

## No ICE on Greyhound

# People's power stops bus raids

**Statement from FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere)**

*FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) is a multinational, multigenerational and multigender organization born from one of the most pressing political challenges of our time: the war against migrants. Based in the United States, this group seeks to bring together all sectors of society to concentrate our energies on abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement, immediately putting an end to all deportations and closing all migrant detention centers.*

Friday evening, Feb. 21, Greyhound Lines announced it would no longer allow Border Patrol agents to carry out warrantless searches on its buses. Border Patrol routinely searches intercity buses, demanding to see ID and seeking to detain and deport undocumented migrants. Previously, Greyhound had stood by, allowing this campaign of racist terror and falsely claiming it had no right to refuse Border Patrol access to its buses. In fact, Border Patrol agents have no right to conduct a warrantless search of a bus

without permission from Greyhound.

Greyhound's reversal, which comes one week after a leaked Border Patrol memo admitted the searches require Greyhound's approval, is a significant victory for the migrant rights movement. Buses are often the only means of intercity transit available to undocumented migrants, due to the greater costs and more stringent ID requirements of train and airplane travel. But we cannot become complacent: It remains to be seen if Greyhound will in fact carry out this new policy, and we can expect ICE/Border Patrol to attempt to continue the searches over Greyhound's objection.

Without ongoing public scrutiny, Greyhound may allow the searches to continue while publicly claiming to oppose them. For this reason a demonstration against the searches scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Port Authority Bus Station in New York City proceeded as planned, even after Greyhound had announced it would no longer allow the searches.

How was this victory achieved? Mainstream media accounts highlight pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union, a lawsuit filed in California and



Protesters marched through NYC's Port Authority Bus Terminal in a militant campaign against Greyhound, Oct. 25, 2019.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

## Trump war on migrants hits sanctuary cities

By Teresa Gutierrez

No matter what else is happening, the Trump administration is not relinquishing its war on migrants.

Savoring his victory over an impeachment that failed to oust him from office, the 45th president is set to deploy an elite squad of Customs and Border Protection agents in major cities throughout the country. The decision to deploy the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) is another sign that Trump is actually at war with migrants.

On Feb. 14 (Happy Valentine's Day, migrants), the New York Times reported that the Trump administration's announcement of this deployment is "part of a supercharged arrest operation" that will target sanctuary cities in particular.

Trump, salivating to frighten and

bully everyone in opposition to him, is escalating his fight against local governments, many of them led by Democratic Party officials, who have refused to allow their police or city agents to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The "specially trained" officers will be sent to Chicago, New York, Newark, Atlanta, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, New Orleans, Houston and Detroit beginning this month and through May. Their deployment, however, could be extended.

These cities have huge numbers of people of color. ICE agents, who act exactly like SWAT teams, are a threat to all of them.

A case in point is the shooting of a young man, Erick Diaz Cruz, in the face in Brooklyn, N.Y. On Feb. 7, ICE agents broke into Cruz's mother's home to arrest Gasper Avendano-Hernández, who they thought

*Continued on page 4*

potential legal action by the Washington state attorney general. While important, these forces are only part of the story. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1700, which represents Greyhound drivers, mechanics and other workers came out against Border Patrol searches in 2018.

Mass demonstrations at bus stations around the country, organized by FIRE and many other organizations, have educated passengers on their rights and showed that migrants and their supporters have the strength to shut down Greyhound if they choose. And finally, passengers across the country have fought back against the searches, successfully demanding Border Patrol get off the bus. They have informed their fellow passengers that they are not required to show ID to Border Patrol, which has no right to be there. Viral videos of these encounters have raised public consciousness, educating working and oppressed people about their power to fight back against racist terror.

This is a crucial lesson to draw from the campaign: Working and oppressed people have the power to win their demands through mass struggle and people's power. When we organize, educate and mobilize we are not struggling in vain—we can win.

So let's not stop with Greyhound, but push forward. The war against migrants continues to intensify. We must organize for May Day 2020 and beyond to close the detention (concentration) camps, stop all deportations, abolish ICE and reunite all children who have been stolen from their families.

We must organize to open the border, win permanent residency for all migrants and refugees, and defeat the violent policies of U.S. imperialism that cause migration crises around the world. The campaign against Border Patrol searches on Greyhound buses is a small step in a much larger struggle, but it shows that victory is possible, if we are willing to organize and fight for it. □

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3, 6-8

**Prisoner's hunger strike**  
**Capitalism & Black labor**  
**Eric Garner and Palestine**  
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## Supreme Court vs. abortion rights 4

## Sanders and road to socialism 5

### Editorial

## Coronavirus in perspective 10

## Venezuela 8 Gaza 9 Korea 10

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# Real U.S. military budget exceeds \$1 trillion

By Manlio Dinucci

Published Feb. 18 in *Il Manifesto* in Dinucci’s “Art of War” column, which examines Trump’s proposed military budget. Translation by John Catalinotto.

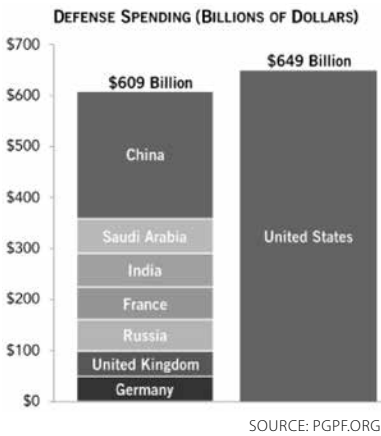
The “Budget for the Future of America,” which the U.S. government submitted, shows what the Trump administration’s priorities are in the federal budget for fiscal year 2021 (which begins Oct. 1).

First of all, it reduces social spending. For example, it cuts the required budget for the Department of Health and Human Services by 10 percent. Meanwhile, health authorities themselves report that influenza alone has caused about 10,000 deaths in the U.S. from October to February, out of a population of 330 million.

This news is kept quiet by the big media, which instead are raising a global alarm over the 1,770 deaths due to the coronavirus in China, a country with 1.4 billion inhabitants. One must suspect the real purpose behind the relentless media campaign, which sows terror on everything Chinese. To justify the U.S. budget, its framers insist that the U.S. “faces challenges from resurgent rival nation states, including Russia and China.” [For all quotes about the budget, see [tinyurl.com/qnfcuu6/](https://tinyurl.com/qnfcuu6/).]

They charge China with “waging cyber-enabled economic warfare against the United States and its allies” and of “wanting to shape the Indo-Pacific region,” which is critical to U.S. security and economic interests, “in its image.”

In order for the region to be “independent of malign Chinese influence,” the U.S. government is providing “\$30 million for the Global Engagement Center



The United States spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined.



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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, LGBTQ2+ 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

to counter Chinese propaganda and disinformation.”

In the context of “growing strategic competition,” the U.S. government states: “The Budget prioritizes funding for programs that would deliver warfighting advantages against China and Russia” and all other adversaries. To this end, President Trump announced that “to ensure internal security and promote U.S. interests abroad, my Budget provides \$740.5 billion for National Defense,” while it provides only \$94.5 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services.

The military budget includes \$69 billion for overseas war operations, more than \$19 billion for 10 warships, \$15 billion for 115 F-35 fighters and other aircraft, and \$11 billion to strengthen land armaments. The Pentagon’s science and technology programs require \$14 billion for the development of hypersonic and direct energy weapons, space systems and 5G networks.

These are just a few items on a long shopping list (with public money), which includes all the most advanced weapons systems, with colossal profits for Lockheed Martin and other weapons industries.

In addition to the Pentagon budget, a number of military expenditures are entered in the budgets of other departments. In fiscal year 2021, the Department of Energy will receive \$27 billion to maintain and modernize the nuclear arsenal. The Department of Homeland Security will also receive \$52 billion for its own secret service. The Department of Veterans Affairs will receive \$243 billion (10 percent more than in 2020) for retired military personnel.

Taking these and other items into account, U.S. military spending will exceed \$1 trillion in fiscal 2021. The military expenditure of the United States exerts a driving effect on the military expenditures of other countries, which, however, remain at much lower levels. Even taking into account the Pentagon budget alone, U.S. military spending is three to four times higher than China’s and more than 10 times higher than Russia’s.

In this way “The Budget supports U.S. military dominance in all warfighting domains—air, land, sea, space and cyberspace,” says the White House, announcing that the United States will soon be able to produce 80 new nuclear warheads a year in two plants. The budget for the future of the U.S. may mean the end of the world. □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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.

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## WORKERS WORLD this week

♦ In the U.S.	
ICE & Greyhound: People’s power stops bus raids . .	1
Trump war on migrants hits sanctuary cities . . . . .	1
Anatomy of a hunger strike — Part 3 . . . . .	3
Legal abortion: Struggle heads to Supreme Court . .	4
A revolutionary view of the Sanders campaign . . . .	5
The anti-war presidential candidate . . . . .	5
Capitalism and Black labor today . . . . .	6
Malcolm X iPresente! . . . . .	7
Students occupy, strike against white supremacy . .	8
Portland: New anti-war, anti-sanctions coalition . .	9
Bay area unions say: 'End U.S.-imposed sanctions'.	10
Antiwar conference builds unity, plans next steps. .	11
♦ Around the world	
Real U.S. military budget exceeds \$1 trillion . . . . .	2
Eric Garner to Palestine: A common struggle . . . .	7
Venezuela organizes against possible aggression. . .	8
Sanctions in Gaza. . . . .	9
Korean leaders reject U.S. sanctions . . . . .	10
♦ Editorial	
The coronavirus in perspective . . . . .	10
♦ Noticias en Español	
Solidaridad indígena cierra ferrocarril canadiense. .	12
¿Qué tipo de socialismo? . . . . .	12

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# Anatomy of a hunger strike

## Part 3 'Much more to be said and done'

Demetrius "Dee Jay" Grant (FY6063), an African-American prisoner in Pennsylvania, conducted a months-long hunger strike in 2019 over prison conditions at State Correctional Institution Albion. Grant is known as the "Pro Se Litigator," the person who exposed the mistreatment of mentally ill prisoners by former Correctional Officer Charles Graner at SCI Greene before Graner became famous for mistreating Iraqi detainees. Here is Part 3 of Workers World's interview with Grant about his experiences with the PA Department of Corrections (DOC).



