

Virus triggers capitalist chaos

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



Crashes in Global Stock Market & Oil Market

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)

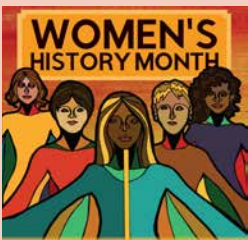
Yet already there are dire predictions that the U.S. economy will now seriously contract and many, many

Continued on page 6



'Women in resistance, defending Mother Earth' banner at Int'l Women's Day, March 8, Santiago, Chile. Read more on page 10.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



- Gender oppression 2
- Three labor leaders 4
- Domestic violence & the state 5

Racism and Milwaukee shootings 3

Wall St. crash & capitalist crisis 6-7

Socialist solidarity in W. Va. 9

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

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
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011

workers.org
212.627.2994

Philly discussion on gender oppression and imperialism

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 Abulhawa, and Black transgender organizer Liora Libertad. 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 and others.

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 oppression at Black women because of the critical 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 (December 1955 to December 1956) focused on the transit system specifically because of the violence committed against them on buses. “Exploiting Black women is acting



March 10 participants.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

in the service of empire,” Malachi said, “regardless of who is committing the acts.” She went on to say that sexual violence is rooted in white supremacy and that gender oppression is not a “secondary issue.”

Susan Abulhawa, speaking as a Palestinian woman, began by saying, “One of the primary forms of gender violence is denial of someone’s existence, then trivializing their existence.” 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 LGBTQ2S+ liberation. “My pronouns are they and that is nonnegotiable,” Liora began. “My name means that I have light and freedom.” All the gains won by the movement, they explained, began with the Black and Brown transwomen-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 Q&A period that followed. Abulhawa, 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.” □

Printed issue suspended

Due to the measures taken in the New York-New Jersey area to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Workers World is temporarily suspending the printing and mailing of its printed edition, 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 review 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, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette and Minnie Bruce Pratt.



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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, 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

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.

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

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

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

National Office

147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta

PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin

austin@workers.org

Boston

284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Bay Area

P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Charlotte

charlotte@workers.org

Cleveland

216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Dallas

dallas@workers.org

Durham, N.C.

804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9 970
durham@workers.org

Houston

P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Knoxville, Tenn.

knoxville@workers.org

Minneapolis

minneapolis@workers.org

Pensacola, Fla.

pensacola@workers.org

Portland, Ore.

portland@workers.org

Philadelphia

P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Salt Lake City

801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio

sanantonio@workers.org

San Diego

sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.

tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.

dc@workers.org

West Virginia

WestVirginia@workers.org



this week

♦ In the U.S.

Virus triggers capitalist chaos.	1
Philly discussion on gender and imperialism	2
White supremacy and Milwaukee mass shootings. . .	3
On the picket line	4
Saluting 3 women labor leaders, past and present . .	4
Domestic violence, racism & state violence, Part 2. .	5
How profits drive the capitalist crisis	6
Wall Street’s worst crisis since ’08.	7
Sanctions Kill campaign March 14 webinar	8
Philapdehpia: Sanctions Kill event goes online. . . .	8
Washington’s war drive bumps into COVID-19	8
Socialist solidarity matters in West Virginia	9

♦ Around the world

China calls for lifting of U.S. sanctions against Iran. .	6
How China has controlled the virus	9
New wave of protests sweeping across Chile	10
Venezuela still resists for Hugo Chávez	11

♦ Editorials

COVID-19 exposes failure of U.S. health care	10
Anti-war hero Chelsea Manning released	10

♦ Noticias en Español

Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!	12
--	----

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 18, 2020

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Teresa Gutierrez, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2020 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the last week of December by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.

WW COMMENTARY

White supremacy and the Milwaukee mass shootings

By Monica Moorehead

A mass shooting took place on Feb. 26 in Milwaukee, Wis., at the Molson Coors 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: “Nose 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 article focused much 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 before the shooting when he was absent from work. Swastikas were also found in or around in 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, portrayed as primates 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 he was constantly taunted for being a Muslim. Being called “Salami” and “Jamal” by racist co-workers, he stated, “I’d hear jokes about me putting a bomb 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’ complaints about racist 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 have 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. I don’t see 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 and now

Back in 1984, 33 years before Miller and Coors beer began their joint venture in 2007, 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-LGBTQ2S+ bigotry led to a victorious beer boycott in the late 1970s.

Ten years later, the then-Miller Brewing Company paid \$2.7 million to Black 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 in Milwaukee, including killings of 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 arrested or indicted. 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 lynchings of untold thousands of African Americans, especially in the Deep South during the Jim Crow



Anthony Ferrill

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. These heroic workers refused to be silent when such atrocities took place — but they should not have been alone in their struggle.

Racism is a byproduct of capitalism, meant to divide and conquer workers of all nationalities. But it is important for white 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. □

DONATE A WORKERS WORLD SUBSCRIPTION TO A PRISONER

"Inmates need Workers World papers. When you're locked up, you need an intellectual light to shine through the darkness of state oppression. If you're a free person reading this, and you care about the struggle against mass incarceration, please take out a subscription for an incarcerated person. It means more than you could possibly imagine."

—Makasi Motema

You can donate a subscription to Workers World Patreon to go to an inmate — today at patreon.com/wwp/.

Workers World is an independent, revolutionary communist newspaper that began publication in 1959, and has grown to be published weekly in print and daily on the web. We are committed to building solidarity among workers and oppressed peoples around the globe. For that reason Workers World has always provided FREE subscriptions and other radical printed materials to prisoners in the U.S. One in three subscribers to Workers World is a person who is currently behind bars — in hundreds of prisons across dozens of states.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to provide even more prisoners with FREE subscriptions to Workers World!

We receive hundreds of phone calls, letters and subscription requests from prisoners. In addition to the work we do fighting racism, imperialism, gender oppression and labor exploitation every day, we need the resources to keep operating the only revolutionary communist printed weekly in this country.

These resources also allow us to continue our daily work of organizing defense committees, coordinating prison visits, planning demonstrations and mass mobilizations for prisoners, and shedding light on prison conditions.

Donating now is an immediate way you can help fight this racist, capitalist system and empower our readers to tear down the walls once and for all. Donate today at patreon.com/wwp

Fight for women's liberation! Build Workers World!

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

That’s what motivated women 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 IWWD 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 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 harassment on the job.

The recent trial 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 attacks — in restaurants,

hotels, offices, wherever they work — their voices will convey new authority and respect. Meanwhile, all people must support trans women who risk life-threatening sexual assaults in the street and by police and prison guards.

WW will continue to solidarize 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. □

On the picket line

By Sue Davis

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 workers, 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 health and safety of the federal workforce and with the administration’s efforts to prevent, detect and treat the Coronavirus.” Of major priority are worker safety, protective equipment and hazardous duty pay.

