.” Singh adds. “China is quickly becoming the world leader in environmental protection. In the 1990s, China led the world in coal energy investment — accounting for 45 per- cent of the total global — and produced over half of the world’s global coal.” (China’s National Environment Programme, 2018)

Another more controversial part of China’s overall strategy to combat global warming is its growing use of nuclear energy. This sets it apart from Germany and many other Western capitalist coun- tries which have already abandoned nuclear energy. Yet the evidence is clear: China has made rapid progress on its commitment to nuclear energy. They still have not, and nuclear energy plays a key role in this. Nuclear reactors produce massive amounts of carbon-free energy, and can be built much faster and with far fewer resources than relying solely on wind and solar, which requires massive amounts of steel, concrete, silicon and rare earth met- als. The waste products from installing and operating solar and wind cells cannot be disposed of. China’s nuclear plants, which are largely in areas that are often dumped in poor countries like Bangladesh, (tinyurl.com/yuxfl5sl) Chinese cities like Shenzhen are moving to 100% nuclear for electricity needs. (tinyurl.com/ybyjgd4y) But electric vehicles, which are only as clean as the electricity they charge on; electric cars and the electricity produced by coal actually produces more pollution than a conventional vehicle with a gas- or diesel-powered engine.

E lectric vehicles and nuclear power

Surrounding Shenzhen, however, are four nuclear power plants, which supply the massive amounts of electricity necessary to charge the city’s electric buses and taxis and provide a modern standard of living for its people, all without producing any carbon emissions or particulate pollutants.

With 800 million Chinese people lifted out of poverty in the past several decades, these countries’ energy needs are increasing, requiring rapid and massive increases in electricity production to keep up with demand, which nuclear power plays an integral role in supplying.

After the 2011 Fukushima incident in Japan, China paused all nuclear construc- tion. But a thorough review. Earlier this month, China’s State Council Information Office issued a white paper on nuclear safeguards. High-level government measures undertaken to guarantee a safe supply of carbon-free nuclear power and reflecting on the areas that need additional work. China “chooses to continue the develop- ment of nuclear power in order to bet- ter protect the environment,” reported China Global Television Network on Sept. 3. “In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident, the Chinese government organized a nine-month safety inspection of the country’s operating nuclear power plants and put forward new requirements on reactors, and other key nuclear facilities. China has also been ensuring nuclear safety in order to achieve cleaner environmental management. The country has established a three-tier radiation environ- mental protection and management system that is at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Safety levels at China’s nuclear power plants are now the highest in the world, Xue Xiaogang, president of China National Nuclear Energy, told CGTN in an exclusive inter- view.” (tinyurl.com/y4y3rcn)

New reactors improve safety

Engineered and built domestically by China’s publicly-owned Industries, the new reactors move away from the reactors designed by for-profit private Western companies, like the GE-built reactors at Fukushima Daiichi, the GE-designed nuclear power plant in Shandong province, a joint venture by China Huagen Group, China National Nuclear Corporation (both publicly owned industries) and Tsinghua University, completed the world’s first fourth-generation, reactor named the China Reactor (HTGR) that cannot suffer a meltdown and does not create a radioactive coolant. (tinyurl.com/ya44r7j) This reactor uses helium as the coolant, which does not become radioactive, unlike the water cool- ant used in conventional reactors.

The plant will ultimately feature 10 reactors of this type and the technology is expected to be exported. As part of China’s “Great Green Wall,” 30 reactors will be built around the world, opening up huge amounts of carbon-free biogas for countries that face acute energy shortages and rely on heavily polluting coal for their electricity needs.

On Hainan island, China is planning a small modular reactor (SMR), which can be inexpensively mass-produced in facto- ries to exporting. Last week, the country’s nuclear regulators freely admit that there are issues which remain to be addressed and improvements to be made. Nuclear power forms only a small portion of the energy mix which China plans to use to overcome the climate crisis. The climate crisis presents a key test by which we can compare the effectiveness of capitalism versus socialism. The results are there for anyone to look at. Given the disparity between the two systems, far less developed in general than coun- tries like Germany, which have enriched themselves by colonizing and colonialism, the progress they have made is truly remarkable. Poorer capi- talist countries in the Global South, like Brazil and India, have not made the same progress and today deal with rampant air pollution and massive deforestation. The facts are clear. The only path out of the climate crisis lies with socialism. ☐
Climate crisis wrecks Bahamas

Continued from page 1

This was especially the case after 1834, when Bahamians were forced off their islands. Many Bahamians later migrated to southern Florida in the 1930s and 1940s when it was developing its tourist and citrus industries. However, hundreds of Bahamians hoping to reach Florida after the hurricane were forced off ferries on Sept. 8 for lack of a U.S. visa, a previously unnecessary document. (tinyurl.com/y2zn9y9t)

The Washington Post reported on Sept. 8 that 26 overloaded small boats had been seen leaving the Bahamas and heading west. Bahamian Prime Minister Minnis has made it clear that the capital city, Nassau, can’t accept all the people who now want to leave the islands of Grand Bahama and the Abacos.