Demetrius "Dee Jay" Grant

143 pounds and unable to eat whole foods because the feeding tube damaged my esophagus. All my food has to be pureed. Also, I have trouble walking, standing, sitting and laying down due to nerve damage, which medical staff here is refusing to treat me for. I have still not received an MRI for the nerve damage in my hand after the guards assaulted me. The medical staff refuses to house me in the infirmary for observation despite all my health issues.

Nevertheless, I believe the hunger strike was a victory because I was able to force the administration to sit down and address my grievances. Also, I learned the tactics medical and prison officials will use to combat hunger strikes. I took a hit to my body, not because of the hunger strike per se, but because of the nefarious "Five-Phase Plan." This is why the courts need to force the PA DOC to come up with a forced-feeding protocol instead of allowing officials to freestyle the process.

Since the strike, it's been a mixed bag wherein some prison officials and guards keep me at arm's length, but there are those who take every opportunity to retaliate against me. For example, Major Maure instructed the property room to confiscate all my legal and nonlegal property under the pretext I have excessive property. This is the same property I was transferred to SCI Albion with, and it had been in my possession until the hunger strike.

I am back in general population, and things are getting worse again with regard to unconstitutional, inhuman and repressive conditions.

### Complaints bring retaliation

**WW:** What did you learn from the hunger strike?

**Dee Jay:** The hunger strike made me realize that it is not for everyone. Outside support is a must so that they can't get away with abusing you. Most importantly, the hunger strike made me even more determined to stand up and resist abusive authority, no matter the cost.

My advice to all those out there who may be contemplating going on a hunger strike is: Make it worth it and don't stop until you achieve your goal. Remember, "never, never, never give up no matter how hard or long."

**WW:** What would you like to explain to people on the outside about prison conditions?

**Dee Jay:** In the past 5 to 10 years, prison life in Pennsylvania has changed dramatically due in large part to the closing of this state's mental health facilities. Now,

those individuals are being housed in the PA DOC. This was done by a previous governor, Ed Rendell, to save money.

In response, the DOC hired a bunch of psychiatrists and psychologists, but there are still not enough to deal with the large numbers of mentally ill prisoners, some of whom are violent, drug addicted or illiterate.

Initially, mentally ill prisoners were housed at SCI Waymart, but due to the large numbers, they are now being housed throughout all DOC facilities. It is having a profound effect on the overall general prison population.

PA state legislators and prison officials are using assaults committed by mentally ill prisoners to create policies and laws authorizing excessive use of force against all prisoners. The "Violence Reduction Policy" allows prison officials to arbitrarily deny prisoners their state and federal constitutional rights by placing a cell block or even entire prisons on lock downs for days on end after one of these mentally ill prisoners allegedly assaults a guard.

Recently the PA House Judiciary Committee passed three bills supposedly designed to improve the safety of county and state prison guards and staff, even though assaults on prison staff are at a 10-year low. Nothing, however, is being done to address the increase of assaults on prisoners by prison staff.

Ultimately, the guards and staff hired by the DOC cannot be adequately trained to deal with mentally ill prisoners. Some of them have mental illnesses themselves.

This situation means non-mentally-ill prisoners are being left with the burden of dealing with these mentally ill prisoners, even though we are not qualified.

The DOC and state legislators know the dynamics of what is happening, but they won't solve the crisis because it's a win-win for them. The state receives millions of dollars in federal funding to address a crisis it created. At the same time, they use this crisis to create new laws to increase repression and deny prisoners their state and federal constitutional rights.

*Joe Piette edited this talk, in communication with Grant.*



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Attica Prison Uprising, 1971

# Legal, affordable, safe abortion

## Struggle heads back to Supreme Court

By Sue Davis

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear statements upholding or opposing two linked Louisiana abortion rights cases with revised titles: June Medical Services LLC v. Stephen Russo and Russo v. June Medical Services LLC et al.

The first case was brought by a Louisiana medical clinic against state law Act 620, which would require doctors providing abortions in the state to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of their practice. An identical law in Texas had been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2016, Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt.

The second case was brought by the state of Louisiana, now represented by interim health secretary Stephen Russo, to defend right-wing Act 620. This suit challenges earlier Supreme Court rulings that protect the right to abortion.

In 2019, SCOTUS sent the first case, passed in 2014, back to the notoriously reactionary U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Center for Reproductive Rights had appealed, on behalf of Louisiana abortion providers, to keep the law from going into effect until they could file a petition for review. In a 5-4 decision in their favor, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts chose to vote with the four justices who support abortion rights, so the case would return to his court in 2020.

As WW wrote in 2019, “Roberts’ vote was not to affirm abortion rights, but a hands-off message to the lower court not to short-circuit the Supreme Court’s power. All it did was maintain the status quo.”

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, writing a lone dissent to the ruling, asserted the only way to prove whether the admitting-privileges requirement would impose an undue burden was to let the law go into effect and see what happens. This exposed his true

anti-abortion colors, which he had hidden during nomination hearings in 2018. It meant that “some women could be completely denied the choice to terminate a pregnancy and forced to carry the pregnancy to term.” (scotusblog.com)

As WW concluded: “What the ruling ultimately shows is that Roberts is not a born-again pro-choice hero, but a strict defender of the Supreme Court’s prestige and power, which was surely sullied by Kavanaugh’s history of attempted rape of a teen-age girl. Given his dissent, Kavanaugh revealed that he is truly heartless and cruel about women’s health and well-being. Just as the thousands of women who protested against his nomination understood in their bones.”

Abortion providers challenged the Louisiana law because severe complications during abortions requiring hospitalization are exceedingly rare—as in practically never.

The law’s real purpose is to drive clinics out of business, as happened in Texas, and to restrict access to surgical abortions. If the law stands, two out of three clinics will be forced to close in Louisiana.

### Second case could overturn legal abortion

The second suit, only recently discussed by the media, is a sneak attack on abortion rights themselves. Filed on Feb. 1, 2019 (Gee v. June Medical Services LLC et al.), it is meant to demolish not just Whole Women’s Health or other cases like Planned Parenthood v. Casey in 1992, but Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court’s 1973 decision establishing the right to legal abortion.

Chief Justice Roberts’ seemingly pro-abortion vote in 2019 may have instead been to assert that if any court was going to overturn the 2016 ruling, it should be the Roberts Court—after extended, intensive oral arguments and

deliberation.

As The Intercept wrote on Feb. 10, the second Louisiana suit against clinics “threatens not only to undo decades of precedent allowing abortion providers to mount legal challenges on behalf of their prospective patients, but also dismantles a century of precedent in other kinds of cases in which plaintiffs similarly seek to vindicate the rights of third parties.” An example in criminal cases is that defendants have been granted standing to assert jurors’ equal protection rights if they were rejected for jury duty based on race.

What is “legal precedent”? It is a ruling that establishes a principle which is then used by judicial bodies to decide later cases having similar issues or facts. In this way, a past decision becomes an authority that judges are expected to follow. In Latin it’s the doctrine of “stare decisis.”

The second suit, continues The Intercept, “is the latest salvo in the ongoing effort of anti-abortion lawmakers to erode reproductive rights. Without ever ruling on the constitutionality of any particular abortion restriction, the Supreme Court, by ruling in favor of Louisiana, could make it practically impossible to challenge states’ increasingly draconian and punitive restrictions on abortion and ultimately eviscerate reproductive autonomy.”

### Supporters reflect seriousness of the conflict

The Center for Reproductive Rights is arguing against both Louisiana state laws, backed by the American



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

A National Day of Action for access to abortion drew crowds of supporters in New York City on May 21, 2019.

Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Bar Association, a group of former federal judges and DOJ officials, seven federal court scholars, 197 members of Congress, attorneys general from 21 states and District of Columbia, reproductive justice and public health advocates, civil rights groups promoting women’s and LGBTQ2+ rights and those of people with disabilities, social science experts, abortion providers, faith leaders and nearly 380 individuals sharing their personal abortion experiences.

On the other side, right-wingers of all kinds have massed to defend both Louisiana laws.

The March 4 SCOTUS hearing will only provide clues about the final ruling based on the justices’ questions. The final decision will not be revealed until the end of June, when the court issues its most controversial decisions.

Because they haven’t been able to win in the court of public opinion, the right-wing has resorted to stealth legal maneuvers in an attempt to abolish the right to abortion. □

# Trump war on migrants hits sanctuary cities

Continued from page 1

was in the U.S. without documents. When Cruz tried to help Hernandez, guns went off and Cruz, 26 years old, was shot in the face.

The Mexican Consul later confirmed that Avendano-Hernandez was actually in the country with documents!

On the same day as the shooting, in a show of solidarity, community leaders held a press conference at the hospital where Cruz was taken. The Brooklyn borough president and others demanded accountability from ICE and said that the shooting “should never have happened in a sanctuary city like New York.”

The next step should be for city officials to get on board to abolish ICE altogether.

To punish New York, Trump arranged

for an announcement on Tucker Carlson’s show on Fox News about a new Department of Homeland Security directive saying city residents are no longer eligible to enroll in programs like Global Entry, which expedites travelers’ wait times when returning to the U.S. from abroad. (Feb. 5)

### Sanctuary cities targeted

The reality is that, while sanctuary cities are important to send a message to Washington, migrant workers are still subjected to roundups and checkpoints in those cities. Nonetheless, it is a minor victory for migrant workers when police are not forced to work with ICE.

