By Deirdre Griswold

March 16 — The stock market collapsed today. The Dow Jones Industrial Average of stock prices lost nearly 3,000 points in just one day, despite the infusion of several trillion dollars into the market by the Federal Reserve Bank. Several times the market was shut down, but continued to implode once trading began again.

It was a monumental event and the biggest one-day drop of stock prices in history. It will affect not just rich investors and capitalist owners, but anyone whose retirement plan or life savings are tied to the market. Businesses large and small will also start laying off workers and declaring bankruptcy in order to shield their owners from personal loss.

This worst drop in history has made it crystal clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered a cataclysmic weakness within the U.S. capitalist economy. But that’s not what the politicians or financiers are saying. They are blaming the coronavirus itself for causing the economic catastrophe.

A closer look shows such a claim to be false.

No economic crisis in China

The virus has been around the world for months now. It first hit China very hard in December in the province of Wuhan. However, after suffering nearly 81,000 cases of the infection and more than 3,000 deaths, China now reports that new cases are down to about 20 a day and deaths to 13 a day — in the largest country in the world, with a population close to 1.4 billion people.

In this period the Chinese economy has been hit hard and the affected areas virtually locked down, shutting much production. However, even though China has become the “factory of the world,” the severe hardships suffered by millions there for several months did not shut down the Chinese economy. Nor did they trigger a worldwide economic collapse.

Now, some three months after the first cases were reported there, and after the Chinese government launched a massive effort to keep the virus from spreading, COVID-19 has largely been contained in China itself — thanks to the vigorous measures taken by the Communist Party. But the virus has emerged in 162 other countries and territories around the world, from Iran and Italy to the isolated Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic.

Compared to what China went through, the COVID-19 pandemic has until now had a much smaller effect on the U.S. population. Without minimizing the seriousness of this disease, which will continue to spread, it should be understood that fewer than 5,000 cases have been reported here so far and just 87 people have died — a small fraction of what China has suffered.

By contrast, the opioid crisis, which has raged in economically depressed areas of the U.S., killed over 60,000 people each year from 2016 to 2018 (the last year with complete statistics). (drugabuse.gov)

Yet already there are dire predictions that the U.S. economy will now seriously contract and many, many workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 62, No. 12 March 19, 2020 $1

Subscribe to Workers World
☐ 4 weeks trial FREE ☐ 1 year subscription $36
☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program: workers.org/donate

Name _______________________________________________________________
Email _______________________________ Phone _________________________
Street  _______________________________________________________________
City / State / Zip _______________________________________________________

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

Día Internacional de las Mujeres 12

Editorials
Failure of U.S. health care 10
Chelsea Manning freed! 10

No sanctions on Iran 6
China and coronavirus 9
Hugo Chavez ¡presente! 11

Women in resistance, defending Mother Earth! Banner at Int’l Women’s Day, March 8, Santiago, Chile. Read more on page 10.
By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

Over 30 people participated in a March 10 discussion hosted by Workers World Party connecting the struggle for gender liberation with the struggle against U.S. empire. Featured speakers included Megan Malachi of Philly REAL Justice, Palestinian novelist and activist Susan AbuHulwa, and Black transгенералотор L cooperating on Women’s Lib. Megan Murray with Workers World facilitated. The event was the third in a monthly series of classes called Anti-Imperialism 101, based on writings by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Malachi raised the need to understand that sexual violence is a form of political violence. She stated that the system has always directed special cruelties and oppressions at Black women because of their political role they have played in our communities dating back centuries.

Malachi noted that Rosa Parks began her activism as an anti-rape investigator and that Joanne Robinson and the women who organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott demanding their existence be recognized. She drew on the example of Leila Khaled, a revolutionary and militant Palestinian who led a campaign of hijackings and other direct actions against Israeli occupation in the 1970s. “Only through revolutionary violence was the world forced to recognize our existence.”

In a very similar message Liora Libertad raised the struggle for LGBTQ2+ liberation. “My pronouns are they and them and I am nonbinary. I believe that I have light and freedom.” All the gains won by the movement, she explained, began with the Black and Brown transgender women-led, anti-police uprising at Stonewall.

In a wide-ranging talk, the three speakers also discussed the purposeful erasure of trans people by the institution of the nuclear family, a structure that is necessary for capitalist production. Trans people subvert this structure by demanding their existence be recognized.

MOVE Minister of Confrontation Pam Africa and Indigenous organizer and community leader Carmen Guerrero participated in the QA period that followed. AbuHulwa, who took part in the discussion via Zoom video, also raised a dire warning about the spread of the COVID-19 virus and implored workers to take the necessary precautions. She stated, “The bourgeois state is once again demonstrating its unwillingness and inability to protect the lives of workers, particularly those who face unique oppressions because of their gender and race.”

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigendered and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world. The planet is in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, 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 problem can be solved underground. 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 youthful workers are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

WWP fights for socialism because the working class must achieve class independence and control the fruits of their labor. The world needs a socialist world order. Workers World party is a part of the international movement for a socialist world order. We are a women-led, anti-police uprising at Stonewall.

Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 62, No. 12 • March 19, 2020
Closing date: March 5, 2020
Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette and Minnie Bruce Pratt

Workers World is the free weekly socialist newspaper of the Workers World Party, an international Marxist-Leninist organization. Please visit our website workers.org for more articles and information about the struggle for socialism and a better world.

Printed issue suspended
Due to the measures taken in the New York-New Jersey area to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Workers World in cooperation with our printers and mailing house has postponed the printing and mailing of this issue, starting with the issue dated March 19. Current plans are to publish individual articles on the workers.org website, along with a pdf of what would be the printed version. We will make this decision as the impact of the pandemic develops. We recommend that all subscribers with access get an email subscription and spread our articles around on social media.

— WW managing editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette and Minnie Bruce Pratt

Printed by Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Multi-gendered and multigendered.org.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Philadelphia
Durham, N.C.

Philly discussion on gender oppression and imperialism

Marcie Bochenek

March 10 participants.

Workers World is the free weekly socialist newspaper of the Workers World Party, an international Marxist-Leninist organization. Please visit our website workers.org for more articles and information about the struggle for socialism and a better world.

Workers World is the free weekly socialist newspaper of the Workers World Party, an international Marxist-Leninist organization. Please visit our website workers.org for more articles and information about the struggle for socialism and a better world.

Workers World is the free weekly socialist newspaper of the Workers World Party, an international Marxist-Leninist organization. Please visit our website workers.org for more articles and information about the struggle for socialism and a better world.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994
White supremacy and the Milwaukee mass shootings

By Monica Moorehead

A mass shooting took place on Feb. 26 in Milwaukee’s Molson Coors Brewing Company, a brewery when a worker, Anthony Ferrill, opened fire and killed five co-workers before killing himself. This tragic development was hardly a blip on the radar screen of mass media when all of a sudden it just disappeared. A week later, the March 4 Washington Post published an article: “Noose found on gunman’s locker at Milwaukee Coors facility years before deadly shooting,” illuminating some important details behind the shootings.

The article explained that Ferrill, an African American, was an electrician who had worked for 17 years at the brewery. The homicide prompted attention on the entrenched white supremacist atmosphere that African Americans like Ferrill and other workers of color had to endure on the job. A noose and the N-word were scrawled on Ferrill’s locker four years on the job. A noose and the N-word were also found in or around the workplace for years on numerous occasions, along with sexist slurs against women workers.

While the Milwaukee police dismissed the issue of the noose and the racial slur as motivating factors for Ferrill’s actions, a number of his co-workers of color had a different story to tell in describing the decades-long, painful, racist environment at the brewery. Raylynne Clayborn, a Black machinist who was fired in 2018, stated that other Black employees were constantly taking down offensive, stereotypical cartoons of Black people, portraying them as animals and eating watermelon, in the panel room where beer production took place. In response to these hate crimes, Clayborn commented in the Washington Post, “We were immune to it; that was the norm.”

Jelani Muhammad, who worked at the brewery for four years, remarked that Black workers were constantly taunted for being a Muslim. Being called “Salami” and “Janjal” by racist co-workers, he stated, “I’d hear jokes about me putting a bomb somewhere in someone’s car or putting a bomb somewhere in the building. I never took it to management because there was a time when a guy was making a joke in front of a supervisor and the supervisor didn’t say a thing about it.”