The official death toll was 44 as of Sept. 8, but Minnis said this preliminary figure will rise — likely significantly — over the next few days, as the entire history of U.S. genocide against Native nations in the inter- ests of imperialism, energy companies and the military-industrial complex, all of which have been based on that genocide. The 2-million-acre reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments was the largest cut to federal land protection in U.S. history and an unprecedented takeover in the inter- ests of fossil fuels and uranium corporations.

Five Native nations — the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Nations — called as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — had won monument status for 3.5 million acres of federal ancestral lands with unprecedented Indigenous oversight. Trump’s proclamation was meant to strip control from these Native nations over uranium, oil and gas deposits, as well as the cultural heritage of their ancient ruins. Bears Ears is densely packed with ancient cultural remains. Puebloan ruins in the area are thousands of years old.

Trump and former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s attack on Bears Ears is U.S. imperialism’s continuing genocidal war - fare by deadly toxic resource thievery and cultural annihilation. During Zinke’s review of national monuments, the Utah legislature filed a 49-page comment letter alleging Bears Ears National Monument would destroy the state’s uranium industry. Energy Fuels Resources, owners of the White Mesa Uranium Mill and the Daneros Uranium Mine, lobbied the administration to give them use of monument lands. Chief of Staff Officer Mark Chalmers said there are “many known uranium and vanadium deposits located within (Bears Ears).”

The Utah Mountain Ute community is directly threatened by the Daneros Mine and the White Mesa Mill. Energy Fuels wants to increase mill output up to 500,000 tons of uranium through Cedar Mesa, a mountain just below the two buttes called the Bears Ears. Both the Utah Mountain Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute have suffered devastation from uranium waste and its refinement.

In 2014, environmental groups had asked the Bureau of Land Management to open 100,000 acres of land within the Bears Ears area to oil and gas leasing, according to the Center for Environmental Justice Diversity — this though oil has not been pumped in the area since 1992.

History of uranium mining, impact on Dine/Navajo Nation and the arms race

The history of uranium mining is one of the most devastating portions of the history of Indigenous land and absolute disregard for its impact on the health of all who live in proximity. Uranium mining is the basis of the infrastructure of the nuclear arms military industry, and the Navajo Nation has taken the brunt of the extraction of this deadly mineral. Uranium is not just poisonous; it is radioactive. Miners are exposed to radiation and carry it home on their clothing to their families and growing children. The winds blow the tailings from the mines across the lands and into nearby waters. A University of New Mexico study recently found 85 percent of Diné homes have uranium contamination, and Navajos living near uranium mines have higher levels of the mineral in their bones than 95 percent of Americans. They even found uranium in their blood.

After the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, some 30 million tons of ura- nium was mined on the Navajo Nation res- ervation, Dine — in these days the labor and not informed of the risks to their health. By the early 1960s, miners were getting sick and dying. Survivors, widows and family members in the Uranium Radiation Victims Committee began to fight the cor- porate abuse of the community and started a 30-year legal battle for workers compen- sation and damages. By 1993, the Navajo Nation president declared a moratorium on uranium mining.

There have been clusters of birth defects and stillbirths in Dine children in the Shiprock, N.M., uranium mining area. The Navajo Nation filed the largest suit against the U.S. military in history for the attack against the former Soviet Union. After the fall of the USSR, due in part to the relentless economic and political impact of nuclear weapons, most of the stocks were downsized globally. But the U.S. still has more than all other coun- tries combined; it surrounds the Korean Peninsula with nuclear arms, and Trump has spoken of his desire to use them.

The nuclear energy industry exists because the Cold War era industrial complex required it to process enough refined uranium to make thousands of nuclear weapons. Uranium ore is processed into fuel pellets for nuclear reactors, the chain reaction generates heat in the reac- tors and produces fissile material required to make nuclear bombs. The military also uses leftover depleted uranium in armor plating and bullets. The use of DU by the U.S. military has left parts of Iraq thor- oughly contaminated, and uranium stocks in Fallujah have been warned to not get pregnant due to the resulting horrendous birth defects.