Trump is relentless in cracking down on sanctuary cities. He is skirting local laws in order to assign 100 BORTAC agents to work with ICE.

Who are these agents? According to the Feb. 14 New York Times, the elite tactical team known as BORTAC is the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. They will be provided with “stun grenades [and] enhanced Special Forces type training, including sniper certification.”

Even within the ranks of this reactionary government body, former CBP commissioner Gil Kerlikowske told the Times that “sending the officers to

conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations. He called the move a ‘significant mistake.’ ”

In a Feb.15 “PBS News Hour” interview, Times reporter Caitlin Dickerson explained that BORTAC officers “are chosen from individual border patrol units. They undergo specific training. It’s similar to Army Rangers or to Special Forces. They’re sniper certified, they have grenades ... that can obscure what you can see when they break into your home. They carry very large weapons. They’re very much a militaristic squad from within the Border Patrol.”

Dickerson continued: “Undocumented immigrants are on high alert at this point. They know exactly what ICE agents wear. And they’re going to notice when they see people wearing not a typical ICE uniform, but a SWAT type uniform outside their home, if that’s the way that the BORTAC officers are dressed when they go out on this operation.”

She added: “There’s immigration enforcement through arrests. But governments know ... that there’s also enforcement through fear. It is a strategy ... that you continue to make this country less hospitable to people.”

Nothing that Trump or Obama before him have done has stopped the flow of humanity into the U.S. or other developed countries.

### Crisis of imperialism

This is not merely a crisis of policy. This is a crisis of imperialism. It is capitalism’s economic, social and war-driven policies that are at the root of forced migration.

A prime example is El Salvador.

Human Rights Watch, which is a mixed bag in terms of its political outlook, reports that at least 138 people who had been deported back to El Salvador in the last few years have been killed upon return. Others have been “sexually assaulted, tortured or kidnapped.” (Portside, Feb. 8)

Yet people still continue to come here. Despite the SWAT teams, the cages, the separation of families, the deaths of children from the flu, the anti-trans murders and so on, workers continue to make that dangerous trek into the U.S.

And those who survive and establish roots hook into a complex and thriving underground system that alerts the community whenever ICE dogs appear. This is a network operating under the very noses of imperialism.

This kind of organization, tenacity and resistance is what will ultimately defeat the war on migrants. The struggle cannot be successfully won, however, without the unity and solidarity of all workers in this country who demand “Abolish ICE. Dismantle BORTAC. No borders in the workers’ struggle.” □



ICE arrests women workers at Koch Foods plant, Morton, Miss., in 2019.



# A revolutionary view of the Sanders campaign

Part 1

By Scott Williams

*Read the entire article on workers.org*

The competition for the Democratic presidential nomination has become a focus of political life in the United States. For revolutionaries debating how to view this campaign, we must answer the following questions: What is the class character of the Sanders' movement? What is the potential impact of the Sanders' movement on the worldwide interests of the working class and the oppressed? How can this development lead to a broader revolutionary upsurge in the heart of the U.S. empire? From there we must chart a plan of action.

## Character and context of Sanders movement

The rejuvenation of social democracy and liberal reformism, most notably in the rise of the left in the Democratic Party, comes as a response to the decline of the U.S. empire and the inability of the U.S. capitalist economy to provide decent, well-paying jobs to a majority of the working class.

On one hand, the People's Republic of China has risen as a clear economic and geopolitical challenge to U.S. imperialist world domination. On the other, the U.S. remains plagued by endless imperialist war, mass incarceration, low wages, enormous debt, underemployment, sexual and gender-based violence, and outbursts of racist, fascist terror. A major financial collapse looms, threatening to finally reveal the weaknesses of the real economy and then unleash a deeper ruling-class assault on workers' quality of life.

In struggle against neoliberal economic terrorism by U.S. banks and corporations and their client states, our class has taken to the streets across the world. Tens of millions have fought against austerity and the capitalist ruling class in Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, France, Colombia and elsewhere; hundreds of millions if India is included. The desperate attempts of the U.S. empire to maintain its stranglehold on the world economy have caused anti-imperialist reactions in Iraq, Iran, Venezuela and Palestine.

The unifying issue of this global struggle is the declining prospects for working-class youth who live in capitalist societies. A multinational youth movement has identified neoliberal capitalism as its primary enemy. In some ways, the second presidential campaign of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders gets its popular energy from and provides a voice for part of the U.S. wing of this working-class

youth movement.

The viability of any reformist movement like the Sanders' campaign, in the face of a weakening global capitalist system, can be debated. Can social democracy and progressive reformism be revived? Insecure about maintaining its profits in a capitalist economy that is declining relative to other world powers, the U.S. ruling class has increased its exploitation of the working class, taking an ever larger proportion of the wealth the workers produce.

Without the material basis provided by the expansion of U.S. imperialism and its reaping of superprofits, any rebirth of social democracy would find it difficult to deliver meaningful benefits to the workers, even should it win an election. What is needed instead is a movement that seeks nothing short of the end of capitalism.

## Ruling class attacks Sanders

Earlier this month, Sanders said: "In many respects, we are a socialist society today. ... Donald Trump, before he was president, as a private businessperson, he received \$800 million in tax breaks and subsidies to build luxury housing in New York. ... The difference between my socialism and Trump's socialism is I believe the government should help working families, not billionaires." (Axios, Feb. 9)

As communists, we are well aware that Sanders holds political positions we can't support: his lack of solidarity with international anti-imperialist struggles, his lack of support for reparations for slavery along with Black Lives Matter, his vitriolic attack on pro-socialist leaders like Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, his support for laws criminalizing sex workers and much more.

Sanders' program is more like Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" in the mid-1960s or Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. Sanders' social democracy is only seen as a "radical socialist" project because the U.S. ruling class has imposed such right-wing, pro-capitalist ideology and programs on the population.

The U.S. ruling class may own finance capital, oil, pharmaceutical giants and the "health" profit industry; be landlords or real estate investors; own big data, agriculture and/or other sectors. Their slightly different specific interests are reflected by the two parties, the Democrats and the Republicans.



and expand their interests. Yet they all unite against Sanders, not just because of the potential impact on their profits, but because they fear a greater social movement could develop that will call into question the elites' plunder and profit.

Thus, we can expect anti-communist attacks against Sanders to continue to escalate if his campaign continues to gain steam. This red-baiting must be met with an active campaign to popularize real socialism, one that goes beyond Sanders' deflective statement (in the Axios quote) about how "socialism" already exists for the rich.

Our movement must unequivocally defend the necessity of socialism and the obvious, documented superiority of workers' ownership of the means of production, paired with planning that prioritizes human needs and the life of the Earth over profits.

## Internationalism is a necessity, not an inconvenience

Along with the red-baiting, the attacks on Sanders from pro-Israeli forces—similar to the outrageous attacks on former Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn by the British media—will continue. This is even though Sanders limits his statements on Palestine to support for basic human rights.

Sanders himself is Jewish. Yet this will not stop the attacks on him for alleged anti-Semitism—simply because he doesn't give full backing to Israel's murderous campaign to annihilate the Palestinian people. These attacks must be met by a strong, anti-racist movement in defense of the Palestinian people's right to exist, from the river to the sea.

Sanders claims to be against U.S. wars

in Iraq and beyond, yet his voting record doesn't reflect that. Sanders' support for U.S. imperialism must be fought by those who wish to see his domestic program be successful. The domestic and foreign policies of the empire are directly connected. Both policies are about the balance of power between the oppressed and the oppressor.

While liberal politicians may fear taking anti-war positions, socialists must expose the foreign policy of the empire as directed by the needs of capitalism. Ruthless sanctions and murder must be contested in the name of international solidarity and the survival of the more than 7.5 billion people in the world threatened by the most violent ruling elite ever, based in Wall Street and Washington.

Our struggle, that of the working class in the U.S., is primarily against the U.S. billionaires, not against other countries. The strategy of revolutionary defeatism—to defeat our own ruling class—as expressed by V.I. Lenin during World War I, should be elementary for revolutionaries and must be learned by a resurgent left that, for too long, has been infected by bourgeois pro-war propaganda.

We must also learn how to resist the imperialist attacks on China, Venezuela, Iran, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and beyond. Working-class internationalism and solidarity with the oppressed are central to our long-term goal of socialist revolution.

Allies of the U.S. working class abroad may view the election of Sanders as a victory against the empire. A Sanders' victory could open serious struggles over the need to dismantle the U.S. empire in order to save the planet, to rebuild the global economy and to pay reparations to those dispossessed by the U.S.

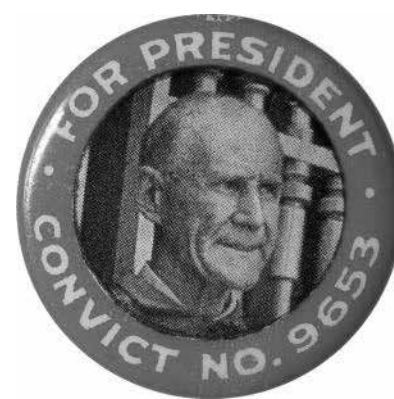
To the extent, however, that Sanders gives public support for closed borders, sanctions, U.S. air strikes and other measures, this would alienate his popular base—a base he would have to rely upon to beat back the inevitable attacks from the right. This contradiction could give rise to a greater level of struggle.

*Next issue: Elections: A barometer or an organizing tool?*

# The anti-war presidential candidate

Eugene V. Debs ran for president in 1920 from a prison cell where he had been thrown because of his opposition to World War I. Debs, a militant labor leader and a socialist, got a million votes, even though he wasn't endorsed by either of the two "major" parties. His campaign button, shown here, proudly included his prisoner ID number.