In fact many of Ferrill’s co-workers’ behavior would either be downplayed or ignored altogether by management.

State Sen. Lena C. Taylor, after speaking to some of Ferrill’s coworkers, remarked about the racially toxic environment, “Based on what the colleagues told me, Ferrill had to deal with a lot. So, do I believe it was a contributing factor? Yes, there’s no question I believe the racial harassment was a contributing factor in how it would not be.” Ferrill’s family stated that the abuse had taken a monumental toll on his physical and mental health.

Milwaukee: a besieged city, then a boom

Back in 1984, 23 years before Miller and Coors beer began their joint venture in 2005, William K. Coors, chair and chief executive of Adolph Coors Co., stated in 1984 that Black people lack “intellectual capacity.” Beside Coors’ racist hiring policies against Black and Brown workers, Coors’ anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry led to a victorious beer boycott in the late 1970s. Ten years later, the then-Miller Brewing Company paid $2.7 million to African workers at its plant in Fulton, N.Y., after being found guilty in a lawsuit of all forms of racist harassment. The appalling white supremacist conditions at the Molson Coors Brewing Company cannot be separated from the racist occupation and subjugation of the entire Black community in Milwaukee.

With a 40 percent Black population, Milwaukee was named the most segregated city in the U.S. in 2019, according to a study by the Brookings Institution.

In 2015, four out of five Black children lived in poverty throughout Wisconsin. (npr.org) In 2017, almost one-third of the population in Milwaukee and 40 percent of its children lived below the poverty rate. (Wisconsin Public Radio) Mandatory sentencing has led to a national explosion of investment in public and private prisons over the past 25 years. According to the New Republic, the zip code with the most incarcerations in the U.S., 53206, belongs to Milwaukee. (2019) Forty percent of young Black men in Milwaukee go to prison for minor drug offenses. Also noteworthy, in 2013 Wisconsin had the highest incarceration rate for Indigenous men. (npr.org)

Police brutality is an everyday occurrence at Milwaukee drinking establishments. Black men like Dontre Hamilton in 2014 and Sylville Smith in 2017. Of course, none of the white police officers involved in the murders were charged or convicted. Two years ago on Jan. 26, Sterling Brown, a basketball player with the Milwaukee Bucks, was attacked by the Milwaukee police for parking illegally at a Walgreens. He received a $500,000 out-of-court settlement.

Racism knows no bounds

A hanging noose is historically associated with the lynching of unfettered thousandsof African Americans, especially in the Deep South during the Jim Crow era. But as the great Malcolm X once told an audience, anything south of the Canadian border is the South — meaning that racism can be anywhere regardless of boundaries. Just ask Black United Auto Workers at plants in Lima, Ohio; Burton and Sterling Heights, Mich.; Riverside, Mo., and Rockford, Ill., who experienced hanging nooses, racist graffiti, attempted firebombs, and physical violence on and off the job a few years ago. Those heroic workers refused to be silent when such atrocities took place — but they should not have been alone in their struggle.

Castism is a byproduct of capitalism, meant to divide and conquer workers of all nationalities. It is important for black workers to show class solidarity with the most oppressed workers on the job and in the streets against this white supremacist ideology, propagated by the capitalist bosses to hold on to their profits.

Black workers, like Anthony Ferrill, should not bear the brunt of internalizing this ugly disease that manifests itself in so many forms. Ferrill may have pulled the trigger, but it was racism that was the real killer.

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history, but to make it — to promote changes that put workers and oppressed first and of last.

That’s what motivated workers at the Second International Socialist Conference in Copenhagen in 1910 to pass a unanimous resolution declaring March 8 — the date in 1908 of a huge march in New York City of mostly women garment workers and socialists for better working conditions — International Working Women’s Day. Now IWW is honored by people of all genders around the world.

Those socialist women recognized that struggle was the only way to bring about change in women’s lives. Like the Black Lives Matter movement, started by women, trans workers, and gender-nonconforming activists, which boldly fights racism and demands redress for centuries of oppression. Women of color, who are two-thirds of low-wage workers and heads of families, are powering the fight for $15 an hour, a union, and an end to sexual assaults on the job.

Those recent trials that found serial predator Harvey Weinstein guilty has energized the #MeToo Movement and Time’s Up. Now when women bring charges of rape and sexual assaults — in restaurants, hotels, offices, wherever they work — their voices will convey new authority and respect. Meanwhile, all people must support trans women at risk life-threatening sexual assaults in the street and by police and prison guards.

WW will continue to solidarity with women who bear the brunt of Trump’s racist, sexist, bigoted, xenophobic agenda: im/migrant women detained and separated from their children for the “crime” of crossing borders to find work. We support “Dreamers” whose legal status is still in jeopardy.

If you appreciate WW’s year-round coverage of struggles that advance women’s liberation, join the WW Supporter Program. For a donation of at least $75 a year — and $100 or $300 or much more if you can — members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends.

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 at workers.org/donate/ for monthly deductions. Know we appreciate your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future.
Worker and public safety top 700,000-member AFGE health concerns

The American Federation of Government Employees, which represents 700,000 federal and D.C. government employees, has been vigorously protesting the Trump administration’s inadequate response to the coronavirus pandemic. AFGE President Everett Kelley said in a memo the union “has serious concerns regarding the federal government’s ability to quell the spread of this virus.” He specifically called out the needs of the thousands of workers who have daily contact with people, such as those in the Social Security and Veterans administrations and the Department of Homeland Security.

The union asked Congress to push all agencies to formally give permission to all employees who can work via telework to begin doing so immediately. Prior to the health crisis, the administration had been forcefully attempting to cut or cancel telework — which had increased during the lockdowns of the last contract. The union calls such administrations on its members “part of its ongoing war against federal workers and unions.” (afge.org, March 10)

Trump 2021 budget attacks workers’ rights and vital services

The vicious attacks on federal workers’ jobs and benefits, part of the Trump administration agenda beginning in 2017, was ramped up Feb. 5 when the 2021 government budget was released. Not only would the budget cut the already reduced number of federal jobs, but it would slash the number of days of paid leave and the government’s contribution to retirement pay. It would also change the pay system, so it would take longer for workers to advance up the pay scale. AFGE alleges that these changes are aimed at getting federal workers to retire or quit.

On top of the changes, the administration has reintroduced its plan to eliminate the Office of Personnel Management, which protects the government’s merit system, and transfer it to the Executive Office of the President — read “obvious nepotism.” But that’s not all. The budget is being used to target vital services that women and gender-oppressed people need. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s historically low budget would be cut by $27 million, making it harder to litigate workplace discrimination and sexual harassment cases. And millions of dollars would be cut from the already underfunded Violence Against Women Act. (afge.org, March 2)

UCFW slams Amazon’s job-cutting ‘cashierless’ grocery stores

The Food and Commercial Workers Union (UCFW) denounced Amazon’s opening of a cashier-less grocery store in Seattle. UCFW International President Marc Perrone contends Amazon’s use of cashier-free technology reveals one of its main goals: “eliminate as many jobs as possible as it seeks to take over America’s $800 billion grocery industry.” Calling Amazon “a clear and present danger to the spread of this virus,” he specifically called out the needs of the thousands of workers who have daily contact with people, such as those in the Social Security and Veterans administrations and the Department of Homeland Security.

