

Trump OUT —

Time for workers to defeat racism, fascism

By John Catalinotto

An unprecedented 25,000 National Guard troops from 50 states plus thousands of local and Capitol police are expected to occupy the U.S. capital by Jan. 20. This armed force’s announced goal: Prevent a violent attack on the inauguration of the 46th president and allow a transition to the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris administration. Exit Trump.

National Guard troops and state police guarded many state capitol buildings on Jan. 17 in anticipation of ultrarightist demonstrations. Few fascist protesters showed up, indicating their current cautious mood.

Despite its disorganization and defeat

More on
pages 4, 5

after three hours, the Jan. 6 pro-fascist assault on the Capitol sowed terror in Congress and shocked the public. It aimed to stop the certification of the presidential election and keep Trump in office. The attack had his blessing, giving it the earmark of an attempted coup.

The lack of punishment on the spot, the apparent collaboration by elements in the state apparatus with the fascists and the vast publicity the assault drew — all stoked credible fears that an even bigger attack might be launched during the inauguration.

Now, leading up to Jan. 20, two forces confront each other. Both forces are repressive, and both serve the interests of the property-owning imperialist ruling

class. Yet they must be distinguished from each other.

One side is the “legal” power of the state apparatus — military, police, courts, prisons. The other is the “extralegal” paramilitary armed force of dozens of militia and fascist organizations, gathered under the banner of Trump and united by their extremist ideology of white supremacy.

On the outside of this internecine confrontation is a third force: the working-class movement, including Black Lives Matter, migrant, union, women’s, LGBTQ2S+, environmental, disabled, youth and all other popular movements.

This popular movement can be courageous and bold and win enormous support, as BLM did last summer. At this moment these sectors are mostly unarmed. They have united in their

mutual opposition to Trumpism.

Let’s take a closer look at the class forces confronting each other.

The establishment state apparatus

Reports from Washington describe the National Guard and police preparations as setting up a “Green Zone.” U.S. occupation forces in Baghdad used the same name for the area of the Iraqi capital containing the mammoth U.S. Embassy and other official buildings.

In Baghdad’s Green Zone, U.S. troops set up auto crossings, used cement barriers to prevent truck bombings of buildings, carried out continuous surveillance and prepared for battle in an attempt to prevent attacks by the Iraqi resistance. The Green Zone was part of a war zone; it

Continued on page 8

Boston march
honors legacy of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr., Jan. 18.



PHOTO: HOWARD ROTMAN

| | |
|--|----|
| Mumia on Capitol attack | 2 |
| Pandemic impacts women workers | 3 |
| Pensacola defends abortion rights | 3 |
| Flint water scandal — Justice falls short | 9 |
| Struggle for Safehouse | 9 |
| Editorial COVID & CAPITALISM | 10 |

TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS

Abolish the death penalty!
Diet discrimination inside prisons
Legal lynchings soar
Execution of Lisa Montgomery
Black editor faces
retaliation

6-8

‘Justice for Tamir Rice’

On Jan. 15 close to 100 activists from Cleveland and around the country gathered at a downtown park to demand “Justice for Tamir Rice.” Tamir, a Black youth, was 12 years old when, on Nov. 22, 2014, Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann murdered him while he was playing with a pellet gun. Loehmann, who is white, shot and killed Tamir only seconds after arriving on the scene. Over six years later, no charges have been filed against Loehmann or his partner. The federal Department of Justice recently closed its investigation into Tamir’s case without taking any action.

Tamir’s mother Samaria Rice, above, opened up the rally, which featured a number of community activists. After the rally, people took to the streets and marched, chanting “Say his name! Tamir Rice!”

— Story and photo by Martha Grevatt



The Trump mobs attack America

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Taken from a Jan. 7 audio column aired on prisonradio.org

It was a sight that will be long remembered — hundreds, then thousands of men scaling the walls of the U.S. Capitol like soldiers on a web.

Then ripping, tearing, shredding all they could touch, all that they hated and all that they feared: the ruling wealthy powerful politicians in the Capitol, senators and representatives alike.

This nest of spiders was unleashed and directed by the fiery tongue of the Imperial President, Trump, designed to stop his congressional enemies from formally confirming his successor.

This Trump mob seemed to be of working-class origins, which suggests they’ve probably spent most of the last year jobless, probably food insecure, and seeing their country fall apart from a failing economy and a deadly virus.

That hunger and fury was fed by Trump propaganda,



and before long, they were ready. And when they struck, they were all but greeted by Capitol Hill police, who took selfies with them and opened gates to them.

For they were brothers, white brothers. And once the way was open, they went to work, ripping the Capitol apart.

After shattering windows and battering down doors, the Trump mob burst through, like a hurricane through Kansas.

Members of the U.S. Senate and House were forced to snuggle under desks, to hide from these invaders.

Historians of American history know well that mobs have a long reign in national life, first against the rich and propertied, and later, during the early 20th century, against Blacks newly migrated from the South to the cities.

But Trump’s use of mob violence against another branch of government is virtually unique.

It turns a new page in American history and a new low in the Imperial Presidency. □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth

and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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

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

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

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

- 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
- Bay Area**
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org
- Boston**
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org
- Buffalo, N.Y.**
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

- Central Gulf Coast**
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)
centralgulfcoast@workers.org
- Cleveland**
216.738.0320
cleveland@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
- Philadelphia**
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org
- Portland, Ore.**
portland@workers.org
- Salt Lake City**
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org
- San Antonio**
sanantonio@workers.org
- West Virginia**
WestVirginia@workers.org

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

this week

- ♦ **In the U.S.**
 - Time for workers to defeat racism, fascism 1
 - ‘Justice for Tamir Rice’ 2
 - The Trump mobs attack America. 2
 - Women bear brunt of unemployment. 3
 - Pensacola fights anti-abortion terror. 3
 - Developing working-class resistance to fascism . . 4
 - Weaponizing disease, vaccine wars 4
 - A united working class can defeat fascism 4
 - To defeat fascism: ‘We’ve got to start organizing’ .5
 - Diet discrimination behind the walls. 6
 - The bipartisan criminal injustice system 6
 - Legal lynchings soar under Trump 7
 - Lisa Montgomery’s execution. 7
 - Black newspaper editor faces retaliation 8
 - Flint water scandal charges 9
 - Struggle for Safehouse will continue 9
 - Petition protests Biden’s nomination of neocon . 11
- ♦ **Around the world**
 - Protests over Haitian president’s plans to stay . 10
 - U.S. imperialism provoked war with Iraq. 11
- ♦ **Editorial**
 - Patching up capitalism during COVID 10
- ♦ **Noticias en Español**
 - Un cuento de dos clases 12
 - El país más rico 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. 63, No. 3 • Jan. 21, 2021
Closing date: Jan. 20, 2021
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes
Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly
Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Mirinda Crissman, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke
Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Teresa Gutierrez, Joshua Hanks, Makasi Motema, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas
Copyright © 2021 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 monthly 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.

COVID economic crisis

Women bear brunt of unemployment

By Kathy Durkin

The month of December revealed some stunning news affecting the U.S. working class, as the impact of the viral pandemic and the capitalist economic crisis continues.

The burden of unemployment has fallen on women, especially Black, Latinx, Arab, Asian, Indigenous, im/migrant and low-wage workers. LGBTQ2S+ individuals and people with disabilities are impacted, too.

In December, a net total of 140,000 jobs were lost due to the declining economy. Notably, it was mainly Black and Latinx women who lost those jobs and more, totaling 156,000 jobs. Some 154,000 Black women left the workforce. Women comprised 56.6% of the laid-off workers, as leisure, retail and hospital-ity industry bosses cut 498,000 jobs. Women of color — low-paid and lacking benefits — have been disproportionately rendered jobless amid the economic carnage wrought by the pandemic and exacerbated by the capitalist economic crisis.

This is how “essential workers” are treated in a capitalist society!

Women’s work is largely undervalued and underpaid. This can be seen in education, where women make up three-quarters of the workforce, and in food services, where women hold the preponderance of jobs but many earn the minimum wage or less.

In December, the education field lost 62,000 jobs, while 362,000 food service jobs vanished. Business closures and layoffs have occurred primarily in sectors where women are employed, especially Black and Latinx workers.

According to a January National Women’s Law Center report, as of Dec. 31, 2020, the unemployment rate for Black and Latinx women workers was at 8.4% and 9.1% respectively. Long-term joblessness is a stunning 40.8% for Black women, 38.3% for Latinx women and 44% for Asian women! (tinyurl.com/y33pgtwo)

The pandemic and the burgeoning economic crisis have intensified inequities within the workforce based on nationality, gender, class and immigration status. Workers World newspaper reported on Oct. 15: “The viral disaster has exposed gender bias, wage inequality and systemic racism in employment, severely impacting women workers of color. The pandemic has eliminated many women’s jobs in health care, education and transportation.

“Due to ‘occupational segregation,’ many Black and Latinx women toil in the hospitality, food service and retail industry, with low pay and little to no job security or sick pay. Many struggled to make ends meet, even pre-pandemic. These sectors were the hardest hit by COVID-19. Shutdowns, layoffs, even business collapses occurred.”

Women’s participation in the workforce

had grown to 50% by January 2020, with 59% of Black women and 58% of Latinx women employed. But the pandemic halted this progress. Some 2.1 million women left the workforce between February and December. And 5.4 million jobs held by women — or two in five of their jobs lost in the spring — have not returned. Women comprise 55% of the net job losses since COVID-19 hit the U.S.

Rich get richer, workers struggle

While the rich have gotten richer during the pandemic, the working class has had to struggle, facing a myriad of crises for nearly a year. Millions of workers, disproportionately Black and Latinx, have been rendered jobless. Due to systemic racism, workers of color are being rehired at half the rate of white workers. Evictions loom. Hunger is growing.

The lack of government-provided child-care presents another crisis for those who have low-wage “essential” service jobs and cannot work from home. With many schools and daycare centers closed, many women have quit their jobs or cut their hours to tend to their children. The economic impact on these women could last for years. They are rightfully worried about the future and whether conditions will improve or worsen.

The Economic Policy Institute says 9.8 million jobs have disappeared since

February 2020. The think tank stated Jan. 14 that 26.8 million workers are now jobless or have experienced a cut in hours or wages due to the pandemic. (tinyurl.com/y3blh3qj)

More pain is on the horizon for the working class. Some 1.2 million unemployment claims were filed in the first week in January, an increase of 300,000 from the prior week. This signals that companies are terminating employees due to the surging virus. The twin crises of COVID and the capitalist economy are not going away. □



WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE
Protest for unemployment benefits, Aug. 20, Philadelphia.

Abortion is a human right

Pensacola fights anti-abortion terror

By Devin Cole
Occupied Muscogee Creek land — Pensacola, Fla.

A group of activists, organizers and those in support of reproductive justice held Dec. 27 and Jan. 2 demonstrations at American Family Planning, a reproductive health clinic that provides abortion. The community gathered to oppose anti-abortion reactionaries, who have been terrorizing clinic workers, nurses and patients every day.

These right-wingers, calling themselves “Abortion Abolitionists,” stand outside of the clinic, barely off the property, holding up photoshopped signs of supposedly aborted fetuses, advertisements for phony “abortion reversal pills” and grotesque anti-Black images of enslaved people — comparing them and the entire history of African slavery to aborted fetuses. This ignores the fact that it was forced pregnancy and reproduction by rape that white-enslaver plantation owners used to make obscene profits from the very bodies of Black women.

There is no fence around the clinic currently, so the right-wingers are free to stand in full view of the clinic and scream at anyone going in, for up to 10 hours a day. Those getting the procedure have to walk by this abuse, and those there to drop people off have to either drive away or sit in their car with the windows rolled up to shut out the hatred.