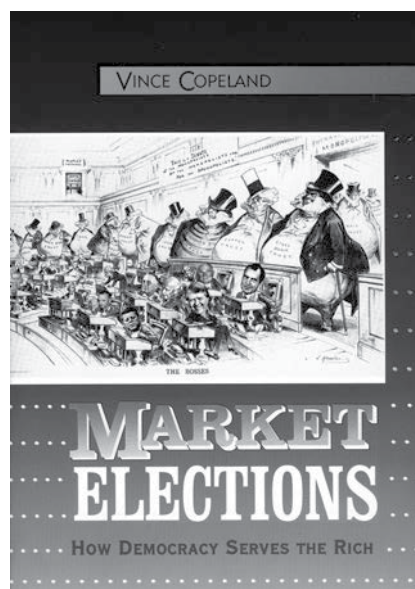
Debs' strong opposition to imperialist war was shared by many workers, who knew exactly what he was talking about when he said: "Let me emphasize the fact—and it cannot be repeated too often—that the working class who fight



all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both."

Now, many, many U.S. wars later, there is more reason than ever for any candidate professing socialism to come out strongly and clearly in opposition to the monstrous U.S. military machine that has ravaged so many areas of the globe in the name of "peace" and "democracy."

— Report by Deirdre Griswold



## Market Elections

by Vince Copeland is an invaluable reference for those seeking to understand the complexities of how the ruling class has been able to use the 'democratic process' to stay in power for more than two centuries—and how mass movements can break through the two-party straightjacket to bring about real change. Copeland's book was first published in 2000. The paperback (296 pages) can be ordered from online booksellers or directly from World View Forum at 147 West 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011 \$15 (includes shipping.)

Available through online sellers.



# Black labor: From chattel slavery to wage slavery

## Part 3

## Capitalism and Black labor today

By Sam Marcy

*The following is excerpted from Chapter 2 of Marcy's "High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class," first published in 1986. Note that a few selected words have been updated to reflect current usage. Marcy is the late chairperson of Workers World Party. "High Tech, Low Pay" is available as a free download at [workers.org/marcy](http://workers.org/marcy).*

The South was a slavocracy based on an ancient mode of production within the geographical confines of a new world social order, the bourgeois social order, with its own mode of capitalist production. One of the fundamental differences between the bourgeois mode and older modes of production so eloquently brought out in the Communist Manifesto is that "The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society."<sup>1</sup>

How does this stack up with the Southern slavocracy? Marx continued, "Conservation of the old modes of production in unaltered form was ... the first condition of existence for all earlier industrial classes." The South tried to retain the old slavocracy not only in unaltered form but in extreme rigidity. It was therefore on a collision course with the new bourgeois order, with the process of capitalist production and its tremendous growth in the North.

### Slavery vs. capitalist production

Another and more flagrant contradiction was that one of the fundamental characteristics of the capitalist mode of production is wage slavery, which means a free proletarian, that is, a worker free to sell his or her labor on the capitalist market. Capitalist production and the extraction of surplus value in the interest of further capitalist accumulation is virtually impossible without a free working class, free to be exploited and oppressed, free to be unemployed. Chattel slavery was thus thoroughly incompatible with wage slavery.

Slavery as an economic institution has everywhere proved itself uneconomical. This is especially true when it depends on one great crop such as cotton, with diminishing reliance on sugar, rice and other products. The South was turning into a monocultural economy.

Over all, the spectacular leap in technology on which the Southern planters depended so heavily to maintain slavery was only one of many scientific and technological developments in an era which was rapidly turning them out in greater and greater numbers. In this respect the South was falling far behind the North.

The North was making all the great strides in science and technology. It built up great universities which became centers for basic research. Whatever prominence the South had had in science in the earlier days, it was losing to the North. Seen in terms of the contemporary struggle in technology of the U.S. against Japan and Western Europe, the South

was steadily losing ground to the North in what we would call today the technological race.

As a competing form of economic and social system compared to the social system based on capitalist production, slavery was hopelessly out of place and had no chance, save by the use of sheer force. Slavery was static, fixed and extremely rigid in its form of production. It was also characterized by the most outlandish forms of cruelty and brutality.

The capitalist system, on the other hand, while certainly not characterized by either compassion or humanity, was nevertheless "revolutionizing" its means of production, that is, it was advancing science and technology. The change



Black women railroad workers during the 1940s, pictured left to right: Marcella Lockhart, Ida Jackson, twin sisters Catherine Jackson and Lucille Gray, Mildred Johnson and her mother Grace Johnson, sisters-in-law Eleanor Naylor and Mary Naylor, Clarice Cook.

from chattel slavery to wage slavery was a profoundly revolutionary change, a tremendous social transformation. But historically it constituted a change in the form of exploitation, not its abolition.

Thus we see that while the first phase of the scientific-technological revolution brought fabulous profits to the South and gave it the power to expand, it ultimately undid slavery. Just as technological change undermined the Southern slavocracy, so will it make obsolete the present industrial financial plutocracy with its system of wage slavery. ...

### Black labor today

Extrapolating from the population figures provided in the 1986 annual report of the National Urban League on the "State of Black America," there are about 28 million Black people in the United States. That's larger than most African countries and larger than most middle-sized countries represented in the United Nations.

By always referring to Black people as a minority, the bourgeois press obscures the class significance of the Black population, which is overwhelmingly working class and which, therefore, especially when taken together with the Latinx, Asian and Native population, adds a very significant dimension to the whole character of the working class here.

To regard the Black struggle strictly from the viewpoint of minority-majority is to lose much of its profound social and political implications. What should

interest working-class students of the Black struggle, however, is that even these figures, which are probably understated, disclose a social viability which has strong revolutionary potentialities given the conditions we believe are developing that will give a fundamentally altered social composition to the working class.

To understand the current state of Black labor in the United States, it is necessary to look first at the mass migration of Black people to the North which took on momentum early in the 20th century and reached considerable proportions at the end of the First World War. Mass production industries in the U.S. like auto (especially Ford) and steel were in a period of high capitalist development.

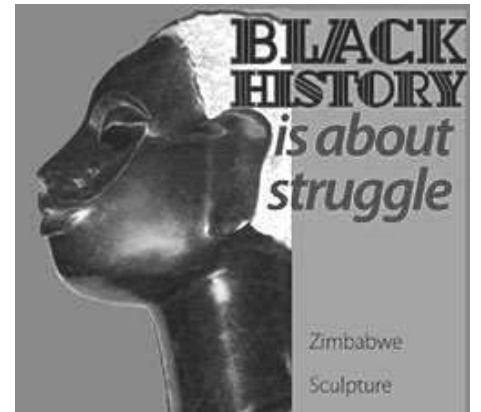
When this culminated in the First World War, it opened the gates of some industries and fields of economic endeavor to Black labor, notwithstanding rank discrimination and entrenched racial barriers.

These were not relaxed. Instead artificial classifications were created so that Black workers doing almost exactly the same work as whites got far lower wages. Nor were barriers lifted in the skilled trades and American Federation of Labor craft unions. These were as rigidly racist in their approach as they had been before the First World War. But Black labor continually found ways to gain skills and get skilled jobs despite government, employer and union racial discrimination.

It should always be borne in mind that even the first boatloads of enslaved people who arrived in this country from Africa brought with them useful skills which were developed even in slavery times. In cities like New York and Philadelphia, before the mass migrations from Europe started, there were a considerable number of Black workers in industry who had developed skills. But as more and more white labor from Europe became available, Black workers began to be relentlessly driven out of industry.

These mass migrations from Europe undermined whatever leverage the Black workers might have had in industry notwithstanding discrimination. Things got more and more difficult for them.

Capitalism, as the involuntary



promoter of the development of the working class, also caused the mass migration of Black agricultural workers from the South to the North. Notwithstanding the racial barrier or the unemployment as a consequence of the capitalist economic cycle, more and more Black workers got into Northern industry even as the pool of Black unemployed grew.

That most of the central cities of the North, and now some in the South, have a majority or a very large minority of Black people is objectively due to the transformation of capitalist industry with the First and Second World Wars. World War II in particular was a much longer war for the U.S. and entailed the construction of many defense facilities. In fact, the entire U.S. industrial apparatus was converted for war purposes and for the first time full employment became an artificial phenomenon dependent on war spending.

These two objective factors—the First and Second World Wars—also found an echo beginning in 1950 with the Korean War. In the early 1950s and again during the Vietnam War employment was artificially propped up by the continuing growth of the defense industries.

If today in cities like Detroit, Chicago, Newark, Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Memphis and Birmingham there are large Black populations with some political power, it is not due to any attempt by the ruling class to ameliorate the condition of Black workers or to lighten the burden of discrimination. Rather it comes as a result of objective development arising out of the organic functioning of the capitalist system and the inevitability of imperialist wars and military interventions abroad. This is not to say that the whole industrial structure of the U.S. is due entirely to imperialist wars, but without them it is difficult to conceive how there could have been such a rapid social transformation in the condition of Black and also white workers.

The mass migration from the South—and back to the South, especially during times of unemployment—is among the objective factors affecting the development of Black labor. The subjective factors arise from the freedom struggle, especially the struggle of the 1960s. ...

*Next: Marcy on labor and the Black Freedom struggle.*

### References

1. Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party."



# From Eric Garner to Occupied Palestine: A common enemy and struggle

By Henry Hagins

*This slightly edited article first appeared online on July 29, 2014, on workers.org.*

Against the illuminating backdrop of the Dred Scott Decision of 1857, there exist disturbing parallels between the cowardly New York Police Department's racist killing of Eric Garner and the on-going, genocidal assault against the heroic Palestinian people by the Zionist garrison state of Israel. These parallels are fervently anchored in the ideology of exceptionalism, imperial expansion and white supremacy. They go to the very heart of how the United States developed into an unprecedented empire, along with the creation of Israel as an extension to that end.

In effect, this settler-state, intrusively planted in the Middle East, owes much of its existence and behavior to the world-threatening model, carefully crafted by the United States, from its bloody inception. Israel is a "mini-carbon-copy" of U.S. imperialist greed and dominance.