Kelley added: “[A]gencies are not communicating with their workforces ... to allow them to protect themselves or the public in a timely manner to contain 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 programs — although telework is mandated in the last contract. The union calls such administration attacks 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. 10 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 chopped from the already underfinanced Violence Against Women Act. (afge.org, March 2)

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

The Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) denounced Amazon’s opening of a cashier-less grocery store in Seattle. UFCW 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 millions of good jobs,” Perrone notes: “Amazon might share its cashier-free technology with other retailers and chains, such as movie theaters and airports, which would threaten jobs in these industries.”

Perrone is calling on politicians and the public alike “to wake up and act before Amazon and Jeff Bezos do permanent damage to America’s economy and the future of work.”

The largest private sector union in the U.S., representing 1.3 million professionals in grocery stores and related industries, UFCW intends to make Amazon’s business model a 2020 election issue. Perrone asks: “[W]ho will be left to buy the company’s products if the job-killing behemoth succeeds in eliminating all the good-paying jobs?” (ufcw.org, March 3)

Austin bus drivers’ campaign wins contract without a strike

Bus drivers in Austin, Texas, started a “Black Eye” campaign — smearing black makeup or tape under their eyes so they looked like football players — to protest tense contract negotiations, which might have led to a strike. Brent Payne, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091, explained: “[W]e’ve been getting punched in the face by MV Transportation and Capital Metro.” (kxan.com, Feb. 21)

The protest helped win a decent contract without a strike. On March 1, the workers overwhelmingly ratified a contract with 8.5 percent wage increases and improved health benefits. The contract also unites 900 fixed-bus route drivers and maintenance workers who work at two Capital Metro facilities. Payne says, “I am proud of our members. They came together from two different bus depots — where they had been pitted against each other for years — and made their union ... stronger.” (atu.org, March 1) □



Addie Wyatt



Dolores Huerta



Sara Nelson

Saluting 3 women labor leaders, past and present

By Sue Davis

When one thinks of women labor leaders, names from the past like Lucy Gonzalez Parsons, Mother Jones, Elizabeth Hurley Flynn and Clara Lemlich come to mind. But two women born in the 20th century were more recent trailblazers in the labor movement and another one is on her way to make history.

Addie Wyatt, first African-American woman elected officer in her local

Addie Wyatt (March 8, 1924 — March 28, 2012) was elected president in 1954 of Local 56 of the Packinghouse Workers (UPWA) — the first African-American woman to hold a senior office in the U.S. labor movement. Born in Brookhaven, Miss., Wyatt was a labor leader, pastor and tireless fighter for civil rights and women’s rights in Chicago, birthplace of May Day in the late 1800s.

President John Kennedy appointed her to his Commission on the Status of Women in 1962. She was a founding member of the National Organization of Women in 1963, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in 1972 and the Coalition of Labor Union Women in 1974. The Addie Wyatt Center for Nonviolence Training, established in 2016 to carry on her legacy, offers workshops, retreats and programs on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s nonviolence theory and practice in Chicago area schools and agencies serving youth.

By 1956, she and her like-minded spouse, Claude S. Wyatt Jr., began working with Dr. King to raise funds for the Montgomery Improvement Association. Wyatt organized Black, white and Latinx laborers in UPWA to win “equal pay for equal work” in many contracts well before the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

During the ’70s, Wyatt worked in the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists to ensure that Black workers could “share in the power of the labor movement at every level.” As chair of CBTU’s National Women’s Committee, Wyatt helped AFL-CIO affiliated unions open up leadership positions to Black women.

Wyatt furthered that through the Coalition of Labor Union Women: “Racism and sexism are economic issues. It was very profitable to discriminate against women and against people of color. I began to understand that change could come, but you ... had to unite with others. This was one of the reasons I became part of the union.” (calaborfed.org)

CLUW was an important step forward because it spoke for women who felt left out of the white-dominated women’s movement.

Wyatt fought for human rights on three fronts: as a laborer, as a woman and as an African American.

Dolores Fernández Huerta, Chicana labor leader, civil rights activist

Born April 10, 1930, in New Mexico, Dolores Huerta cofounded the National Farmworkers Association in 1962 with Cesar Chavez. (It became the United Farm Workers in 1966.) A proud Chicana, Dolores’ father was a miner and a labor organizer. After her parents divorced, her mother ran a hotel in Stockton, Calif., and took in anyone who needed shelter, even if they couldn’t pay. Huerta says both parents gave her their

strengths — fighting for rights and abundant compassion.

Working as a community organizer after college, where she was introduced to nonviolence, Huerta and Chavez shared a vision of organizing the poorest, most oppressed Chicano/a workers. Huerta helped organize the Delano grape strike in California in 1965. When the struggle for unionization ebbed there, Dolores suggested a national grape boycott. Leading it in New York City, she credits the Puerto Rican and Black communities with providing immediate, sustained support. After the strike succeeded, she was the lead negotiator for the workers’ contract.

The cultural emergence of the Chicano Power movement in the Southwest and the founding of the environmental justice movement are offshoots of the farmworkers’ struggle. Their life-and-death fight against pesticide poisoning helped outlaw DDT in the U.S. in 1972.

A turning point came in Dolores’ life in 1988 when she was ruthlessly beaten by San Francisco cops protesting a George H.W. Bush meeting. During an extended hospital stay and recuperation, her 11 children rallied around her 24/7. All of them have proudly followed in her footsteps.

After Cesar died in 1993, Dolores resigned from the UFW a few years later. Thanks to a \$100,000 award in 2002 for her life’s work, she set up the Dolores Huerta Foundation for community organizing, which is now run by two daughters.

Huerta has received many awards recognizing her contributions in the fight for rights for workers, im/migrants and women, including one from the Eugene V. Debs Foundation. She was the first Latina inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993. April 10 is Dolores Huerta Day in California.

One award she treasures is being known for the slogan “Sí se puede” — “Yes, we can.” Not only does it power the movement for \$15 and a union, but all movements striving for justice and equality.

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 weeks of Trump’s disastrous government shutdown in 2018-19, she called for a general strike on Jan. 20. Nelson argued that Transportation Security Administration officers and air traffic controllers were swamped by the terrible stress 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 galley area and near lavatories” on airplanes. Demands include installation of “hand sanitizer stations in airports and on planes” and that airlines raise aircraft-cleaning standards and cover “all medical costs and lost wages for workers exposed in the course of work.” Go, Sara Nelson! □

WW COMMENTARY

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 1995 pamphlet, "Capitalism's War on Women: Why the system is responsible for violence against women," published by World View Forum. The article was written before O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murder charges by a majority-Black Los Angeles jury on 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 incomplete 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 be considered a real "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.