The struggle continues for the Ayotzinapa 43

By Teresa Gutierrez

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa 43, an event which unleashed a movement for justice in Mexico that inspired the world.

On Sept. 26, 2014, six people were murdered and 43 students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos Normal Rural School in the small community of Ayotzinapa in Iguala, Mexico, were disappeared.

The case soon became known as the Ayotzinapa 43, as the families and indeed the nation organized and demanded to know what had become of the “normalistas.”

The students—dedicated activists and revolutionaries—had commandeered several buses to travel to Mexico City to participate in a commemoration in 1968 Tlatelolco Massacre. Commandeering buses in Mexico for political work is common and an example of how strong the resistance is in that country.

The Burgos Normal Rural School, activists relate, has a long history of student activism. Subjects are taught from the point of view of the working class, not the bourgeois class. It is not a surprise that the students left southern Mexico to go to Tlatelolco.

But they never arrived.

Their disappearance sparked a national movement. Families of the Ayotzinapa 43 traversed the entire country to seek their loved ones but the U.S. as well. Throughout their tours and in all the demonstrations, the movement declared, “Fue el estado!” (“It was the state!”)

Indeed, all the facts pointed to a state conspiracy.

The movement forced the government to allow an independent investigating team to enter the country to examine the remains and the crime scene. But their efforts were stonewalled. Bodies were found in the area with sickening proof of mutilation and torture did not add up for the investigators as those of the 43.

Five years after the incident, justice remains as intangible as it was back then.

Mexico: in the shadow of the imperialist beast

Mexico shares a 2,000-mile border with U.S. imperialism. Nothing has happened there can be separated from that fact. It is in imperialism’s best interest that capitalist powers reign in Mexico—which means instability, repression and exploitation.

This is why a lucrative drug industry is so strong in Mexico. It explains why drugs can cross capitalist borders easily, while workers cannot.

Independent journalists and human rights activists point out that there is indeed a coverup in the case of the Ayotzinapa 43.

Anabel Hernández, author of "A Massacre in Mexico: The True Story Behind the Missing Forty-Three Students,” writes: “This case is about how the army, the federal police, and the federal government had been protecting organized crime in different parts of Mexico—and how in trying to protect organized crime they sacrificed these 43 students and tried to cover up what really happened that night.” (Los Angeles Magazine, April 11)

From Mexico City, Associated Press reporter Maria Verza wrote Sept. 5: “One of the main suspects in the 2014 disappearance of 43 teachers’ college students in southern Mexico has been acquitted, a human rights attorney said, as justice remains elusive for one of the darkest moments of the country's recent history.

Santiago Aguirre, director of the human rights center known as Prodh and a lawyer for victims’ relatives, said the judge absolved Gilberto López Rendón due to ‘insufficient evidence.’ “The attorney said the case was “marred by sleaziness, human rights violations and irregularities.”

What now?

The election in 2018 of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) as president of Mexico brought high expectations that his administration would be more of the same: repression, coverups and so on.

Hernández states that AMLO promised amnesty to the corrupted groups and said he would not prosecute cartels. She said that AMLO does not “want revenge.”

Hernández, however, believes that “the truth is there. The government [behind] Enrique Peña Nieto [president of Mexico at the time] tried to destroy all the evidence [from the night the 43 students disappeared], they tried to cover the truth but despite their efforts, the truth is still there.”

“Although the wheels of justice are dragging, AMLO did say he would challenge the decision to release the main suspect.”

Upon his election, López Obrador established a truth and justice commission to investigate the Ayotzinapa case. As of now, this commission has not uncovered any new information.

What is encouraging is that the families of the Ayotzinapa 43, as well as the people themselves, continue to demonstrate what the Mexican people have long expressed: The masses will never give up.

Tension spikes between Colombia and Venezuela

By Marco Teruggi Caracas


The relationship between the Venezuelan and Colombian governments took new confrontational steps this week. Colombian President Iván Duque made the first accusation after a sector of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) announced a return to arms. Duque asserted that the group, which he called “a gang of narco-terrorists,” has “the shelter and support of [Venezuelan President] Nicolás Maduro’s dictatorship.”

The Venezuelan government responded with a communiqué rejecting the accusations. “It is bizarre that Iván Duque, with absolute audacity, intends to shift to third countries and third parties his sole responsibility. He is the one responsible for the peace process and for blocking compli- ance with the commitments assumed and signed onto by the State of Colombia.”

This was not the first time that the Colombian government has accused Venezuela of letting insurgent forces operate in its territory, as the National Liberation Army (ELN). In addition to this, it had been alleged that FARC leaders Iván Márquez and Jesús Santrich—present in the country—planned to announce the return to arms—which were in the neighboring country [Venezuela].