On Dec. 27 a group of 15 clinic defenders showed up to protest the anti-choice rightists and show support for clinic workers, nurses and patients. The 5 ½ hour-action was organized by the Central Gulf Coast branch of Workers World Party. Clinic supporters held signs that said “Abortion is a human right!” and “Pro-life? Then go protest at an ICE detention camp!”

The bigots attempted to intimidate clinic defenders by filming them and taking pictures of their cars and license plates. They even went so far as to post the photos on Facebook and call other reactionaries for backup.

But their intimidation tactics failed. Around lunch time, a patient, who had come to the clinic for a procedure, surprised the clinic defenders by ordering pizza for all of them! A few minutes later, clinic workers also ordered pizza for the defenders as a way of saying “thank you.” Coincidentally, the first pizza delivery driver who showed up supported the defenders and took a few minutes to argue with the anti-choice reactionaries, before going back to work in a blaze of working-class solidarity.

Another clinic defense was announced by WWP-CGC

for 8 a.m. Jan. 2. But in secret on that day, members of the branch organized a small caravan of pro-choice activists to arrive at the clinic at 6:00 a.m. The supporters used their cars to take up all the parking spots on public property, just outside the clinic, where the anti-abortion right-wingers typically park. This left the bigots nowhere to park close by, forcing them to walk for a distance to do their harassing.

That day’s protest lasted 8 ½ hours, with many more people coming in support of reproductive rights. Backing up the anti-abortion harassers was a fascistic former state representative.

The clinic allowed the WWP-CGC branch to hang a large banner on the side of its building that read: “Abortion is a human right! Support nurses/clinic workers!”

Clinic workers again surprised their defenders by ordering lunch for everyone.

The nurses and clinic workers kept repeating how shocked they were to see such a big turn out for the pro-choice community. That day some of those waiting for their friends and family to have a procedure sat outside the clinic with the defenders, not feeling so pushed around by the screaming of the right-wing bigots.

Long, violent history of anti-abortion terror

Pensacola has a long history of anti-abortion violence against clinics, doctors and escorts dating back to 1984, when the “Ladies Center” (now American Family Planning) was bombed twice in the same year. It was first destroyed by a pipe bomb in June 1984, and then it was bombed again that year on Christmas Day — with a message that the second bombing was “a gift to Jesus on his birthday.”

On March 10, 1993, “Christian” terrorist Michael Frederick Griffin shot and killed Dr. David Gunn at the now-defunct Pensacola Women’s Medical Services clinic. This was the first documented murder of an ob-gyn specialist in the U.S., where the killer’s stated intention was to prevent the doctor from performing abortions. Griffin was sentenced to life in prison where he remains today. The murder was followed by a letter published by thirty anti-abortion extremists, led by Paul Jennings Hill, stating that the murder of doctors who performed abortions was justified.

In 1994, anti-abortion terrorist Hill himself murdered Dr. John Britton — Dr. Gunn’s replacement — along with his bodyguard James Barrett, outside the Ladies Center.



PHOTO: TYLER THOMAS
A united community effort defends the right to abortion in Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 2.

Hill was arrested, tried and executed in 2003.

In 2012, Bobby Joe Rogers, another anti-abortion terrorist, firebombed the American Family Planning clinic at its current location, gutting the entire facility. He received 10 years in prison and is expected to be released next year.

Abortion must be accessible!

As for people getting access to abortion in Florida, besides the reactionary anti-abortion mobs, there remains the fact that, state-by-state over the decades, many aspects of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade have been weakened.

For instance, one person at the clinic to get an abortion stated to Workers World that they had driven to Pensacola from Louisiana, since that state’s reactionary anti-abortion laws would have meant they would have had to wait for the procedure. For some people, having to wait means they would then be beyond the legal limit of a specific point in pregnancy for having an abortion in their state. Additionally, abortions cost at least \$500, making them unaffordable for a lot of working-class people.

While the right to abortion has not been absolutely overturned in the U.S., the anti-abortion campaign over the years has made it almost impossible for most low-income people to get accessible, affordable, safe abortions near where they live.

The struggle to make abortion accessible, safe and free must and will continue. Likewise, so will the struggle to keep the patients, nurses, and clinic workers safe from anti-choice reactionaries.

Devin Cole is a transgender Marxist organizer and writer. They are the president of Strive (Socialist Trans Initiative), a transgender advocacy organization in northwest Florida, and a member of the Workers World Party—Central Gulf Coast (Alabama, Florida and Mississippi) branch.

Developing working-class resistance to fascism

By Dianne Mathiowetz

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on “Workers Can Defeat Fascism & Racism” sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/d9_NDIKTovw

Like most people, I had been very much aware that this fascist rally was going to take place in Washington [D.C.], on Wednesday, the same day that the Congress was going to declare Biden the winner of the presidential election. I, just by happenstance, turned on the TV just at the moment when the storming of the Capitol steps happened. Along with many other activists, I have been at many demonstrations in Washington or at our own capitals or whatever.

And even when we were only going to be a few hundred, if that, the place would be lined with cops. There would be helicopters overhead — there would be all this stuff. So I have to admit, when I saw how easy it was for this group to break windows, break into the Capitol and make it all the way to the Senate and House floors, I was taken aback. I was not surprised by the organization that was evident, because we’ve encountered that here in Georgia, in the past and not too long ago.

I do think that part of the intensity of some of these white supremacists was the fact that Georgia, which had been a very reliable, right-wing red state, had just elected not only the first Black senator but the first Jewish senator. And so that really got them, based on their anti-Semitism and racism. The elections of those two men, who had espoused somewhat progressive views and had both



Dianne Mathiowetz

participated in Black Lives Matter demonstrations, was not so much the result of the Democratic Party machinery here in Georgia. It was what I would describe as all of the mass organizations and communities that really just wanted to get rid of Trump and all his minions.

They both worked really hard in getting new registrations among youth, particularly of color, and worked hard with the women’s community and the migrant community. It was really an amazing effort

at the grass roots. So I have no doubt that, besides the fact that Trump had lost, that these two other senators from Georgia are part of what made the fascists so angry.

We’ve seen this kind of violence here in the South. I’ve lived in the South for over 50 years. A lot of this is not surprising to see: armed, white, racist men rampaging.

Developing working-class resistance

We’re talking about how we need to develop the working class, to have the working class recognize its class obligation and its possibilities. One of the things I was thinking about, because I was in Buffalo for a number of years, was how we mobilized against the fascist, women-hating Operation Rescue. We have organized demonstrations all across the country against racist elements, Ku Klux Klan, Nazis and other white supremacists.

We call things the Civil Rights Movement, the women’s movement or the immigrant rights movement. What we need to say is that every single one of those were workers’ movements against an issue. They were not necessarily recognizing their class identity, but that’s who it’s always been. Workers have always taken

on the obligation, the charge to fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation.

The challenge is how do we meld all those elements of the working class and have them realize that they’re a class that’s fighting together? In Atlanta, the [WWP] branch has been here since the early 1970s. And we’ve had the opportunity to actually chase, I’m talking physically chase, the Ku Klux Klan out of the city of Atlanta. I think it was 1989, when the thousands of largely youth literally chased them down the street even though there were over 1,000 cops protecting.

And it hasn’t just been here. Oftentimes, our comrades have been asked to go to small towns in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee or Mississippi to help the residents of that town who are being confronted by violent white supremacists. We have, in the party, brought thousands of people out in Boston against people who were opposing the right of Black children to go to school.

So we have seen exactly what we need to see on a national scale: That workers can come to a conclusion about how to organize and fight back against even the most violent armed groups — certainly during the history of what’s called the Civil Rights Movement or the Black liberation struggle in the South. We can even talk about the Lumbee people in North Carolina who fought the Klan with guns, and that’s not the only instance of that. I say this because it can be daunting.

This for many people is a new experience, seeing this kind of organized, right-wing assault on anything. But it’s clearly something that our class is capable of doing, and that we as members of a communist party, as members of other organizations, have the capacity to help push forward to victory. □

A united working class can defeat fascism

By Ted Kelly

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on “Workers Can Defeat Fascism & Racism” sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/d9_NDIKTovw

“At the moment that the ‘normal’ police and military resources of the bourgeois dictatorship, together with their parliamentary screens, no longer suffice to hold society in a state of equilibrium — the turn of the fascist regime arrives. Through the fascist agency, capitalism sets in motion the masses of the crazed petty bourgeoisie and the bands of declassed and demoralized workers — all the countless human beings whom finance capital itself has brought to desperation and frenzy.

“From fascism the bourgeoisie demands a thorough job; once it has resorted to methods of civil war, it insists on having peace for a period of years. And the fascist agency, by utilizing the petty bourgeoisie as a battering ram, by overwhelming all obstacles in its path, does a thorough job.” —Leon Trotsky, 1932

It was the working class, the Red Army of the Soviet Union, and thousands and thousands of revolutionary resistance fighters that defeated the Third Reich while the liberal capitalist democracies of Europe either collapsed or collaborated.

It was the revolutionary guerrilla fighters who mobilized the people of Cuba from the Sierra Maestra to

Havana, who overthrew the CIA-backed fascist government of Fulgencio Batista in 1959, and it was the Indigenous-led workers movement in Bolivia that overthrown the fascist coup just last year.

Everywhere you look in history, the lesson is clear. The only way to defeat fascism is through organized mass mobilization.

In November 2018, Philadelphia learned this lesson through victory. Mayor Jim Kenney granted a demonstration permit to the Proud Boys, who at the time were only beginning to be reported on in corporate media as a threat, as a genuine white-supremacist group. But we knew that this was a fascist mobilization that would mean violence against oppressed people. If the Proud Boys were allowed to wreak havoc in the city, or even show up uncontested, it would be seen as a demonstration of the strength of their organization and allow them to swell their ranks with more of the petty bourgeoisie and declassed workers.

Instead, Philadelphia showed up in a massive mobilization that was planned by our branch [of Workers World] working in coalition with allied organizations for months. We outnumbered the Proud Boys a thousand to one. But the day still began with a huge act of violence — committed by the police, who attacked the anti-fascist demonstrators in a show of force before any of the right-wing demonstrators even showed their faces.

This attack by the police was targeted specifically at the organizers of the counterprotest who were the

first to mobilize. The cops went so far as to bark political slogans at organizers, including references to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about George Soros and other proto-QAnon-style lies.

Soon, the thousands of workers who had heard the call for solidarity joined, and the police had to pull back to defend their fellow fascists. The mood was joyous when the few white supremacists who did show their faces were escorted away by cops. The feeling of unity was palpable as the crowd chanted anti-fascist slogans and happily sang, “We have the numbers!” and “Philly: 1; Nazis: 0.”

The lesson I learned that day is this: As terrifying and growing the fascist threat is, the immediate and most organized violence inflicted on our class is inflicted on us by the bourgeois state — by capitalism — in a city run by the Democratic Party, with a Democrat as Mayor.

Just two years later, over a dozen Philadelphia police and transit cops have been identified for participating in the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol, including a QAnon conspiracy theorist detective whose job is to do background checks on new cop recruits.

We are gathered here today to talk about the fascist menace in the aftermath of that Jan. 6 fascist coup attempt. □



Ted Kelly

— UPCOMING WEBINAR —

COVID-19: How weaponizing disease and vaccine wars are failing us

— Tuesday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT —

Join Popular Resistance and the International Action Center for a webinar featuring authors of the new book: *Capitalism on a Ventilator: The impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S.*

Speakers:

- ★ Vijay Prashad
- ★ Margaret Kimberley
- ★ Lee Siu Hin
- ★ Max Blumenthal

Moderators: Sara Flounders & Margaret Flowers

Contributors to *Capitalism on a Ventilator: The Impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S.* will provide an update to the book, including where China and the U.S. are now in pandemic management, the United States’ hybrid war against China, and how vaccine wars are hurting the most vulnerable people. Q & A will follow.