The Indigenous population of what was to become known as North America was virtually wiped out and replaced by enslaved Africans, forcibly deposited on its shores. Neither the Native peoples nor Africans, contrary to myths, passively accepted the practices of land theft and stolen labor.

Chief Crazy Horse and Harriet Tubman immediately come to mind as symbols of resistance. Rebellion continues to run through their children's veins, despite ingenious attempts by the ruling class to pacify and smokescreen its disgraceful deeds.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prophetically pointed out, "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again." The

pristine monument of him, recently erected in Washington, D.C., can never fully hide the J. Edgar Hoover-led FBI war waged against him and other freedom fighters. Many still remember his April 1967 speech at New York's Riverside Church strongly opposing the deceitfully introduced and criminal U.S. military presence in Vietnam.

The Dred Scott Decision of 1857, presided over by Supreme Court Justice Roger B. Taney, nefariously reaffirmed the legal and culturally held belief that Africans in the U.S., slave or free, had no rights that whites were bound to respect! When looking at the NYPD-instigated death of Eric Garner and the fraudulent excuse by Israel about the deaths of three Israeli teenagers as the pretext to resume its genocidal attacks against the Palestinians by a heavily militarized state, the immediate and stark violations become unavoidable in the Dred Scott context.

## Disenfranchisement and destruction

African-American Eric Garner lived in the NYPD-occupied Black and Latinx section of Staten Island. Palestinians live in Israeli-controlled Gaza and the West Bank. Both peoples are subject to the whims of occupying armies. In both instances, their human and political rights are eroded and made a mockery of on a daily basis. The history of contempt and the evasion of responsibility for causing such pain are well documented, yet disingenuously denied by the occupiers.

Adding insult to injury, the besieged parties are shamelessly blamed for authoring their own misery and/or death



Eric Garner

by these same, heavily armed and numerically superior forces!

The courageously recorded video of Eric Garner's demise on July 17 clearly tells what happened when the "Five-Oh" NYPD attack dogs surrounded him. With his hands in the air, the deadly chokehold was applied in sneak-attack fashion from behind. While he was being wrestled to the ground, his last words were, "I can't breathe." His earlier denials of any wrongdoing were cavalierly ignored. And he expressed indignation about being badgered by the cops. According to the video footage, not a shred of effort was made to restore his breathing by the cops and the Emergency Medical Services!

To no surprise, none of the police involved in the killing of Garner were charged with any offenses, much less for murder. In fact, Daniel Pantaleo, the officer who put the chokehold on Garner, was put on desk duty despite a well-known history of police abuse.

There are countless, outrageous and humiliating stories about Palestinians being abused at checkpoints, from molestations to death at the cruel hands of settlers and Israeli military forces. Israeli Prime Minister Ben Netanyahu, like NYC Police Chief Bill Bratton, doubletalks while generally defending these obscene practices. In 2012, the NYPD opened an office in Israel!

## State-sponsored terrorism

Black and Latinx people in the U.S., like their sisters and brothers in Palestine, remain the targets of state-sponsored terrorism. It is reinforced with declared and

undeclared Jim Crow laws. The results are largely the same. The results are not acceptable!

Adolph Hitler, in his book, "Mein Kampf," credits none other than the U.S. itself in laying out the formula he used for land theft, population reduction and the enslavement of subject people in his demented pursuit of world domination!

The United States seeks world domination, big time! Rationales offered are found in the notions of manifest destiny, U.S. exceptionalism, imperial expansion, along with open, crude or cleverly hidden doses of racism. That is the fuel that powers its economic and political systems. And that won't change on its own accord. Take a critical look at its sordid record!

Israel, as an extension of this philosophy, added the woefully specious argument of "A land without a people, for a people without a land" to justify, since 1948, the heartless displacement of the Palestinian people from their Indigenous land.

A lust for control of the oil, gas and water in the region, Israel has been backed up with countless stockpiles of military and political hardware (to the tune of billions of dollars) as a reward and obligation to carry out the insidious plans of its relentless benefactor, the U.S., as well as its own plans. It cannot prevail.

As we honor the memories of Eric Garner, Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo, Eleanor Bumpurs, Ramarley Graham, Kimani Gray, Kyam Livingston and so many others at the time of Israel's recent assault inspired by U.S. imperialism, at home and abroad, let's remember comrade Joe Hill's admonishment, "Don't mourn, organize!" In truth, "We are all Gaza." □



©Hamdi Abu Rahma

Solidarity with Eric Garner on the West Bank, Occupied Palestine.

## New York City Malcolm X ¡Presente!

The New York branch of Workers World Party held a special Black History Month forum on "The impact of Malcolm X's legacy on the global class struggle today" on Feb. 20—one day before the 55th anniversary of the assassination of the great Black Nationalist leader. From Black Lives Matter to the migrant struggle, the speakers connected these issues, and more, to the inspiration Malcolm X still evokes today, with his words and deeds promoting anti-imperialist internationalism.

Speakers were (above, left to right): Monica Moorehead, WW managing editor; Uriel Perez, Alliance For Fair Food;



WW PHOTO: JANET MAYES

Larry Holmes, Workers World Party First Secretary; Nely Rodriguez, Coalition of Immokalee Workers; and Vincent Taccetta and Makasi Motema, Peoples Power Assemblies-NYC.

— Workers World New York bureau

## Honor Black History Month—Support WW

Workers World makes a big deal about Black History Month because racism pervades every aspect of life under capitalism. Everything—from fighting for living-wage jobs to ending police terror, for affordable housing and community-control schools—is rooted in the centuries-long struggle to end this country's vicious history of racism, rooted in the worst, violence-driven, superexploitation—slavery.

That's why every month, not just February, the newspaper chronicles the

struggles of peoples of African descent to eradicate institutionalized, systemic white supremacy. Case in point is our continuing coverage of the struggle for political prisoners, like Mumia Abu-Jamal and Chuck Africa, the last of the MOVE 9 who was just released after 40-plus years of criminal incarceration.

WW bases our weekly coverage of the Black struggle here and in the African diaspora on breaking imperialist chains and the principle of self-determination. Oppressed people have the right to fight

to end all forms of inequality and injustice—by any means necessary.

If you appreciate our coverage, it's time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership promptly. WW Supporter Program was established 43 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year—\$100 or \$300 or more if you're

able—members receive a subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues, five free subscriptions to give to friends—and a book for donations over \$75. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/.

Know that we are grateful for your help in building Workers World! □

# Countrywide military exercise

## Venezuela organizes against possible aggression

By Marco Teruggi  
Caracas

Published in *pagina12.com.ar* on Feb 18.  
Translation by John Catalinotto.

The military has been deployed in Venezuela—not only in Caracas, where weapons, soldiers and militia could be seen—but throughout the country. All five components of the Bolivarian National Armed Force (FANB) were activated: the Bolivarian National Guard, the Bolivarian Army, the Bolivarian Navy, the Bolivarian Military Aviation and the Bolivarian Militia.

President Nicolás Maduro announced Feb. 14 that this exercise, called “Bolivarian Shield 2020,” activated 2.3 million combatants. The last operation of a similar type took place in September 2019. Under the name “Sovereignty and Peace,” it focused on the border areas.

Remigio Ceballos, strategic operational commander, said: “The FANB’s strategic operational command, the eight strategic regions of integrated defense, the 28 operational zones of integrated defense, the 99 areas of integrated defense, the groups and popular bases of integrated defense, and the popular units of integrated defense are all deployed in the national territory.”

The televised exercises showed what a military deployment might look like in the event of an attack. They demonstrated how the deployment of soldiers, the anti-aircraft system and the firing of missiles from warships would look. And they showed how an operation to



Venezuela’s government organized 2.3 million soldiers to participate in Bolivarian Shield defense exercises in mid-February.

establish resistance centers in Caracas, in the event of a bombing and troop attack, would appear.

Activation of the Militia was one of the significant elements within the Bolivarian Shield. General in Chief Vladimir Padrino López highlighted its importance: “The incorporation of the Militia as a special component of the FANB grants an added value to the defense of the Nation [...] they are regular combatants, not armed civilians.”

The Bolivarian Militia has been the target of many attacks by the Venezuelan opposition, which has oscillated between ridiculing those who are part of the Militia and then showing its fear about the growing number of women and men in the Militia and the extent of their training.

### Masses involved in defense

This is one of the most distinctive features of the Venezuelan political process, as it allows and encourages the participation of the population in the defense of the nation under Article 130 of the Constitution. The Militia consists mostly of women and men, workers, from the popular sectors, slums and rural areas—those who identify with Chavism [the revolutionary process begun by the late President Hugo Chávez] and realize the need to prepare themselves for upcoming threats.

These threats come at a decisive moment in Venezuela, following the U.S. government’s organized tour for [self-proclaimed “president”] Juan Guaidó. He

made key appearances at the State of the Union address in the U.S. Congress and at a meeting with President Donald Trump in the White House. These were not just photo opportunities.

A sector of the Venezuelan right-wing is openly calling for the use of force against the Venezuelan government. That wing of the opposition is lobbying in the U.S. in order to bring about aggressive action. They are active where a sector of the Republican Party and the deep state [Pentagon, CIA, etc.] act along those lines.

Within this framework, Bolivarian Shield 2020 was a demonstration of force, military readiness and dissuasion aimed at the United States and Venezuela’s neighboring countries, particularly Colombia and Brazil. There have been instances of serious tension aimed at Bolivarian Venezuela coming from across the borders of these two countries.

This is not the only defensive action which the Maduro government has developed. Other operations are used to prepare for potential conflicts where regular military action would be the least likely. The framework of possible attacks suggests that potential operations are focused on aggression by paramilitaries, mercenaries – with attempted surgical shootings, such as assassinations – or attacks aimed at provoking social upheavals.