Venezuela’s Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López denounced Iván Duque’s accusations as an attempt at warmongering: “The political problem facing Colombia cannot and must not lead to a military confrontation. We urge you not to seek excuses or pretexts with false positives to try to violate our terri- torial sovereignty, either by conventional forces or by irregular groups.”

In that context, on Aug. 31, Venezuelan Minister of Communication Jorge Rodríguez denounced the operation of three military training camps in Colombia where terrorist actions against the Venezuelan government and society are being prepared.

Rodríguez affirmed that one is located in the city of Maicao, 2.5 kilometers from the border, another in Río Acha and the third in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. He explained that the first two are training for the use of explosives, and the third is for military training. Rodríguez charged that “they are training more than 200 people there to carry out paramili- tary actions, terrorism, selective assassi- nations, and aggression on the border.”

“Iván Duque, what are you going to do?” the Minister of Communication declared when inhabiting the president of Colombia to dismantle the training centers, which makes him an accomplice to these crimes, he said.

Rodríguez explained that the Venezuelan authorities were able to con- firm the existence of the facilities after disrupting three actions involving explo- sives. The first two were to occur on Aug. 17, when [terrorists] had planned to detonate explosives loaded with C4 in front of the headquarters of the Special Action Forces and a building in the 23 de Enero neighborhood, a Chavista stronghold. The third action had been scheduled for the end of August, with the detonation of an explosive in the Palace of Justice of Caracas, located in one of the busiest areas of the city center.

“All of this is part of a plan that would culminate in the next two weeks. They intended to perpetrate actions of greater and greater magnitude against the peo- ple of Venezuela and the president of the Republic,” Jorge Rodríguez charged.

The intersecting accusations marked a turning point.

How will the new escalation between Colombia and Venezuela play out in this context? The Venezuelan government has denounced the labyrinthine war plans being prepared from the neighboring country on several occasions. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez announced that she will present a new dialogue to the United Nations on “the protection and shelter provided by Iván Duque to terrorists and armed groups in Colombia and the military incursions and terrorist actions against Venezuela.”

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Dialectics of change in Hong Kong

The contradiction of two antagonistic systems

By Sara Flounders

What is the biggest problem that months of increasingly violent protests in Hong Kong have posed?

Many people, especially younger people, are trying to understand the turmoil in Hong Kong. A Sept. 4 Workers World article traced some roots of the current uprising to reactions with imperialist agencies and ideology. ("Hong Kong— or in the rest of China.")

Examined here is how the “One Country, Two Systems” agreement for Hong Kong, a 1997 compromise, was an attempt to freeze in place the contradictions between the “two systems” of China and that of the capitalist/imperialist powers.

Background to ‘One Country, Two Systems’

The One Country, Two Systems agreement is by its very name a contradiction. To assume that this inherently unstable formulation could continue for the 50-year duration of the agreement would be a static and idealistic view of social development. Every relationship in society is subject to change, content and struggle — in this case, a struggle between two conflicting social systems.

In 1997, the shrinking British empire was no longer able to hold any of its former possessions in the form of outright colonies. Instead, British imperialism had hammered into place, through British Commonwealth arrangements, neoliberal policies that guaranteed continued British economic domination throughout its former African and Asian colonies.

The People’s Republic of China, consolidated through the victory of the Chinese Revolution in 1949, was seriously underdeveloped when it took over the remnants of an antiquated system, but it was an empire that it was in the process of expanding into a new educational curriculum to enshrine concepts of bourgeois democracy in the school curriculum. China operated public schools for a very long time in contrast to the innumerable private schools that existed in colonial-run schools.

The British established a court system to guarantee archaic capitalist property relations — a court system still in place. To this day, the overwhelming appointments to the Hong Kong High Court are not Hong Kong citizens. They are foreign British and U.S. judges. British Commonwealth judges.

These machinations of British and U.S. policy makers were based on the premise that the capitalist market would quickly overwhelm China’s socialist revolution and negate the agreed-upon sovereignty of China over Hong Kong. The city was to be a wedge of capitalism into China. Its millions of English-speaking, well-educated young people were nurtured to be for pro-capitalist “democracy” and to be “Western” collaborators in the project to turn China over to capitalism.

The global capitalists assumed that what had happened to the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. Societist Republics would be repeated in China. Only six years before the 1997 agreement, imperialism had succeeded in overthrowing the U.S.S.R. Imperialism seemed all-powerful.