Register to watch on zoom: tinyurl.com/y27bz2sx
Livestream: facebook.com/PopularResistanceOrg
Share on Facebook: tinyurl.com/y3f7jmzg

Capitalism on a Ventilator:

The impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S.

“What one learns from *Capitalism on a Ventilator* is that the economic and human cost of the pandemic was far from inevitable. An entire section of the book is devoted to China’s solidarity with the rest of the world in the fight against COVID-19. After four months of difficult struggle, China successfully contained the pandemic and immediately diverted masks, testing kits, medical personnel, ventilators and other forms of assistance to countries across Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. The U.S. received generous donations of medical equipment from China during the first wave of the pandemic. China was also the first country to declare that its COVID-19 vaccine would be a public good.”

— Danny Haiphong in a review for *Black Agenda Report*

Order a print copy: tinyurl.com/CapVent-print
E-book from Kobo: tinyurl.com/CapVent-ebook



To defeat fascism 'We've got to start organizing'

By Larry Holmes

Excerpts taken from Jan. 14 webinar on "Workers Can Defeat Fascism and Racism" sponsored by Workers World Party. To view the entire panel discussion, go to youtu.be/d9_NDIKTovw

When you consider what's happened since January 6, you see Washington, D.C., is pretty much shut down under martial law, occupied by the army, that may be going on in other areas of the country.

As a communist, instead of relying on the cops and the army to protect us from these fascists, from these white supremacists, I'd rather see the formation of large-scale, anti-fascist workers' defense committees. We may very well need to begin organizing that, once it is clear how real the ongoing threats of violent, racist, white-supremacist, fascist attacks are.

On the character of fascism — very, very good learned Marxists have studied the origins of fascism in Europe and elsewhere, and they tend to zero in on the same points.

A fascist movement is a symptom of a deeper capitalist economic crisis that the owners of capitalism do not have a solution to. A crisis that is making it harder and harder for the politicians to govern in the normal way. And the crisis holds the potential of awakening the working class and creating the basis for a major working-class upsurge in the struggle against capitalism — an upsurge, ultimately of revolutionary dimensions.

So hence, the purpose of fascism is to stop the working class from fighting and from challenging capitalism, from making revolution and taking over, by dividing the working class, by confusing, disorienting or demoralizing it. And in some instances, smashing physically its organizations and its leaders and its militants.

The bottom line is the growth of fascism, and whether it succeeds or whether it's defeated is directly related to the readiness of the workers and the oppressed to fight the capitalist system. If the working class, for whatever reason, is not up to it, and there's a vacuum — and one could argue that describes the situation to some extent that we have in this country — this is the most dangerous situation regarding fascist developments. What is our response?

Every genuine leftist, every militant, every socialist, communist, even anarchist who is oriented toward the workers and the oppressed, we've got to work together like never before to rebuild the working-class movement. And not just talk about it, or have it in our literature,

which is fine, or waiting for someone else to do it.

What happened in the Capitol, and many other things before that, is the handwriting on the wall. We've got to do whatever we can to rebuild a fighting working-class movement; we can't waste time, and we can't wait for someone else to do it.

This is going to take a lot of work; it's going to take a lot of strategizing; it's going to take a lot of organizing. It will take whatever it requires to win over the best militants in the Black Lives Matter movement — this tremendous uprising against police terror and racism that we've witnessed and been part of over the past six or seven months — to win them over to a stronger working-class, revolutionary working-class perspective. And Workers World Party is dedicated to this.

Fascism, then and now

A form of fascism has always existed in the United States, especially in the U.S. South. This was white supremacy, which was not just a cultural thing or a subtle thing, but the law. It was a way to keep Black and Brown people down and in their place, so that white supremacy would be reinforced, and it was also splitting the working class.

And it's an important thing to study the classic examples of the development of fascism that a lot of Marxists and a lot of other good people have focused on to understand fascism. But U.S. imperialism has its own form of fascism.

And what we're seeing now has sort of morphed into something bigger that can't be defined by a region, the South or the Midwest. It's developing at a time when U.S. imperialism is losing its status as the head of the global empire. There is the standard of living of many people, who not so long ago considered themselves to be middle class saying that 'there's no class struggle in the U.S.' That's the [bull----] that they give you, that 'we're a big middle-class country.'

A lot of the masses bought into that, but something happened to them during globalization, neoliberalism, union-busting, the downsizing of wages and the corporatization of the majority. They're realizing that their status is crumbling, and larger and larger sections of the masses are freaking out.

In some ways, we shouldn't be surprised that, especially in a vacuum, there is not enough of a radical, anti-capitalist, revolutionary, working-class fight-back that has gravity. In the absence of that, this social crisis creates a vacuum.

We should not be surprised that white supremacists and fascists would fill it, because as they say nature abhors a



Larry Holmes

A fascist movement is a symptom of a deeper capitalist economic crisis that the owners of capitalism do not have a solution to. A crisis that is making it harder and harder for the politicians

to govern in the normal way. And the crisis holds the potential of awakening the working class and creating the basis for a major working-class upsurge in the struggle against capitalism — an upsurge, ultimately of revolutionary dimensions.

vacuum — but it informs what we have to do. We've got to start organizing in a way that we haven't before.

It's my observation that very good comrades in the struggle, different organizations, whether they know organization or not, that their hearts and minds are in the right place. They're against capitalism; they see the need for socialism; they hope that it will arrive, while they're still around, or at least for the benefit of the next generation.

But when it comes to actually coming together and doing something serious that could change the situation, they get a little shy, believing 'we're too weak; our numbers are too small; let's talk about it. I don't know whether we can really do anything.'

If that kind of psychology is part of the movement, we have to warn everyone. That's not helpful right now. We've got to abandon this notion, whether it's conscious or semiconscious, that we can't do anything.

History is demanding that we do something. What happened to the Capitol, the election of Trump, and so many other things are warnings. We revolutionaries have to get our act together. And we have to deepen our base in the working class and help workers organize.

Organizing the working class

Most of the workers are not organized. The organized labor movement is about 8% to 9%. Most of it is in government. They've lost over many decades a lot of organized workers. So we start from that reality that 90% of our class is not organized. And 90% of our class doesn't even realize that they're in the working class. A lot of young people who've got bachelor's degrees, master's degrees

and doctoral degrees can't get good jobs. They don't realize as of yet, although their consciousness is in transformation, that they're part of the working class, maybe even vital parts of it.

The labor movement, the organized labor movement has not opened its arms and welcomed migrant workers. If it was otherwise, the level of the migrant workers would be different. They would be fighting shoulder-to-shoulder, and it would be harder for someone like Trump or whomever in the bourgeoisie to scapegoat them and beat them down.

So now, we've got to look at all these issues very, very closely, very hard, and at the end of the day, we have to come up with a plan to organize our class.

I see the handwriting on the wall, and you can't deny lessons when they're in your face. Either we start doing something positive and radical to organize our class on a level unprecedented in the history of this country — something like the 1930s if you want an analogy — or our situation and the situation of the working class is going to sink deeper and deeper into crisis.

And there'll be cause for greater fear of the rise of fascism and also the intervention of the state, which works hand-in-hand with the fascists. Now's the time we'd like you to join our party. We call ourselves Workers World Party, because we are a party of working people. But whatever you've got to do to take that big step forward, we can't just be worrying about it. We can talk about it, but even that's not enough. We've got to come up with a strategy to rebuild a revolutionary working-class movement. And no matter how weak you may think you are, it's possible if we start. □

The Klan & the Government: Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

This book examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation.



Download free ebook or PDF formats.

Also available in paperback.

Visit workers.org/books to get your copy.

What Road to Socialism?

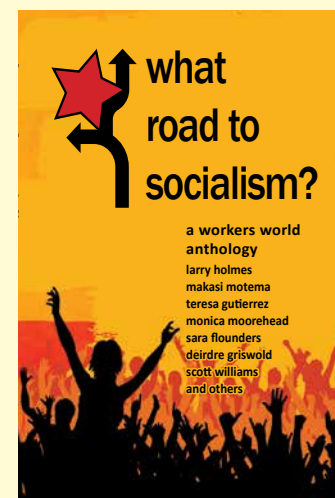
A new Workers World anthology, confronting the burning questions and key contradictions during this deadly pandemic and global capitalist meltdown.

Topics: COVID-19 and the deepening crisis of capitalism ♦ Reform or revolution? ♦ The state and building for revolution ♦ The centrality of fighting racism ♦ The working class will make history ♦ Fighting all forms of oppression: gender, sexuality, disability, and age ♦ Socialism or death: Socialist countries lead the way to the future ♦ What is socialism?

Download free ebook or PDF formats.

Also available in paperback.

Visit workers.org/books to get your copy.



The criminal injustice system is a bipartisan effort

WW COMMENTARY



By Judy Greenspan

On Jan. 15 at the death row prison in Terre Haute, Ind., with less than a week to go of Donald Trump’s presidency, Dustin Biggs became the 13th federal prisoner to be executed under Trump’s administration. This killing spree that began in 2020 broke a hiatus of 17 years and included last Wednesday’s murder of the first woman prisoner in 68 years, Lisa Montgomery, a woman diagnosed with bipolar disorder and complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

For many of us who have spent our lives opposing the barbaric death penalty in the U.S., it was particularly painful to witness these state lynchings. Biggs, a Black man, maintained his innocence until death and was executed while suffering from COVID.

Not surprisingly, Democratic lawmakers led by Massachusetts Rep. Ayanna Pressley and others have sponsored a bill to end the death penalty. The real question we should be asking is: Why has it taken so long for Congress to take legislative steps to end the federal death penalty? And who is responsible for the mass incarceration of poor Black, Brown and Indigenous people in the U.S.?

Just to ask the question is to answer it. While the criminal injustice system has been a tool of the entire ruling class to oppress, subjugate and murder the working class, especially its most oppressed sectors — no incoming president has done more to fill the prisons than President-elect Joe Biden. A 2015 tweet by Washington Post opinion writer Radley Balko said it all, “The martial/incarceral state has had no greater friend in Washington over the past 35 years than Joe Biden.” (Vox, July 31, 2019)

Biden and the growth of the carceral state

Biden was in Congress for a very long time. He was there in the 1980s when the racist drug laws were being written and passed. Not only was he responsible for

writing many of the federal laws, his voice was one of the loudest for harsher and lengthier sentences. Biden authored the 1986 and 1988 federal drug laws, containing the gross sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, which opened the door to the racist prosecution and mass incarceration of Black people in disproportionate numbers.



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Family members and prisoners’ rights advocates gather outside the Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez to demand release of a prisoner suffering from medical neglect during the COVID pandemic.

In 1991, during a debate over a bill that eventually became the infamous 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, Biden presented a plan that was tougher and more punitive than that of then-President George Bush Sr. He bragged that his version of the bill would provide greater opportunities for federal prisoners to be sentenced to death than under President Ronald

Reagan. (Vox, July 31, 2019)

This bill led to the exponential growth and expansion of the prison system in California and harsher sentences for prisoners everywhere. Naomi Murakawa, the author of “The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America,” openly stated that Biden’s efforts have made the so-called criminal justice system much larger and more deadly.

Biden played a large role in supporting the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which received bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This bill, besides increasing prosecutors’ ability to sentence people to death, limited habeas corpus appeals by prisoners on death row and mandated the immediate deportation of all undocumented prisoners upon the completion of their prison terms.