The union asked Congress to push all agencies to formally give permission to all employees who can work via telework to begin doing so immediately. Prior to the health crisis, the administration had been forcefully attempting to cut or cancel telework — which had increased during the lockdowns of the last contract. The union calls such administrations on its members “part of its ongoing war against federal workers and unions.” (afge.org, March 10)

Austin bus drivers’ campaign wins contract without a strike

Drivers bus in Austin, Texas, started a “Black Eye” campaign— smearing black makeup or tape under their eyes so they looked like football players — to protest the wins contract without a strike — read “obvious nepotism.” But that’s not all. The budget is being used to target vital services that women and gender-oppressed people need. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s historically low budget would be cut by $27 million, making it harder to litigate workplace discrimination and sexual harassment cases. And millions of dollars would be cut from the already underfunded Violence Against Women Act. (afge.org, March 2)

Sara Nelson, activist head of 50,000 flight attendants in 20 airlines

A United Flight attendant since 1996, Sara Nelson, international president of the Association of Flight Attendants-Communication Workers (CWA), is in the running to become the next head of the AFL-CIO. She has strong credentials: To end the shutdown was placing on them, and that was eroding the safety of the entire industry. The shutdown ended the next day. Calling for the airline industry to address the COVID-19 crisis, Nelson told CNN March 7 that a government exception is needed so airlines can mount “full-size hand sanitizer in the galleys and near lavatories.” She also called for the installation of “hand sanitizer stations in airports and on planes” and that airlines raise air-craft-cleaning standards and cover “all medical costs and lost wages for workers exposed in the course of work.” Go, Sara Nelson! □
Domestic violence, racism and state violence

Part 2

By Monica Moorehead

This is Part 2 of a slightly edited article that first appeared in the 1993 pam- phlet, "Capitalism’s War on Women: Why the system is responsible for violence against women," published by the Socialist Workers Party.

The article was written before O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murder charges by a mainly male jury in Los Angeles, Oct. 3, 1995. The article was also written before the #MeToo movement was founded in 2006 by Black feminist activist Tarana Burke.

Read the article in its entirety on workers.org.

The topic of the O.J. Simpson case would be incom- plete without mentioning the role of the sports culture under capitalism and its promotion of domestic violence. Regardless of nationality, boys are taught from an early age to be more aggressive and competitive. In order to become a considered a “man,” you have to play some type of sport, while girls are groomed to be homemakers—though more women are oriented toward nontraditional roles and jobs these days. The term “sissy” is used to describe males who exhibit any “feminine” behavior.

Sports culture promotes violence against women

Male athletes and coaches, both college and profes- sional, are some of the worst perpetrators of domestic violence. The famous football coach at Penn State, Joe Paterno, once said following a loss to a rival team, “I’m going home and beat my wife.” (Chicago Tribune, Jan. 27, 1991) Later, he described the statement as being “just part of the sports culture, locker room talk, harm- less, a joke that did not mean anything.” (New York Times, June 22, 1993) Well, what Paterno said was almost true, except for the parts about being “harmless” and a “joke.” Referring to women in graphic, degrad- ing terms is an unfortunate aspect of the sports culture under capitalism. And O.J. Simpson is a product of that patriarchal culture.

Athletes in general are commodities under capitalism. They are nothing more than modern-day gladiators who are exploited to make superprofits for their multibillion- aire owners. But if you are an African-American athlete like O.J., you are superexploited because racism perme- ates every aspect of your life in the U.S., including sports. Athletes may make millions of dollars a year, but they, like women, are used by big business and the media to sell everything from cars to toothpaste.

The media play a decisive role in elevating these ath- letes, and especially Black athletes, to almost iconic status. When the question of domestic violence is raised where these athletes are concerned, the list of examples is usually guilty of fixing games.

Sports in this country has become a dangerous institution, with men in general encouraged to become machines on and off the playing field. The women asso- ciated with these athletes are the ones who may pay the price, sometimes with their lives.

This topic would not be complete without citing the Pentagon and all the arms of the military for also promoting inequality of women and “women as objects.” This men- tality fosters violence against women.

The state won’t end domestic violence

While Workers World Party supports the rights of self-defense by battered women in the long run — like the Framingham 8 [in 1995] who had the courage to fight back against spousal abuse — relying on the cops and courts is not the answer to eliminating domestic vio- lence as an institution.

Having more police and more prisons will not wipe away women’s oppression, gender oppression — or any other oppression for that matter. The state is an unbiased player, even in domestic relations. The state, in compliance with the white, straight, male-dominated ruling class, preaches to the diverse, multinational work- ing class as to what constitutes a family and what does not. Just think of how it intervenes and removes children from lesbian, gay and non-binary families. The state upholds and defends the ideas of the capitalist class, which are diametrically opposed to the interests of our class — the working class.

The state is a naked example that not only do class contradictions exist between the working class and the ruling class, but that these contradictions cannot be reconciled without the intervention of the class strug- gle. Once we can grasp this concept, we can begin to objectively look at how the state keeps women down; keeps Black, Latinx, Indigenous and other nationally oppressed people down; keeps LGBTQ2+ communities down, along with others — either through the legal sys- tem or, if necessary, through brute force.

In order to keep the numerically small capitalist class in power, the repressive state apparatus — the police, courts and jails — is there to keep the majority of work- ers and oppressed subjugated, divided and disenfran- chised. The state pits one oppressed sector against another, especially ideologically. This is where the media play a very crucial role. The mainstream media is owned by the capitalist class and therefore are an appendage of the state.

Hardly an objective player, the media reinforce through print, electronics, social media and other forms of mass communications all the ideas of the ruling class. We can never forget the role that movies, TV and videos play in reinforcing antigay, antiworker, antigay and color or anti-LGBTQ2+ themes. For instance, an abusive man told a counselor that he was influenced to attack his wife by the TV show “The Honeymoizers” in which Jackie Gleason threatened to punch his wife Alice “to the moon” in almost every episode.

No justice from an unjust system

So how can O.J. Simpson possibly receive real justice in the midst of a media circus and from a system that perceives him as just another criminal Black man? This is the same judicial system that let wealthy white racist William Kennedy Smith go free. The Kennedys are one of the most well-known ruling-class dynasties, and the state always protects its own kind.

This is the system that gave drunken U.S. Navy officers a slap on the wrist after their heinous assaults against women naval officers during the Tailhook scandal in 1991.

This is the same system that sentenced George Jackson (later a Black Panther who was assassinated in prison) to a sentence for taking $70 from a gas station!

How can young women, women of color, poor women, lesbians, gender nonbinary people realize their full potential in capitalist society when all they face is vio- lence, unemployment, exploitation and oppression in their lives? How does the racist, sexist [anti-LGBTQ2+] 1995 “Contract with America” sought to erode over 60 years of progress to better the lives of women — the right to birth control; safe, legal, accessible abortion; afford- able day care; Aid to Families with Dependent Children and welfare; affirmative action on the job and in educa- tion; as well as the right to raise healthy children.

Women are being propelled into the mass struggle to fight back and defend and expand all these progressive gains.

Workers World Party declares that the capitalist state cannot be reformed and will not change its class orienta- tion without the intervention of the working class.

History has shown that the capitalist state is not invin- cible. That state, based on cruel and unjust laws, must be smashed as it was in Czarist Russia in 1917, in China in 1949 and in Cuba in 1959, and replaced with a new state — a worker’s state that will defend the inter- ests of all the workers of all nationalities in the name of socialist reconstruction and harmony.

Only through theclass struggle and the overthrow of class oppression will women be liberated, along with their class brothers and other genders, from centuries of sexism and backward ideas. Smash women’s, gender and racist oppression!”

Domestic violence, racism and state violence

Feminism & Marxism

A Marxist analysis of women’s oppression through history

1. Class struggle — the matriarchy — men and women worked together as equals

2. Trace the roots of women’s oppression to the development of private property, slavery, and class oppression

3. Answers the idea that since men oppress women, all men are the enemy. Instead, it shows that only the working class is the enemy.

4. Shows that the cause of oppression is capitalism — the real enemy

5. Supports the struggle for social and political rights for women

6. Show that the opportunity to take part in this struggle

7. Shows that the tremendous gains in the socialist societies point to the only road to full emancipation of women as well as all humanity — socialist revolution.

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination • Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery • Black Youth: Repression & Resistance • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key • Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights • Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Racism & Poverty in the Delta • Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions • Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation • Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion

Available at major online booksellers
How profits drive the capitalist crisis

By Deirdre Griswold

Talk by Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper, phoned in to New York branch meeting of Workers World Party, March 12.

This disease is very serious, it’s now worldwide, and it will impact on every- one in one way or another. It’s being reported that testing for the coronavirus in this country has been delayed for lack of equipment, money and personnel. This means there are already probably a lot more sick people than are being reported.