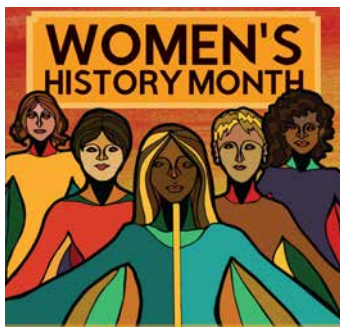
Sports culture promotes violence against women

Male athletes and coaches, both college and professional, 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 to go 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, harmless, a joke that did not mean anything." (New York Times, June 22, 1994) Well, what Paterno said was almost true, except for the parts about being "harmless" and a "joke." Referring to women in graphic, degrading 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 multibillionaire owners. But if you are an African-American athlete like O.J., you are superexploited because racism permeates every aspect of 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 sneakers to hamburgers.

The media play a decisive role in elevating these athletes, and especially Black athletes, to almost iconic status in a day. Then they seem to delight in tearing them down the next day. Look how Michael Jordan was treated in 1993 when he was accused of being addicted to gambling. He was literally hounded and crucified by the media. Baseball's Pete Rose, who is white, didn't receive half the flack that Jordan did, and he was actually found guilty of fixing games.

When the question of domestic violence is raised where athletes are concerned, the list of examples is usually headed by Black athletes like Simpson, Vance Johnson, Sugar Ray Leonard, Moses Malone, Darryl Strawberry, Mike Tyson [Ray Rice in 2014] and others. But singling



out these athletes only reinforces racist stereotypes and lets plenty of white athletes like Steve Garvey, Mark Gastineau and Ben Roethlisberger off the hook. That kind of racism must be opposed — while at the same time not excusing what these men did to their spouses or partners.

Sports in this country has become a dangerous institution, with men in general encouraged to become killing

machines on and off the playing field. The women associated 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 arms of the military for also promoting inequality of women and "women as objects." This mentality 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 violence 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 not an unbiased player, even in domestic relations. The state, in compliance with the white, straight, male-dominated ruling class, preaches to the diverse, multinational working 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 struggle. 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 LGBTQ+ communities down, along with others — either through the legal system 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 workers and oppressed subjugated, divided and disenfranchised. The state pits one oppressed sector against another, especially ideologically. This is where the media play a very instrumental role. The mainstream media are 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 antiwoman, antiworker, antipeople of color or anti-LGBTQ+ themes. For instance, an abusive man told a counselor that he was influenced to attack his wife by the TV show "The Honeymooners" 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 rapist William Kennedy Smith go free. The Kennedys are one of the most well-known ruling-class dynasties, and the



Black community-led protest outside of Los Angeles courtroom during Simpson trial exposes racist role of police.

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 life 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 violence, unemployment, exploitation and oppression in their lives? Look how the racist, sexist [anti-LGBTQ+] 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; affordable day care; Aid to Families with Dependent Children and welfare; affirmative action on the job and in education; as well as the right to raise healthy children.

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

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

History has shown that the capitalist state is not invincible. 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 kind of state — a worker's state that will defend the interests of all the workers of all nationalities in the name of socialist reconstruction and harmony.

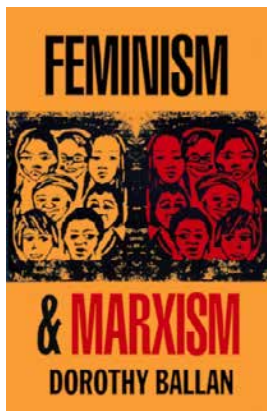
Only through the class struggle and the overthrow of class oppression will women be liberated, along with their class brothers and other genders, from centuries of sexism and backward ideas. Smash women's, gender and racist oppression! □

Feminism & Marxism

A Marxist analysis of the role of women through history

- Shows that in the 'primitive society' — the matriarchy — men and women worked together as equals
- Traces the roots of women's oppression to the development of wealth in the form of private property, slavery, and class oppression
- Answers the idea that since men oppress women, all men are the enemy. Instead, it shows that only the ruling class profits from the oppression of women — the capitalist system is the real enemy
- Supports the struggle for social and political rights for women as an essential part of the class struggle
- 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.

First published in 1971. Free download at workers.org/books.

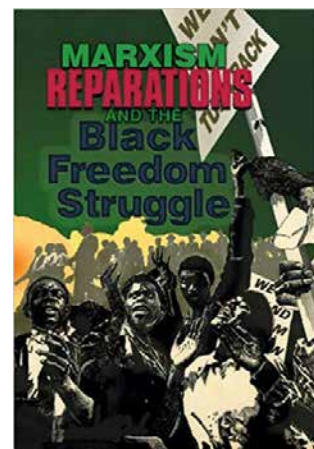


Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

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
Free PDF download at www.workers.org/books



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

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 everyone 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 serious situation into account in relation to all our activities, whether in our offices or in the streets.

This pandemic is going to affect hundreds 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 more dollars into the markets over the next two days.

So what happened after that announcement? 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 politics, Trump is playing the angry leader whose good work is being destroyed by all his bad underlings. His latest attack is 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 crash 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 definitely hit the Chinese economy hard. But the Chinese economy is NOT in a tailspin. And China is now starting to dismantle 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 capitalist 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 developing in the world today is socialism — even though socialism is still struggling to survive, faced with the monstrous destructive 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 revolutionary message. As this crisis grows, people are really going to start to listen. □



Deirdre Griswold

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

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.

A very high level of both personal and business debt in 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 collapse of the financial markets.

So it is important to look at other factors, 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 symptoms of global overproduction of vital

commodities stand out. Particularly telling is the drop in the price of oil — a commodity that is central to both industry and transportation.

Just a few months ago oil was selling for more than \$60 a barrel on the international 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 horrendous method of extracting 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 current glut of oil may help accomplish what the Indigenous and environmental movements have demanded for years: shutting down fracking. But it's not because the U.S. oil billionaires 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 overproduction. Overproduction is a built-in feature of capitalism 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

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

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 service or go under.

This has been the cause of periodic crises ever since capitalism became the dominant 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 crisis. 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 Betsey Piette

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

China's call came in response to a letter 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 counter the pandemic, noting that sanctions have caused around \$200 billion in direct 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 continued unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran have deteriorated health conditions in the country and "gone against the humanitarian spirit." He added that the sanctions seriously affect Iran's fight against the pandemic and limit humanitarian 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. □



PHOTO: MEDEA BENJAMIN

CodePink demonstrates in front of the Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., on March 11.

Wall Street's worst crisis since '08

By Larry Holmes

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

It is entirely possible that we are at the beginning of what could be the most serious and consequential economic and political world crisis that our party and the working class have ever faced. I underscore possible. There is no way to state emphatically that is the case. But the potential magnitude of what is happening with the economy and its intersection with COVID-19 is unprecedented, extraordinary and historical.