So here we are again, only days away from Biden’s inauguration. Just this morning, the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced it was putting all federal prisons on lockdown, supposedly to prevent any prisoner unrest. The federal prisoners are certainly not responsible for the Jan. 6 fascist coup attempt in D.C., nor is there any evidence of an insurgence inside. This sounds like more racist scapegoating and fearmongering.

The danger to the working class rests with the new presidency and a party which crafted a racist criminal injustice system and then funded, built and filled U.S. prisons with poor people, predominantly Black, Brown and Indigenous. Donald Trump and the Republican Party may have resurrected the federal death penalty and murdered 13 people, but the seeds of the racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ2S+ criminal injustice system were sown as a bipartisan effort wielded by the Democratic Party. Abolish the racist death penalty — once and for all! □

Diet discrimination behind the walls

WW COMMENTARY

By Mirinda Crissman

The interlocking systems of prisons, jails and detention centers were built up by descendants of those made rich from colonial conquest of this continent. The prison-industrial complex continues to benefit this very class of people every day by its existence.

As the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party stated 50 years ago:

“Once in a very great while, a rich man goes to prison. Maybe he is taking a six-month rap for a company that defrauded the people out of millions; when he gets out after his brief stretch, he’s set for life. And even while he’s in, every little comfort is provided for him, so that the time passes as pleasantly as possible.

“Most of all, he is never really isolated, never forgotten. His lawyers visit him constantly, the guards treat him like a ‘gentleman,’ and he is able to conduct his business affairs from prison. Prisons weren’t made for people like this. The fact that a handful of them may be in a few federal institutions is largely an accident.

“But the prisons are full, overflowing, exploding with poor, oppressed people for whom prisons have meant the end — of life, of happiness, of friends and family.” (tinyurl.com/y3dhshf7)

An adherent of white supremacy, Jacob Anthony Chansley was seen in videos in patriotic face paint and a horned helmet

with fur during the Jan. 6 fascist insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Since driving back to his residence in Arizona, he turned himself in to the FBI. Chansley is charged with trespassing on Capitol grounds, entering violently and committing disorderly conduct while there.

How he has been treated since his arrest stands out. The Washington Post reported on Jan. 15: “In a court filing late Thursday, federal prosecutors in Phoenix wrote that ‘strong evidence, including Chansley’s own words and actions at the Capitol, supports that the intent of the Capitol rioters was to capture and assassinate elected officials in the United States government.’ On Friday, however, Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Allison walked back the claim of an assassination plot, saying that while it ‘may very well be appropriate at a trial,’ raising it at this stage could mislead the court.”

The courts continue to protect and provide for this white supremacist. A judge ruled in favor of him being fed a diet of organic food while in the custody of U.S. Marshals on the grounds that he might have a religious reason to do so. (Newsweek, Jan. 14)

Real dietary needs of oppressed denied

In contrast, people with diabetes imprisoned in Texas can’t receive proper meals unless they go on dialysis. Muslim people imprisoned in the U.S. have been

force fed pork. The rules were written by and for white men like Jacob Chansley.

A stark horror in this pandemic, prisons, jails and detention centers have been a public health disaster since their inception. They spread disease, kill people slowly in a myriad of ways, isolate individuals and serve the super-rich as concentration camps for the poor and oppressed.

This society’s contradictions permeate these capitalist cages. Jails are typically the largest “providers” of mental health “care,” which becomes its opposite when managed by armed bodies of the state. Sheriffs and police have their origins on this continent in the “patrols” of people who escaped slavery.

As abolitionists, our goal is not the prosecution of white supremacists to the fullest extent possible; courts, like cops, will not bring liberation. And anything used by the state apparatus in a court of law can be used against us when we hit the streets in the next big upswell against 400 years of racist capitalism. We must take seriously the fascists’ threats of violence and meet them with a mass response.

We are not asking that everyone be dehumanized equally in line with the most oppressed behind the walls. Abolitionists, practicing the science of change, are interested in transforming the material conditions that allowed prisons, jails and detention centers to accumulate in the first place. They stand to impose inhumanity and drive down

wages for everyone.

We can transform these conditions by organizing around human needs like housing and health care, giving people the tools to organize where their power lies. That may be in workers assemblies, tenants’ unions, unemployed councils, diverting stolen resources back to the people who created that wealth and showing solidarity with people caught up in the prison-industrial complex. We have diversity in tactics, but always with an aim: to crumble the foundation of that which oppresses us.

As abolitionist organizer Mariame Kaba says, “we do this till we free us.” If we do our due diligence in organizing before irreconcilable class antagonisms come to the final boiling point, the masses will decide for themselves that they no longer accept their exploitation. □



Imam Siddiqui Abdullah Hasan, on death row in Ohio, was falsely convicted of the murder of a guard during the 1993 Lucasville prison rebellion. The rebellion started after Muslim prisoners objected to being forced to take a tuberculosis test containing alcohol, in violation of their religious practice.

Lisa Montgomery's execution

'We cannot let this happen again'

This lightly edited statement was issued by attorney Kelley Henry on the execution of Lisa Montgomery on Jan. 13 at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

The craven bloodlust of a failed administration was on full display tonight. Everyone who participated in the execution of Lisa Montgomery should feel shame. No one disagrees that Mrs. Montgomery was the victim of unspeakable torture and sex trafficking ... [and] no one can credibly dispute her long-standing debilitating mental disease — diagnosed and treated for the first time by the Federal Bureau of Prisons' own doctors.

Our Constitution forbids the execution of a person who is unable to rationally understand her execution. The Trump Administration knows this. And they killed Mrs. Montgomery anyway — violating the Constitution, federal law and its own regulations, and long-standing norms along the way.

The government stopped at nothing in its zeal to kill this damaged and delusional woman. After we, her attorneys, contracted COVID-19 during our travels to visit her after her execution was scheduled, the government fought tooth and nail against any delay to allow us to recover so we could represent

her effectively. Then they violated the law in multiple ways in rescheduling her execution for the final days of the Trump Administration. Though courts agreed Lisa's case presented important legal issues warranting serious consideration — including whether she was competent to execute — the government hammered onward with appeals.



Lisa Montgomery

By insisting on an execution during a pandemic, this administration demonstrated its reckless disregard for the life of

innocent citizens. Executions are super-spreader events. The government knows this. Yet they put the lives of every single person who must participate in these "events" in jeopardy — as well as every one of those persons' friends, families, neighbors, co-workers, and who knows how many other people ...

In the midst of all this litigation, Lisa's request for clemency remained before President Trump. It was supported by thousands of organizations and individuals — faith leaders, anti-violence advocates, conservative leaders, international organizations and many more. But the president did nothing. He had not even the decency to formally deny — or even acknowledge — Lisa's clemency application, though it is hard to imagine a case more deserving of executive intervention than this one.

Lisa Montgomery's execution was far from justice. She should never have faced a death sentence in the first place, as no other woman has faced execution for a similar crime. And Lisa was much more than the tragic crime she committed, a crime for which she felt deep remorse before she lost all touch with reality in the days before her execution.

Lisa was also much more than the horrors inflicted upon her, the sexual violence and abuse she endured at the hands

of those who were supposed to love, nurture and protect her. ... Lisa often became trapped in the prison of her mind, losing touch with reality for periods of time. But when not gripped by psychosis, she was a gentle and caring person whom I was honored to know and to represent.

Lisa Nouri, Amy Harwell and I represented Mrs. Montgomery for eight years. We loved her very much and she loved us. She honored us with her truth and trusted us to share it in a way that not only told her story, but that could help other women.

Even though President Trump could not be the hero we asked him to be, we are here to say to every woman and girl who has been the victim of violence and degradation: You matter. Your pain matters. You are more than a victim. You are a survivor. Do not let anyone humiliate or shame you. You deserve to be loved. In the past week, we have seen just how far President Trump and his administration will go in their disdain for justice and the rule of law. This failed government adds itself to the long list of people and institutions who failed Lisa.

We should recognize Lisa Montgomery's execution for what it was: the vicious, unlawful and unnecessary exercise of authoritarian power. We cannot let this happen again. □

Legal lynchings soar under Trump

By Gloria Rubac

In an unprecedented spree of executions, Donald Trump has executed 13 people in the last six months of his presidency. As if in a frenzy to kill, Trump had three people put to death at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., just days before he exits the White House.

According to common sense, as well as various courts' rulings including the U.S. Supreme Court, the last three people should never have been on death row or executed.

The three people executed between Jan. 12 and 15 were Lisa Montgomery, Corey Johnson and Dustin Higgs.

Montgomery's life was one of horror, as she was sex-trafficked by her mother as a child and raped by her stepfather and his friends for years. Montgomery's mother traded sex with her in exchange for paying bills or for repairs on their house.

Montgomery's lawyers asked the courts to declare her incompetent in an effort to block her execution, citing serious mental illness, neurological impairment and complex trauma. The Supreme Court had found in 1986 that executing the "insane" was illegal in a case called *Ford v. Wainwright*. That ruling said people would be entitled to a competency evaluation and an evidentiary hearing in court, so it could be determined if they were competent to be executed.

Montgomery was denied fairness by the very court that made this ruling when SCOTUS allowed her execution to go forward. Hers was the first federal execution of a woman since Bonnie Brown Heady was put to death in the gas chamber for kidnapping and murder and Ethel Rosenberg, although innocent, was electrocuted for espionage, both 68 years ago.

Another illegal execution

On Jan. 14, Corey Johnson, an African American man, became the 12th victim of the execution spree. He was a person with a proven intellectual disability and should

never have been sentenced to death. In a statement, his lawyers Donald Salzman and Ronald Tabak said the government has executed a person "with an intellectual disability, in stark violation of the Constitution and federal law" and vehemently denied he had the mental capacity to be a so-called "drug kingpin."

On Dec. 30, 2020, his attorneys sent a clemency appeal to the president, stating: "Corey Johnson is intellectually disabled and cannot constitutionally be executed ... Corey Johnson remained in the second grade for three years and also repeated the third and fourth grades. When asked his birthday at age eight, while in second grade, he thought it was in March, though he was actually born in November. When he was 13 years old, he could barely write his own name.

"And while he knew there were 12 months in the year, he could recite them only up to August. Corey was not able to tell time or perform arithmetic beyond a third-grade level ... When he was in his early 20s, achievement testing measured his grade-equivalent levels no higher than second grade in reading and writing. When he was last tested at age 45, Mr. Johnson was still at an elementary school level. As an adolescent and teenager, Corey functioned like a younger child — he struggled to prepare snacks for himself, wet his bed until he was 12 and could not be trusted to roam school halls without getting lost."

Johnson's last words were, "I want to say that I am sorry for my crimes. I

wanted to say that to the families who were victimized by my actions, and I want these names to be remembered: Louis Johnson, Anthony Carter, Dorothy Armstrong, Curtis Thorne, Linwood

execution, saying, "It is no accident that this is happening on Dr. King's birthday. The S.H.A.P.E. family feels that the federal government, led by President Trump, is desecrating the memory of Dr. King

by carrying out any execution on his birthday. We should all be honoring his fight to bring justice for our community, not defaming him by having an execution."

Higgs was involved in a crime, but did not kill anyone. The actual killer received a life sentence.

Some activists are counting on the new president, Joe Biden, to get rid of the federal death penalty. Biden helped write the infamous 1994 crime bill that added 60 federal crimes for which a person could be put to death. What he does as president remains to be seen.

But it must be noted that there are now 49 people on the federal death row compared to the 2,500+ on state death rows.