The military exercise was also a reaffirmation of the existing command of President Nicolás Maduro, and the fictional presidency of Juan Guaidó, who has given no concrete or decisive announcements since his return to Venezuela. □

# Students occupy, strike against white supremacy

By Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Syracuse, N.Y.

Feb. 24—With Black students leading, the #NotAgainSU coalition has occupied Syracuse University’s admissions building since Feb. 17.

They are protesting Chancellor Kent Syverud’s inaction in dealing with anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Indigenous, anti-Semitic and homophobic incidents.

At least 29 such physical assaults, verbal threats—including death threats—and graffiti on and near campus have occurred since Nov. 7, the latest on Feb. 21. (See timeline at [tinyurl.com/s5es5w6/](https://tinyurl.com/s5es5w6/).)

#NotAgainSU launched protests in November, when multiple instances of racist graffiti and violent vandalism first appeared in dormitories and classroom buildings. After the lack of any response from the administration, the coalition

occupied the Barnes Center at The Arch for eight days. Finally, a crowd of 1,000 people marched on Syverud’s house, demanding his resignation.

After a standoff, the chancellor agreed to meet coalition demands that his administration act to end the attacks and make systemic changes to fight discrimination. But racist incidents have continued unabated, while administration actions have been so slow as to be only “window-dressing.”

### Students occupy to get action

The spring semester began with a homophobic physical assault and more racist graffiti. After an unproductive appeal to the SU Board of Trustees, #NotAgainSU occupied Crouse-Hinds Hall, the admissions building, on Feb. 17.

The coalition’s renewed list of demands includes punishment, up to expulsion, for

those promoting or initiating hate crimes; mandatory diversity training for incoming faculty and administrators; curriculum reform on diversity; changed housing procedures to minimize impact of prejudice; more hiring of staff of “marginalized identities,” including resident advisors and counselors; and the designation and funding of a separate Multicultural Center. (Detailed demands at [tinyurl.com/tgv3aw](https://tinyurl.com/tgv3aw))

On Feb. 18, Syverud and his administration immediately took an aggressively hard line against the protest and issued suspensions of 30 student occupiers. Armed university guards turned back food, medical supplies and any supporters who came to offer assistance to the students.

The racist bias of the administration was quickly unmasked when four suspended students came forward to prove they had never been present in the Crouse-Hinds occupation. All four women were Black students.

On Feb. 19, #NotAgainSU issued a statement: “The administration has not appropriately addressed the 25+ hate crimes that have occurred ... and they have not addressed student protesters in any way that is reflective of a commitment to equal safety and support.”

### Student workers strike in solidarity

Immediately after the SU administration imposed the suspensions, 100 graduate students of color and international students announced a labor strike in solidarity with the occupiers. ([tinyurl.com/wan3uwc](https://tinyurl.com/wan3uwc))

They were quickly joined by other grad student workers also calling for a strike action and pledging to withhold their labor

from the university. Over 150 had signed the separate solidarity strike statement by the evening of Feb. 19. ([tinyurl.com/qpnohk7](https://tinyurl.com/qpnohk7))

In addition to supporting the demands of the occupiers, the statement declared the strike would continue until suspensions of all #NotAgainSU organizers and student activists were lifted and their records cleared.

With the power of student-worker solidarity accelerating, an immediate victory was won. Chancellor Syverud was forced to lift all suspensions on the occupiers by the afternoon of Feb. 19. He did not, however, address any of the student demands.

A group of SU professors issued a statement denouncing the administration’s lockdown and isolation of protesting students; denial of food, medical supplies and visitors; imposition of suspensions; use of armed guards and threats of arrest. The statement said in closing: “The use of war crime tactics against our students must be renounced.” (Daily Orange, Feb. 24)

Student workers on strike had these words of fighting wisdom to offer: “A number of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] and international graduate students have received threats of retaliation from their respective departments—including threats of termination and revocation of funding. To you all, we say the only protection for us lies in our collective numbers. ... Our strike has already seen a win with the suspensions being lifted. This speaks to our collective power. But wins are never a time to concede; wins are always times to sustain pressure.” (“Labor Strike” statement, [tinyurl.com/wan3uwc](https://tinyurl.com/wan3uwc)) □



Over 100 supporters gather outside Syracuse University admissions building in solidarity with Black student-led occupation Feb. 18.

PHOTO: WRVO



# Sanctions in Gaza

By Pippa Bartolotti

*The author, a former leader of the Green Party of Wales, writes on political and social issues. This article, on the Israeli blockade of Gaza, has been published as a resource on the sanctionskill.org site. The Sanctions Kill coalition has called for actions on March 13-15 to denounce U.S.-imposed sanctions as acts of war and crimes against humanity. Workers World republishes the article in solidarity with the March 13-15 protests and with the people of Gaza.*

Feb. 9—The hardships in Gaza are well known, but the human implications of the blockade are rarely documented in the Western press. This is because the interests of Israel, the U.S. and other nations supporting these sanctions would not be well served by the truth.

Let us be clear, these are Israel's sanctions imposed as an occupying power, but this form of collective punishment upon an already impoverished civilian population is heavily backed by the U.S. through unstinting political support and billions of dollars in economic and military aid sent annually from the U.S. to the Israeli government.

Gaza is a distinct area of isolated land bordering the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Egypt to the south, and Israel to the east and north. It is roughly the size of Detroit. Most entry points are permanently closed, and it is almost impossible for residents to leave. Lord Patten, former chair of the British Conservative Party, said Gaza was "an open-air prison encircled by an apartheid wall."

But it is worse than that. I have been there. Gaza City, with 4,000 years of torrid history behind it, is home to about half a million people. In the saturation bombing of Gaza city by Israel in 2008/9, more than half the city was utterly destroyed. An estimated 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis died in the conflict. The net result is dire overcrowding in the buildings left standing. Rebuilding is impossible as building materials are banned.

The sanctions imposed on the people living on this small strip of land are cruel and inhumane, as are all sanctions designed to bring an entire people to its knees for the sake of political disruption. Among the many hundreds of items banned from Gaza are coriander, sewing thread, spare parts for tractors, fishing rods, steel and concrete, some medicines



Gaza fishing boats challenge Israeli blockade, 2018.

as well as paper, pens and chocolate.

I brought a couple of bars of chocolate with me when I eventually made it through the Rafah Gate, and one of the most moving sights I have seen in my life was that of a woman slowly unwrapping the chocolate and holding it to her mouth. She didn't eat it, she just smelt it, and savored the thought of it, and put it quietly in her bag. She had not tasted chocolate for more than 20 years.

## Sanctions cause hygiene and food problems

Due to the banning of building materials, Gaza has never been able to rebuild its sewage plant, which was bombed to smithereens in 2009. I experienced the raw sewage of some 2 million people gushing untreated into the Mediterranean Sea.

This is not just a hygiene problem; it is a food supply problem as well. Gaza fishermen in their little boats are constantly being harassed and shot at by Israeli warships. Forced back from their legal fishing zone of 20 nautical miles (Oslo Accords)

to just a few hundred yards from shore means they have to fish in virtually undiluted sewage. Fresh fish is one of the few sources of protein for Gazans as meat, lentils, seeds and nuts are banned.

The World Bank estimated in 2015 that [Gaza's gross domestic product] losses caused by the blockade since 2007 were above 50 percent and entailed large welfare losses. Gaza's manufacturing sector, once significant, shrunk by as much as 60 percent in real terms due to the wars in the past 20 years and the blockade.

Gaza's exports have virtually disappeared since the imposition of the 2007 blockade. The World Bank stated that "solutions have to be found to enable faster inflow of construction materials into Gaza," while taking into account "legitimate security concerns of neighboring countries."

Three out of four people in Gaza are refugees. Unsafe drinking water has led to a worsening health crisis. Gazan children suffer from diarrhea, kidney disease, stunted growth and impaired IQ. Twenty



years ago, 85 percent of Gaza's drinking wells were too contaminated for human consumption. Today, that figure is 97 percent.

The underground aquifer was never going to be enough to supply the quadrupling of the population when refugees flooded into Gaza in 1948 in fear for their lives. The water now is basically poison.

Food, fuel and water are meted out by the Israeli government as they see fit. An Israeli official has stated that the objective of these sanctions is to "put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger."

When I was there, the fuel had run out, and there was certainly not enough food for visitors. I was given a small bottle of water. I had the feeling that this generosity would lead to someone else going without.

## Power off 20 hours a day

The power is shut off for 20 hours a day, sometimes more. With daily armed drone patrols overhead, gunboat patrols in the sea and a fortified land border where indiscriminate shootings of children, donkeys and old people are a weekly occurrence, daily life in Gaza is an unimaginable torment. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights keeps an account of the weekly death toll. These are rarely reported in the world press as they conflict with Western propaganda efforts.

Sanctions affect the health of all, but children suffer most. Undernourished, traumatized by constant bombings and with death and destruction a daily event, they will grow up with disabilities, despair and hopelessness. They will also know who the perpetrators of their misery are.

There is broad consensus among human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as U.N. offices such as the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), that the siege of Gaza is illegal and exists in flagrant disregard for the democratically elected government of Gaza.

The most important thing to recognize about sanctions is that they don't work. Worse, they are counterproductive in that they manufacture the conditions for hate and revenge. This is a psychological cost which no side can afford if normalized relations are the ultimate goal. □

# New coalition mobilizes against U.S. sanctions and war

By Lily Judge  
Portland, Ore.

Over 50 members of local anti-war and anti-imperialist groups attended a panel discussion here on Feb. 23. The meeting was organized by the Portland Anti-War Coalition, a newly formed group, which is planning a March 14 rally as part of the International Days of Action to Stop U.S. Sanctions and Economic War.