We are in “uncharted waters,” but they shouldn't be so uncharted for revolutionary Marxists who have any grasp of theory, because in many ways we saw this 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 comrade Deirdre Griswold's excellent March 10 article in Workers World newspaper, “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 governmental level — or on a world level — which is how they should be coordinated. But capitalism as a system is anathema to that because the imperialists can't coordinate because they are fighting and competing with each other. This is part of the anarchy and bankruptcy of world capitalism 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. It's as if the system was waiting for something — a war, political development, bank failing or a country going into debt — to unravel. This system with massive overproduction is just waiting to unravel.

The financial system has been on life support since 2008 when the big financial crisis happened. The central banks and the ruling classes around the world were so frightened by the prospect of a collapse of the entire capitalist economy that they all have agreed to do everything, including taking trillions of dollars of the

workers' money and pumping it into the financial markets. But that's a phony remedy, and it's running out of steam now.

Panic over Wall Street collapse

The New York Stock Exchange had to halt trading earlier on March 12 in the financial markets because the major markets fell more than 7 percent. It's the second time they've done this within a few days. That's when the Federal Reserve Bank had an emergency meeting and released a statement saying they were going to pump \$1.5 trillion starting tomorrow into the markets. That didn't stop the collapse.

But the Federal Reserve Bank had other things in mind. They're in touch with all the central bankers, the CEOs of JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, the Bank of America and Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank. They are in a panic and trying to prevent a worldwide crash of the markets, of the capitalist economy.

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 world imperialist ruling classes were cooperating 12 year ago. During the oil 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 will demand the imperialist governments cooperate more — is part of the political struggle.

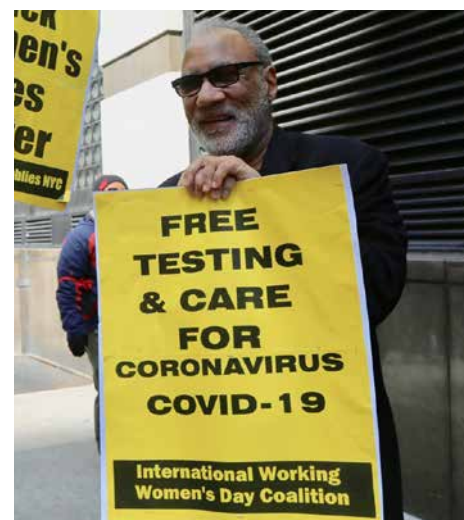
It is the U.S. that is competing with every country, not just China. That's a new development. It's not just Trump; he represents a section of the ruling class that says cooperation has been okay for the 80 years since we won the second imperialist war. It did some good, but it's not helping us now.

Ruling class strife = war on 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 those who want 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 there, 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 rightfully so.

Working-class demands for health care



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Larry Holmes at International Working Women's Day rally on March 8 in New York City.

and paid sick leave will come out of the coronavirus crisis. We're going to fight around their issues — against evictions, against workers losing their homes and for health care. 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 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.

They may be the same issues that faced the socialist and communist parties, the revolutionary movement and the entire working class during that incredible, historic period 80 years ago.

I'm optimistic that as revolutionaries we will find a way to minimize insignificant differences and small-thinking sectarianism and whatever other obstacles there are to the kind of unity and revolutionary vision required for the future — for taking the road to 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 I leave you with 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, family members and neighbors. That's very important because that's how a revolutionary organization orients itself. For us as serious 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? □

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.

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 livestreaming 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 5,000 people watched the livestream on Facebook.

Speakers included Pierre LaBossiere 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 Crutchfield 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. Noh, scholar, writer and KPFA correspondent; Dave Welsh, delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council; Jeff Mackler, United National Antiwar Coalition; and Elane Spivak-Rodriguez,

AFGJ. The event was chaired by Judy Greenspan, local Sanctions Kills coalition organizer and member of the Oakland Education Association.

The speakers addressed the impact of sanctions from Haiti to Palestine to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Panelists also raised the devastating impact of these U.S.-imposed economic sanctions in countries like Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and Syria. A Q&A session followed the presentations. □

Philadelphia

Sanctions Kill event goes online

By Ted Kelly
Philadelphia

The Sanctions Kill movement in Philadelphia is undeterred in its commitment to expose the truth about genocidal imperialist sanctions that the U.S. imposes on over one-third of the human population. But in this 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 stranglehold on the global working class. The Philadelphia panel discussion was one of many events called over the weekend of March 13-15 and featured Hyun Lee with Philadelphia Korea Peace Now!, Godfrey Sithole of the African National Congress, Indigenous organizer Carmen Guerrero with Coalición Fortaleza Latina, MOVE Minister of Confrontation Pam Africa, and Scott Williams of the International Action Center.

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

39 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 Boer settler state, much in the same way that Palestinians and their allies around the world engage in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement to fight back against the Zionist settler state. This tactic should not be confused with imperialist sanctions imposed upon colonized nations and countries which refuse to bow down to the U.S., which are the target of Sanctions Kill.

Sithole took time to mention that for as long as there was resistance to apartheid

there were LGBTQ2+ 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 blockaded by the city and police in order to starve out 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 firehoses in 1978 and ultimately firebombed by the city government in 1985.

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

Workers around the world face threats



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Panelists Scott Williams, Godfrey Sithole and Ted Kelly, March 13.

that are truly historic 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 class – 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 conflicted 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 called “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 weapons 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 name, 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. The war maneuver continues at a lower volume.



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 31 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 Wuhan, it is now resuming 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 in 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. □

How China has controlled the virus

By Joshua Hanks

As the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic 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 cases are way down. Many provinces have reported none in weeks. While the government is still cautiously maintaining comprehensive measures to control the virus, the economy and society are slowly starting back up.

China's response to the epidemic involved unprecedented quarantines of tens of millions of people. Schools, factories, 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 workers, 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, taking pressure off existing hospitals reeling from the crisis.

The virus first emerged and spread in the city of Wuhan in Hubei province. While battling back the virus, the government successfully contained cases in every other province.

This gave other countries several precious 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



Chinese stamp circa 1973 commemorates the “barefoot doctors” who brought health care to millions of rural Chinese people.

large outbreak, with many deaths.

While initially caught off guard by this new pathogen, China has still managed to bring it rapidly under control and severely limit its spread. Why was China able to do this when Western countries that are much more economically developed 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 revolution in 1949. Torn apart by World War II, China had endured a “century of humiliation” 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 underdevelopment and poverty inherited by the government of New China.

For the first time, millions were vaccinated, taught to read and write, and given education in trade schools and universities. The famous “barefoot doctors” — thousands of volunteer medical

workers — fanned out across the countryside to the remotest villages and settlements to provide people with free medical care for the first time. The barefoot doctors created detailed medical charts and records for each of their patients, meticulously tracked their health conditions and recorded treatments.

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

World war 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 economy and has essentially eliminated extreme poverty.

Even though the U.S. has less than one-fourth 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 many nations into chaos for years to come, China directed vast amounts of its state resources to end mass unemployment and poverty.