Even if Biden commutes every federal death sentence to life in prison, these facts, from the Death Penalty Information Center, remain:

- The death penalty is racist, and one is more likely to be sentenced to death if a white person is killed.
- 92 of the 174 people who were proven innocent and exonerated from death row are Black.
- Public opinion polls show that support for the death penalty is currently near historic lows, after peaking in 1994 and declining over the last 25 years.

Our task is to abolish the death penalty. It is racist. It does not deter crime. Actually, it is the crime. The death penalty is guilty on all counts. Let's shut it down! □



Protest against the execution of Dustin Higgs at Martin Luther King Jr. statue in Houston, Jan. 15.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Chiles, Peyton Johnson, Bobby Long. I would have said I was sorry before, but I didn't know how. I hope you will find peace. To my family, I have always loved you, and your love has made me real ... I am not the same man that I was ... thanks to my legal team. Don has been more than a lawyer, he has become a friend ... I am okay. I am at peace."

Killing on MLK's birthday

On Jan. 15, the birthday of Civil Rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., another African American man — Dustin Higgs — was executed. Reactions to an execution on King's birthday were swift and harsh. At a protest in Houston, long-time activist Deloyd Parker, executive director of the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center for over 50 years, reacted to this

For exposing COVID-19 outbreak

Black newspaper editor faces retaliation

By Judy Greenspan

What happens when a federal prisoner who has just become the editor-in-chief of the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper is paroled to a halfway house run by GEO Group? That company is one of the largest managers of lockdown units and ICE detention centers in the U.S.

Editor Malik Washington didn’t have to think twice about what to do. He investigated and discovered that GEO’s Taylor Street Center was covering up a COVID outbreak — and used his journalism and organizing skills to blow the whistle on the corporation.

On Jan. 8, a memo appeared at the halfway house concerning several cases of COVID there. After seeing a public tweet about this outbreak posted by others, Washington exposed the contents of the memo to his supporters and the local media. Since then, the journalist and activist has suffered several acts of retaliation. At first, he was placed under house

arrest at the Taylor Center, and his phone was confiscated. He was threatened with being returned to federal prison for the duration of his parole, which ends in May.

Public pressure forced GEO Group to allow the Bay View editor to return to work. But as of this writing, Washington still does not have his phone, and the halfway house continues to threaten and try to silence this formerly incarcerated activist. (48hills.org, Jan. 11)

A community campaign — led by anti-prison activists, formerly incarcerated organizers, lawyers and progressive community organizations — has come together to demand justice for Malik and to expose GEO Group for crimes against immigrants and other people held in its private prisons. Washington and supporters have demanded that his phone be returned and that he be released to his own home during his parole. And Washington is demanding an accounting of how many people at the Taylor Center have tested positive for COVID.

GEO Group runs approximately 129

lockdown units across the country, including ICE detention centers, private prisons and halfway houses. GEO’s brutality and mismanagement of its prisons have been the subject of serious human rights complaints, prisoner hunger strikes and several lawsuits.

GEO’s Adelanto Processing Center — its Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in San Bernardino County, Calif. — has been continuously investigated for its horrific living conditions and medical neglect. As the COVID pandemic spread in 2020, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of six ICE prisoners for dangerous conditions faced by undocumented incarcerated workers there. (Orange County Register, April 2, 2020)

Supporters of Washington — including California Prison Focus and the ICE abolitionist group, Free Them All — are working hard to expose GEO Group and to put pressure on the Taylor Center halfway house, as well as the Federal Bureau of Prisons, to stop the retaliation against



PHOTO: SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW NATIONAL BLACK NEWSPAPER

Malik Washington with his fiancée, and San Francisco Bay View Managing Editor, Nube Brown.

Washington. They are demanding his release so he can go home. Please sign the online petition to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Michael Carvajal, at chn.g.it/DrfJhZTyF6. □

Trump OUT —

Time for workers to defeat racism, fascism

Continued from page 1

was part of U.S. imperialism’s occupation of Iraq.

The biggest force on hand in Washington, D.C., is the National Guard. According to extensive media reports, the FBI, Secret Service, Capitol and Metropolitan police forces play a supplemental role. Federal and local police agencies have been investigating and arresting people identified as participants in the assault on the Capitol.

While Congress managed to certify the election at around 3:45 a.m. Jan. 7 — after reconvening following the assault — nevertheless 147 Republicans voted against certification. That so many Republicans stayed with Trump’s Big Lie about the election results indicated he still had substantial ruling-class support, despite the revulsion voiced in most establishment media.

In the next week, however, many ruling-class institutions abandoned Trump, even those who had previously supported him. The Wall Street Journal, the National Association of Manufacturers, Deutsche Bank (a source of loans for Trump’s businesses) dumped him, and some Republican politicians jumped ship.

Social media monopolies like Facebook and Twitter cut Trump off from direct media appeal to his base. Corporations and foundations which have supported Republican candidates financially promised to cut off funds from those who voted against certification.

On Jan. 12, the eight generals who make up the Pentagon’s Joint Chiefs of Staff signed and sent a public letter to all 1.3 million members of the U.S. military. The statement condemned the “violent riot in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021,” called on all troops to avoid extremism and made the Pentagon’s position clear: “On Jan. 20, 2021, in accordance with the Constitution, confirmed by the states and the courts, and certified by Congress, President-elect Biden will be inaugurated and will become our 46th commander in chief.”

Sending the message to all troops indicates that military leadership takes seriously the fact that veterans and a handful of active duty troops were in on the Jan. 6 attack on Congress. Since the Army is 40% people of color and the National Guard 25%, the generals fear that exacerbated racist animosity will wreck their force’s cohesion.

Figuratively, ruling-class forces had a vision of a QAnon leader wearing horns (or even someone with orange hair) directing their fortunes. Most agreed that was a bad idea.

The fascist forces

A great majority of local police around the country have supported Trump. Some individual cops participated in the assault on Congress, and many people with fascist ideology look to or are recruited by the police. While police officers are part of the legal state apparatus, they are susceptible to

fascist and especially racist ideology.

On Jan. 6, the leading fascist forces included the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, Boogaloo Bois (whose stated goal is to spark a racial civil war), assorted militias and some open KKK and Nazis — a replay of Charlottesville, Va., August 2017. They carry weapons to protests, invoking the Second Amendment. Most groups’ ideology is a mix of misogyny, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and anti-communism/socialism, but the main theme uniting them is white supremacy.

Since 2017 the QAnon cult, which joined the fascists in the Capitol on Jan. 6, has become a mass phenomenon. It targets politicians and business leaders, mostly establishment Democrats, accusing them without evidence of those kinds of unspeakable crimes that arouse mass revulsion. QAnon looks to Trump as their champion, and he thanks them for their support.

On Jan. 6, the president and his sleazebag cronies unleashed this hatred-driven mob on their rivals — including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, other Democrats and even Vice President Mike Pence, whom they considered a traitor. The Trump cabal did this with the tacit support of a majority of Republican members of Congress, who were lined up to oppose Biden’s certification.

Trump’s role inciting mayhem

The outgoing president’s urging played a key role. Hard-core fascists might be willing to take risks; they are ten times more willing if a U.S. president orders them to. That’s a tacit promise of impunity. And for the thousands there who were not as hard-core, the presidential push was enough to bring them along to support those ready to rampage.

What made it vintage Trump was that he promised he would join the march, but didn’t. He considers the rioters “low-class” trash.

What formed a perfect storm was the collaboration of the Capitol Police, whose leaders refused to prepare its defense. Even after Rep. Maxine Waters urged and questioned them on Dec. 31, they did little. Without their usual overwhelming might managing this protest, some police fraternized with the fascists. Others “did their job” protecting Congress.

The result: fascists killed one cop, cops killed one attacker, three others died, including one attacker the fascists themselves trampled. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund and others under him have since resigned.

Those who incited the assault, like Trump and Rudy Giuliani, did so knowing that a crowd storming the Capitol might injure or kill their political opponents. Not to mention that a frenzied white-supremacist and misogynist mob might lynch any person of color they got their hands on — for example, the young progressive and outspoken women of color representatives of “the Squad,” like Alexandria

Ocasio-Cortez, who rightfully feared such a threat.

This type of pogrom has happened before in U.S. history, when KKK-led mobs deposed local governments where Black people held office, such as in Wilmington, N.C., in 1898. (tinyurl.com/y48n8pma)

Unlike a military coup to put a junta in power or choose a new executive, the Jan. 6 assault needed only to stop the certification of Trump’s loss. It was similar to the U.S.-backed coups in Yugoslavia in October 2000 deposing Slobodan Milosevic and in Ukraine in February 2014 evicting Victor Yanukovich — both based on unproven claims of election fraud, both occurring with a Democrat in the White House.

Similar fascist assaults intimidating politicians in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona could have canceled the votes of cities with many African American and Latinx voters, reversed Biden’s victories and reelected Trump. In a phone call, the outgoing president had tried earlier to push Georgia’s Republican secretary of state to “find the votes” he would need to erase his loss there.

It looks like Trump will have to leave on Jan. 20, and he may face another impeachment trial in the new Senate.

Working-class response

On Jan. 20 it is likely the massive presence of National Guard troops will discourage any mass fascist mobilization. However, the fascist movement can still recruit and take action far away from military concentrations.

The crisis in capitalist society that fuels the growth of fascist and other irrational ideologies among the masses shows no signs of abating. COVID-19, the cyclical capitalist crisis after the pandemic has calmed — if that happens — and the climate crisis all threaten political stability in the center of world imperialism. The U.S. continues to lose prestige and power worldwide.

To rely on the state’s repressive forces to stop a fascist upsurge in a growing crisis is to disarm the working class — which includes all sectors of people who depend on selling their labor power to survive — leaving it vulnerable.

Assuming a smooth transition to the Biden/Harris government, the working class and people’s rights organizations of all nationalities and genders must wrestle with how to organize self defense against fascism, independent of the state apparatus. We encourage all groups to take the necessary steps.

The movement must find ways to directly appeal to the rank-and-file troops of the National Guard and the Army to encourage anti-fascism and their refusal to turn their guns on the peoples’ movements. The stronger the popular movement grows and the more decisively it acts, the better it can win over “undecided” persons and neutralize those tempted to join the fascists. □

Flint water scandal charges

Slap on the wrist for ex-governor

By Martha Grevatt

In April 2014 the city of Flint, Mich., made the fatal decision to switch its water supply from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to the heavily contaminated Flint River. Flint residents have waited almost seven years for the responsible parties — in particular former Gov. Rick Snyder — to face criminal charges.

That wait has come to an end. However, Flint residents are angry and disappointed over the actual charges brought by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel against Snyder: just two misdemeanor counts of willful neglect of duty. Lower-ranking current and former officials face heavier felony charges, including perjury, misconduct in office and involuntary manslaughter. Nine individuals have been charged.

“Snyder got a slap on the wrist, and Flint got a slap in the face,” said former Flint Mayor Karen Weaver. “Not only did people lose their lives through Legionnaires’ [disease], we know women who had stillbirths and miscarriages.”

As Flint Water Crisis Community Activist Melissa Mays put it, “The fact that here if you’re a rich white man, then it’s not actually a crime to poison Black and Brown bodies and that you can get away with it.” (NBC 25, Jan. 14)

Complaints from Flint water consumers began soon after the city disconnected from DWSD. They included brown-colored, foul-smelling and foul-tasting water; skin rashes; and children showing signs of lead poisoning. High lead levels were found in the water due to the cost-cutting decision not to add anticorrosive chemicals to the river water.