But the imperialists of capital have been unable to overtake or overturn socialism in China, and are now provoking political turmoil in Hong Kong in order to discredit socialist China on the political front. This turmoil is accentuated by pro-capitalist legal, financial and cultural structures put in place by the city’s former colonizers and also by the present extremes of wealth and poverty in a city with its roots in capitalism, according to the agreement, governed by China.

Uneven socialist development

The development of socialism in China is hardly a finished process. From 1979 on, People’s China focused on its own development and its ability not to attempt to speak in the name of world revolution.

The 1979 meeting of Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping with President Jimmy Carter in Washington followed by China’s invasion of Vietnam three weeks later, signaled an abrupt break with China’s past revolutionary standards.

Many revolutionary forces around the world, engaged in the class struggle in their own countries and opposed to their own ruling class, assumed that China had moved decisively toward capital- ism. Imperialist forces made the same assumptions.

For two decades after the 1997 agreement, China was absorbed in the monumental task of bringing hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and illiteracy. China’s economy has developed extremely rapidly since 1977, facilitated by ties to capitalist entities in Hong Kong.

But China’s economy remains under the control of the socialist superstructure — both the workers’ state and its Communist Party.

Now, British and U.S. policy strategists see that the state-owned banks and industries of the People’s Republic of China are likely to surpass the decaying capitalist socialists of the West in almost every field within the next five years.

In 1997, Hong Kong accounted for 27 percent of the gross domestic product of all of China and was the access point to billions flowing into China. Capitalism seemed impossible to dislodge.

At present, Hong Kong accounts for less than 3 percent of China’s GDP and that proportion is still decreasing.

The dilemma today

It is of historic and decisive importance that the Chinese Communist Party did not yield the Communist Party’s hold on the development of Chinese society and its economy. China continually be committed to using central planning to guide the development of essential infrastructure and central banks.

The Chinese Communist Party has made it abundantly clear that it is building socialism — with Chinese characteristics. It relies on socialist planning, but takes into account the development of capitalism as the dominant force. It’s objective is to build socialism, whilemak- ing compromises with the dominant force that exists in the city, the capital. They are driven by the compet- itive nature of the capitalist system to maximize profits and in sales to avoid competition with other capitalists.

In Hong Kong, capitalist property relations in the ownership of every square foot of land are still firmly established. Landlords, banks, lawyers and the legal appa- ratus of an antiquated system make even the most basic planning almost impossible. Western banks and investment firms are holding billions into state planning for vast infrastructure projects to help China ride out the sharp cuts in Western investments and international bankruptcies.

Now the problem for the People’s Republic of China is how to find a path to compete militarily and economically that both Hong Kong and Taiwan, when these two outposts are completely controlled by imperialism, are capable of competing with the property relations entrenched in layers of legal protection.

At the same time, China is faced with an escalating trade war initiated by the U.S., as well as expanded U.S. military operations in the South China Sea and attempts to militarize their答题 for 22 years, since 1997, a gener- ation of youth in Hong Kong has been raised with hostility to socialist planning and the denial of the fact that Hong Kong was part of China. Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on Western political tactics, promoting the illusion of Western “democracy” and waving the British Union Jack and the U.S. flag. Millions around the world under- stand that U.S. imperialism — with its endless wars and 800 international mil- itary bases, its starvation-sanctions pol- icies, its climate-change policies, its profit-driven, climate-crisis policies — is the greatest threat facing humanity. Capitalism has left the city of Hong Kong in a state of confusion and in disbelief in the future of Hong Kong youth.

For 22 years, since 1997, a generation of youth in Hong Kong has been raised with hostility to socialist planning and the denial of the fact that Hong Kong was part of China. Hundreds of millions of dollars spent on Western political tactics, promoting the illusion of Western “democracy” and waving the British Union Jack and the U.S. flag. Millions around the world understand that U.S. imperialism — with its endless wars and 800 international military bases, its starvation-sanctions policies, its climate-change policies, and profit-driven, climate-crisis policies — is the greatest threat facing humanity. Capitalism has left the city of Hong Kong in a state of confusion and disbelief in the future of Hong Kong youth. Workers World newspaper has a point of view. Unlike other corporate press, we report events from the perspective of the workers and the oppressed. But you already know that.

But you may not be aware that our pur- pose goes beyond passive reporting. Our Marxist-Leninist vision of an equitable, just, internationalist world focused on the needs of all peoples spurs us to advocate in workplaces, communities and streets for drastic change.

Workers World newspaper will show solidarity with labor marches all over the continent on Labor Day, the first Monday in September. That’s the federal holiday the ruling class “gave” U.S. workers in 1894 to distract us from memorializing May Day. However, May 1, promoted by socialists and communists, is cele- brated by workers around the world, as well as in the U.S., in honor of the 1886 Haymarket strike when Chicago workers won the eight-hour day, and won the right to determine their own fates.