Unemployed workers in the export sector were retrained to work on infrastructure projects. They built the world's largest high-speed rail network. The state-owned banking sector remained stable, and the country never faced a debilitating recession, as happened in the West.

During this time China also built up its health care sector, constructing many new state-of-the-art hospitals and acquiring advanced medical technologies. In 2011 it established the world's largest universal health insurance system.

Universal health coverage

A study published in the September 2015 issue of Health Policy, a peer-reviewed medical science journal, reported: “Universal health insurance coverage is rarely found in developing countries. That is why international experts are greatly impressed by the universal coverage recently achieved by China, the world's largest developing country with 1.3 billion population. For example, a World Bank report praised China's achievement as ‘unparalleled,’ representing the largest expansion of insurance coverage in human history.”

In the West, austerity measures have slashed public health budgets, reducing the number of beds and critical medical 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 situation currently unfolding today.

China now has 4.34 hospital beds per 1,000 people, up from 3.31 in 2013, while Italy has 3.18, down from 3.31 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 medical 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 revolution based in its working people created 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. □

Socialist solidarity matters in West Virginia

By Otis Grotewohl
Wheeling, W.Va.

In the middle of the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, socialist consciousness and solidarity with socialist countries is extremely crucial. Readers of Workers World are probably aware that the World Health Organization has commended 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 Interferon Alpha 2B (IFNrec) that China is using to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Now COVID-19 is spreading like wildfire throughout the capitalist United States. But it is certain that Cuba will not be able to provide the same assistance with vaccines to the U.S., since the current White House administration has viciously reversed the détente relations set up by the previous U.S. administration.

This is yet one more example of how the capitalist profit system is actively blocking ways to fight the virus. U.S. leaders should be tried by a people's tribunal 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 economy 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 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 workers who remained relied on a dilapidated wooden bridge to commute across the Tug Fork River to Kentucky.

In 1975, the bridge collapsed, leaving 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 financial 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 countries' embassies in Washington, D.C.

A New York-based Soviet journalist, Iona Andronov, heard about the plea and went to Vulcan to interview the townspeople. The Soviet Union also sent representatives from its D.C. embassy, announcing its intention to help the community 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 allocated \$1.3 million, and the bridge was built. (Appalachian Magazine, Feb. 23, 2014)

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 confirmed 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 treatment. 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 cite the arbitrary criteria for symptoms and the fact there are next to no test kits. Several cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in neighboring communities in states bordering West Virginia.

On March 13, bigoted billionaire Gov. Jim Justice conducted a press conference where he announced state public schools would be closed on the coming Monday. Later that day, the state superintendent of schools ordered all school workers to continue to report, leading to a pushback by education workers. As of this writing, some superintendents have ordered teachers to go back to work without students present, while most have not. All school districts are asking “essential employees” — support



The bridge in West Virginia that the USSR helped build.

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 them were not raking in enough profits. Meanwhile, People's China, under a centrally 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 incapable of meeting the needs of the people who live here. The focus of U.S. leaders is on supporting and bailing out banks, big businesses, Wall Street and war creators.

Marxist-Leninists do not have a crystal ball to predict the future, but in contrast 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 is not through decaying capitalism — but through revolutionary socialism. □

WORKERS WORLD editorials

COVID-19 exposes failure of U.S. health care

In this pandemic, people in the U.S. should be questioning why the current capitalist health care system seems unable to combat the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. We should be demanding why U.S. officials — from the Trump administration to state and local health care departments — have let this crisis reach a point where governmental intervention may be too little, too late.

Thirty million people in the U.S. lack health insurance. Access for millions more is limited by high copays and deductibles. In the wealthiest capitalist country in the world, health care is another commodity, available only to those with the means to pay.

COVID-19 exposes the reality that even when one has the means to pay, there is not enough health care to go around. Lack of centralization also means the U.S. health system has no institutional way to analyze data, relying instead on sporadic reports from state health departments.

Globally, tests for COVID-19 have been available since late January 2020. In late February, the World Health Organization shipped tests to 60 countries, but the U.S. rejected the tests.

The xenophobic and profit-driven Trump administration wanted “Made in America” stamped on test labels. It ordered the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to design its own tests. Now social media journalists are raising the possibility that President Trump may have investments

in companies producing those tests. (tinyurl.com/sf8tguw)

The early CDC tests were defective, further delaying vital testing when COVID-19 cases began to appear in Washington state in January. Now in mid-March, as more people report COVID-19 symptoms, testing remains criminally limited.

Other countries report testing upwards of 20,000 people a day. In the U.S., fewer than 60,000 tests have been performed in total as of mid-March.

We demand that the data be centralized and that tests be free, available and accessible to everyone. That some municipalities are only providing “drive-through” testing stations shamefully excludes people without access to cars.

The sick system of capitalist health care

But focusing on the numbers of known COVID-19 cases conceals the underlying crisis: How many intensive care beds do U.S. hospitals have? How many ventilators, doctors, nurses and other staff trained to use ventilators are available? How many seriously ill people can be treated at any given time in U.S. hospitals?

Addressing these questions strips away the façade that the U.S. has the “best health care system” in the world. The reality is that the health care system here is seriously inadequate and about to be challenged way beyond its limits.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, millions of people in urban and rural communities faced a critical lack of access to

treatment facilities. By 2018, U.S. hospitals were closing 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 available adult intensive care beds, of which three-quarters are already occupied. The lowest estimate of adults who may need intensive care due to COVID-19 over the coming months is between 200,000 and 300,000. Other studies put estimates in the millions.

The number of accessible 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 8,900 in national stockpiles. Even if more ventilators can be produced, there are not enough trained staff to use them.

The great irony now is that the U.S. for-profit health care system, which relies on often unnecessary medical tests for diagnosis, is failing to provide the basic testing and health care critical to stem this pandemic. This despite the fact that the U.S. spends two times more per capita for health care than any other country.

But how much of that spending goes to Big Pharma and Big Insurance profits?

China shows socialized planning works

Is it possible to combat this disease? Yes — and China has proved that. Once

the extent of contagion became evident, China quickly quarantined the most susceptible communities. As an extreme patient load became evident, Chinese workers built new hospitals in 10 days. Empty sports arenas were converted into makeshift centers to treat less serious cases.

Volunteers were given safety equipment so they could deliver food and medicines to patients. Medical workers were sent to viral hotspots to lessen the load on overtaxed local medical personnel. Impacted workers were paid wages so they could stay home.

As a result, close to 80 percent of 80,000 infected patients in China have recovered as of March 13. Now the Chinese government is volunteering assistance to other countries around the globe that are currently struggling against the pandemic. This is all possible because China has a planned, centralized economy that is not motivated by putting profits first.

As for the U.S., based on the CDC’s own scenarios, between 160 to 214 million people here could be infected during the epidemic that could last months or even over a year. Of those, more than 21 million people could require hospitalization, with who knows how many dying in a capitalist health care system completely unprepared for the crisis.