Yet Gov. Snyder did not “declare a state of emergency and/or disaster when the governor had notice of a threat of a disaster and/or emergency in the city of Flint,” according to the indictment, waiting until January 2016 to issue the declaration. He also failed to “inquire into the performance, condition and administration of the public offices and officers that he



Activists demand justice for Flint, 2016.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

appointed and was required to supervise.” Snyder faces a maximum of one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

The involuntary manslaughter charges stem from the Legionnaires’ disease outbreak that sickened over 90 people and killed 12.

The racist “dictator law” and Flint’s water poisoning

Beginning in 1990, the Michigan legislature passed a series of bills allowing the governor to impose an “emergency financial manager” — renamed “emergency manager” with broader powers in 2011 — over a city, county or school district deemed to be in financial distress. The successive bills primarily targeted Black-majority cities including Detroit, Flint and Benton Harbor. It gave the EM broad dictatorial powers to break union contracts, sell or privatize community assets and overrule elected city councils, mayors and school boards.

There was one stipulation: Principal and interest payments to the banks and bondholders must be paid.

Grassroots activists launched a massive grassroots petition drive, putting the hated Public Act 4 on the ballot in 2012. Voters shot down what had been nicknamed “the dictator law.” But rather than respect the democratic will of the people, Michigan’s legislators passed a new EM bill, PA 436, with minor variations.

The decision to switch Flint’s water supply was made by EM Darnell Earley and continued by his successor, Gerald Ambrose. Both face felony charges with up to five years imprisonment. But the

governor who appointed and retained them — and later assigned Earley to oversee Detroit Public Schools, where lead poisoning has also been a problem — is only charged with misdemeanors!

In contrast, the former mayor of Detroit, Kwame Kilpatrick, is serving a 28-year sentence stemming from a corruption scandal that did not sicken or kill anyone. Snyder is white and Kilpatrick is Black. This is blatant racism, the same racism behind the EM law that, at the time of the Flint water crisis, had 50% of Michigan’s Black residents under emergency management compared to 2% of white Michiganians.

Charges from the investigation by previous Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette did not even include Snyder. After Nessel — a Democrat and out lesbian elected along with Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2018 — took over, she scrapped Schuette’s investigation and started over. While the charging of Snyder this time around is long overdue, as the highest-ranking official tied to Flint’s suffering, he should actually be facing the most serious charges.

Other responsible parties were not charged at all, including the governor-appointed leadership of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. From April 2014 until October 2015, MDEQ insisted Flint water was safe to drink.

Corporate criminals off the hook

There are other responsible parties besides elected and appointed officials in the tragedy that befell Flint. While their decisions sent toxic water into the

homes of the city’s families, the question remains: Why was the Flint River so badly contaminated?

For over a century, corporations dumped industrial waste into the river — in particular, one corporation has been most closely associated with Flint: General Motors. The city has been contaminated with arsenic, chromium, mercury, lead, solvents and other toxins that will take centuries to dissolve. While Flint’s children were being sickened, GM was able to quietly shift its water supplier to a nearby suburb, when the company realized that engine parts were being corroded.

This same company, having closed 9 out of 10 plants that once dominated the city’s landscape, has eroded Flint’s tax base — driving the cost-cutting measures that ultimately proved deadly. At the time of the water crisis, Flint had the highest poverty rate of any Michigan city.

Another culprit is the huge transnational Veolia/Transdev, which has been involved in privatizing water and transportation departments since the mid-19th century. This company, a notorious union buster, has been blamed for undermining water quality in municipalities all over the world.

In 2015 Flint’s emergency manager authorized a \$40,000 study of Flint’s water quality issues to be conducted by Veolia. The company’s study failed to mention the risk of lead poisoning and Legionnaires’ and did not recommend switching to another water source, such as DWSD. A state lawsuit against Veolia is still unresolved, even after other parties sued agreed to a \$600 million settlement to assist Flint in making its water infrastructure safe.

Real justice will mean jail for all of the politicians and corporate heads responsible for poisoning an impoverished Black-majority city. Real justice means full reparations for the people of Flint.

See extensive coverage of the Flint Water Crisis from 2015-2016 at workers.org/?s=flint.

Struggle for Safehouse will continue

By Princess Harmony

A crack house is dark. It is a place of sorrow and danger — a hell on Earth. People do not care about you. They would allow you to die alone if you overdose or have an adverse drug reaction. You have to be on guard at all times. You will eventually die if you don’t find a way to be liberated from the grip of drugs. Yet whether hidden or obvious, a crack house is out of view for people who do not suffer from addiction — substance use disorders.

Compare that to a safe injection/consumption site. It is a supervised facility where people care about you; they want you to succeed in life and be safe in your use of drugs. Safe injection/consumption sites are fundamentally different from crack houses, despite the fact that both allow you to use drugs. One saves lives. The other is a public nuisance that endangers them.

In a safe injection site, you can get FDA-approved medications methadone (Methadose, Diskets) or buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex, Sublocade, Zubsolv, Bunavail). At a crack house you risk getting fentanyl and its analogues that will kill you.

Unfortunately, on Jan. 12 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled against Safehouse, a safe

injection/consumption site planned for Philadelphia, a city hit hard by the opioid epidemic. Justice Stephanos Bibas who voted against Safehouse holds reactionary and backward views on drug use, believing that addiction is a matter of choice and that the deaths from addiction are the result of these choices.

The concept of supervised safe injection/consumption sites began in Canada and in several European countries. In Canada, safe injection/consumption sites were officially permitted in 2003. Following epidemics of overdoses and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infections, the safe injection/consumption sites lowered overdoses and HIV infections.

Safehouse organizers’ first effort to open up a safe injection/consumption site in South Philadelphia unfortunately failed. The building owner pulled out of the agreement because of pressure from racist neighbors who opposed the plan. Despite plans being outlined to deal with security and potential drug-related litter, the opponents of the plan still opposed it. Some of these opponents were organizers of reactionary protests to save a Christopher Columbus statue in the area in 2020.

After the court ruled against Safehouse, U.S. Attorney General William McSwain said, “I’m pleased to report that the rule

of law is still alive and well in Philadelphia ... it is a federal crime to open a heroin injection site or ‘consumption room’ for illegal drug use. The Third Circuit’s opinion is a faithful reading of the statute’s plain language and is consistent with Congress’s intent to protect American neighborhoods from the scourge of concentrated drug use.”

Despite evidence that safe injection/consumption sites are a healthy and positive choice in a sea of bad options to react to the opioid epidemic, including doing nothing, McSwain doesn’t care whether or not it would save lives. Fortunately McSwain, a Trump appointee who targeted Black Lives Matter protesters for federal prosecution, resigned this week.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, who wants to review the ruling, said: “I want to remind my fellow government officials of the actual stakes at hand: Thousands of our neighbors and loved ones — children, parents, siblings, childhood friends — who needlessly lost their lives to tainted drugs or substance use disorder. Most, if not all of us, know and



PHOTO: KIMBERLY PAYNTER

Supporters of a “supervised injection” site to prevent overdose deaths rally outside a federal court hearing in Philadelphia in September 2019.

have cared for someone who has struggled with safe substance use and feel that pain. We also know that the War on Drugs has completely failed us as a nation. Whether it takes new policies, new statutes or a reconsideration of today’s decision on appeal, we as a nation will get there,” Krasner said. “We get to choose the future.”

The U.S. is falling behind in its dealing with opioid addiction. Canada, Portugal and other countries have opened safe injection/consumption sites, and their risks of overdose, HIV, hepatitis B and C have decreased among people who use drugs. The U.S. must change its stance if people are to survive the opioid epidemic. The good news is that Safehouse isn’t done. It will continue to fight. □

Patching up capitalism during COVID

On Jan. 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first recognized case of COVID-19 in the U.S.

One year later, over 400,000 people in the country are dead from the virus—the equivalent of wiping out the entire population of Cleveland, Ohio, or Tampa, Fla. Out of the estimated 2 million people worldwide who have died due to COVID-19, one-fifth have been within the U.S. alone!

Workers World has written on how countries with centralized planning on a socialist model — like Cuba or China — have dramatically lowered virus death and infection rates. (“Why socialist countries take lead in fighting COVID-19,” May 21, 2020)

But here in the U.S., Republican President Trump — aided and abetted by other far-right bigots — has spread deadly lies about the virus, sabotaging the CDC’s scientific and public health work. While he boasted that Operation Warp Speed got vaccines developed, Big Pharma fattened on related government grants and was protected by contract “no liability” clauses in the event their vaccines caused harm.

Now the vaccine distribution plan is stumbling, with insufficient supplies and no centralized guidance. Federal authorities simply handed off distribution to the states. But local public health systems are underfunded — if not in shambles — from years of building prisons and arming the police as budget priorities.

And in many states, those in majority control of state governments are actively

hostile to funding public health, the Obamacare health plan and expansion of Medicaid.

Meanwhile, people are suffering and dying — with the most casualties suffered by poor people and those working in low-paying jobs, people with disabilities, Black, Indigenous and Latinx people, those undocumented and incarcerated, older people — and anyone with limited access to health care, like many LGBTQ2S+ people.

And what have the millionaires of Congress been doing about the crisis? Yes, millionaires — in 2020, over half the members of the U.S. Congress were millionaires, with the richest almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. (opensecrets.org, April 23, 2020)

So far Congress has managed to pass only two relief bills to give minimal pandemic assistance to poor and oppressed people. The provisions of the first bill — the CARES Act — actually expired at one point, leaving workers with no buffer from unemployment, hunger and home evictions because of political jockeying within Congress.

Biden’s patch of a plan

Now incoming Democratic President Joe Biden is proposing a \$1.9 trillion bill to provide COVID relief and jump-start the economy. The Jan. 6 armed attack on the Capitol building — to prevent his certification as winner of the presidential election — shows the rabid degree of white-supremacist, neofascist resistance

to anyone taking over the government who says they may use the position to assist working and oppressed people.

In his pandemic plan, Biden projects making the vaccine free to everyone, including undocumented workers, as well as establishing community vaccination centers and expanding treatment and research options. The plan’s other relief items include additional one-time direct “stimulus” payments, extension of unemployment benefits and eviction protection, childcare subsidies and mandatory paid sick leave.

Seems massive, right? But it’s a patch on the flat tire of capitalism — stopping a leak in the system, pumping it up — but still failing to address the continuing built-in inequalities and suffering in this brutal way of “doing business.”

For instance, the bill calls for a \$15 hourly federal minimum wage. Low-wage workers have been fighting for this state-by-state for years — for so long now that \$20 an hour is likely needed to make a living wage!

And what about the bill’s Obamacare premium subsidies, which would give more low-income or precarious workers — like gig workers — a chance at health insurance? Linda Blumberg, a fellow at the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute, says of that: “I think with good outreach and enrollment assistance, you could bring a good deal more people in. You’re not going to get to universal coverage.” (NY Times, Jan. 16)

But in the middle of a death-dealing pandemic crisis, free universal coverage for health care should be the proposal on the table!

Instead, Biden’s bill is a proposal that will go to the chopping block of business interests that’s called the U.S. Congress.

Who knows which of that bill’s best proposals will survive? And how long its passage will take? And how many people will die waiting for those who guard the coffers of capitalism to turn loose even a little help?

The extent of whatever help Biden and the new Congress will offer is unknown. The length of continuation of the pandemic and its effects are unknown.

What is clear, as revealed by the COVID crisis, is that the political and economic system of the U.S. is built and maintained on the backs and lives of working and oppressed people.

There will continue to be crisis after crisis as long as the U.S. is a “capitalist democracy.” And people will continue to die while this unjust system continues.

The challenge for those working toward socialism is to expose the link between the cycle of injustice and capitalism — and to build working-class consciousness and action with workers and oppressed people within the U.S.