Comrades should pay attention to what medical experts are saying and make every effort to stay safe and look out for one another. We need to take this seri- ous situation into account in relation to all our activities, whether in our offices or in the streets.

This pandemic is going to affect hun- dreds of millions of workers, especially those whose jobs put them in contact with many other people. And it’s not only that they risk illness. Thousands of workers are already being laid off here in the U.S. because the epidemic is shutting down parts of the economy, beginning with West Coast dockworkers.

At the same time, Wall Street continues to tank. The Federal Reserve Bank pumped $500 billion into the market earlier this week. It didn’t work. So the Fed announced just March 12 that it was pumping ONE AND A HALF TRILLION dollars more into the markets over the next two days.

So what happened after that announce- ment? Did the market recover? No way.

After a brief rise, the Dow Jones lost 10 percent of its value, the biggest drop since 1987.

It’s a clear signal that the capitalist economy is ready to collapse. As for pol- itics, Trump is playing the angry leader whose good work is being destroyed by all his bad underlings. His latest attack on Jerome Powell, the chair of the Federal Reserve Bank. This is just the kind of political drama that ruling-class politicians resort to when the system is in crisis. Trump is also blaming the virus for pulling down the capitalist economy.

**Human needs, not profits!**

But there was a big drop in oil prices way before the virus spread here. And the demand for oil is closely linked to overall capitalist production. The steep drop in the price of oil is a symptom of declining world production. The virus is making the crush much sharper and deeper, but it’s not the cause of the crisis unfolding in the capitalist economy.

For example, look at China. It had the first big outbreak of COVID-19, and that didn’t really hit the Chinese economy hard. But the Chinese economy is NOT in a tailspin. And China is now starting to dis- mantle the emergency hospitals it erected so quickly in Wuhan. The number of new cases in China today was only three, while the number of new cases in the capitalist U.S. today was 349 and rising. In capitalist Italy there were 2,651 new cases of the virus today.

But the crisis in China is over, because the Chinese economy is not driven by profits the way the U.S. economy is. Profits do play a role in China because the government has allowed some capi- talist activity, but profits don’t dominate. The Chinese Communist Party was able to quickly mobilize the resources needed to contain the virus, keeping people home while vital services continued. And they made sure no one starved or lost their life savings or their homes.

This crisis is making it clearer than ever that the superior social system develop- ing in the world today is socialism — even though socialism is still struggling to sur- vive, faced with the monstrous destruc- tive military power of capitalism.

What this election year shows is that socialism is already popular among the U.S. masses, but also that the Democratic Party leaders will pull out all stops to make sure that a true-blue capitalist like Biden gets their nomination.

Let’s get out there with our revolu- tionary message. As this crisis grows, people are really going to start to listen.

Virus triggers capitalist chaos

Continued from page 1

workers will lose their jobs — perhaps millions — all supposedly because of the coronavirus. This is unlike China, where work has resumed even in areas most affected by the virus.

At a very high level of both personal and business debt this country limits how long people and firms can stay above water in a recession, which at this point seems sure to follow the enormous col- lapse of the financial markets.

So it is important to look at other fac- tors, besides COVID-19, that are pulling down the economy.

**Profit greed brings overproduction**

In the buildup to the crash that has now swept Wall Street, the symp- toms of global overproduction of vital commodities stand out. Particularly tell- ing is the drop in the price of oil — a com-modity that is central to both industry and transportation.

Just a few months ago oil was selling for more than $60 a barrel on the inter- national market. Now there is a glut of oil and the price has dropped to around $30 a barrel.

This is well below what it costs to produce oil from fracking. This expensive and environmentally hor- rendous method of extract- ing oil from shale rock has grown exponentially in the U.S. and become a major source of this country’s oil production. Now fracking is on the verge of collapsing. (Fortune magazine, Feb. 15)

**The COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered a cataclysmic weakness within the U.S. capitalist economy.**

The current glut of oil may help accompl- ish what the Indigenous and environ- mental movements have demanded for years: shut- ting down fracking. But it’s not because the U.S. oil bil- lionaires have seen the light and embraced a greener planet. It’s because shale oil can’t produce a profit when prices drop this low.

This is a classic example of capitalist overproduc- tion. Overproduction is a built-in feature of capi- talism and precipitates an economic crisis. It doesn’t mean that more is being produced than what people need. It means that more is being produced than can be sold for a profit. Overproduction is generated by the breakneck churning out of ever more commodities in order to beat out the competition. For the capitalists, profit greed dictates that they must expand or die — sell ever more of a product or serv- ice or go under.

This has been the cause of periodic cri- ses ever since capitalism became the dom- inant mode of production in the world. It is also what has driven capitalist countries to wage horrendous wars with each other as they have carved up the globe into their spheres of economic interest.

This private ownership of the vast means of production by a small group of super-rich individuals and their banks is what underlies the current economic cri- sis. The coronavirus is just the spark that set off an implosion waiting to happen. The worst is yet to come.

China calls for lifting of U.S. sanctions against Iran

By Betsy Piette

Amid the fight against the coronavirus COVID-19, China called on March 16 for the immediate lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iran, calling on the countries hardest hit by the pandemic.

China’s call came in response to a let- ter sent by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to leaders of several countries.

Rouhani accused the U.S. government of continuing to thwart Iran’s efforts to control the pandemic, noting that sanc- tions have caused around $200 billion in direc- tive damages to Iran’s economy in less than two years. The U.S. sanctions have now severely limited Iran’s access to vital medical supplies to combat the disease.

Speaking at a press briefing, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang supported Iran’s call, noting that con- tinued unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran have deteriorated health condi- tions in the country and “gone against the humanitarian spirit.” He added that the sanctions seriously affect Iran’s fight against the pandemic and limit human- itarian aid from the United Nations and other international organizations. (English.chinamil.com)

China has already sent test kits and other anti-epidemic materials, plus a team of voluntary experts, to Iran. The team is encouraging the international community to support Iran.
Wall Street’s worst crisis since ’08

By Larry Holmes

This edited talk was given at a March 12 Workers World Party brunch meeting in New York City.

It is entirely possible that we are at the beginning of what could be the most serious economic, financial and political crisis that our party and the working class have ever faced. I underscore possible. There is no way to know what is going to happen. It is the potential magnitude of what is happening with the economy and its interconnection with COVID-19 is unprecedented, extraordinary.

We are in “uncharted waters,” but they shouldn’t be so uncharted for revolutionaries who have any grasp of the reality, because in many ways what we saw coming and should have prepared for it. Our movement, even the vanguard, has been ideologically weak and has not prepared for it; it thinks things are going along the same way they’ve been going.

Everyone should read comrades Deirdre Griswold and David Bloom’s article “Did COVID-19 cause the Wall Street crash?” at workers.org. It’s required reading for every member and person who takes our party seriously because there is a lot of discussion about these events in the bourgeois media and all over the internet, including on Facebook. The ruling class is divided but has its own line.

We will be searching for clarity on the political significance of what’s going on and what it means for the class struggle. Revolutionaries and progressive people have a serious interest in doing so. If we don’t, there will be a lot of confusion, which can only benefit the capitalist ruling class. There is danger in a number of aspects of this crisis, particularly this one.

Imperialist rivalry hampers COVID-19 response

The main thing on everyone’s mind is the coronavirus and its enormous impact on society. There is fear. Measures are being taken on a personal level or at a government level — or on a world level — which is how they should be coordinated. But capitalism as a system is anathema to this, because the imperialists can’t coordinate because they are fighting and competing with each other. This is part of the collapse of the entire capitalist economy and imperialism. This will become clearer.

What may become the main aspect about the coronavirus is that the government is closing things down. No assemblies larger than 50 people are allowed in New York. We know what our governors and mayors are saying.

I want to concentrate on the economic crisis. This virus is an enormous catalyst which has had a huge impact on the global economy for many reasons. It’s not the underlying reason for the financial collapse on Wall Street, but it is the catalyst. The system was treading for something — a war, political development, bank failing or a country going into debt — to unravel. This system with the anarchy and bankruptcy of world capitalism is closing things down. No assemblies are legal.