In the war zone of the pandemic, it is more clear than ever that socialism is the future. □

Anti-war hero Chelsea Manning released from prison

Chelsea Manning, a hero to antiwar 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.

While on active duty in Iraq, Manning released 700,000 classified and sensitive military and diplomatic documents, which revealed details about modern imperialist wars never before made public. They included the infamous “Collateral Murder” tape of U.S. helicopters firing on people in Baghdad in 2007. This attack killed 12 people, including two Reuters staff members, and seriously wounded two children.

Manning also exposed previously hidden information about torture of U.S. detainees at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. Awaiting trial, she suffered

brutal conditions, first held in a cage inside a tent in the Kuwait desert, and then threatened by guards with being “disappeared” to Guantanamo.

After sentencing, Manning’s years in prison were similarly punitive, especially because of her identity as a transgender woman and her unbroken determination to remain true to her values. Her nine months of solitary confinement from 2010 to 2011 at the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Va., were described as “cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment” by Juan Mendez, U.N. special rapporteur on torture.

Manning said about revealing the documents: “Once you come to realize that the coordinates in these records represent real places ... that the numbers represent actual human lives ... then you cannot help but be reminded how important it is for us to understand and, hopefully, prevent such tragedies in the future.” (Guardian, May 27, 2015)

Released from military prison in 2017, having served almost seven years, Manning was jailed again in 2019 after refusing to

testify at a secret grand jury — part of a U.S. attempt to extradite Wikileaks founder Julian Assange from Britain and prosecute him under the Espionage Act. His crime: exposing U.S. atrocities.

A judicial order imposed a fine of \$1,000 a day on Manning, starting the day the grand jury was convened, to force 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 noncooperation 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 confinement 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/ssnuvj)

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



Chelsea Manning.

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 heroic whistleblower spend the rest of her life under crushing debt.”

Beginning with Manning’s 2010 arrest, Workers World joined in the worldwide call to “Free Chelsea Manning!” Global activism led to her release and support continues today. Solidarity messages can be posted at facebook.com/savemanning/. □

New wave of protests sweeping across Chile

By Betsey Piette

Chile has witnessed a week of renewed protests demanding the resignation of billionaire President Sebastián Piñera and calling for a Peoples’ Convention to scrap former dictator Augusto Pinochet’s 1980 neoliberal laws, replacing them with a new Constitution. On March 8 — International Working Women’s Day — more than a million people demonstrated in Santiago and elsewhere.

Reporter Alisha Lubben in the March 8 Chile Today News described the massive event in Santiago: “The streets were electric with the voices of over one million

women. Along the metro ride to Santa Lucia, cheers and chants permeated into the stations and grew louder and more enthusiastic with each stop.

“Exiting the metro station, reaching the march was nearly impossible as even side streets and alleyways were brimming with women and children. Demonstrators clad in body paint and green bandanas brandished flags and carried banners that displayed messages regarding gender inequality, domestic violence, legal abortion and anticipation of better opportunities for future generations.

“At the front of the line, marchers clashed with police barriers, water cannons, and

tear gas. A sign of unity and the true nurturing nature of women, onlookers rushed to the aid of those who had been teargassed with water, lemons, and tissue paper. The fight for human rights and equality marches on in Chile, with women at the forefront of the resistance.”

On March 9, in general strikes demanding that Latin American governments act to improve their living conditions, women around the region stayed home from work, school and universities to show what daily life would be like without their input. Millions of women participated in Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico.

Called by 8M Coordination, the strikers

demanding equality and the elimination of patriarchy and sexist violence. “This will be a year of mobilizations where women will be the protagonists,” said Javiera Manzi, a Chilean 8M Coordination spokesperson. “We’ll take to the streets in full exercise of our rights. We went out to end this government from the front line.” (telesurenglish.net, March 9)

March 11 national strike

The March 8 demonstrations were a prelude to a national strike called for March 11, the second anniversary of Piñera’s election. Strike actions included a halt to all

Continued on page 11

Venezuela still resists for Hugo Chávez

By Marco Teruggi
Caracas

Published in sputniknews.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 during that time, 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 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 country.

Nicolás 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 Bolívar Square where we gathered until the early hours of the morning.

The funeral procession began on the morning of March 6. Chávez was taken from the Military Hospital to the Military 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, however they could, 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 at night when a woman had fainted near me, while outside the lights on the hill called to mind a nativity scene.

In those days, you could see the purest image of what Chávez represented to millions. And that was the depth 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 indelible 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, refused to recognize the victory. 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 powers. A majority of progressive, left-wing administrations governed the continent at the time. For example, Evo Morales, president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, accompanied the procession from the Military Hospital to the Military Academy.

In attendance were the presidents of Ecuador, Rafael Correa; of Uruguay, José 'Pepe' Mujica; of El Salvador, Mauricio Funes; and of Cuba, Raúl Castro. They were joined by President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner of Argentina and President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, who was accompanied by Lula Da Silva, the former Brazilian president.

The U.S. government was preparing to soon wage an aggressive campaign of revenge to restore [its neoliberal puppet regime]. One of the expressions of that process was, and is, a policy of dismantling the advances in Latin American integration created in previous 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 consolidation 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 architects of the period of the greatest Latin American unity since the era of independence. His death was cause for sadness not only in Venezuela, but throughout Latin America.

Changes

How can you measure the transformations and stability of a country? 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, an effervescence with a fundamental well-spring: the emergence of the poor workers and farmers as the protagonists, of the popular neighborhoods, of the rural areas, as the makers of policies, despised and underestimated by anti-Chavismo.

The material impacts [of the blockade] began to appear in 2014 and centrally in 2015 with shortages. Cities were packed with long lines at the doors of supermarkets, grocery stores and pharmacies at any time of the day or night. The country 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 mutated during those years [of sanctions]: the devaluation of the currency forced monetary changes, inflation reached levels of hyperinflation and then decreased; the gross domestic product contracted by more than half; there was large-scale emigration, a change from formal to informal work; and currently, there is a process that is known on the streets as “dollarization.”

Those years included a legislative electoral defeat for Chavismo in 2015, 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 putschist sector of the opposition.

The social fabric, torn by assault after assault, both political and economic, experienced a restoration of material and 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



Hugo Chávez PHOTO: TELESUR

Chavismo or the opposition—to a largely demobilized society on the surface.

Permanences

The image of Chávez's funeral revealed the depths of Chavismo. Those who have always sneered at the Bolivarian process have never measured what the Revolution represented to the humble people at every level: rational, political, subjective, cultural, emotional and collective.

Chavismo grew into a political identity that was centrally shared by the masses. The people in the millions have refused to give in since the death of Chávez — those people who make up the approximately 25 percent of “hardcore Chavismo.”

Those who never gave up, who fought for the dream, were and are ironically the people hardest hit by the [criminal sanctions]. Loyalty was upheld as a banner in the hills, in the peasant communities, where, before the Bolivarian Revolution, they were excluded and had to fight [hunger] daily with “arepa” corn pancakes.