These are our neighbors, workmates, friends and family who are suffering. We are shoulder-to-shoulder with them in the fight against injustice — and in the advance on the liberation road toward socialism. □

Protests erupt over Haitian president’s plans to stay in power

By G. Dunkel

From Brooklyn and Miami to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, as well as Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien, Jacmel, Saint-Marc and Gonaïves in Haiti, hundreds of people marched on Jan. 15 to demand that Haitian President Jovenel Moïse follow the constitution and step down next month.

The term of the last president, Michel Martelly, ended in 2016. Most Haitians say that Moïse’s five-year term should end this year. But he is claiming that due to a chaotic process involving an interim president and massive amounts of political maneuvering, he didn’t take office until 2017.

Moïse ignores the fact that while he got 52% of the total vote, the turnout was only 18% of the electorate — meaning that less than 10% of Haitian voters supported him.

Both Moïse and his predecessor, Michel Martelly, are members of the PHTK, a political party that was basically set up to allow the U.S. to intervene in Haitian elections without exposing itself. The U.S. in particular, and also the European



Barclay Center protest, Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 15.

PHOTO: KIM IVES/HAÏTI-LIBERTÉ

Union, have been worried about Haitian elections ever since 1990. In that election, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was able to build a mass movement, which is currently called Fanmi Lavalas, and soundly defeat Marc Bazin, who had received millions of

dollars from the U.S.

Moïse has scheduled parliamentary and presidential elections for this September, with a second round in November. They will be preceded by a referendum on a new constitution in April. In the opinion

of many Haitian lawyers, these steps are unconstitutional.

Since he was able to dissolve parliament a year ago in January and rule by decree, Moïse has been able to limit the power of the courts to audit the government’s books. He has also declared common protest tactics — like blocking traffic — to be “acts of terrorism” which carry heavy penalties.

The Core Group, which includes officials from the U.N., U.S., Canada and France — who worry that mass opposition could erupt — questions these moves and is pushing for a presidential election sooner than Moïse wants.

The protests in North America were coordinated by the Boston-based New England Human Rights Organization (NEHRO), which partnered with local activists and groups in the various cities — Boston, Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago — where protests were held. NEHRO has a history of organizing events in support of Fanmi Lavalas, the party founded by former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

NEHRO did not organize the protests in Haiti, which appear to have been led by a coalition of opposition parties. □

6 de enero expone Un cuento de dos clases

Continúa de la página 12

Washington, con sede en D.C., dice: “Que un cierre económico de proporciones épicas inducido por una pandemia haya sido digerido con acciones que terminan el año un 15% más alto es alucinante. El año 2020 ha sido impresionante”. (Washington Post, 31 de diciembre)

Para colmo de males, las grandes corporaciones no solo han sido las principales culpables de los despidos masivos de trabajadores, sino que se han beneficiado enormemente de las exenciones fiscales en miles de millones de dólares, gracias a

sus millonarios amigos republicanos en el Senado y demócratas complacientes.

“Los mercados están dominados por las personas que están en los escalones superiores. No sienten ningún dolor. Leen sobre eso, pero no lo experimentan. Lo que sí experimentan es la otra cara: hemos tenido ganancias de productividad muy sustanciales con Zoom y otras eficiencias de la vida diaria”, comentó David Kotok, fundador de Cumberland Advisors.

Lo que esta pandemia ha expuesto en la cruda realidad es que el capitalismo es un sistema económico que se preocupa más por obtener ganancias para las

grandes empresas y sus directores ejecutivos súper ricos que por el bienestar de los miles de millones de personas que habitan el planeta y luchan en una a diario para el empleo, la vivienda, la alimentación, la salud, la educación, la tierra y la igualdad.

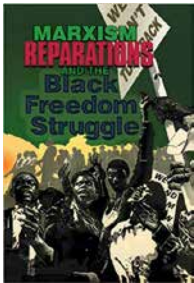
Solo una transformación completa de la sociedad del capitalismo a un sistema económico socialista sentará las bases para satisfacer las necesidades de la gente, al empoderar a la clase trabajadora global para poner fin a la pesadilla de la codicia capitalista y la guerra de una vez por todas. □

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

Edited by Monica Moorehead

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Available at major online booksellers. Free PDF at workers.org/books



30 years ago

U.S. imperialism provoked war with Iraq

By Manlio Dinucci

Published Jan. 15 in Il Manifesto. Translation: John Catalinotto.

At 2:20 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1991 (Gulf time), U.S. helicopters penetrated Iraqi territory, destroying two radar stations with Hellfire missiles. Immediately afterwards, Tomahawk cruise missiles and F-117A stealth fighters struck other nerve centers, blinding the air defenses of the capital. CNN broadcasted to the whole world the images of the Baghdad sky illuminated by antiaircraft tracers firing blindly, a “spectacle” that the reporter compared to the festive fireworks of the 4th of July.

Thus began what the Pentagon described as the most destructive military action ever carried out in such a short time with nonnuclear weapons, a model for future wars.

Paradoxically, war broke out at the moment when “peace broke out” (according to the slogan of the time). After the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union itself were about to dissolve. “The Cold War is over, we have entered a new era that offers great hope,” President George H.W. Bush announced, but “the Gulf crisis reminds us that there are still autonomous sources of turbulence in the world.”

In fact, the “turbulence” was triggered by Washington to take full advantage of the fact that, with the breakup of the Soviet bloc, the United States, as it officially declares, remained “the only state with truly global strength, reach and influence in every dimension — political, economic and military: There is no substitute for [U.S.] American leadership.”

After having supported Saddam Hussein’s Iraq in the 1980s in the war against Khomeini’s Iran, the U.S. pushes Kuwait, which has helped Iraq to fight Iran, to demand from Baghdad the immediate repayment of a loan of tens of billions of dollars and to exploit beyond measure, damaging Iraq, the oil field that extends under both national territories.

U.S. springs trap on Iraq

While the tension between Kuwait and Iraq grows, on July 25, 1990, the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, April Glaspie, assures Saddam Hussein that she has direct instructions from President Bush to “seek better relations with Iraq” and that “we have no opinion about your border dispute with Kuwait.”

A week later, in a colossal error of political calculation, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Later, Iraq proposed its withdrawal in exchange for certain concessions, including access to the Gulf [which was] denied to it when Britain had redrawn the map of the Middle East in the 1920s.

The trap was sprung. The United States — which had been preparing the war for some time, observing with military satellites the deployment of Iraqi forces and identifying the targets to be hit — formed an international coalition that sent a large army of 750,000 troops

to the Gulf under the command of the U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf.

In November 1990, the Security Council of the U.N. approved — with 12 votes in favor (including the USSR), 2 against (Cuba and Yemen) and the abstention of China — Resolution 678, which authorized the use of “all necessary means” against Iraq.

The Gulf War was the first war in which the Italian Republic participated under U.S. command, violating Article 11 of the Constitution. NATO, although not participating officially as such, provided its forces and bases.

Immediately after the war, NATO launched, along the lines of the new U.S. strategy, the “new strategic concept of the Alliance,” which Italy copies with the “new model of defense.” It went from war to war, presenting them as “humanitarian operations for the export of democracy” — Yugoslavia 1999, Afghanistan 2001, Iraq 2003, Libya 2011, Syria 2011 and others.

This was the war that President Bush declared in 1991 would open “a better future — a new world community united by the growing consensus that force cannot be used,” and that for this reason “the Gulf crisis will go down in history as the crucible of the new world order.”

Witness the millions of dead, disabled, orphans and refugees caused by the Gulf War, plus the 1.5 million deaths, including half a million children, caused by the subsequent 12-year embargo on Iraq and the long-term effects of depleted uranium shells, plus the many more caused by the new war in 2003. The trail of death that began 30 years ago in the first post-Cold War war continues to spread.

War by the numbers

In the war called “Desert Storm,” the U.S. and allied aviation carried out in 43 days, with 2,800 aircraft, over 110,000 sorties, dropping 250,000 bombs, including cluster bombs that released over 10 million submunitions.

Some 700 to 800 tons of depleted uranium shells were used by air and ground forces, including 1 million 30mm shells, fired from aircraft and helicopters, and 14,000 120mm shells, fired from tanks. Thousands of depleted uranium warheads were also used, with which cruise missiles and rockets are equipped.

British (36,000 troops) and French (15,600) forces flank the U.S. forces. Saudi Arabia deployed 67,500 personnel; Egypt 35,600; Syria 20,800; the Emirates 14,000; Pakistan 10,000 (plus 2,000 Afghan mujahideen); Canada 2,200; Bangladesh 2,000; Italy 1,300; Morocco 1,200; Australia 600; Spain 500; Holland and Belgium 400 each; Greece 200. And Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Bulgaria,



Highway of Death. U.S. bombs retreating Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait, 1991.

New Zealand, Sierra Leone, Argentina, Honduras, Senegal and Niger also participated with military forces.

It was an unprecedented deployment, from the Second World War onwards, composed of forces from all continents.

Italy participated in the war with 12 Tornado fighter-bombers which carried out 226 sorties, dropping 566 bombs in missions decided and coordinated by the U.S. command. The U.S. base of Camp Darby supplies air and ground forces in the Gulf from Italy.

The Pentagon, which supplied 70% of the 750 thousand men of the coalition, deployed to the war 75% of its tactical aircraft (1,950 out of 2,600); 42% of its most modern tanks (2,500 out of 6,000); 46% of its aircraft carriers (6 out of 13); 37% of its ground forces (280,000 out of 761,000); and 46% percent of its marines (90,000 out of 195,300).

The cost of the Gulf War in terms of military spending, destruction and economic losses amounted to trillions of dollars. The U.S. military expenditure alone for the second war on Iraq is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office as about \$2 trillion.

Dinucci contributes regularly to the Italian daily web newspaper, Il Manifesto, writing often on military matters. Workers World met him for the first time at the Iraq War Crimes Tribunal held in New York City in February 1992, presided over by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Dinucci represented the anti-war movement in Italy that participated in the condemnation of the crimes led by U.S. imperialism and its allies and client states, taking advantage of the collapse of the USSR. WWP members played key roles in the tribunal.

Petition protests Biden’s nomination of neocon Nuland

Those who feel relief that #45 appears to be exiting from his role as white supremacist in chief must stay aware that U.S. imperialist aggression is bipartisan, supported by both big bourgeois parties. By appointing Victoria Nuland Undersecretary of State, Joe Biden already indicated he has no intention of altering his decades-long support for all U.S. wars. The following World BEYOND War petition, signed by 25 organizations, outlines Nuland’s history and calls on Biden to withdraw her nomination. Stop U.S. aggression no matter who’s in the White House! (see worldbeyonddwar.org/nuland/)

By World BEYOND War,
January 11, 2021

Victoria Nuland, former foreign policy adviser to then-Vice President Dick Cheney, should not be nominated for Undersecretary of State and if nominated should be rejected by the Senate.

Nuland played a key role in facilitating a coup in Ukraine that created a civil war costing 10,000 lives and displacing over a million people. She played a key role in arming Ukraine as well. She advocates radically increased military spending, NATO expansion, hostility

toward Russia and efforts to overthrow the Russian government.

The United States invested \$5 billion in shaping Ukrainian politics, including overthrowing a democratically elected president who had refused to join NATO.

Then-Assistant Secretary of State Nuland is on video talking about the U.S. investment and on audiotape planning to install Ukraine’s next leader, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who was subsequently installed.

The Maidan protests, at which Nuland handed out cookies to protesters, were violently escalated by neo-Nazis and by snipers who opened fire on police. When Poland, Germany and France negotiated a deal for the Maidan demands and an early election, neo-Nazis instead attacked the government and took over. The U.S. State Department immediately recognized the coup government, and Arseniy Yatsenyuk was installed as Prime Minister.