“Bankruptcy doesn’t just happen in small- and medium-sized companies, but it happens in big multinational companies and banks fail. Banks are supposed to be “solvent,” but that is not true. That’s just on the surface. In reality, there is so much debt in the financial market that everything associated with it is swimming in debt. It’s hidden. But we’re going to see it now, more so than ever, perhaps even more than we saw it 12 years ago during the 2008 financial crisis.

We will hear the word “recession.” The capitalists have been trying to run away from that, to avoid it. They may say Europe is going into a recession; maybe the developing countries are going into it, but not the U.S. They will predict a recession.

That word isn’t severe enough. I think we’re potentially going into a countrywide, worldwide crisis that can’t be defined properly by the word recession. It’s coming at the end stage of historic capitalist development. There has to be a better, more accurate and truthful definition of what is happening. It may well be the biggest crisis the world has ever seen. Again, that is a preliminary thought that needs to be supported by developments.

They’ve got another problem: The U.S. will go it alone. Whether the banks will predict a crisis, the central banks, prime ministers and presidents were all cooperating. But we know Trump is about letting the U.S. go it alone. Whether the banks will find a level of cooperation — or whether the financial establishment and the imperialists governments cooperate more — is part of the political struggle.

It is the U.S. that is competing with every country, not just China. That’s a new development. It’s not just Trump; he represents a section of the ruling class that says cooperation has been okay for the 80 years since we won the second imperialist war. It did some good, but it’s not helping us now.

Ruling class strives for workers and oppressed

So the capitalists say, “Let’s take off the gloves.” This struggle is going on within the ruling class. Trump represents one part of the ruling class, as opposed to the section that wants to support the imperialists’ global institutions and cooperate more. This means we can expect an escalation of the war on the workers and the oppressed.

We have been fighting around issues such as Medicare for All and cancelling student loans — and on the issue of growing inequality, which has always been here, but has never been greater. Today, those developments have radicalized workers, particularly young workers, but not just them. With this new economic crisis, it’s likely mass layoffs will come, more austerity, more homelessness and more people starving. People who live paycheck to paycheck and don’t have $500 in case of an economic emergency are being pushed off a cliff. There will be more and more of that on a global basis. We will pay a lot of attention to this — and rightly so.

Working-class demands for health care

This crisis will create an opportunity for workers and oppressed people in the same way that it did in the 1930s around the world, in Europe and here. It’s good to be reminded of that. While history doesn’t repeat itself 100 percent — and today there are different developments and everything is bigger — there’s an aspect of it that will repeat itself in some of the political crises that will develop for the working class and revolutionaries in the working-class movement who are trying to lead it out of capitalism toward revolution.

Our movement, even the vanguard, has a serious interest in doing so. If we can, we will have demonstrations around the health crisis. As revolutionary Marxists, we are not just interested in theory. We are interested in putting theory into practice. And ultimately we’re interested in revolution. While it may not be the case now, this kind of worldwide development can and will create a revolutionary crisis.

Opening for global class struggle

This crisis will create an opportunity for workers and oppressed people in the same way that it did in the 1930s around the world, in Europe and in New York. We know what our governors and mayors are saying.

I’m optimistic that as revolutionaries we will find a way to minimize insignif- icant differences and small-thinking sectarianism and whatever other obstacles there are to the kind of unity and revolutionary vision required for the future — for the revolution. I’m optimistic we’ll get there, but I am sober about it as well and apprehensive because the working-class movement is weak ideologically and organizationally.

We have not been preparing for this, and I’m not just speaking about our party. There will be a learning curve within the revolutionary movement. We will be trying to catch up to meet the level of the global crisis. It will take a very serious and determined effort on the part of everyone in the world movement who is serious and determined.

So let’s take the main thing we can talk about — what’s happening in the financial markets and in other aspects of the economy which are affecting our co-workers, families and neighbors. That’s very important because that’s how a revolutionary organization orients itself. For us as social revolutionaries, it’s the key question.

Will the working class, its organizations and the political movement be able to meet the challenge? What will they have to do? How will they have to change in order to rise to the occasion? \(1\)
Sanctions Kill campaign March 14 webinar program

By Judy Greenspan
California Bay Area

Even the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic could not keep the Sanctions Kill coalition from holding its March 14 program in California’s Bay Area to oppose U.S.-imposed sanctions and war. Originally scheduled to be held at Restore in Oakland, in response to community concerns about holding an in-person event, the coalition changed its program into both a Zoom webinar and a Facebook livestream event that was accessible nationally.

The Sanctions Kill event was moved to a virtual realm with the help of the Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ) in less than 24 hours. Nearly 90 people attended the Zoom webinar and over 500 people watched the livestream on Facebook.

Speakers included Pierre LaBostiere of the Haiti Action Coalition; Rhonda Ramiro, chair of BAYAN USA; Omowale Clay of the December 12th Movement; Bilal Mafundi Ali of the Black Alliance for Peace; and Nesbit Crutcherfield of the Venceremos Brigade Bay Area.

Others on the program were David Paul of the (Venezuelan) Embassy Protectors; Sara Flounders, International Action Center; K.J. Nohe, scholar, writer and KPFA correspondent; Dave Welsh, delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council; Jeff Mackler, United National Antitrust Coalition; and Elane Spivak-Rodriguez, of the Venceremos Brigade Bay Area.

Sanctions Kill event goes online

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

The Sanctions Kill movement in Philadelphia is weathering its first COVID-19 pandemic. In its effort to expose the truth about genocidal imperialist sanctions that the U.S. imposes on over one-third of the human population. It is a time of historic crisis, activists must heed the warnings of health care workers telling us to take extraordinary measures to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The Philadelphia International Action Center, in conjunction with Workers World Party and twelve other groups, went forward March 13 with a planned Sanctions Kill panel discussion — only online rather than in person.

Sanctions Kill is an international campaign endorsed by hundreds of organizations around the world, aimed at organizing a unified challenge to the U.S. empire’s global stranglehold on the global working class. The Philadelphia panel discussion was one of the many events called over the weekend of March 12-15 and featured Hyun Lee with Philadelphia Korea Peace Now, Godfrey Sithole of the African National Congress, Indigenous organizer Carmen Guerrero with MOVE, and Ravi Puppala of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Leading off the program, Williams stated: “This pandemic underscores why we need to say sanctions are an act of genocide. Sanctions are war — not an alternative to war.” He read off the list of 30 countries from Belarus to Zimbabwe that suffer from what is effectively a blockade on medical supplies, food and other resources necessary for any functioning society.

The people of Iran in particular have been placed in a desperate situation because of U.S. sanctions, as hospitals run dangerously low on medical supplies and equipment,” Williams concluded.

Hyun Lee detailed the incredible achievements of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea despite decades of U.S. sanctions. All workers and oppressed people should be inspired by the resilience of Korean workers, particularly during the period known as the Arduous March, when the dissolution of the USSR coincided with disastrous floods beginning in 1994 that devastated the country’s agricultural output.

An important distinction about the nature of sanctions was raised by Sithole, an ANC member who was forced to flee South Africa to Tanzania as a refugee in the early 1960s. The international anti-apartheid movement called for sanctions against the Apartheid regime. In the same way that Palestinians and their allies were forced to flee their homeland, Africans were forced from what is effectively an occupied and increasingly desperate global empire.

It was through neighborhood solidarity that Africans were able to survive this period, only later to starve out the MOVE Organization.

Sithole took time to mention that for as long as there was resistance to apartheid there were LGBTQ+ freedom fighters in the movement, even if these individuals were forced to remain closeted because of bigoted colonial mentalities that had not yet been addressed.

Speaking as an Indigenous woman from a colonized continent, Carmen Guerrero focused her talk on the ecological and environmental devastation caused by sanctions and imperial occupation. The destruction of the land, water and air and of the ability of people to feed themselves and their families is yet another genocidal aspect of sanctions.

The MOVE Organization, founded by its late Coordinator John Africa, has for decades fought against environmental destruction, animal cruelty, racism and state violence.