Keynote speakers were Palestinian Saif Al Khatib; Emma Martinez, a member of the International Migrants Alliance; Jennifer Anderson, from Anakbayan; and Workers World member Joshua Hanks representing the Sanctions Kill coalition. They all announced their common goal of coalition building—with an emphasis on raising class consciousness in the U.S. about imperialist wars—and the need for

an anti-war, anti-sanctions movement.

Hanks spoke about the specific, targeted acts of war committed by the U.S. in

the form of sanctions: "Sanctions are not separate from war but rather play an integral role in modern warfare, extending

the theater of combat to economics and diplomacy. Ending sanctions should be a major demand of any anti-war and anti-imperialist movement."

Other speakers expressed similar sentiments. Martinez described the U.S. war machine as being the root cause of forced migration to the U.S. Al Khatib emphasized that any group or movement should be judged by its stance on Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people.

Anderson explained the U.S. influence over the government of the Philippines. She stressed the importance of building a united anti-imperialist movement tied to workers worldwide.

This meeting was a strong first step in building the anti-war, anti-sanctions movement in Portland. Everyone who attended was committed to building the March 14 demonstration. □



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY







# National antiwar conference builds unity, plans next steps

By Scott Williams  
New York

Over 300 activists and organizers from across the U.S. and Canada met here on Feb. 21-23 for the United National Antiwar Coalition national conference, “Rise Against Militarism, Racism and the Climate Crisis—Building Power Together.”

The opening plenum focused on the role of the U.S. anti-war movement in demanding an end to U.S. interventions across the world. Remarks by UNAC Co-Coordinator Joe Lombardo were followed with talks by Bahman Azad, organizational secretary of the U.S. Peace Council; Bernadette Ellorin, chairperson of BAYAN USA; and Camilo Mejia, a Nicaraguan anti-war activist who was in the U.S. Army in Iraq and served time in prison for his resistance to the Iraq War. The evening ended with a cultural event featuring songwriter and performance artist Aya Aziz.



From left: Cassia Laham, Jean-Luc Pierite, Makasi Motema, Diane Moxley, and Jeff Mackler.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

## Wide-ranging panel discussions

Saturday’s first session focused on connecting the wars at home and abroad to the global climate crisis, with panelists Cassia Laham of POWIR (People’s Opposition to War, Imperialism, and Racism); Diane Moxley of Green Party New Jersey; Jean-Luc Pierite of Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, president of the Board of the North American Indian Center of Boston; and Makasi Motema of Peoples Power Assemblies-NYC.

Setting the stage for continued organizing against U.S. sanctions, a major panel was convened with Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center; attorney Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement; Juyeon Rhee of Nodutdol for Korean Community Development; Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CODEPINK; and Suzanne Adely of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and co-chair of National Lawyers Guild International.

A spirited Students for a Democratic Society delegation from Wisconsin, led by Lana Akindes, raised the important demonstrations against the Democratic National Convention to be held in Milwaukee in July. Support was voiced for plans for protests in Charlotte, N.C., during the Republican National Convention in August (raised by this writer).

Glen Ford, executive director of Black Agenda Report, gave a keynote talk focused on the duplicity of the two-party system of corporate domination.

Saturday’s final panel focused on the federal government’s repression of movements against racism, capitalism and war. Frank Chapman of the National Alliance against Political and Racist Repression; attorney Michael Steven Smith, author of “Lawyers for the Left”; and Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese of the Venezuelan Embassy Defenders led this important discussion.

## Anti-war movement’s approach to 2020 elections

On Sunday morning, the gathering focused on the anti-war movement’s approach to the 2020 elections, including the fact that none of the major presidential candidates of the two major parties have called for a significant reduction in the Pentagon budget or for an end to the ruthless sanctions and endless war waged by the U.S. empire. The panel included Ajamu Baraka and Margaret Kimberley, respectively national organizer and coordinating committee member of Black Alliance for Peace, as well as Adrian Bonifacio, chairperson of Anakbayan-USA.

Workshops during the weekend discussed nuclear weapons; the U.S. military as the world’s biggest polluter; fighting U.S. regime change in Iran, Nicaragua, Ukraine and beyond; the importance

of the human rights framework in opposing U.S. war; imperialism and the migration crisis; U.S. war plans for China and Russia; how to analyze U.S. imperialist propaganda; and fighting militarism in our communities.

The conference resolved UNAC’s points of unity, reaffirmed the past points of unity, added points on climate change and reaffirmed continuing support for the Palestinian struggle.

The conference supported a series of follow-up actions to build unity in the struggle. The session considering these was co-chaired by Rhoda Ramiro and Taryn Fivek. There was overwhelming support for coordinated actions against U.S.-imposed economic sanctions on March 13-15; the National Cuba Conference in New York City on March 21-22; protests at the DNC and RNC conventions; the defense campaigns of Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange and the Embassy Protectors; May Day actions; Earth Day and other climate actions; and anti-fascist actions

in Europe on May 9. Also stressed as a focus in moving forward was defense of mobilizations by im/migrants, anti-racists and communities of color, as well as emergency actions against U.S. war moves on countries around the world.

The conference ended with a march to the Port Authority of New York to protest Greyhound’s compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection in their illegal search, detention and deportation of people on Greyhound buses.

As a result of a militant and ongoing campaign against Greyhound, the company announced Feb. 22 it would no longer comply with these racist searches. But due to the recent presidential directives sending ICE into Sanctuary Cities, the conference stressed the need for continued vigilance and mobilization. □

# Solidaridad indígena cierra ferrocarril canadiense

Continúa de la página 12

Hazelton, interrumpiendo el servicio de la línea principal en el norte de B.C. La RCMP arrestó a 28 personas en un bloqueo ferroviario de Houston, B.C.

Canadian National obtuvo órdenes judiciales para poner fin a las manifestaciones ferroviarias cerca de Belleville, Ontario, New Hazelton, B.C., y cerca de Winnipeg. Los Mohawks de Tyendinaga desafiaron los mandatos de la corte provincial para abrir el bloqueo de Belleville.

La Policía Provincial de Ontario se vio obligada a negociar con los soberanos Mohawks, que ahora han creado un segundo sitio de bloqueo ferroviario dentro del territorio Tyendinaga Mohawk. Y los Kahnawake Mohawks ha bloqueado una línea del Pacífico canadiense cerca de la costa sur de Montreal. APTN News (Cadena de Televisión del Pueblo aborigen) informa que aliados locales no indígenas están llevando suministros a los sitios de bloqueo de Mohawk.

## Protestas de la ‘historia de la violencia’

A medida que se extendían las protestas de solidaridad, los manifestantes interrumpieron la Legislatura de la Columbia Británica durante la entrega del discurso del “trono” del vicegobernador Janet Austin. Los manifestantes acamparon afuera cantando “¡Vergüenza!” mientras los políticos buscaban ayuda de la seguridad contratada para ingresar al edificio.

El 15 de febrero, 100 manifestantes bloquearon físicamente una línea ferroviaria en el este de Vancouver y entregaron volantes que decían: “Queremos reconocer la historia compartida de la violencia experimentada por los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades chinas y punjabi en el llamado B.C.” (tinyurl.com/uyr8pwj)

Wet’suwet’en está sacando a la luz el fracaso de la Oficina de Evaluación Ambiental de B.C. de considerar la conocida amenaza de violencia hacia las mujeres, niñas y dos espíritus indígenas de los campamentos de trabajo de proyectos de combustibles fósiles. La Investigación nacional de Canadá sobre

mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas encontró “evidencia sustancial” de que los proyectos de extracción de recursos están relacionados con ataques violentos contra mujeres indígenas, niños y personas de dos espíritus. Los planes de CGL incluyen la construcción de 14 “campamentos de hombres”, uno para albergar a 400 hombres a unos 13 kilómetros del Centro de Sanación Unist’ot’en. (tinyurl.com/tao3qzw)

El campamento de Unist’ot’en declaró el 10 de febrero: “Nuestras matriarcas fueron arrestadas mientras realizaban una ceremonia para llamar a nuestros antepasados y honrar a las mujeres y niñas indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas. Las Unist’ot’en sabemos que la violencia en nuestra tierra y la violencia en nuestras mujeres están conectadas. Durante la ceremonia, colgamos vestidos rojos para recordar los espíritus de las mujeres, niñas y dos espíritus asesinados que nos quitaron”.

Andrew Brant de Tyendinaga dijo que los Mohawk están devolviendo el apoyo

mostrado por Primeras Naciones en B.C. durante la crisis de Oka en 1990, cuando los Mohawks de Kanesatake, Que., se enfrentaron a los militares canadienses por la expansión de un campo de golf. “Vamos a estar con ellos ahora”, dijo Brant. “Nos han expulsado de tantos lugares, esto es todo lo que nos queda. Entendemos por lo que están pasando”. (tinyurl.com/usuf43x)

## Cómo apoyar a Wet’suwet’en

La solidaridad de otras Primeras Naciones y aliados durante el desarrollo de la crisis climática ha aumentado el apoyo a las demandas indígenas de “Land Back”. Para saber cómo apoyar a Wet’suwet’en contra la construcción ilegal de tuberías de CGL, visite tinyurl.com/rppq5ke/. Para contribuir al Fondo Legal de Unist’ot’en, visite tinyurl.com/tvg96xj/.

*La herencia de Tromblay es Huron nonstatus y naciones mixtas del sudeste indocumentadas.*





Ottawa protesta el 7 de febrero contra el gasoducto propuesto Coastal GasLink en el noroeste de Columbia Británica

## #AllEyesonWetsuweten

# Solidaridad indígena cierra ferrocarril canadiense

Por Stephanie Tromblay

La Primera Nación de Wet’suwet’en enfrenta la violencia y la invasión colonial, ya que continúa defendiendo su territorio contra un proyecto de oleoducto multimillonario que amenaza sus tierras y aguas tradicionales. Las fronteras territoriales de Wet’suwet’en están rodeadas por la provincia occidental que fue nombrada Columbia Británica por la nación colonizadora Canadá.