Later this month the youth-initiated Global Climate Strike, Sept. 20-27, will arrive in New York City, where Workers World will be covering the event. Workers World was a media partner to the recent Paris climate change conference, where 348 million people from all over the world engaged in the most basic planning almost impossible.

Workers World is helping to get out the paper.

Members receive a year’s subscription for today and for the future! (www.workers.org)
Democrats: No debate on climate crisis

In a small room at Hudson Yards, a tiny, new Manhattan retail and housing complex, 10 Democratic candidates for president took turns Sept. 4 presenting their programs on the climate crisis. Each candidate was watched by CNN moderators and audience members for 40 minutes in a televised seven-hour “Climate Town Hall.” The event was not an actual debate.

Only a preselected audience was allowed entry into the venue, in a complex designed and built to protect the white farmers’ use of the land for commercial farming of crops like tobacco to be sold as commodities on the market. It was a mass march outside the Democratic National Convention, and the candidates voiced support. But over two-thirds of DNC delegates voted not to hold a climate debate, permitting candidate participation only in forums such as the CNN-controlled Town Hall. What are the Democrats so afraid of? Are they afraid of the emerging, comparatively progressive grouping inside their own party? Are they afraid of a Green New Deal — even though, like Roosevelt’s New Deal, the proposed GND leaves capitalist exploitation in place? Are their workplace safety laws and environmental regulations? While doing nothing at all to remedy the underlying problem. Perhaps they feared embarrassing Joe Biden. The former vice president, who pledged not to take money from the fossil fuel industry, was confronted by a Town Hall audience member about an upcoming Biden fundraiser, hosted by Andrew Goldman of natural gas company Liquid LNG. Biden immediately became defensive, insisting the company founder was not currently an earmark for the corporation.

Does that make a difference? Goldman has not disassociated himself from that company or the harm it caused. How can you say you are a climate justice and then turn around and hobnob with a fossil-industry bigwig?

‘Climate pricing’ a safe ‘solution’ — for capitalism

Despite the socialist baiting by Trump and his ilk, none of the 10 Democratic candidates participating in the climate forum want to get rid of capitalism. This includes Bernie Sanders. Calling for deprivatizing utility companies is as far as he’ll go — and that’s further than any other candidate. Although she said she would hold corporations accountable, Elizabeth Warren balked when an audience member asked how she would change capitalism. Most of the candidates did not support an all-out ban on fracking. Although natural gas is touted as a clean alternative to petroleum and coal, the fracking process, through the release of methane gas, actually contributes to global warming.

While Sanders presents a $6 trillion version of the Green New Deal, front-runner Biden would spend only a little over a tenth of that to address the climate crisis.

Nine of the ten called for “climate pricing,” formulas including “cap-and-trade” that charge companies a “price” based on carbon emissions. The World Bank has a web site promoting carbon pricing! There are two carbon-pricing bills in Congress now. One is a Republican-sponsored bill, which has the backing of Sen. John Cornyn and of Chevron and other oil companies. The other, bipartisan bill comes with a higher emissions price tag — but eliminates Environmental Protection Agency oversight for 10 years.

There is no proof that these formulas work to cut emissions. The tax could be treated as merely a cost of doing business — a cost that will, if possible, be passed on to the consumer. Isn’t that how a typical capitalist handles fines when they violate workplace safety laws and environmental regulations? While doing nothing at all to remedy the underlying problem. Privatized, even the weakest Democratic platform contrasts with that of climate-de- nying, fascist Trump. Many of the new climate action organizations are making voter registration a priority, specifically to vote for the most climate-friendly candidate in the Democratic primary. Then they will work “to beat Trump” no matter what.

But both the Democratic and Republican parties are capitalist parties. The most important thing young climate radicals can do is to stay in the streets. Strike, march, rally, sit-in, occupy, do whatever is necessary — to “shut it down” — to halt the climate catastrophe! ()

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... ‘Climate pricing’ a safe ‘solution’ — for capitalism

When Robert Mugabe, the first democratically elected president of Zimbabwe (formerly white supremacist-ruled Rhodesia), died on Sept. 6 at the age of 95, every pro-imperialist, bourgeois media united in demoniz- ing him as a “tyrant” and “dictator” in the most vile manner. Mugabe has even been accused of starving the masses, as if he single-handedly caused systematic droughts in the southern African region that are due to the global climate crisis. This begs the question: Why does the rul- ing class hate Mugabe so much? For progressives, socialists and commu- nists, it is important to defend this great revolutionary leader for the con- tributions he and others like him made to the ongoing struggle for national lib- eration of the entire African continent. Africa, including Zimbabwe, deserves remediation for the unpaid debt due from the centuries-long super-exploitation of colonialism and imperialism rooted in the monstrous Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The following is excerpted from a talk given by Mucaradza at the Democratic National Convention. Read other excerpts at tanzurl.com/gagiasam4.