Pam Africa spoke personally as a resident of the West Philadelphia neighborhood that was completely occupied and blackmailed by the city and police in order to stave off the MOVE Organization. It was through neighborhood solidarity and individual workers willing to break through police checkpoints that MOVE was able to survive this period, only later to be attacked with gunfire and firebombs in 1985 and ultimately firebombed by the city government in 1986.

This incredible exchange of information, analysis and personal stories took place virtually and reached thousands online via livestream.

Workers around the world face threats that are truly historical and unprecedented: cataclysmic climate change, a powerful and increasingly desperate global empire headquartered in the U.S., and now a viral pandemic that has already claimed the lives of over 6,500 people around the world. Socialist states like China, Cuba, Vietnam and the DPRK have admirably responded to these threats.

It is clear now, perhaps more than ever, that the only way to save humanity and bring about a just and sustainable future is to wage war against the ruling classes — one that would rather we die sick and in poverty than relinquish an iota of comfort and power.

Washington’s war drive bumps into COVID-19

By John Catalinotto

Bulletin: On March 16, U.S. officials announced that the Defender Europe 2020 exercises were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 15 — The Pentagon’s plans to practice war conflict with the spread of COVID-19 this week. While the virus was unable to stop all aggression from the U.S. imperialist Armed Forces, it presented an obstacle to some of the planned maneuvers.

Plans to hold war exercises named “Defender Europe 2020,” which involved some 30,000 U.S. troops and 17,000 more from European NATO members, have been scaled back. These U.S. troops were to move across Europe, even as the U.S. president barred Europeans from entering the U.S.

“After careful review of the ongoing Defender-Europe 20 exercise activities and in light of the current coronavirus outbreak, we will modify the exercise by reducing the number of U.S. participants,” European Command (EUCOM) officials said in a press release, (Army Times, March 11)

The exercise involved sending 20,000 U.S. troops to march through Europe to the Russian border, bringing heavy weapon systems and vehicles, and then return to the U.S. Some of the troops had arrived before the orders came to scale back; other U.S. troops were already in Europe. While its planners gave this exercise a harmless-sounding codename, Defender Europe 2020 is an obvious threat against Russia.

Even if they fall short of provoking a war, these exercises threaten to spread COVID-19 throughout European countries as troops come into contact with civilians. Now Washington says it will no longer send the 20,000 additional troops.

Another aggressive war exercise set for Norway, called “Cold Response,” has been postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

China brings medical aid

While the U.S. is bringing weapons to Europe, including to Italy, China has brought a different kind of material to the quarantined Italian peninsula. On the morning of March 13, a team of nine experts from the People’s Republic arrived at Rome’s airport to assist Italy’s fight against the virus. They brought with them 3 tons of medical material, mainly protective clothing and intensive care equipment, including ventilators.

China is the world’s main manufacturer of surgical masks, fitted respirator masks and ventilators. While China stopped exporting these materials during the peak of COVID-19 infections in February, it has resumed exports, and has provided aid to those countries hit hardest by COVID-19. Another two countries China has aided are Iran and Iraq.

U.S. imperialism has continued to contribute to hardships for the people of both Iran and Iraq. Washington’s sanctions against Iran damage its health care system and contribute to unnecessary deaths. In Iraq this week, the U.S. carried out a rocket attack on troops connected with the Baghdad government.
By Joshua Hanks

As the coronavirus COVID-19 pan-
demic wreaks havoc in country after
country, causing total Shutdowns in Italy,
Spain and elsewhere, China appears to be
returning to normal.

China has the largest population in the
world — some 1.4 billion people — yet the
number of new COVID-19 deaths in the
country has been zero for weeks. Many
provinces have reported none in weeks.

While the government is still cautiously
working with the coronavirus, the health
department and society are slowly starting
back up.

China’s response to the epidemic involved unprecedented quarantines of tens of millions of people. Schools, facto-
ries, malls and sporting events had all
been quickly shut down or canceled when
the country’s confirmed cases still numbered
only in the hundreds, not thousands.

Huge mobilizations of medical work-
kers, People’s Liberation Army soldiers and
Communist Party members went to
work organizing treatment, testing and
relief efforts. Hospitals and fever clinics
were constructed at lightning speed, tak-
ing pressure off existing hospitals reeling
from the crisis.

The virus first emerged and spread in
the Wuhan Hubei province. While battling
back the virus, the govern-
ment successfully contained cases in
early February.

This gave other countries several pre-
cious weeks to prepare for outbreaks of
their own, yet the results have been mixed.
Europe and the U.S. in particular were
wholly unprepared. Iran, under
strict U.S. sanctions that significantly
impact its ability to manage a public
health crisis, has become the site of a
large outbreak, with many deaths.

While initially caught off guard by this
new pathogen, China has still man-
aged to bring it rapidly under control and
thereby limit its spread. Why was China
able to do this when Western countries
that are much more economically devel-
oped have failed to do so?

How China doubled life expectancy

Part of the reason has to do with the
basic socialist structures established in
China after the triumph of its revolu-
tion in 1949. Torn apart by World War II,
China had endured a "century of humil-
ation" in which imperialist powers
divided up the country among themselves
to oppress and exploit its people and
resources. But mass mobilizations after
the revolution eliminated the underde-
velopment and poverty inherited by the
government of New China.

For the first time, millions were vac-
cinated, taught to read and write, and
given education in trade schools and
universities. The famous "barefoot doc-
tors" — thousands of volunteer medical
workers — fanned out across the country-
side to the remotest villages and settle-
ments to provide people with free medical
care for the first time. The barefoot doc-
tors created detailed medical charts and
records for each of their patients, meticu-
lously tracked their health conditions and
recorded treatments.

Life expectancy during the Mao era
was doubled as a result of this and other
measures that prioritized the health
of the people.

Rural and imperialist oppression had
created tremendous challenges and
underdevelopment. Nevertheless, the
strength and organization of the Chinese
people, led by the Communist Party, enabled
them to overcome obstacles in a very
short time.

China is now the world’s second-largest
wealth and has essen-
tially eliminated extreme poverty.
Even though the U.S. has less
than one-fifth the population of China
and a more developed economy, it actually
has more poor people today than China does.

Why? Because after the Great Recession
of 2008 plunged millions into
chaos for years to come, China directed
massive investments to social and econ-
omic projects. They built the world’s largest
high-speed rail network. The state-owned
industry and government remain stable.

The country now faced a debilitating reces-
sion, as happened in the West.

During this time China also built its
health care sector, including many new
state-of-the-art hospitals and acquir-
ing advanced medical technologies. In
2001 it established the world’s largest uni-
versal health insurance system.

Universal health coverage

A study published in the September
2019 American Journal of Public Health,
a peer-re-
reviewed medical journal, reported:
"Universal health insurance coverage is
rarely found in developing countries. That
is why the People’s Republic of China is
impressed by the universal coverage
recently achieved by China, the world’s
largest developing country with 1.3 bil-
lion people. For example, a World Bank
report praised China’s achievement as
‘unparalleled,’ representing the larg-
est expansion of insurance coverage in human history.”

In the West, austerity measures have
slashed public health budgets, reducing
the number of beds and expensive devices
in hospitals and clinics. Public health systems in many Western
countries have still not recovered from the austerity measures implemented over a decade ago,
setting them up for the catastrophic situa-
tion currently unfolding today.

China now has 4.3 million hospital beds per
1,000 people, up from 3.3 in 2013, while
Italy has 4.1, down from 3.3 in 2013.
The U.S. has only 2.77 and, unlike both
China and Italy, has millions of uninsured
people who are far less likely to seek out
treatment.

China now has a firm economic base
with significant levels of state planning and
ownership that allow it to prioritize the
basic needs of the broad majority of
its people. Without that, the situation in
China would look much worse today.

Some 70 years ago a great revolu-
tion based in its working people cre-
ted the necessary conditions for China
to develop. Despite hostile attempts by the
U.S. ruling class to undermine it, the
People’s Republic of China will prevail.

By Otis Grotewohl

Wheeling, W.Va.