During seven years of absence of Chávez, of the reconfiguration of several key policies, of a new economic scenario where those who are gaining are the ones who have historically won, a perfect storm of events was still unable to obliterate a political and cultural identity.

That is why Chavismo is a daily experience in working-class neighborhoods, in debates, in visions of the future country. That is also why in the electoral projections for, as an example, the next legislative elections in December 2020, there is the possibility that they will obtain a majority.

The impact of Chávez can still explain a central aspect of Venezuela's current situation. That is the reality denied by the big media, the lies of the opposition and the [self-serving and false] U.S. narrative. That reality has not wavered. □

New wave of protests across Chile

Continued from page 10

activities beginning at 11 a.m. for 11 minutes. “Super Friday” protests were held March 13 to commemorate the five months of protests that began in October 2019.

Beginning in mid-October, and continuing 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 initiated by youth over a 3.75 percent increase in subway fares. They quickly spread from Santiago to other areas despite brutal government repression.

When the youth fought back, they gained the support of the Chilean working class. After a week Piñera was forced to rescind the fare increase.

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

Since October, police in Chile have murdered at least 27 demonstrators; blinded over 500 people by shooting pellets, bullets and gas canisters at their eyes; injured almost 4,000 people; and arrested nearly 10,000, including children and youth.

Chile's Institute for Human Rights estimates that 439 women were among those injured. Six have filed complaints against police for sexual assault.

The 150 days since mid-October have witnessed the largest demonstrations since the fascist coup, led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet in 1973 with U.S. backing, which crushed the progressive government of President Salvador Allende. Now thousands of people are uniting their voices to demand the end of the current Chilean government, with popular slogans like “Piñera, murderer just like Pinochet.”

Chile's political and social organizations have called for a new wave of protests throughout March, leading up to plebiscites on the new Constitution to be held on April 26. □

Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!

Continúa de la página 12

de los continentes, el robo de tierras y recursos, la súper explotación de los trabajadores y la propagación del racismo y todas las formas de intolerancia, amplían enormemente las demandas de los que se plantearon en 1910 en Copenhague.

Una conferencia socialista mundial de mujeres hoy extendería primero invitaciones a mujeres en África, Medio Oriente y el resto de Asia, América Latina y el Caribe, cuyos países han sido oprimidos por el imperialismo. Tal reunión promovería las reparaciones para los países devastados y empobrecidos por los capitalistas globales y exigiría el fin de todo el militarismo imperialista.

También se invitaría a mujeres trabajadoras y personas de todas las nacionalidades y géneros en los Estados Unidos: migrantes/inmigrantes, refugiados, padres solteros, desempleados, personas sin hogar, personas mayores, jóvenes,

personas con discapacidad, sobrevivientes de abuso sexual y violencia doméstica, de bajos ingresos. individuos, personas LGBTQ2+, 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 confección, trabajaba en la Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Estaba enferma y no fue a trabajar el día del incendio. Como socialista, se unió a la marcha de los trabajadores de la confección de 1908 y al “Levantamiento de los 20.000”.



Ciudad de México, 8 de marzo.

FOTO: ALAN ROTH

Mundo Obrero celebra el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras!

Por Kathy Durkin

Esto se basa parcialmente en artículos publicados previamente en el periódico Workers World para conmemorar el Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras. Se ha agregado nueva información.

El 8 de marzo, Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras, es un día de solidaridad con las mujeres y las personas de todos los géneros en todo el mundo que enfrentan el militarismo estadounidense, así como con los trabajadores del mundo que son súper explotados y abusados por las corporaciones imperialistas.

El capitalismo, con la sociedad de clases, la propiedad privada y las relaciones patriarcales, está en la raíz de la opresión nacional, de género y de las mujeres. Las corporaciones globales, en su afán por obtener grandes ganancias, súper explotan a la fuerza laboral del mundo, intensifican la desigualdad y la pobreza, y arrojan racismo, intolerancia y misoginia.

Las empresas transnacionales y sus jefes locales abusan de las mujeres, con violencia física y sexual, ya que maltratan e ignoran a todos los trabajadores. La búsqueda de ganancias impulsa los crímenes horribles de sexo y trato de personas, mujeres, niños y personas de todos los géneros.

Todo esto clama por una solución socialista: propiedad pública de las industrias; producción para necesidades humanas, no ganancias; trabajos garantizados, atención médica y todas las necesidades; compartir riqueza y recursos, y paz.

Cuba ha demostrado que el socialismo puede proporcionar la base para la igualdad de las mujeres. Dirigida por la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, las mujeres han dado grandes pasos políticos, económicos y sociales desde que triunfó la revolución en 1959.

Verdadero carácter del día de la mujer

La esencia pro socialista y de clase trabajadora de IWWD permanece, a pesar del encubrimiento capitalista y mediático de su significado real. Su historia está plagada de lucha y solidaridad. Este día especial ha sido celebrado por países y partidos socialistas, movimientos de liberación nacional, organizaciones anti-imperialistas, corporativas, de mujeres y de trabajadores en muchos continentes.

La fundadora de este día histórico fue Clara Zetkin, líder del ala izquierda del Partido Socialdemócrata Alemán (SPD) y

jefa de su Secretaría Internacional de la Mujer. El SPD, que tenía 82.000 mujeres miembros en 1910, promovió los derechos de las mujeres, incluido el derecho a organizarse políticamente y votar. Zetkin agitó durante 21 años para establecer el Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora.

Las mujeres en Europa estaban llegando a las fábricas a medida que las industrias en expansión necesitaban su trabajo. Fueron contratados con salarios bajos para realizar trabajos inseguros y horribles sin derechos legales. Decididos a luchar por los derechos políticos y económicos, se unieron a sindicatos y partidos socialistas. Fue una época de gran fermento y florecientes ideas socialistas.

La socialista alemana Luise Zeitz, en colaboración con Zetkin, propuso en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Socialistas en agosto de 1910, celebrada en el Salón de la Asamblea de los Trabajadores en Copenhague, que se reserve un día especial anualmente para reconocer las luchas mundiales de las trabajadoras y construir solidaridad. Los participantes acordaron luchar por la jornada laboral de 8 horas, la licencia de maternidad y los beneficios de salud.

Otro impulso para el Día de la Mujer, reconoció Zetkin, fue la manifestación en Nueva York de miles de trabajadores de la confección, principalmente migrantes/ nmigrantes y muchos socialistas, exigiendo sus derechos, el 8 de marzo de 1908. Así fue la huelga de los trabajadores de la confección de tres meses. año después, el “Levantamiento de los 20.000”, dirigido por Clara Lemlich, una inmigrante judía rusa de 23 años.