The Berlin Conference in 1884-85 — the “Scramble for Africa” conference — is where the European capitalist countries met to carve up virtually the entire African continent. Nine of the ten called for “climate pric- ing,” formulas including “cap-and-trade” that charge companies a “price” based on carbon emissions. The World Bank has a web site promoting carbon pricing! There are two carbon-pricing bills in Congress now. One is a Republican-sponsored bill, which has the backing of Sen. John Cornyn and of Chevron and other oil companies. The other, bipartisan bill comes with a higher emissions price tag — but eliminates Environmental Protection Agency oversight for 10 years.

There is no proof that these formulas work to cut emissions. The tax could be treated as merely a cost of doing business — a cost that will, if possible, be passed on to the consumer. Isn’t that how a typical capitalist handles fines when they violate workplace safety laws and environmental regulations? While doing nothing at all to remedy the underlying problem. Privatized, even the weakest Democratic platform contrasts with that of climate-de- nying, fascist Trump. Many of the new climate action organizations are making voter registration a priority, specifically to vote for the most climate-friendly candidate in the Democratic primary. Then they will work “to beat Trump” no matter what.

But both the Democratic and Republican parties are capitalist parties. The most important thing young climate radicals can do is to stay in the streets. Strike, march, rally, sit-in, occupy, do whatever is necessary — to “shut it down” — to halt the climate catastrophe! ()

News item: Greyhound is defending its carbon-pricing bill, which includes a tax on passenger tickets and a web site promoting carbon pricing!

April 4, 2018


WW PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ

WW Commentary

How should Robert Mugabe be remembered?

By Monica Moorhead

When Robert Mugabe, the first democratically elected president of Zimbabwe (formerly white supremacist-ruled Rhodesia), died on Sept. 6 at the age of 95, every pro-imperialist, bourgeois media united in demonizing him as a “tyrant” and “dictator” in the most vile manner. Mugabe has even been accused of starving the masses, as if he single-handedly caused systematic droughts in the southern African region that are due to the global climate crisis. This begs the question: Why does the ruling class hate Mugabe so much? For progressives, socialists and communists, it is important to defend this great revolutionary leader for the contributions he and others like him made to the ongoing struggle for national liberation of the entire African continent. Africa, including Zimbabwe, deserves remediation for the unpaid debt due from the centuries-long super-exploitation of colonialism and imperialism rooted in the monstrous Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The following is excerpted from a talk given by Mucaradza at the Democratic National Convention. Read other excerpts at tanzurl.com/gagiasam4.

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April 4, 2018

Is internationalism terrorism?

By Ángeles Maestro
Madrid

The author, a spokesperson for the organization Red Network (redroja.net) based in organization, apology and exal-

Based on her organization’s collection of funds in solidarity with Palestine, spe-
cifically for the Gaza. Translation by John Catalinotto.

Aug. 29 — Recently, the National High Court of Spain has issued an order to imprison Leila Khaled for her role in a militant attack on the Twin Towers in September 2001.

The PFLP is a founding member and a prominent party of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, recognized since 1974 by the United Nations General Assembly as “the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.”

Beyond the specifics of the case against us, the central issue underlying this whole matter is the insurmountable difficulty in finding a definition of terrorism that meets the primary legal requirement of general applicability. Countless questions remain.

Can resistance against Nazi occupation in World War II be considered terrorism? That is a complex question. The case against the People’s Party for struggle against the American invader terrorist, or that of the African National Congress against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

All these situations were based on the alleged terrorist nature of the PFLP.

The historical examples are numerous and varied, and the attempt to give to the victim the strength of the party to decide who is a terrorist, as the state of Israel claims, contravenes the very basis of international law. This has been recognized in hundreds of resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly, which has always affirmed the legitimacy of the Palestinian people’s struggle.

The case against us, as well as the legal proceedings against representatives of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, aims to criminalize international solidarity with the Palestinian people and to assure that the daily crimes that Zionism perpetuates against Palestinians are both hushed up and unpunished.

It also persecutes not only solidarity with the Palestinian people, but internationalists in general, as is reflected in the orders issued by the court carrying out the accusation against us.