In the middle of the COVID-19 coro-
navirus crisis, socialist consciousness and
solidarity with socialist countries is
extremely crucial. Readers of Workers
World are probably aware that the World
Health Organization has complimented
People’s China for its meticulous and
effective handling of the pandemic, when
compared to other countries. A March 5
article in WW. “How Cuba’s Antiviral
Medicine Is Helping China,” pointed out
that revolutionary Cuba has developed an
antiviral vaccine called Recombinant Inter-
ferron (IFN). It was announced that China
is using to help slow the spread of
COVID-19.

Next, COVID-19 is spreading like a
wildfire throughout the capitalist United
States. But it is certain that Cuba will not
be able to provide the same assistance with
vaccine to the U.S. because the White
House administration has viciously
reverted the détente relations set up by
the previous Obama administration.

This is yet one more example of how
the capitalist profit system is actively
blocking ways to fight the virus. U.S.
leaders, including the former Obama
administration and corporate capit-
bunal for allowing the virus to spread,
as well as for maintaining a profit-driven
health care system that ranks lowest in
the developed world.

Capitalist countries — particularly the
U.S. — have an anarchy of production,
based on greed and exploitation. Socialist
countries have a centrally planned econ-
omy that is able to meet the needs of its
citizens — and assist other struggling
countries and communities as well. Here
is one example.

How the former USSR once helped
a rural West Virginia community

Almost no one nowadays knows that in
1977 the Soviet Union assisted a small
West Virginia town, Vulcan, in a crisis that
the U.S. state and federal authorities had
turned their backs on.

Vulcan — not far from Matewan, one
of the Mine War battlegrounds of West
Virginia — was ravaged by the closings of
coal mines in the 1960s. The few work-
ers who remained relied on a dilapidated
railroad line to bring them home from
their jobs across the Tug Fork River to
Kentucky.

In 1975, the bridge collapsed, leav-
ing families on both sides of the river
stranded. Vulcan community members
made an appeal to both state and federal
officials to build a new bridge, but the
request was ignored. There was no finan-
cial incentive for Big Business.

Then the people of Vulcan decided to
do what no U.S. community had done before:
They made an appeal for help to
both the Soviet Union and the German
Democratic Republic through those coun-
tries’ Communist Parties. (See “The
A New York-based Soviet journalist,
Iona Andronov, heard about the plea
and went to Vulcan to interview the
townpeople. The Soviet Union also sent
representatives from its D.C. embassy,
announcing its intention to help the com-
munity build a new bridge.

As Andronov publicized the situation,
governmental inaction became a huge
embarrassment to the United
States. The West Virginia state
government quickly allo-
dated $1.3 million, and the bridge was built. (Appalachian
Socialist, Feb. 23, 1977)

West Virginia and COVID-19

On March 17, the bourgeois
corporate press reported that
West Virginia became the last
state in the U.S. to have con-
firmed cases of COVID-19. What
is not being mentioned is that the
state is even less prepared and equipped
than the rest of the U.S. for testing and
vaccinations. By mid-March, only 31
people in the state had been tested, with
26 tests coming back negative and 5 still pending.

This author has been told by local
health care workers that people are not
being sufficiently tested, including health
care workers themselves. The workers
are working under the arbitrary criteria for
symptoms and the fact there are next to no test kits.
Several cases of COVID-19 have been
two other states in neighboring communities in
states bordering West Virginia.

On March 13, bigoted billionaire
Gov. Jim Justice conducted a press conference,
where he announced that public schools
would be closed on the coming Monday.
Later that day, the state superintendent of
education asked all school workers to con-
tact their health care providers to get
COVID-19 vaccine. On March 16, the
state announced that public
school employees would be
vaccinated through the federal
Healthcare.gov program.

Meanwhile, People’s China, under a cen-
trally planned system, was able to build
two hospitals within 10 days each to meet
the COVID-19 crisis.

Unlike socialist countries, U.S. leaders,
along with West Virginia state officials, are
in open articulating the needs of the peo-
ple who live here. The focus of U.S. leaders
is on supporting and banking out banks,
big businesses, Wall Street and war creators.

The people of West Virginia, under a cen-
trally planned system, were able to
build two hospitals within 10 days each to meet
the COVID-19 crisis.

The Bridge in West Virginia that the USSR helped build.

Socialist solidarity matters in West Virginia

staff including food service workers, bus
drivers and custodial staff — to still report.

What makes the medical crisis even
more appalling is that several hospitals
have recently closed throughout the state
because the corporations that controlled
the American health care system have lost
enough profits. Meanwhile, People’s China, under a cen-
trally planned system, was able to build
two hospitals within 10 days each to meet
the COVID-19 crisis.

Unlike socialist countries, U.S. leaders,
along with West Virginia state officials, are
in open articulating the needs of the peo-
ple who live here. The focus of U.S. leaders
is on supporting and banking out banks,
big businesses, Wall Street and war creators.
lion population. For exact location see the cen-
tral bar to predict the future, but in con-
tраст to the capitalists, we revolutionaries understand that it is important to plan and
prepare for all the needs of workers and
oppressed people. History teaches us that
the only way to provide adequate health
care and to ensure quality infrastructure
develops is to reject capitalism — but
through revolutionary socialism.
In this pandemic, people in the U.S. showed that they cannot trust the current capitalist health care system even though the COVID-19 crisis reveals the underlying crisis. How many intensive care beds are available? How many ventilators are available? How many hospital beds are available? Treatment facilities. By 2018, U.S. hospitals were closed at the rate of about 30 a year, according to the American Hospital Association. Currently U.S. hospitals in total have fewer than 70,000 intensive care beds, of which three-quarters are already occupied. The lowest estimate of adults who make up候床 and are hospitalized due to COVID-19 over the coming months is between 200,000 and 300,000. Other studies put estimates in the millions. An average of 1,600 ventilators is more alarming. In February, the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, an independent, nonprofit organization in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health estimated that the U.S. has a total of 160,000 ventilators readily available, with an additional 8,000 in health care departments—have let this crisis reach a point where governmental testing remains criminally limited. In this pandemic, people in the U.S. showed that they cannot trust the current capitalist health care system even though the COVID-19 crisis reveals the underlying crisis. How many intensive care beds are available? How many ventilators are available? How many hospital beds are available? New wave of protests sweeping across Chile

Chile Manning, a hero to anti-war activists, was finally released March 12 from prison after years of on-and-off incarceration for “leaking classified information” to WikiLeaks when she was a U.S. Army intelligence analyst. In 2013, a U.S. military judge found her guilty on 20 counts, including six under the Espionage Act, and sentenced her to an unprecedented 35 years in prison. Her real “offense”: the exposure of U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Keith Raniere, a man who controlled the group NXIVM, released 700,000 classified and sensitive military and diplomatic documents, which revealed details about modern imperialist wars never before made public. Manning had these values since I was a child, and they forced her testimony. While waiting for the court’s answer to her petition for release after 10 months in prison, she attempted to take her life on March 11. Manning re-affirmed her commitment to non-cooperation in a statement released by her lawyers before that attempt: “I have had these values since I was a child, and I’ve had years of commitment to reflect on them. For much of that time, I depended for survival on my values, my decisions and my conscience. I will not abandon them now.” (tinyurl.com/ssnuvvj) On March 13, U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Trenga ordered her release. When Manning’s legal team asked for her fine to be vacated, the judge refused. Two days later, over 6,000 supporters donated online to pay off the $256,000 court debt. They raised that amount and more! One contributor said: “Those of us who support Manning have been looking at this more as a fine on us than on her, because of course we were never going to let a heroine who is trying to help the world, and she is putting her life on the line for the people of the world.” (tinyurl.com/sf8tguw)

Continued on page 11
Venezuela still resists for Hugo Chávez

By Marco Teruggi

Caracas

Published in spuntniknews.com on March 5, Translation by Michael Otto.

Seven years have passed since the death of Hugo Chávez. The situation in Latin America and in Venezuela has changed drastically, and yet the reality of the country can still be explained in part by what his life meant, particularly for the masses of farmers and workers in the country.

One could feel the night at its deepest in the front of the Caracas Military Hospital. It was March 5, 2013, and thousands of us gathered to confront the most dreadful news: the death of Hugo Chávez. It gave birth to a sadness and a centuries-old oath deep in the heart of the nation.