Más de 100 mujeres de 17 países, en representación de sindicatos, organizaciones de mujeres y partidos socialistas europeos, votaron por unanimidad a favor de la propuesta. Declaró: “De acuerdo con las organizaciones políticas y sindicales con conciencia de clase de la [clase trabajadora] en cada país, las mujeres socialistas en todos los países organizarán un Día de la Mujer cada año”. (leftwrite.wordpress.com)

Zetkin, un estratega política, calculó que organizarse para IWWD era un paso crucial en la construcción de un movimiento anticapitalista. Su objetivo era fomentar la cooperación entre las mujeres en los sindicatos, las organizaciones de mujeres y los partidos socialistas para que lucharan conjuntamente. Esto elevaría la conciencia de clase y socialista y empujaría la lucha de clases hacia adelante. En su opinión, la mayoría de las trabajadoras políticas se ganarían al oponerse al capitalismo, la fuente de la opresión de las mujeres, y adoptarían una perspectiva socialista.

Como internacionalista, Zetkin dedujo que una protesta anual coordinada en varios países el mismo día por las mismas demandas potenciaría las luchas de las mujeres y también rompería el chovinismo nacional, fortalecería los lazos entre las mujeres en diferentes países y crearía un

sentimiento contra la guerra.

Un año después, la estrategia de Zetkin se afianzó. El 19 de marzo, más de 1 millón de personas, en su mayoría mujeres, acudieron a las calles de cuatro países europeos para exigir empleos y poner fin a la discriminación de género. La revolucionaria rusa Alexandra Kollontai dijo que el primer “Día de las Mujeres Trabajadoras fue un mar agitado de mujeres, ciertamente la primera muestra de militancia [en Europa] por parte de las mujeres trabajadoras”.

¡IWWD comenzó una revolución!

En 1913 y 1914, las mujeres europeas protestaron contra la inminente guerra mundial en el Día de la Mujer. El 8 de marzo de 1917, las trabajadoras textiles en huelga se unieron a las mujeres que atacaban a las panaderías por los altos precios del pan en Petrogrado, Rusia. Pidieron a los soldados que bajarán sus rifles.

Pronto 90.000 manifestantes estaban en las calles, pidiendo “paz, tierra y pan”. Esta acción revolucionaria condujo a la expulsión del zar ruso, que abrió las puertas a una revolución obrera más tarde ese año. En 1921, la Unión Soviética socialista fue el primer gobierno del mundo en codificar la igualdad de las mujeres.

La huelga de las trabajadoras rusas el 8 de marzo de 1917 provocó la expulsión del zar, allanando el camino para la revolución de los trabajadores.

Zetkin, fervientemente contra la guerra, fue encarcelada repetidamente por agitarse contra la Primera Guerra Mundial. Las manifestaciones ganaron su liberación. Ella dejó el SPD en 1916 debido a su posición a favor de la guerra y, con Rosa Luxemburgo y otros, estableció el precursor del Partido Comunista de Alemania.

Antitracista, Zetkin se opuso a las leyes estadounidenses de Jim Crow. Ella escribió una súplica apasionada en 1932 pidiendo la liberación de los hermanos Scottsboro, nueve jóvenes afroamericanos que fueron enviados a prisión, y posible ejecución, por falsos cargos de agredir sexualmente a dos mujeres blancas. Una de las mujeres luego refutó los cargos y luego se unió al movimiento de masas que les salvó la vida.

Mientras el fascismo alemán amenazaba, Zetkin agitó para que todos los trabajadores, mujeres y hombres, se unieran a la lucha contra la guerra y el fascismo en el Parlamento (Reichstag) el 30 de agosto de 1932. A la edad de 75 años, enferma y casi ciega, Zetkin habló valientemente durante una hora mientras los nazis le gritaban amenazas de muerte.

50 años del día de la mujer

Las acciones de IWWD en todo el mundo durante los últimos 50 años han incluido la liberación de prisioneros políticos en Uruguay, sentadas en Argentina de trabajadores agrícolas y levantamientos en Filipinas. Las acciones coordinadas han protestado por la guerra liderada por Estados Unidos en Irak y el asedio israelí de Gaza respaldado por Estados Unidos. Las mujeres yemeníes han denunciado la

guerra de Arabia Saudita en Yemen, respaldada por Estados Unidos.

En 2010, hubo conmemoraciones mundiales de IWWD en su centenario, así como una decidida marcha posterior al terremoto en Haití.

Los pueblos indígenas han protestado por la destrucción corporativa del planeta. Los trabajadores surcoreanos han exigido la igualdad de género en el trabajo. Los trabajadores de la confección de Bangladesh se han reunido, y las trabajadoras domésticas en Indonesia han marchado. Las trabajadoras sexuales han insistido en sus derechos. Los trabajadores migrantes se han manifestado en Australia, Asia y Europa por protección y derechos legales.

Se realizaron manifestaciones en el Medio Oriente y África del Norte a principios de la década de 2010 durante la Primavera Árabe. Se han celebrado eventos para mujeres trabajadoras en Sudáfrica. En toda América Latina, anualmente se realizan marchas por los derechos reproductivos, especialmente el aborto legal seguro y contra la violencia contra las mujeres. En 2018, los derechos ganadores de LGBTQ2+ fueron aclamados en la India. El año pasado, los cubanos celebraron 60 años de revolución socialista.

En los Estados Unidos, las mujeres del Partido Mundial de la Juventud contra la Guerra y el Fascismo y los Trabajadores revivieron el legado revolucionario de IWWD en 1970, marchando en una manifestación en la histórica Union Square a la Casa de Detención de Mujeres en Nueva York. Expresaron su solidaridad con sus hermanas encarceladas, incluidas dos del New York Panther 21.

La Red de Lucha de las Mujeres comenzó a conmemorar la IWWD en Nueva York en 2004. De esa agrupación nació la Coalición del Día Internacional de las Mujeres Trabajadoras, que anualmente celebra este día especial desde 2009 con manifestaciones y reuniones.

En varias ocasiones, la coalición ha conmemorado a las 146 víctimas del incendio de Triangle Shirtwaist Factory del 25 de marzo de 1911, en el sitio del edificio en Nueva York. Esta coalición siempre plantea luchas de trabajadoras, migrantes/ inmigrantes, personas de color y personas no conformes con el género en los Estados Unidos, al tiempo que promueve la solidaridad global.

Una conferencia de mujeres socialistas hoy

Muchas de las demandas de Zetkin resuenan hoy, incluida la necesidad de mejorar las condiciones para las trabajadoras, con sindicatos, protecciones legales, trabajos con un salario digno, atención médica y todas las necesidades de la vida, y construir una unidad de clase mundial y solidaridad.

Pero el imperialismo y sus guerras interminables plantean otros problemas que los que Zetkin abordó. El colonialismo, la globalización capitalista y la opresión nacional, con el subdesarrollo

Continúa en la página 11



El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

Para mas informacion: LowWageCapitalism.com