Nuland has worked with the openly pro-Nazi Svoboda Party in Ukraine. She was long a leading proponent of arming Ukraine. She was also an advocate for removing from office the prosecutor general of Ukraine, whom then-Vice President Joe Biden pushed the president to remove.

Nuland wrote this past year that “The challenge for the United States in 2021 will be to lead the democracies

of the world in crafting a more effective approach to Russia — one that builds on their strengths and puts stress on Putin where he is vulnerable, including among his own citizens.”

She added: “... Moscow should also see that Washington and its allies are taking concrete steps to shore up their security and raise the cost of Russian confrontation and militarization. That includes maintaining robust defense budgets, continuing to modernize U.S. and allied nuclear weapons systems, and deploying new conventional missiles and missile defenses, ... establish permanent bases along NATO’s eastern border and increase the pace and visibility of joint training exercises.”

The United States walked out of the ABM Treaty and later the INF Treaty, began putting missiles into Romania and Poland, expanded NATO to Russia’s border, facilitated a coup in Ukraine, began arming Ukraine and started holding massive war rehearsal exercises in Eastern Europe. But to read Victoria Nuland’s account, Russia is simply an irrationally evil and aggressive force that must be countered by yet more military spending, bases and hostility. Some U.S. military officials say this demonizing of Russia is all about weapons profits and bureaucratic power, no more fact-based than the Steele Dossier that was given to the FBI by Victoria Nuland. □

6 de enero expone

Un cuento de dos clases

COMENTARIO

DE WW/MO

Por Monica Moorehead

El segundo paquete de estímulo finalmente se aprobó en ambas cámaras del Congreso el 27 de diciembre, acompañado de mucha controversia. Lamentablemente, no brinda ningún apoyo significativo a los millones de trabajadores y sus familias que se tambalean al borde del desastre económico.

El proyecto de ley se retrasó una semana, cuando Trump exigió demagógicamente que los cheques de estímulo se aumentarían de \$600 a \$2.000, sabiendo que sería derribado por el millonario Senado.

Este punto muerto hizo que millones de trabajadores desempleados perdieran el valor de una semana de beneficios, que la factura aumentó en \$300 minúsculos.

El líder mayoritario en el Senado, Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) Encabezó la acusación contra este aumento, afirmando que \$2.000 “caerían en manos de los amigos ricos de los demócratas que no necesitan la ayuda”. (Washington Post, 30 de diciembre) Esta declaración despiadada fue una bofetada en la cara para todos los pobres y los trabajadores.

Kentucky, cuyo representante es McConnell, es el estado que alberga 10 de los 25 condados más pobres de los EE.UU. (Courier-journal.com, 13 de marzo)

Según los datos de la encuesta de la Oficina del Censo, más de 27 millones de adultos declararon que no comieron lo suficiente desde finales de noviembre hasta principios de diciembre. Y, por supuesto, estas asombrosas cifras no

toman en consideración a los trabajadores indocumentados ni a los niños.

Qué incluye este proyecto de ley de \$900 mil millones aprobado por el Congreso? Junto con los cheques de estímulo que comenzaron a emitirse el 1 de enero, otras disposiciones incluyen la extensión de los beneficios por desempleo hasta mediados de marzo y una extensión de la Asistencia por desempleo de emergencia pandémica, que permite a aquellos que han agotado sus beneficios estatales, incluidos los de tiempo parcial y trabajadores, para obtener 13 semanas adicionales de beneficios por desempleo. Los trabajadores tienen hasta el 31 de enero para solicitar estos beneficios.

Hay una extensión de la moratoria sobre los desalojos hasta el 31 de enero. Joe Biden tendrá la autoridad para extenderlo una vez que tome el juramento de la presidencia el 20 de enero. Y hay \$25 mil millones adicionales en asistencia para inquilinos. El Programa de Seguridad Financiera del Instituto Aspen y el Proyecto de Defensa contra Desalojos Covid-19 han estimado que más de 40 millones de inquilinos enfrentan el desalojo debido al impacto de la pandemia COVID-19.

El proyecto de ley asigna \$20 mil millones para la compra de vacunas contra el coronavirus, supuestamente para que la vacuna esté disponible para cualquiera que no pueda pagarla. Existe una disposición que proporciona \$8 mil millones para la distribución de vacunas, que incluyen \$20 mil millones para ayudar a los estados con las pruebas de coronavirus.

El proyecto de ley pondrá \$284 mil millones a disposición de las pequeñas empresas, con un primer y segundo préstamo condonable del Programa de Protección de Cheques de Pago, elegibilidad ampliada de PPP para organizaciones sin fines de lucro y medios de comunicación y modificaciones al programa para atender a las pequeñas empresas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y restaurantes independientes. Este dinero equivale a una gota en el balde para las pequeñas empresas, que apenas pueden mantenerse a flote, ni ayudará a reabrir las pequeñas empresas que han cerrado permanentemente.

Según forbes.com, más de 163.000 empresas estadounidenses han cerrado desde el 1 de marzo. Esta asombrosa cifra representa un aumento del 23% con respecto al 10 de julio pasado, cuando el recuento de cierres superó los 132.000.

Ya el 16 de septiembre, unos 32.000 restaurantes habían cerrado desde el inicio de la pandemia, y se esperaba que el 61% de los cierres fueran permanentes. Los clubes nocturnos y bares, un mercado más pequeño, habían perdido más de 6.400 negocios, más de la mitad de forma permanente, mientras que los minoristas habían visto 30.374 cierres.

Por otro lado, el Congreso aprobó un presupuesto militar estadounidense que asciende a \$740 mil millones. Esto representa el 15% del presupuesto federal general para el 2021 y ni siquiera incluye guerras de ocupación como Afganistán o la ayuda de 500 millones de dólares al apartheid de

Israel. Estados Unidos gasta más en sus fuerzas armadas que China, Rusia, India, Arabia Saudita, Francia, Alemania, Gran Bretaña, Japón, Corea del Sur y Brasil juntos. (Fundación Peter G. Pederson)

Ganancias de Wall Street se disparan mientras la gente sufre

La vacuna contra el coronavirus, que finalmente está comenzando a llegar a millones de personas en los EE.UU., no ha evitado un resurgimiento de la pandemia, que ahora ha matado a más de 360.000 personas y afectado a unos 20 millones más. Los hospitales se han quedado sin camas y se han creado morgues improvisadas para almacenar a los muertos. Y esto se suma a los millones de personas que padecen desempleo y hambre.

Pero hay una pequeña camarilla que ha disfrutado del resultado de la pandemia. Son los multimillonarios de Wall Street y el sistema corrupto que los impulsa. Las ganancias para las grandes corporaciones se han disparado durante la pandemia, ya que llenan el vacío dejado por la desaparición de las pequeñas empresas.

De hecho, 45 de las 50 firmas comerciales más valiosas de EE.UU., como Walmart, Salesforce, Cisco Systems, Netflix, Zoom y PayPal, han reportado ganancias desde marzo pasado. Veintisiete de esas empresas han despedido a más de 100.000 trabajadores. (Washington Post, 16 de diciembre)

Michael Farr, presidente de la firma de administración de dinero Farr, Miller &

Continúa en la página 11



WW/MO FOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN
Protesta del 27 de diciembre, Brooklyn, N.Y.

¿Por qué el país más rico del mundo no está tan preparado?

La gran pregunta que uno debe hacerse sobre la epidemia de COVID-19, — que hasta el 2 de enero ha matado a más de 1.850.000 personas en todo el mundo, — es, “¿Por qué Estados Unidos no estaba preparado?”

Este es un país rico y altamente desarrollado. Tiene más de 600 multimillonarios, según Forbes. Tiene el ejército más caro y poderoso del planeta, supuestamente para defender su pueblo. Sin embargo, muchas más personas han muerto en los EE. UU. por el coronavirus, — más de 360.000 al 3 de enero, — que en cualquier otro país del mundo.

Además, esta no es la primera pandemia que se globaliza, lo que afecta especialmente a los EE.UU. Tampoco es la peor.

La llamada epidemia de la Influenza Española de 1918 fue más mortal. Ahora se cree que comenzó en Kansas, pero debido a la Primera Guerra Mundial se extendió rápidamente a Europa, a través del hemisferio occidental y luego a todo el mundo. Antes de que terminara, había “infectado a aproximadamente 500 millones de personas en todo el mundo, aproximadamente un tercio de la población del planeta, y había matado a entre 20 y 50 millones de víctimas, incluidos unos 675.000 estadounidenses”. (tinyurl.com/yxnex62)

Muchos de los muertos por el virus en 1918, cuando la primera guerra imperialista mundial estaba llegando a su fin, eran reclutas estadounidenses que vivían en barracones abarrotados antes de ser enviados

al extranjero. (Un pariente de este escritor fue testigo de esa triste experiencia).

Ahora es un siglo después. En este lapso de tiempo, la ciencia y la medicina han avanzado enormemente. El nivel de vida ha aumentado en los Estados Unidos; las comunicaciones y el transporte se han adelantado. Los presupuestos gubernamentales en todos los niveles se han disparado. Y la población puede estar informada de los nuevos desarrollos casi simultáneamente a través de la radio, la televisión e Internet.

Se podría pensar que esta nueva pandemia, menos mortal que la de 1918, se superaría rápidamente. Que el enorme, moderno y caro sistema médico aquí hubiera sido más que igual para la tarea. Y que, al menos, se habría discutido un plan sobre qué hacer para prepararse para la próxima pandemia.

Pero nada de eso ha sucedido. El sistema médico de Estados Unidos está ahora en crisis. La economía es un desastre. Millones de personas han perdido ingresos y se enfrentan al desempleo y la

pérdida de vivienda, todo a causa del virus.

Y, como siempre en este país capitalista y racista, son los más pobres y los más oprimidos los que más sufren. El hambre está creciendo, incluso cuando el mercado de valores recompensa a los muy ricos.

Distribución de vacunas fallida

¿Se han desarrollado vacunas! Deberían estar disponibles ahora. Pero no llegan a la gente de manera oportuna. NPR informó el 3 de enero: “Más de 4,2 millones de personas han recibido la dosis inicial de vacunación hasta el sábado [Ene. 2], según el CDC. Ese número está muy por debajo del objetivo del gobierno de vacunar a 20 millones de personas en los Estados Unidos para fines de diciembre”.

La distribución de vacunas no se está llevando a cabo a nivel federal. No hay ningún plan. En cambio, depende de los gobiernos estatales y locales hacer el trabajo. El gángster multimillonario de la Casa Blanca se centra en intentar revertir las elecciones que perdió.

Algunos estados y ciudades son mucho más pobres que otros. Ya está claro que las personas con dinero y poder político



Larga fila en la despensa de alimentos de Chelsea, Massachusetts.

están saltando la línea para recibir sus vacunas, incluso cuando muchos de los trabajos de primera línea más expuestos a la infección se pasan por alto.

Las cárceles, donde se almacena a los pobres por “crímenes de supervivencia”, son focos de la pandemia. Pero esto aparece en los titulares solo cuando los guardias de la prisión se infectan. ¿Cuándo recibirán la vacuna los trabajadores encarcelados?

La opresión genera resistencia. El sufrimiento y las tragedias que se desarrollan hoy pueden despertar un mayor nivel de conciencia sobre los crímenes cometidos por los poderes establecidos y una mayor lucha contra el propio sistema de lucro.

¡Luchar por un sistema nacional de salud gratuito sería un buen comienzo! Dejar el capitalismo por el socialismo es la única solución. □

MUNDO OBRERO

editorial