El 8 de enero, el Campamento Unist’ot’en que protege el territorio de Wet’suwet’en convocó a una semana de solidaridad internacional: “El 31 de diciembre de 2019, la B. C. La Juez de la Corte Suprema Marguerite Church otorgó una orden judicial contra los miembros de la nación Wet’suwet’en, que han estado administrando y protegiendo nuestros territorios tradicionales de la destrucción de múltiples tuberías, incluida la tubería de gas natural licuado (GNL) de Coastal GasLink (CGL). Los jefes hereditarios de los cinco clanes de Wet’suwet’en han rechazado la decisión de Church, que criminaliza a Anuk’nu’at’en (ley de Wet’suwet’en), y han emitido y forzado un desalojo de los trabajadores de CGL del territorio”. (tinyurl.com/sldyrz2)

El mandato de Church es ilegal. Los Wet’suwet’en tienen derechos legales sobre sus tierras: en 1997, la Corte Suprema de Canadá reconoció el título aborigen de tierras no cedidas de las Primeras Naciones en la decisión de Delgamuukw.

Pero en lugar de abrir relaciones con las Primeras Naciones, cuyas tierras nunca han sido cedidas, el gobierno provincial de Columbia Británica y los cabilderos corporativos están conspirando para forzar la “rendición” de los derechos territoriales de las Primeras Naciones a fin de robar tierras para construir los \$5 mil millones (6,6 mil millones de dólares canadienses) gasoducto CGL. (tinyurl.com/s3b3w4t)

La fuerza utilizada incluye la violenta incursión de tierras soberanas de la Real Policía Montada de Canadá (RCMP) en enero de 2019, que provocó protestas en Canadá y en todo el mundo.

El 4 de enero, los jefes de Wet’suwet’en escoltaron al último contratista de CGL. El 6 de febrero, la RCMP trasladó ilegalmente maquinaria pesada y helicópteros a territorio soberano y no cedido de Wet’suwet’en y arrestó a 28 defensores de tierras de la nación de Wet’suwet’en.

### La llamada de Wet’suwet’en provoca la solidaridad rápida

El llamado de solidaridad del 8 de enero declaró: “Nuestra fuerza para actuar hoy proviene del conocimiento de que nuestros aliados en Canadá y en todo el mundo nuevamente se levantarán con nosotros, como lo hicieron con Oka, Gustafsen Lake y Elsipogtog, cerrando las líneas de ferrocarril, puertos e infraestructura industrial y presionar a los funcionarios gubernamentales electos para que cumplan con la UNDRIP (Declaración de las Naciones

Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas). El estado debe dejar de apoyar violentamente a los miembros del 1% que están robando nuestros recursos y condenando a nuestros hijos a un mundo que el cambio climático ha vuelto inhabitable”.

El 5 de febrero, los Tyendinaga Mohawks bloquearon el ferrocarril cerca de Belleville, Ontario, en el único enlace oriental de Canadian National Railway Co. (CN) entre el este y el oeste de Canadá o el medio oeste de los EE.UU. Esto efectivamente cerró el tráfico ferroviario de carga y pasajeros en el este de Ontario. (Ferrocarril progresivo, 12 de febrero)

Los Mohawks de Tyendinaga dicen que no terminarán su manifestación hasta que la RCMP abandone el territorio de Wet’suwet’en.

Para el 11 de febrero, la expansión de las protestas ferroviarias efectivamente cerró todas las rutas entre Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal y Kingston, y CN advirtió sobre un efecto indirecto en los puertos costeros. (tinyurl.com/v3aws6w) CN declaró que docenas de trenes de carga cancelados habían detenido el envío de todas las categorías, desde propano hasta materia prima para las fábricas. (tinyurl.com/t58tn4c) Y el espacio limitado de railyard de CN para el almacenamiento de material rodante se agregó al cierre a través del respaldo de tráfico de Halifax, N.S., a Windsor, Ont., y en partes de Columbia Británica.

### Bloqueos ferroviarios desafiantes eficaces

Fabricantes y exportadores canadienses, la asociación de comercio e industria más grande de Canadá, que generalmente envía productos en unos 4.500 vagones por día, pidió una mayor intervención del gobierno. El presidente de CM&E, Dennis Darby, declaró que sus partes interesadas, desde compañías químicas hasta Dannon Yogurt, han llamado con alarma por el cierre del ferrocarril, vital para la infraestructura de carga de Canadá. Canadian National mueve \$250 mil millones al año a través de su red transcontinental.

El cierre también afecta a los agricultores de trigo y cebada. "Los retrasos provocarán que los agricultores no puedan entregar su grano", dijo Dave Bishop, presidente de la Comisión de Alberta Barley. “Todavía nos estamos recuperando de la cosecha del infierno y necesitamos un movimiento confiable de granos para volver a la pista”. (NPR, 14 de febrero)

Los medios corporativos están intentando fomentar el sentimiento anti-indígena con advertencias de una posible escasez de propano. (tinyurl.com/rq8sylv)

A partir del 12 de febrero, Via Rail Canada dijo que 157 trenes habían sido cancelados, afectando a más de 24.500 pasajeros en el corredor ferroviario de Toronto a Montreal. Vía servicio ferroviario en la provincia B.C. también fue cerrada por un bloqueo cerca de New

*Continúa en la página 11*

# ¿Qué tipo de socialismo?

## MUNDO OBRERO

### editorial

Se ha producido un cambio radical en los Estados Unidos. Por fin, las encuestas muestran que el socialismo ya no es la “palabra sucia” que era una vez, incluso cuando decir públicamente que eras socialista, y especialmente comunista, podría significar ser condenado al ostracismo, atacado, despedido de tu trabajo, incluso encarcelado.

No desde los días del líder sindical Eugene Debs (1855-1926), a un socialista le ha ido bien en las elecciones presidenciales de Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, el candidato Bernie Sanders, que se identifica a sí mismo como un “socialista democrático”, está creciendo en popularidad.

Supongamos que Sanders pueda ganar la presidencia. Sus posibilidades son ciertamente escasas, dada la alineación de los patrocinadores más ricos de ambas partes contra él, pero nada es imposible. Muchos socialdemócratas como Sanders han sido elegidos para altos cargos en Europa. Han extraído algunas concesiones de las clases dominantes.

Pero eso no es socialismo.

Tampoco Sanders se postula para la

nominación de un partido que profesa socialismo. El Partido Demócrata ciertamente nunca lo ha respaldado. Por el contrario, ha coexistido con el Partido Republicano como dos partidos de la clase dominante sólidamente en el campo del capitalismo.

El Partido Demócrata también ha tenido éxito en la venta de la guerra imperialista al pueblo, haciendo que luche y muera no por la “democracia” sino por el dominio corporativo de los recursos del mundo.

Durante décadas, el Partido Demócrata también fue el partido de la segregación del sur. Pero en el norte, especialmente con la administración Franklin Delano Roosevelt, el partido se asoció con programas gubernamentales para aliviar la pobreza.

Lo que ha cambiado no es el liderazgo de los dos partidos capitalistas o su compromiso con el sistema de ganancias, sino el sentimiento de los votantes. Muchos, especialmente los jóvenes, se han dado cuenta de que el capitalismo es responsable de la alucinante brecha de riqueza en este país. Ellos quieren un cambio.

Sanders representa el tipo de cambio llevado a cabo por los partidos socialdemócratas en otros lugares que han traído reformas bienvenidas, pero que han coexistido con la propiedad capitalista y el control de los medios de producción.

Es esta propiedad y control lo que les da

a los capitalistas su poder, no solo sobre la vida económica sino también sobre la política del país.

### ¿Qué es el socialismo?

Lo que plantea la pregunta, ¿en qué se basa el socialismo real? En primer lugar, una revisión básica de la economía para lograr el socialismo solo puede comenzar cuando la clase trabajadora flexiona su poder y toma los medios de producción y los utiliza para resolver los problemas de pobreza y desigualdad.

No hay razón para la pobreza en este país, ni en el mundo. El nivel de productividad capaz de satisfacer las necesidades de las personas ahora es asombroso. Un verdadero gobierno obrero podría eliminar inmediatamente la pobreza expropiando la propiedad de los ricos y planificando el desarrollo económico basado en la necesidad humana, no en las ganancias.

¿Por qué no debería la clase trabajadora global en su conjunto y controlar los medios de producción? Todo está construido por trabajadores en primer lugar.

¿Por qué no deberían refugiarse las personas sin hogar en todas las mansiones y condominios vacíos que están desiertos la mayor parte del tiempo, mientras sus adinerados propietarios viajan por todo el mundo?

¿Por qué no debería utilizarse la abundancia excesiva de alimentos producidos en este país para acabar con el hambre mundial, de una vez por todas?

¿Por qué no se debería garantizar a todos los jóvenes una cobertura de ingresos y salud al estudiar cómo hacer avanzar a la sociedad de manera sostenible?

Sin embargo, en un momento en que el planeta mismo se ve envuelto en una crisis creada por el capitalismo desenfrenado, las viejas instituciones políticas establecidas por el dinero de los multimillonarios todavía dictan la política. Esto no puede durar.

Workers World/MundoObrero está comprometido a construir un movimiento revolucionario para el socialismo. Las elecciones pueden ser un barómetro de cambio de opinión, pero el movimiento no termina el día de las elecciones. Crece con cada lucha por la justicia social, con cada huelga, cada protesta, cada sentada. El movimiento construye la solidaridad de la clase trabajadora contra la supremacía blanca, la misoginia, la opresión de las personas LGBTQ2+ y el chivo expiatorio de los inmigrantes.

Construir un movimiento verdaderamente revolucionario es la clave del futuro. Si quieres luchar por un cambio social real, ¡únete a nosotros! salud. □