The “signs of criminality” that it considers us to be engaging in are the following: 

- international solidarity exercised by Red Network with Cuba, with Venezuela, with Bolivia, with Western Sahara.

Some of that gift of internationalism must continue to reach the Palestinian people and all the peoples of the world who resist imperialist and Zionist governments, their bankers and their military and political allies.

The arrival of the International Brigades was what pulled from the peo-

And even more force.

Forma de las mujeres en el conflicto. — "We have always asserted that the struggle against it are not those of the political orientation of the government of the country being attacked.


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What they are trying to wipe out is solidarity for the victims of the attacks on Aug. 3; victims of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) abuse.

Finally, to deride the capital, the monarchy that has been imported from Europe to fulfill its role in the advance of the fascist regime.

In economically simple terms, the inalienable will to struggle against the inhumanity of the fascist troops, the fascist regime.

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La lucha de clases y la crisis climática

Mundo Obrero editorial

Los hechos son irrefutables. Selvas tropicales ardien, glaciares derretiéndose. Las inundaciones de “una vez en cien años” están ocurriendo con una regularidad atrozadora.

Nadie puede discutir seriamente el pronóstico de la catástrofe climática.

La conversación que importa ahora es: quién es responsable y quién puede solucionarlo. Él es uno de los temas ampliamente discutidos en todos los medios donde las personas residen debo hablar el pasado Día del Trabajo.

La crisis climática es en todos los sentidos, un tema de la clase trabajadora. Los patrones climáticos salvajes y los desastres antinaturales resultantes dejan su marcas en todo el mundo. Los pueblos y las comunidades son golpeados. Solo los ricos tienen los medios para escapar de las consecuencias.

Los trabajadores jóvenes tienen mucho que enfrentar: trabajos sin salas, deudas estudianiles impagables, abuso policial, de todo, ellos están lidiando con eso.

Pero una de las preocupaciones más graves de los jóvenes es la crisis climática y lo que presagia para su propia existencia, y la de todos los seres en la tierra, se lee en los carteles de protesta, “No hay planeta B”. Esta tierra es el único cuerpo celular de soporte vital que tenemos.

Es la clase capitalista la que calcula el beneficio económico a corto plazo sin tener en cuenta la enorme huella de carbono que están dejando sus acciones pro ganancias.

Los barones del carbón y el petróleo quieren vender los productos no renovables que queman carbon que extraen del suelo. Las compañías automotrices quieren vehículos que obtengan las emisiones de carbono más bajas. Los contratistas militares se alinean para subir el tren de mermelada monetaria del mayor contaminador del mundo: el Pentágono.

¿Qué hay de las empresas de servicios públicos? First Energy presionó a la legislación del estado, habiendo los meses por un proyecto de ley que rescate las plantas de energía nuclear y de carbón (incluida la suya), al tiempo que eliminó los incentivos para las fuentes de energía renovables como la energía solar y eólica. First Energy es un importante donante de First Energy, con sus tentáculos que alcanzan en Extremo Derecho, con sus tentáculos que alcanzan en Extremo Derecho.

La crisis climática ha exacerbado esta contradicción hacia escenarios peligrigios y previamente inimaginables.

Sería ingenuo pensar que podemos evitar la crisis climática. En cambio, hay que hacer una pregunta: ¿cómo podemos hacer que los trabajadores, en lugar de ser la táctica del terrorismo, en un intento inútil por detener la migración de personas latinas y preservar su visión de un extremismo blanco.

Pero la fuerza impulsora de la Solidaridad de Workers World con la marcha de El Paso: ¡Abolir la supremacía blanca! ¡Abolir ICE!

Mundo Obrero editorial

La muerte en agosto del multimillonario derechista David Koch desató inmediatamente una serie de obstáculos extremos en los medios corporativos. Estas mini biografías lo describen a él y a su hermano Charles Koch como “filántropos” y financieros de ideas derechistas y movimientos políticos.

La atención de los medios sobre la muerte de David Koch hace recordar una cita de Karl Marx: “Las ideas de la clase dominante son en cada época las ideas dominantes” (“La ideología alemana”, 1845).

Las fortunas capitalistas provienen de la explotación del trabajo, es decir, de robar a la clase trabajadora la riqueza que solo los trabajadores pueden producir.

Los ricos, en lugar de hacer algo, tienen una pequeña parte de este botín y lo donan. Usualmente evitan pagar impuestos cuando donan a campaña de una “filantropía”, obtienen sus nombres en edificios cuando donan a cambio de esta “filantropía”, obtienen sus nombres en edificios. Las fortunas capitalistas provienen de la explotación del trabajo, de la riqueza maltratada de la clase dominante.

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