Nicolas Maduro gave us the news at 4:25 in the afternoon. There are many stories about those minutes. One remembers a chill wind blowing under heavy clouds that darkened the city. I saw it from Baralt Avenue near Bolivar Square where we gathered until the early hours of the night.

The funeral procession began on the morning of March 6. Chávez was taken from the Bolivarian Academy. We were millions, literally. The multitude crossed Caracas like a slowly surging red wave, Chávez’s casket in the center of a sea of flowers, posters, tears, flags and songs.

The vigil lasted for ten days. Women and men came from all over the country, hugging Chávez with whatever they had, to say goodbye to Chávez, to the commander, to thank him, to make a vow. Queues stretched for miles during the day, at night and before sunrise. I saw him around 10 o’clock when a woman had fainted near me, while outside the lights on the hall called to mind a nativity scene.

In those days, you could see the purest image of what Chávez represented to millions. And that is why people dreamed of a political process that moved a whole people, refounding their history. There was no doubt that the majority, the poor, were with Chavismo, and that its adversary, anti-Chavismo, with an imperious upper-class brand, would never be willing to understand this.

A month and nine days later Maduro won the presidential elections and Henrique Capriles Radonski, his opponent, was defeated. Instead he attempted a coup that caused 11 deaths, as well as burning health centers and party buildings.

Another era

Chávez died when he was at the height of his power in the midst of a left-wing administration governed the continent at the time. For example, Evo Morales, president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Lula Da Silva, former Brazilian president and President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, who was accompanied by Luís Da Silveira, the former Brazilian president.

The U.S. government was preparing to test a new aggressive campaign of revenge to restore [its] neoliberal puppet regime. 47 years of history and a political process was, and is, a political process was disman-
tling the advances in Latin American inte-
governmental cooperation, especially in those years, such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Chávez had been at the center of these advances, in a phase of the consoli-
dation of forces that began in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 2005 to stop the U.S. attempt to impose, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). In addition to the above mentioned organizations, Chávez also promoted the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

Chávez was one of the main archi-
archs of the period of the greatest Latin American unity since the era of independ-
ence. His death was cause for sadness not only in Venezuela, but throughout Latin America.

Changes

How can you measure the transfer-
fund, the loss of a man? How do you measure a political process with the power that the Bolivarian Revolution deployed? To arrive in Venezuela in the time of Chávez was to jump into a current that projected its advance toward a clear outcome.

The country radiated political energy, and there were no limits to the cognitive spring: the emergence of the poor work-
ers and farmers as the protagonists, of the popular neighborhoods, of the rural areas, as the makers of policies, desired and underestimated by anti-Chavismo.

The material impacts [of the blockade] began to appear in 2014 and 2015 with shortages. Cities were packed with long lines at the doors of supermar-
kets, grocery stores and pharmacies at the beginning of the day. A phenomenon that had experienced years of growth was entering hard times of resistance.

The Venezuelan government called out their two main enemies: on the one hand, the oligopolistic capitalist class inside Venezuela, which was blamed for the hoarding of products; on the other hand, the government of the United States. Both were held responsible for what was denounced as an economic war.

Difficulties multiplied during those years [of sanctions]: the devaluation of the cur-
rency forced monetary changes, inflation reached levels of hyperinflation and then deflation, the great hyperinflation that contracted by more than half; there was large-scale emigration, a change from per capita increases and per capita, there is a process that is known on the streets as “dollarization.”

Those years included a legislative electoral defeat from the early 2010s, when the right-wing insurrectionary escalations in 2014 and 2017, the election of a National Constituent Assembly in 2017, along with governorships and mayors that same year, a presidential election in 2018, and finally in 2019, the formation of a parallel fictitious government.

Time was always dizzying during the absence of a truce when profound changes were occurring. In an attempt to draw the elites into an alliance, the government discarded its discourse that big business was an enemy and instead focused on the confrontation with the U.S. and the putative sector of the opposition.

The social fabric, torn by assault after assault, both political and economic, was marked and a rest of a multitude of symbolic inequalities. The political energy that had permeated the whole country was reduced to specific territories and time-
frames, and Venezuela changed from being a largely mobilized society—whether by

Continued from page 10

Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!

Continúa de la página 12

de los continentes, el robo de tierras y la superexplotación de los tra-
bajadores y la propagación del racismo y todas las formas de intolerancia, amplían enormemente las demandas de los que se plantearon en 1910: basta con que se escuchen y den escuchas.

Una conferencia socialista mundial de mujeres hoy extendería primera invita-
ciones a mujeres en África, Medio Oriente y Asia, América Latina, Caribe, cuyos países han sido oprimidos por el imperialismo. Tal reunión pro-
cedería a reparación y tendería a recuperar los territorios devastados y empobrecidos por los capi-
talistas globales y exigiría el fin de todo el imperialismo militarista.

La idea se invitaría a mujeres trabajadoras y personas de todas las naciones y generos en los Estados Unidos: migrantes/immigrantes, refugiados, padres solteros, desempleados, personas sin hogar, personas mayores, jóvenes, personas con discapacidad, sobrevivien-
tes de abuso sexual y violencia doméstica, de bajos ingresos, individuos, personas LGBTQ+•, prisioneros, trabajadoras sexuales y todos aquellos que carecen de atención médica y otras necesidades. Las quejas de todos serían escuchadas e incorporadas a las demandas.

Clara Zetkin tenía razón al decir que la solidaridad internacional es esencial. Ella enfatizó que es urgente que las mujeres y todos los trabajadores se organicen para deshacerse del capitalismo y luchar por el socialismo. Ese es el legado de 110 años del Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora.

La abuela de la escritora, Sophie Stoller, una trabajadora inmigrante de la mujer, en la exposición “Las desilusiones de la Triple Shirtsuit Factory. Estaba enferma y no fue a trabajar el día del incendio. Como socialista, se unió a la marcha de los tra-
bajadores de la confección de 1908 y al “Levantamiento de los 20.000”.

actividades beginning at 11 a.m. for 11 min-
utes. “Super Friday” protests were held May 25 and commemorate the five months of protests that began in October 2019.

Beginning in mid-October, and continu-
ing every Friday since then, Chileans have demonstrated against Piñera’s neoliberal policies that have turned Chile into one of the most economically unequal countries in Latin America. The protests were called by youth over a 3.75 percent increase in the minimum wage for young workers, and antigovernment repression.

When the youth fought back, they gained the support of the Chilean work-
ing class. After a week Piñera was forced to announce the withdrawal of proposed austerity measures. When the youth fought back, they gained the support of the Chilean working class. After a week Piñera was forced to announce the withdrawal of proposed austerity measures.

The Chilean transit protests, in which youth jumped over turnstiles, inspired similar actions in New York City that began November 2019 against transit police brutality.

New wave of protests against Chile

Since October, police in Chile have mur-
dered at least 27 demonstrators; blinded over 500 people by shooting pellets, bul-
lets and gas canisters at their eyes; injured almost 10,000; arrested nearly 10,000, including children and youth.

Chile’s Institute for Human Rights esti-
mates that 439 women were among those injured. Women have filed more than 1,000 complaints against police for sexual assault.

The 150 days since mid-October have

Continued from page 10

Continued from page 10
Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!

Por Kathy Durkin

El Partido Socialdemócrata Alemán (SPD) y Clara Zetkin, líder del ala izquierda del IWWD permanece, a pesar de que las mujeres han dado grandes pasos políticos para lograr la igualdad de las mujeres. Dirigida por Clara Zetkin, la empresa de negocios que dirigía, en colaboración con Zetkin, propuso el primer 8 de marzo. La propuesta fue presentada en el Salón de la Asamblea de los Trabajadores en Copenhague, que se celebró en el año de la confección de tres meses. En 1908, así fue la huelga de los trabajadores de la confección, principalmente migrantes, quienes protestaron por la extensión del día de los trabajadores; se unieron a las mujeres que atacan las corporaciones desde la confección. Una de las mujeres luego refutó los argumentos de los empresarios y las mujeres, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. las mujeres ganaron el derecho a votar en 1932, cuando Clara Zetkin, jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer, el SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros, votó para la igualdad de género, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista. Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerr...