

Sorrow & solidarity for Asian communities

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

March 21 — In the days since the brutal slaying of eight people at three different Asian-owned massage businesses — one in Acworth in Cherokee County and two others, 40 miles away in Atlanta in Fulton County — there has been a maelstrom of emotions and actions.

There was relief, of course, that the killer was captured before he continued his deadly rampage and that he readily confessed.

Immense grief and sorrow as well as fear and anger have been felt by large numbers of the diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities who live in the area. While they come from a great number of different countries and speak a multiplicity of languages, each with a rich cultural heritage of their own, there is a shared experience of experiencing intolerance and being seen as unwelcome outsiders that is shared.

From new immigrants to naturalized citizens to those U.S. born, the awareness of the threat of slurs, unpleasant or hostile interactions and physical harm in public spaces is a common thread in the many public interviews, community Zoom calls and organizational statements that have taken place since the March 16 massacre.

For some Atlantans, the depth of this painful uncertainty whether it is safe to walk on the street or enter a store is a harsh and unfamiliar reality to accept. Yet sympathy abounds even if there is no understood solution. For others, whose skin color or gender or disability places them in a “different” category in a society steeped in white supremacy, misogyny, transphobia and ableism, there is recognition of what that is like.

Vigils have taken place daily, sometimes both day and evening time, at all three sites of the murders. They have become mourning spaces with people steadily coming in the ones and twos and whole families to bring flowers, candles, written messages of condolence and concern for



Marches, rallies and vigils around the U.S. protested anti-Asian violence. Here, Atlanta, March 20.

the families and for the community. Some pray; others reach out to strangers to share their thoughts; others stand silently for a moment and then leave.

What has outraged many is the parsing of the words “hate crime” by police authorities, especially the Cherokee County Sheriff’s office, which in its first press conference after questioning the self-admitted killer, explained that Robert Aaron Long had had a “bad day,” citing his “sexual addiction” for deciding to “eliminate the temptation.”

For many, this was again another example of “humanizing” the white perpetrator, while refusing to acknowledge the lives of those killed — who were mothers with children who loved them, people who

were admired for their kindness and warm spirit, hard workers who endured for the well-being of their families.

There was a very large rally March 20 against anti-Asian hate that spilled beyond the expansive Liberty Plaza across from the Georgia State Capitol. There the crowd held up their signs and cheered a long list of speakers from various Asian organizations, Asian state elected officials, Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, Rev. William Barber from the Poor People’s Campaign and many others reflecting the breadth of community support.

Each denounced the animus that motivates hate crimes. Some called for new legislation on gun purchases or criticized the voter suppression measures that would harm future voting accessibility for communities of color in particular.

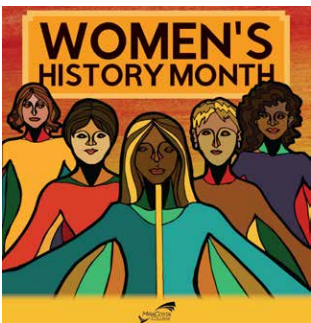
Dozens of cars decorated with signs continuously circled the area, horns honking nonstop to make sure everyone knew it was time to wake up to racist and sexist violence.

As of this writing, Robert Aaron Long is charged with eight counts of murders and one count of aggravated assault, but neither Cherokee nor Fulton County have added the “hate crime” charge, each saying more investigation is needed. □



Monica Robinson, with Philadelphia Coalition for Labor Union Women, leads chants during March 20 protest.


WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



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‘Long live international solidarity, dear comrades!’



MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

These slightly edited remarks were made by Chris Giakoumelos, representing the World Federation of Trade Unions, during Workers World Party’s March 11 webinar, “Stimulus Bill — Relief or Ripoff?”

I meet you tonight on behalf of the Secretariat of the World Federation of Trade Unions. As you know, our federation represents 105 million workers who live in 133 countries across the world.

So tonight we send you a warm internationalist greeting, comrades!

It is with great joy we received your invitation to participate in today’s discussion on the relief bill as announced by your president, Joe Biden.

In the eyes of the workers of the world, the promises of the imperialists and their political personnel cannot but seem provocative and empty. Especially since in your country, there are more than half a million people who have lost their lives due to the pandemic, while the cases of COVID-19 approach 30 million.

At the same time, your people are faced with class repercussions of the pandemic on a daily basis, even on the issue of vaccinations. The poorest and most unprotected populations in the Spanish-speaking and African American communities are those that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. It is now these same groups that have the lowest percentage of vaccinations.

The inability of the system to face the pandemic, to provide answers and guarantee the fundamental right to life, clearly shows that king capitalism is naked.

While on the one hand there is this gloomy outlook, on the other hand there is hope and optimism — the perspective for the abolition of exploitation as expressed through the struggles of the working class in your country.

The teacher strikes in the last years, the mass marches of the people after the racist murders perpetrated by the state, the struggles that today’s Amazon workers are conducting against union busting and employer persecution — all give hope!

Many workers — not only in the U.S. but also in Europe — understand the need to change the correlation of forces in the movement and the unions. That this is needed to defeat class collaboration, as expressed worldwide by the International Trade Union Confederation and at the North American level by the leadership of the AFL-CIO.

Many workers understand the need for the emancipation of the organized labour movement from the employers and the class collaborators, as a necessary condition to achieve more victories for our class comrades.

A victory of the workers’ movement in any country is at the same time a victory of the world working class.

At the WFTU, we believe that the best form of internationalism is to fight against the bosses in your own country. And, from our side, we commit ourselves to continue firmly on the side of the working class of your country.

You, dear comrades, you can always find in the WFTU an ally and friend in the struggle of the people for the elimination of exploitation. Long live international solidarity, dear comrades! □

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Commemorate Women’s History Month! Build Workers World!

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history, but to make it — to promote change that puts workers and oppressed peoples first and to recognize their leadership.

Today, Black women and their co-workers are leading the fight for unionization at Amazon’s warehouse in Bessemer, Ala., where 85% of the workforce is African American. If they win, it would be the first union drive to score a victory against this corporate behemoth in the U.S. Their struggle is inspiring workers everywhere!

Women comprise two-thirds of the 20 million workers who are paid \$10.10 per hour or less; half are women of color. The gender pay gap still exists, with African American, Latinx, Indigenous and immigrant women earning the lowest salaries. It’s no wonder that they are leading the “Fight for \$15 and a union.”

During the pandemic, nurses and other health care workers, especially women, have organized — even gone on strike — to demand adequate staffing, safe working conditions and protective equipment. Teachers and other essential workers have pressed their demands, too.

To honor women workers, the 1910 International Socialist Women’s Conference in Copenhagen declared March 8 to be International Working Women’s Day. On that date in 1908, 15,000 women immigrant garment workers and socialists marched for better working conditions. Congress proclaimed March as Women’s History Month in 1987. People of all genders mark IWWD worldwide.

Socialists have long recognized struggle as the only way to improve women’s lives. Like the Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and LGBTQ+ activists, which boldly fights racism and police violence. Like the

McDonald’s workers who led a 10-city walkout to protest sexual abuse, boosted by the #MeToo Movement.

Workers World expresses solidarity with women who are exploited on the job, those subjected to racism, misogyny, bigotry, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia. We demand the government release all im/migrant women and children from detention and reunify families. We support gender-nonconforming and trans people, who constantly risk physical attack.

If you appreciate WW’s extensive coverage of the struggles of women and gender-oppressed people, join the WW Supporter Program. During the pandemic, articles are posted daily at workers.org, and one issue a month is printed and mailed.

For donations of \$75, \$100, \$300 — or more, members receive a year’s subscription, a regular letter about timely issues and one, two or three free subscriptions (respectively), for friends. Supporters can receive the “What Road to Socialism?” book upon request. (Or read it at workers.org/books)

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New court filings for Abu-Jamal’s appeal

By Betsey Piette

As his 67th birthday nears, and Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal faces challenging and potentially fatal health crises, his legal case is still slowly winding its way through the arduous appellate court system.

First filed in August 2016 and heard in a courtroom April 24, 2017, his appeal is based on the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, which found due process was violated when former Pa. Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille participated in the consideration of *Williams’* appeal in a capital post conviction case.

As Philadelphia District Attorney, Castille had approved decisions to seek the death penalty. The SCOTUS ruling established that a petitioner is entitled to relief when a reasonable observer could conclude that a judge harbored disqualifying bias against the petitioner.

Judith Ritter and Samuel Spital, attorneys for Abu-Jamal, entered their response March 17 to legal briefs filed Feb. 3 by Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner regarding Abu-Jamal’s current Post Conviction Relief Act Appeals.

Their arguments once again raised the significance of the discovery of previously hidden evidence in the case, while challenging Krasner’s position that Abu-Jamal’s appeals were “untimely.”

Automatic bias and due process violation

In his long-delayed response to legal briefs filed on Abu-Jamal’s behalf in September 2019, Krasner is still denying Abu-Jamal’s right to prove his innocence. This supposedly progressive DA is arguing against new PCRA hearings that could expose evidence which previous prosecutors kept from the defense during Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial and subsequent appeals.

In December 2018, Pennsylvania Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker awarded Abu-Jamal the right to reopen his appeals, based on discovery of hidden prosecutorial evidence showing clear bias

from Castille against Abu-Jamal and others charged with murdering police officers.

Castille was the Philadelphia DA during Abu-Jamal’s earliest PCRA hearings. He later refused to recuse himself from hearing Abu-Jamal’s appeals when they came before the higher court.

Tucker’s decision was split. He concluded that the U.S. Supreme Court 2016 decision in *Williams v. Pennsylvania* did not fully apply, since Castille, as Philadelphia district attorney, had not played a significant personal role in Abu-Jamal’s case before later denying his appeals while a judge.

However, summarizing the *Williams* ruling, Tucker wrote: “If a judge served as a prosecutor and then the judge, there is a finding of automatic bias and due process violation.”

Defense lawyer Judith Ritter said Tucker recognized the “need for a new appeal untainted by this bias.” (tinyurl.com/u6cfb76m) His decision was a major break in the long legal struggle to free Abu-Jamal.

Hidden evidence ‘discovered’

Within days of Tucker’s decision, and after both sides had rested their cases, Krasner announced that his staff had “discovered” six evidence boxes pertaining to Abu-Jamal’s case hidden in a remote storage area. Tucker granted Abu-Jamal’s attorneys access to review the contents of these files. When they submitted four PCRA appeals challenging police, judicial and prosecutorial misconduct in Abu-Jamal’s earlier hearings, they also submitted a petition requesting a new Common Pleas Court hearing based on the uncovered evidence.

On Jan. 28, 2019, Krasner claimed Tucker’s “opinion has sweeping and, in our view, problematic implications for a large volume of cases, in addition to its effect on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal.” His words sounded identical to the argument made by former Deputy DA Ronald Eisenberg, a Castille protégé, during the



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

MOVE 9 member Janine Africa at protest for Mumia in Philadelphia, Feb. 15.

April 2017 opening hearing that granting Abu-Jamal’s appeal would “be a huge impact” on the higher courts. “At some point you just have to draw the line.”

In his latest filing, Krasner claimed that Abu-Jamal’s appeal was “not timely.” His arguments to dismiss the evidence cited by Abu-Jamal’s attorneys read like something out of Judge Albert Sabo’s playbook. Racist, pro-Fraternal Order of Police Sabo was both the judge in Abu-Jamal’s initial trial and again during his 1995 PCRA appeal. In her affidavit a court stenographer stated that she overheard the judge telling another jurist, “I’m gonna’ help them fry the n****r.”

Appeal based on new evidence of judicial bias

Abu-Jamal’s attorneys reaffirm that Tucker’s decision to grant his appeal was not based on *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, but rather “on newly discovered evidence of judicial bias that he could not have previously discovered with the exercise of due diligence — specifically a July 15, 1990, letter from then-DA Castille to then-Pennsylvania Governor Casey that was in the Commonwealth’s files and not previously available to Mr. Abu-Jamal.”

The brief further notes that the Commonwealth first disclosed this letter to Tucker, “perhaps inadvertently,” during the course of discovery on Oct. 2, 2017. The next day Tucker made Abu-Jamal’s attorneys aware of this evidence.



On July 9, 2018, he granted them the right to amend his petition to include Castille’s letter. They raise that “an amendment to a pending and timely PCRA petition is not governed by the timeliness provisions of the PCRA.”

Their brief challenges Krasner’s assertions that the evidence found in the six hidden boxes was not significant. It disclosed Abu-Jamal’s 1982 trial counsel’s ineffectiveness in failing to present evidence that at the time of his testimony, the state’s key witness, taxi driver Robert Chobert was driving with a suspended license, and he was on probation for arson.

Without Chobert’s testimony, the Commonwealth only had the testimony of Cynthia White, whose presence on the scene was questioned by witness Yvette Williams, who claimed police pressured White to lie about Mumia.

Abu-Jamal’s attorneys have also filed a motion containing new evidence of constitutional violations, including promises by the prosecutor to pay or give leniency to two witnesses and new evidence of racial discrimination in jury selection.

FOP still trying to kill Mumia

Abu-Jamal’s appeal was delayed for nearly a year starting in February 2020 when the state Supreme Court accepted a rare King’s Bench Petition from Maureen Faulkner, widow of police officer Daniel Faulkner and a proxy for the FOP. It claimed Krasner was biased and sought to remove him from the case. The court ruled against her petition in December 2020.

She submitted a new request March 17 with the Pennsylvania Superior Court to intervene, again seeking Krasner’s removal and asking the court to “quash this appeal as untimely” and “for lack of jurisdiction.”

When Abu-Jamal was released from death row in December 2011, Faulkner, the FOP and then DA Seth Williams called for his death in the general population. Their hit job on Mumia must stop! Release him now! □

A message from Mumia Abu-Jamal

In late February, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal tested positive for COVID-19 and was treated for congestive heart disease. He had previously been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver from untreated hepatitis C, and he suffers from severe dermatitis. His supporters from around the globe flooded the phone lines and emails of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, prison officials and Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner demanding he be released. The following is a slightly edited March 19 message from Mumia to his supporters.

Dear sisters, brothers, comrades, and friends and family on a MOVE! How can I thank you? These, my words, can hardly measure the flood of love that you have radiated on my behalf recently. I am almost — almost — without words, but I’ll try.

Thank you, Wadiya. Thank you, Pam Africa.



Your support from Philadelphia to France, from points across the nation and literally around the globe, have pulled me from a prison cell and placed me in a hospital room to be treated for a condition I didn’t know I had.

In the age of pandemic as of January 2021, over 300,000 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19. Imagine that in a cell, trying to breathe with a weight pressing on your chest. Imagine an elder man or woman, or even a young person, because yes, we are also in an age of mass incarceration, which day-by-day increases its infliction upon the elderly struggling, unsuccessfully, to breathe, to walk, to be.

I thank you all for reaching out and I urge you all, let our mission be abolition. I love you all. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart.

From imprisoned nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. □

Free Rodney Reed!

Rodrick Reed stands beside Sandra Reed and Pam Perillo (right) at a rally held March 20 for Rodney Reed, an innocent man on Texas death row. The rally was held to build up support for a May 17 evidentiary hearing which could set Rodney Reed on his path to freedom. His mother, Sandra Reed, told the crowd: “In my mind, in my spirit, I feel that change is in the air. And change is long overdue. In this courthouse there’s inequality, racism, conspiracy, prejudice against the poor. But we, the Reed family, are staying strong.”

A highlight of the rally was the introduction of Pam Perillo, who had spent 39 years in Texas prisons, 19 of them on death row, and had faced two execution dates. Another speaker gave an update on the critical health of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and all got a copy of the new *Jamal Journal* to learn more information. Rodrick Reed, one of Rodney Reed’s six brothers, ended the rally saying, “All we are asking for is a fair trial. Give Rodney a fair trial and Rodney will free himself.”



— Report and photo by Gloria Rubac

Linked struggles: Trans liberation, women’s liberation

By Devin Cole

It’s just two and a half months into 2021, and already over 25 blatantly anti-trans bills have been introduced in 28 state legislatures. In total, 91 bills are proposed in those states that, in some way, shape or form, attack trans people — some directly, but the destructive impact is the same. (tinyurl.com/ydoma9t9)

In other legislation affecting women and gender-nonconforming people, 45 states have enacted 256 laws relating to abortion between January 2017 and November 2020. Of these laws, 88.7% restrict access to abortion services — from funding constraints and restrictions for physicians to waiting periods for patients and gestational limits. Some would trigger a complete ban on abortions if Roe v. Wade is overturned. South Carolina’s “heartbeat” abortion ban Feb. 18 was the first restrictive state abortion law passed in 2021. (tinyurl.com/y99aekvn)

Trans people under attack

In Mississippi, bill SB2536, banning all transgender athletes from participation in sports, was signed by reactionary Governor Tate Reeves March 11, becoming the first of the new anti-trans bills to become law. Mississippi LGBTQ+ organizers are working to get the heinous law overruled.

If we follow the history of anti-trans legislation over the last five years — much eventually being overruled in court — we can expect that SB2536 will be similarly invalidated. The reactionary politicians know this, yet continue to push these bills through at alarmingly high rates, most of them targeting trans youth.

It is often assumed that the South is the most openly hateful, anti-transgender place in the U.S. But many of the bills are being passed in the Midwest and elsewhere. Trans people are suffering everywhere in the U.S., anti-trans bills or no anti-trans bills — but on a legislative level, trans people are under

attack, now more than ever.

And the attack on trans lives is paralleled by the continuing and increased attack on women’s lives as well.

To take effective action against this double attack requires a critical analysis of biological determinism, a weapon used time and time again by the ruling class to perpetuate racism, sexism and now anti-trans oppression. Action requires a dialectical, historical approach to the question of trans people, trans liberation and women’s liberation.

Biological determinism: a reactionary lie

The notion of biological determinism has been around in Western philosophy and science for centuries. And those of us living now have experienced the punishment from its ideas. This usually starts out when we are children: Boys have to act tough, repress “sensitive emotions” and establish a persona of male domination. Girls are required to be quiet, sensitive and expected to be accommodating to the daunting “superiority” of boys. This is the unquestioned premise that persists throughout the lives of boys and girls as they grow up into men and women.

Biological determinism has been used to justify enslavement of African peoples, with such outrageously racist false sciences as “phrenology,” which claimed that Black people were intellectually inferior. When women mobilized for the right to vote, this false science was once again used to claim that women were intellectually inferior to men and thus unable to make political decisions on their own behalf.

Marxist dialectical science and history informs us that biological determinism is nonsensical, racist and sexist. But this reactionary idea now underlies the anti-transgender views of the reactionary camp.

The current anti-trans bills, put forward mainly by Republican legislators, rely on the discredited ideas of biological determinism. In Florida, to justify anti-trans

bills that target trans youth, reactionaries argue that “biological sex is immutable science” and that “a boy is a boy and a girl is a girl based on biology.” This argument using false science is, of course, coming from the same bourgeois party that denies both climate change and the science used to contain the current COVID pandemic.

Meanwhile, right-wingers push the lying idea that trans youth will somehow harm girls, while denying the fact that trans children and youth are being bullied, threatened and harmed because they do not fit masculinist norms.

Trans liberation and women’s liberation

Trans and gender-variant people turn biological determinism on its head and drive another nail deeper into the coffin of capitalism-imperialism. The main concern of the Republican reactionaries and the entire ruling class is that the rise of transgender and gender-variant people could uproot the entire social division of labor based on sex, as well as rigid, violent gender roles.

This challenge to biological determinism is an extension of the challenge that the women’s liberation movement has made to the social division of labor and its gender roles and to the patriarchal and violent exploitation of women. Transgender liberation carries this upheaval further and deeper.

The same violent, patriarchal, exploitative system that oppresses cisgender women also oppresses trans women and all other trans people. It is up to all of us, united, to continue to destroy the rigid confines of anti-woman and anti-transgender rhetoric and legal weaponry.

What action do we take?

Thanks to the waves of women’s liberation, LGBTQ+ liberation and now trans liberation, trans people are more visible now than ever. With the rise of this visibility have come incredible resources that educate people of all ages, particularly

youth, about sex and gender variation. That means that many are able to realize at young ages that they are trans and can get the support they need.

But with visibility have come wave after wave of violence. More alarming than the new crop of anti-trans bills are the eight trans people who have been murdered already in 2021. Most of those killed have been Black trans women, one of whom died in Jackson, Miss., where anti-trans SB2536 was signed into law.

It is not just legislation that is targeting trans individuals, but also backward, reactionary people who are emboldened by these laws and by capitalism’s constant attacks on trans people.

Urging harassment, assault and outright murder, the ruling class is siccing its “loyal following” on women and trans people. This is an attempt to divide working and oppressed people so as to preserve the capitalist state, which is rapidly decaying. In particular, with its anti-trans legislation, capitalism, flailing in its free fall, is attempting to break up solidarity between

cis women and trans and gender-variant people.

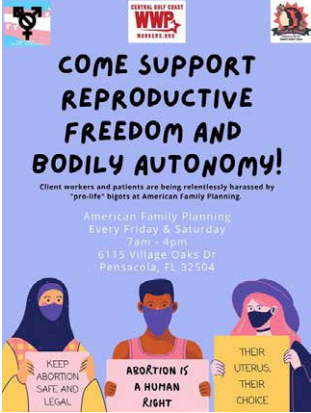
It is critical that we continue linking our struggles together as part of the class struggle to put capitalism in its grave.

March 31 is International Transgender Day of Visibility — a good date to organize actions for unity between the Trans Liberation Movement and the Women’s Liberation

Movement. It will take a relentless struggle against anti-trans, anti-woman oppression to crush class patriarchy and capitalism-imperialism once and for all.

What do we do? Unite! Fight back!

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.



A revolutionary man on solidarity with women

By Olujimi Alade

As many people reading Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper already know, March is Women’s History Month. In a patriarchal world and society, it is refreshing to see women finally being centered in this way. In order to guarantee full gender equality for all, it is important to shine a light on women and other people affected by misogyny.

As a cis man, I often ask myself how can I be a better ally to women? Well, obviously I didn’t figure this out alone. It took the mentorship of amazing women comrades to learn how I can fight the patriarchy and advance women’s rights. Here are several things I’ve learned along the way:

Know when to step back and boost the voices of women

In a male-centric world, it is clear that men tend to dominate conversations and discussions. A 2013 study conducted by Brigham Young University revealed that men will dominate 75 percent of the conversation during meetings. Even in settings where at least 40 percent of

leadership positions are mandated to be held by women, men are still taking up space, physically and interpersonally. (tinyurl.com/yhh6e2bh)

Even when women try to assert themselves, they are met with disdain at best and virulent hostility at worst. Another study by George Washington University showed that during a three-minute conversation, a man will interrupt a woman on average 2.1 times. (tinyurl.com/yf36gxrh, May 11, 2014) Men will ironically perceive women who are having equal speaking time with them as women dominating the conversation!

With this in mind, it is important for men to realize how much space we are taking up in meetings and in conversation. When a woman is speaking, please don’t cut her off. When you are done speaking, make sure to cede the floor to a woman.

Most importantly, when a woman brings up a great point, make sure to give her the proper credit. Men will often take women’s ideas and work and pass those off as their own without citing women. It is important for us as men to make sure

we create a hospitable environment for women to feel comfortable and thrive.

Have more women role models

In order to normalize gender equality, it is important for men to look up to important women figures without being stigmatized for that. Even though we still have a long way to go with regard to racial equality, inroads have been made as far as white people having people of color as role models and inspirations. It has become normalized for white people to admire people of various races.

This has not happened so far as women are concerned. Women are so devalued and dehumanized that the very thought of a boy looking up to a woman is seen as emasculating to a boy. In order to rectify this, men often choose to admire women who labor for them in various ways, often their mothers or wives.

We need to normalize women as role models. Women come in various shapes and sizes and with a multitude of different personalities. Women are not a monolith.

Uphold LGBTQ+ rights

An important cog in the patriarchy machine is cisheteronormativity. In order to maintain a male-centric society,

patriarchy often requires that men behave in a certain way and that women behave in a certain way. For instance, a monogamous, heterosexual relationship is presented as the optimal model for human romance.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with heterosexual relationships, they should not be viewed as the only acceptable way to fall in love. There are numerous models for human relationships, and they all need to be seen as valid as well.

The LGBTQ+ community face violence and harassment every day from the patriarchy for daring to buck gender norms: Gay couples are harassed for publicly displaying their affection, lesbian people are routinely subjected to “corrective” rape, and trans women, especially those of color, are killed every single day for having the audacity to exist.

In order to fight the patriarchy, cis-hetero men need to realize that LGBTQ+ people are not a threat to their masculinity, they are not a threat to their sexuality, and they are not a threat to their existence.

Cis men as a whole need to affirm trans men. Trans men frequently have a sense of uneasiness in male spaces due to constant fear of ostracization and violence.

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WORKERS WORLD
commentary



WORKERS WORLD
commentary

Courageous women of the Paris Commune

By Martha Grevatt

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Paris Commune.

The Commune was established during a bloody intercapitalist conflict called the Franco-Prussian War. In 1871, Parisian workers were in revolt against France’s Government of National Defense, seated in Versailles, which planned to surrender part of France and pay a fine to invading Prussian troops.

On March 18, 1871, women seized cannons belonging to the popular militia known as the National Guard. The Guard refused to fire on the women and rebuffed attempts by Versailles troops to drag away its cannons.

With the National Guard in control of Paris, plans were made to elect a new, workers’ government — the first of its kind. But the population was preoccupied with the military defense of the city.

From day one, women took on a range of tasks, some traditional such as childcare, and others anything but. They sewed sandbags — and some women helped pile them onto the barricades. Women tended to the wounded as ambulance nurses. Many nurses sported rifles or revolvers and fired on the Versailles government’s troops.

There were multiple women’s organizations, such as the Women’s Vigilance Committees and the Union of Women for the Defense of Paris. The latter was affiliated with the First International, led by Karl Marx in London. There were numerous social clubs where political discussion took place. Many were held in churches that had been taken over. Some clubs were specifically for women.

Public education was restructured, independent of the Catholic Church, with schools for both girls and boys. Workshops were set up by the women’s organizations, creating jobs for women making products needed on the battlefield, including cartridges and sandbags. Women attendants staffed the military canteens, keeping the Commune’s soldiers fed.

Women helped enforce the Commune’s requirement that all men aged 19 to 40 enlist in the National Guard — they hunted down and exposed “draft dodgers.” They publicly denounced police officers and their spouses as agents of Versailles.

In so many ways, women were defending and advancing a vision of a whole new society. Their dream was put down in a campaign of terror that ended May 28 with some 20,000 Communards killed, their bodies piled in mass graves, and over 43,000 arrested. Passersby and children were among those slaughtered.

Incendiary women

The French word “pétroleuse” was coined by the bourgeoisie to defame women Communards. Not only were they attacked for abandoning their “feminine duties” as wives and mothers, they were accused of setting the fires that raged across Paris in the Commune’s last days. While the charges of arson were by and large false, the women leaders who emerged during this 72-day struggle had an incendiary passion for equality and justice.



The most famous of many standout leaders was Louise Michel, who was equally skilled in shooting a rifle and political oratory. She played many roles as chair of the Women’s Vigilance Committee, including mobilizing women to care for the wounded. She defended the right of sex workers — who lacked regular work or needed to supplement meager wages — to serve as nurses. Some men opposed their presence.

As arrestees were rounded up by the thousands, Michel escaped capture, but she turned herself in upon learning that her mother was arrested in her place.

Other women Commune leaders included Beatrix Excoffon, André Léo, Elisabeth Dmitrieff (the 20-year-old leader of the Union of Women), Nathalie Lemel, Anna Jaclard and Sophie Poirier. Many of them, along with Michel, were put on trial and received harsh sentences, including banishment to a fortress, a life sentence of hard labor, years of imprisonment, or exile to various French penal colonies, including French-colonized Guiana in South America and Konaky, which the French called New Caledonia, in the Pacific.

Many of these exceptional women were unrepentant at trial. Michel famously told the court: “I am yours. Take my life if you want it.” She was banished to a fortress in Konaky. Lemel unapologetically testified that “I drew up a manifesto with four other women. I cooperated in building the barricades.” Her sentence was the same

as Michel’s. (Edith Thomas, “The Women Incendiaries”)

Among the numerous, lesser-known women tried and sentenced were bookbinders, garment workers, cardboard makers, bootlacers, sex workers and housewives. Working women had formed the base of the Union of Women and the Vigilance Committees.

Anti-colonial solidarity

Louise Michel supported an 1871 revolt of 200,000 Algerians against French rule. She befriended the rebels who, along with 4,200 Communards, were exiled to Konaky.

Michel embraced the cause of the Indigenous Kanaks, learning their languages and using her teaching skills to offer education to children and adults. She supported the 1878 uprising against land theft under the French policy of “cantonment.” Its leader, Chief Atai, was among the 1,200 killed when France suppressed the rebellion.

“The Kanaks were seeking the same liberty we had sought in the Commune,” Michel wrote. Her solidarity is still remembered in Konaky, where an elementary school is named in her honor. (Nic Maclellen, “Louise Michel”)

In 1880 a universal pardon was issued for all those sentenced in connection with the Paris Commune. After returning to Paris, Michel co-chaired a conference calling for amnesty for the Algerian rebels. She condemned French imperialist aggression in Madagascar and Vietnam.

“There was no way that I could have stopped myself from throwing my life to the revolution,” Michel wrote in her memoir.

The spirit of 1871 lives on! □

For over a century and a half Chinese workers abused andsuperexploited in U.S.

By Jim McMahan

The six Asian spa workers murdered in Atlanta March 16 were low-wage workers. They were not respected by capitalism. Their deaths came on a surge of anti-Asian violence.

Anybody with an honest view of the U.S. wars against Korea and Vietnam is familiar with anti-Asian racism. The U.S. stands guilty before the world in the deaths of four million people, caused by these two imperialist wars against Korea

and Vietnam.

U.S. imperialism has a history of domestic terrorism stemming from the exploitation and forced migration of Asian labor starting in the 1840s. Anti-Asian violence “is rooted in a long history of anti-Asian sentiment that recruited Asian labor, but denied them the rights of citizenship through exclusive laws and policies,” wrote Linh Thy Nguyen, an assistant professor in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Washington.

The first big wave of Chinese immigration to the U.S. took place during the California Gold Rush of the late 1840s. After the violent annexation of Mexico, the bosses often used mob rule in California and throughout the West; they pitted white workers against Asian workers, making them the scapegoats for the grievances of labor. In Los Angeles in 1871, the small Chinese community was by a murderous racist mob. Nineteen Chinese people were lynched — and no one was held accountable.

Leland Stanford, a major investor in the Central Pacific Railroad, despised Chinese labor, but he hired thousands of Chinese workers when construction of the Central Pacific line began in 1863. The building of this rail line was a huge project to connect a transcontinental railroad. The Central Pacific started at Sacramento, Calif., and headed east. The Union Pacific started in Omaha and headed west.

Chinese workers made up about 13,000 of the 15,000 workers on the Central Pacific. They did backbreaking labor year-round, under the hot sun and in the bitter winter. Without any power equipment, they excavated and tunneled through mountains, hauled rock by hand, graded the roadbed and laid track — all with high-speed, coordinated efforts. They dug 11 tunnels through the mountains and worked in fierce winter storms that left 18 feet of snow on the summits.

The Chinese workers were paid less than the others. They had to sleep outside in tents, while other workers usually slept in rail cars. In a competition with workers building the eastern line, the Chinese outpaced them, laying ten miles of track in one day.

The two rail lines were joined in the “golden spike” ceremony at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869. But little recognition was paid to the Asian workers, who had toiled for six years at the cost of hundreds of their lives. No Asians can be seen in the photographs showing the hundreds of people at the ending ceremony.

Dr. Gordon Chang of Stanford University says, “Leland Stanford became one of the world’s richest men by using

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A revolutionary man on solidarity with women

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It is especially important for cis men to understand that trans men are not a threat to their manhood, and that there is no wrong way to be a man.

Free women from domestic labor

Even though more men have become open to the idea of gender equality, when it comes to interpersonal relationships with women, traditional dynamics regarding heterosexual relationships still remain.

In this era, women still do twice as much domestic labor as men in hetronormative relationships. In developing countries, the figure rises to four times as much as men. According to one estimate by Oxfam in 2019, if women worldwide were to be paid for their otherwise unpaid domestic labor, they would earn almost 11 trillion dollars. Mind you, this is assuming women were being paid minimum wage for their labor. (tinyurl.com/ygu6f2d2)

The ongoing COVID pandemic has shone an even greater light on the work women have to undertake in addition to their paid jobs. With both men and women working from home, women still find themselves doing the brunt of the labor. In order for women to be able to realize all of their goals and aspirations, changes in gender relations need to start from the home. Men need to shoulder more domestic responsibilities when it comes to house maintenance, childcare and other related activities.

Historical materialism shows that the traditional dynamic of men working outside the home and women working inside the home is outdated, given the current development of technology. Therefore, flexibility in gender roles is achievable.

In addition to domestic labor, women are often called upon to provide the brunt of emotional labor. The average man tends to bond with his male friends over shared interests, whereas the average

woman bonds with other women through emotional matters. Not willing to express their emotions with other men, men will often turn to women for emotional healing. For instance, without an emotional safety net outside of marriage, men are often quicker to remarry after divorce than women.

In order to lift this sort of responsibility from women, men need to create spaces and cultivate relationships that are conducive to the open expression of emotion. In addition to freeing women of this labor, men will also benefit psychologically and emotionally. There is the possibility of a lessening of violence since men will have a healthy outlet to express their feelings.

Even though we’ve come a long way in the fight for gender equality, we still have a long road ahead of us. Women can only do so much! It is up to us as men to pull our own weight in order to create a world where women can thrive. □

MARCH 20 SOLIDARITY WITH BAMAZON UNION!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The historic union election sought by majority-Black workers at a Bessemer, Ala., Amazon warehouse ends March 29. All indications are that the vote will be close, and the outcome could take weeks to determine.

A victory would not only be one of the biggest labor victories in the U.S. in decades — the BHM1 facility would be the first U.S. union organized within Amazon.



Boston PHOTO: FRANCIS ENGLERT



Harlem, New York City WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



Local 79 members, 100 Black Construction Workers, Harlem WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



Newark, N.J. WW PHOTO: MICHAEL KRAMER



Philadelphia WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Whatever the outcome, the struggle begun by the BAMazon workers — as they dubbed themselves — has already changed the trajectory of worker organizing against the behemoth corporation, in the U.S. and internationally. Some Amazon workers in Europe have already unionized. A 24-hour strike was called March 22 of an estimated 30,000-40,000 workers across Italy over brutally increased workloads and work shifts because of the pandemic e-commerce surge. This is the first such strike in Italy to involve the whole Amazon supply chain, including hubs and delivery drivers. (tinyurl.com/yfdm582j)

Sara Nelson, international president of the 50,000 member Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, said of the Alabama workers: “They have turned the whole world’s eyes to Bessemer, Alabama. They’re kicking off a new era of organizing. Whether they get the vote in this election to win or not, they’ve already won. Because they’ve sown into the consciousness of working people everywhere, who feel like they don’t have any respect where they live and work and aren’t happy where they are, that they don’t have to take it. They actually have a way to fight back!” (tinyurl.com/75njus7p) Nelson is also a member of the national AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Amazon’s union busting has been relentless at all its facilities and subsidiaries, including the Whole Foods Markets. Organizing against the Alabama workers, the company is reportedly spending \$10,000 a day on anti-union consultants and attorneys with the notorious Morgan Lewis law firm. According to a 2021 Brookings Institute analysis, Amazon’s profits increased by \$9.4 billion since 2019, and Amazon’s founder and CEO Jeff Bezos’ net worth increased by nearly \$68 billion. Amazon could have quintupled hazard pay to workers during the pandemic and still have exceeded 2019 profits. (tinyurl.com/hrdm6shk)

The Bessemer workers are seeking union representation by the Retail, Warehouse and Department Store Union (RWDSU), which has organized poultry plants throughout the South. Workers say the grueling conditions in Amazon warehouses are most similar to those faced in meat processing plants: fast repetitive heavy assembly-line work, standing in place for long periods with almost no break, frequent injuries and no respect, especially for workers who are Black, Latinx and women or gender-nonconforming. Almost half of the workers at the Bessemer warehouse are women.

Since voting started Feb. 8, support for the Bessemer workers has accelerated. Their campaign, merging civil rights and

workers’ issues, has received a flood of endorsements from groups ranging from the National Football League Players Association, Major League Baseball Players Association, the World Federation of Trade Unions and Black Lives Matter, even to a reluctant President Joe Biden who said people at least should have a fair chance to unionize. (See “Workers are not robots! Racism, high-tech speedup and the Amazon union drive,” March 8, and other Workers World coverage.)

The Southern Workers Assembly called for the first national day of solidarity Feb. 20, which was supported by the Support Alabama Amazon Union campaign. SAAU followed that up with call-in days and tweet-storms targeting Amazon executives and Morgan Lewis union busters, then joined the U.N. Day Against Racism organizers and dozens of labor, progressive and community organizations for a March 20 Day of Solidarity. Over 50 U.S. cities and towns had rallies, pickets and marches in support of the Alabama workers, to say: “Solidarity with BAMazon Union! No to Amazon union busting and racism!”

In **Boston**, a hundred-plus young socialists, trade unionists, Amazon workers, antiwar and housing justice activists, students, prison abolitionists, grocery and day-care workers demonstrated inside the Whole Foods Market in the gentrified South End. Workers cheered the protesters and signs saying, “Black Workers Matter! Union, yes!” Speakers included leaders of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 103, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), UNITE HERE Local 26, United Steelworkers Local 8751, Teamsters Local 25, the Internationalist Group, Socialist Alternative and Workers World Party.

Hundreds of activists, many from unions, gathered in front of Whole Foods Market in **Harlem, N.Y.**, in solidarity with the Bessemer Amazon workers. The rally was sponsored by the CBTU, the December 12 Movement and Workers Assembly Against Racism (WAAR). Besides support for the Alabama union drive, people demanded freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and an end to anti-Black and anti-Asian violence.

Over 50 people rallied and picketed in front of the downtown Whole Foods in **Newark, N.J.** Organizations included People’s Organization for Progress, Teaneck Peace Vigil, N.J. Industrial Union Council, Veterans for Peace and the RWDSU organizing with Bessemer workers.

Rallying first in front of **Philadelphia’s** Morgan Lewis law firm — hired to union-bust Amazon workers — over 125 people marched to an ending rally at Whole Foods. There a child smashed open a Jeff Bezos piñata, releasing dozens of chocolate gold coins — the wealth produced by workers liberated from the centibillionaire Amazon owner!



Maynard, Mass. PHOTO: ERIC BLOMSTER



Washington, D.C.

In **Buffalo, N.Y.**, activists showed solidarity with majority Black workers organizing in Alabama. Motorists eagerly honked in support, and many passersby expressed interest and took literature at the event co-sponsored by Queen City Workers’ Center and WWP.

Lots of truckers’ air horns blew at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in **Euclid, Ohio**, as sixteen-wheelers rolled by the rally for Bessemer workers. There’s support for union organizing at Amazon — in Alabama, in Ohio and everywhere.

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Ann Arbor, Mich.



Euclid, Ohio WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR



Buffalo, N.Y. WW PHOTO: ERNIE HAMER

50+ ACTIONS

NO TO AMAZON UNION BUSTING AND RACISM!



Kernersville, N.C.



Atlanta

PHOTO: GLORIA TATUM



Pensacola, Fla.

PHOTO: LIAM C.



Birmingham, Ala.



Dallas



Durham, N.C.



San Antonio

WW PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER



Charleston, S.C.

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Atlanta's solidarity action was designed for visibility—across from a major shopping center on three- and four-lane Camp Creek Road. The Amazon Fulfillment Center only a mile away meant lots of Amazon and Prime delivery trucks came by, many honking support—along with Teamster drivers, bus drivers and people in cars. The multinational crowd of students, longtime activists, nurses, retired workers and current union members made a dynamic video sending Georgia support to the Alabama workers. Black workers from Amalgamated Transit Union, the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Communication Workers (CWA) and CBTU spoke passionately about the need to “Organize the South!”

Working-class people and retired union members from **Pensacola, Fla.**, to Foley, Ala., showed up for a solidarity rally outside the local Amazon warehouse, where some driving by waved, and some blew their horns.

Houston activists leafleted shoppers in a huge Whole Foods parking lot, using a bullhorn to educate about supporting the Alabama workers. Police were at the store before protesters even arrived—an indication



Houston

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

of Amazon's union-busting ways. Store security and store management harassed those speaking to shoppers and threatened arrest if their cars weren't moved off “company property.” Shoppers were supportive, many eagerly taking fliers and agreeing that workers in the South need more unions.

A lively solidarity rally was held at the Amazon Spheres/Amazon International headquarters in **Seattle**. Mayor Jenny Durkan tried to get the demonstration canceled on the pretext Amazon was holding a COVID-19 vaccination nearby—at a location not even visible from the demonstration. The event went on as planned; Durkan was exposed as hostile to labor, and a wide range of speakers called for steadfast support for the Alabama workers. Representatives were there from the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) Local 19, Freedom Socialist Party, Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity, Party for Socialism and Liberation and Workers World Party. Leith Kahl of the ILWU told the rally, “Obviously Jeff Bezos didn't want us here today—but we're here, and we'll be back!”

Workers, unionists and supporters rallied at a Whole Foods Market in **Portland, Ore.**, chanting “Amazon and Whole Food workers need a union now!” After Jeff Bezos acquired the food chain in 2018, rest breaks were cut and lunch breaks no longer paid for. Adam Nee, a 13-year worker at Whole Foods, spoke on his efforts to unionize there. Brian Denning, fired by Amazon for union organizing, told of dehumanizing conditions he faced at a Portland Amazon Fulfillment Center. Andy Terhune and Emmanuel Martinez of Workers World helped organize the event as part of the Support Amazon Workers coalition.

There were two morning pickets in the **San Francisco Bay Area**, one in Brisbane at the Amazon Fresh plant and another at a recently purchased site (originally zoned for housing) for a future Amazon distribution center. Then an afternoon car caravan of over 60 cars and 20 bicyclers in Oakland brought



Olympia, Wash.



Portland, Ore.

WW PHOTO: JOSHUA HANKS



San Francisco Bay Area

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

together both sides of the Bay Area. The caravan blocked a three-lane street in front of Whole Foods for 10 minutes with a loud solidarity rally and ended at Snow Park with over 100 people attending that rally. Sponsored by Support Alabama Amazon Workers-Bay Area, the three events were organized by a coalition including People's Strike-Bay Area, East Bay Democratic Socialists of America, IBEW, many rank-and-file union members, teachers' unions, the United Front Committee for a Mass Labor Party and Workers World Party.

For more information, please visit supportamazonworkers.org.

Contributing to this article were Devin Cole, Judy Greenspan, Michael Kramer, Ryan Lockwood, Jim McMahan, Dianne Mathiowetz, Monica Moorehead, Lyn Neeley, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac, Susan Schnur and Maureen Skehan.



One Big Union, Italy.

Bessemer workers fighting ‘capitalist ransom of their happiness and health’

The following remarks were given at a March 20 Harlem, N.Y., rally in solidarity with Amazon workers who are organizing a union in Bessemer, Ala.

My name is Clarissa Hernandez and I’m with the Workers Assembly Against Racism — WAAR!

Everyone should know that we owe most major progress we have made in this country to Black revolutionaries.

This continues to be true today, as we can see in Bessemer, Alabama, in one of the largest Amazon warehouses in the U.S., which is primarily staffed by Black workers [a large percentage of them women].

The United States went ahead and declared March to be Women’s History Month back in 1987 and here we see women making history! This union is making history.

Amazon’s monolith is what happens under unchecked capitalism! Capitalism and Amazon want us to believe \$15 an hour is a fair wage to be on your feet ten hours straight, to be at risk of termination if you need to use the bathroom, to work in an unclean facility during a global pandemic. You go home after 10-11 hours and every part of you aches. For \$15 an hour.

Yes \$15 an hour is too low, but I can’t imagine a wage high enough to justify the

abuse warehouse workers face. This abuse happens in warehouses and distribution centers all over the country because capitalism sees us as the capital and this mode of oppression is happy to sacrifice people for the sake of upholding itself.

These women workers in Bessemer, Alabama, are fighting against the capitalist ransom of their happiness and health and paving the way for other warehouse workers to fight back against this injustice because we all deserve to be happy and healthy.

Amazon would rather pay a union-busting law firm \$10,000 a day than pay workers what they deserve. Isn’t it sick?

They have the money, they’re just choosing to spend it on themselves and their bourgeois interests.

Humans are not capital, we’re not — we are so much more than our labor contributions. Under this sick capitalist system, however, we can use our labor to make demands.

We can take note of the work the women in Bessemer are doing. You don’t spend \$10,000 a day unless you’re terrified — and trust me, Bezos, CEOs, the gatekeepers of wealth and security should be terrified because this labor movement is so powerful and this is only the beginning. □

For over a century and a half Chinese workers abused and superexploited in U.S.

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Chinese labor.” And Chinese workers went on to build other railroads throughout the West.

Chinese built the railroads

About two-thirds of the workers who built the Western Division of the Northern Pacific railroad, running from Lake Superior to Tacoma, Wash., were Chinese. And there were Chinese people working as miners and in other difficult occupations.

In 1882, after all these feats of labor, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. It suspended all Chinese immigration to the U.S. for ten years. In addition, Chinese immigrants and their U.S.-born family members remained ineligible for citizenship — until 1942!

By the mid-1880s there was widespread anti-Chinese sentiment. In 1885 in Rock Springs, Wyo., a gang of white miners rampaged through town and murdered 28 Chinese miners. The Chinese were blamed for being strikebreakers, but that had happened many years earlier.

In the winter of 1885-86, 350 Chinese were expelled from Seattle and about the same number from Tacoma,

Wash. in what were known as the anti-Chinese riots. The Knights of Labor were caught up in the racist crusade — against the interests of labor. Chinese communities were harassed, attacked or expelled in 34 towns in California.

The worst anti-Chinese pogrom of all was almost completely covered up. In May 1887, 34 Chinese miners were massacred in Hells Canyon, along the Snake River running between Oregon and Idaho. These gold miners were shot by a gang of racist thieves, who then mutilated their bodies and threw them in the Snake River. The gang stole all the miners’ gold. While a few of the racist gang were captured, their prosecution wasn’t pursued. Most of them escaped to Canada.

It wasn’t until 2005 that this event was given



Chinese railroad workers in 1869.

recognition, and a memorial was placed on a five-acre site, renamed the Chinese Massacre Cove. The victims were honored on a plaque in three languages: Chinese, English and Nez Perce.

In 1969, on the centennial of completion of the first U.S. transcontinental railroad in Utah, the Chinese delegation was snubbed, ignored and upstaged by John Wayne.

But in 2019, on the 150th anniversary of the event at Promontory Summit, thousands of descendants of the Chinese workers came; they had been organizing for years to set the record straight. The Chinese workers

were finally incorporated into the honor of the “golden spike” ceremony.

The event marked the culmination of a lifelong effort to recover the history of their families and communities. Uniting the country, the building of the transcontinental railway had been one of the greatest feats of human labor in the modern capitalist era. □



Essential workers demand compensation and safety

Out of the 5,000 union members of Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 87 who are employed as janitors in San Francisco office buildings, 3,000 have been laid off since the pandemic, and at least 26 have died from COVID. The remaining workers continue to disinfect offices and scrub bathrooms in buildings where major companies like Google and Amazon have space. Most of the janitors are employed by maintenance contracting companies like ABM, Able, Cleanarama and Genesis.

Union organizers say workers are not provided protective equipment. One worker describes receiving a new mask every 1-2 weeks. Workers describe having their hours cut, making it difficult to provide for their families.

Union demands include rehiring laid-off employees without a loss of seniority, a wage increase to compensate for working in a hazardous environment and an increase in paid sick days. Janitors want the cleaning companies to follow the example of San Francisco drugstores and grocery stores. Workers there, including janitorial staff, are represented by Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and won a \$5 per hour hazard pay increase and other gains.

Nurses at St. Vincent’s, a for-profit hospital in Worcester, Mass., owned by the Tenet corporation, voted to strike following two years of stalled contract negotiations. The 800 nurses are represented by the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Their main grievance revolves around nurse-to-patient staffing ratios,

also referred to as patient limits or safe staffing.

All nurses know that limiting the number of patients per nurse per shift translates into higher quality care and nurses being available to patients at critical moments. Well-documented research defines what is a safe ratio, based on the seriousness of the patient’s condition and the level of care needed. The ratio proposed by Tenet corporate bosses does not promote safe quality care, nor does it limit the risk to workers of on-the-job injury.

Employers often increase the number of patients per nurse to cut costs and increase profits. National Nurses United is currently running a campaign to legislate safe nurse-to-patient ratios at the national level.

Women’s labor history in two documentary films

Two recent documentaries chronicle how women struggle and win against misogyny and patriarchal employers.

“9 to 5: A Story of a Movement” tells the story of women office workers in the 1970s who drastically changed how the business world functions. The organization “9to5” inspired Jane Fonda to make the Hollywood movie that bears its name. (9to5.org/about-9to5/)

In 1972, there were limited work opportunities for women. Secretaries were regarded as subordinates to male bosses and undervalued for the work they did. A group of women office workers in Boston, fed up with the misogyny, sexual harassment and unfair compensation, began organizing the 9 to 5 movement among their fellow secretaries.

The movement expanded across the country and eventually grew into Service Employees (SEIU) District 925. The documentary features first person accounts from the 9 to 5 leaders. Honing their organizing skills as the movement grew, they fought and won victories in male-dominated office hierarchies. Cleveland organizers, who won union recognition after a huge battle with Cuyahoga Community College, tell their story.

The film highlights how Black women from the South were recruited, but found the same disconnect that plagued the feminist movement in the 1970s. They speak

openly of how they challenged the white leaders of the 9 to 5 movement to embrace a multiracial strategy. District 925 was eventually absorbed into the larger SEIU, but during its heyday it organized nationwide walkouts and secured pay raises, paid leave, childcare and opportunities for career advancement for its members.

The film is worth watching as a window into a not too distant past, minus the glamor and star power of Hollywood’s version.

If NFL cheerleaders conjure thoughts of vapid women in silly costumes on the sidelines of football stadiums each autumn Sunday afternoon, the documentary: “A Woman’s Work: The NFL’s Cheerleader Problem,” will be an eye opener. The film focuses on two former NFL cheerleaders who filed class action lawsuits for pay equity.

Maria Pinzone was a cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills. Working 20 hours a week, her yearly salary was only \$105. She describes an atmosphere where grueling practice sessions included supervisors’ body shaming tactics. Pinzone and four other Bills cheerleaders filed a class action suit in 2014 claiming wage theft and unsafe work conditions.

Lacy Thibodeaux-Fields became a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Raiders and describes the mandatory team promotional events, where cheerleaders were considered “volunteers” and weren’t even reimbursed for travel or hotel. Her class action suit won a victory, increasing wages to \$9 an hour, triple the previous rate.

Filmmaker Yu Gu is an Asian immigrant woman who moved to California from Canada and became fascinated with the college football spectacle at the University of Southern California. Gu focuses on each woman, without the trappings of game day, struggling to win against the multibillion dollar NFL patriarchy. Her documentary is a tale of misogyny, sexual harassment and abuse. It compels us to see conventionally “beautiful” women as whole human beings.

According to Gu, “[The gender binary is] a construct that really hurts both men and women, but in this case it disproportionately affects women, because of wage theft,” she said. “They’re not getting paid for the amount of work they’re doing, and they’re not valued fairly, and you see the effects of that throughout their life ... it’s cumulative.” (Women’s Media Center, Feb. 4) □

Country in crisis

U.S. props up unpopular Haitian regime

By G. Dunkel

March 21 — In the past week, one group of Haitian cops attacked at least two precincts, released prisoners who they said were being held illegally, set fires, sacked a car dealership and demanded the government retrieve the bodies of cops who died in a March 12 ambush.

In the past year, Haitians have experienced a six-hour gun battle between the reconstituted Haitian army and some police protesters and armed conflicts between gangs from different neighborhoods and self-defense militias. Concurrent with these small-scale armed conflicts have been massive popular marches, which have drawn hundreds of thousands of people to the streets throughout Haiti, demanding that President Jovenel Moïse step down.

While imperialist politicians and media often blame Haiti's poverty and turmoil on Haitians, many Haitian progressives point to U.S. imperialism's oppressing and suppressing the world's only country founded by a successful slave revolt, which was victorious in 1804. At the time, the rulers of the slavocracy dominating the young United States were terrified by the Haitian example.

For over two centuries, as the March 17 issue of *Haïti-Liberté* pointed out, the U.S. has engaged in “embargoes, sabotage, bullying, aggression, destabilization campaigns, coups d'état, military occupations and theft of territory and treasure”

against Haiti.

It is illuminating to think of this centuries-old U.S. policy as an underhanded, implicit imperialist war against Haiti, the world's first Black republic, for its people's “original sin” of smashing the French slave owners' rule.

The March 12 ambush occurred when a cop patrol in two armored personnel carriers entered the poor Village de Dieu (Village of God) neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. The cops planned to raid the headquarters of the Five Second Base gang. After luring the patrol into a trap, ambushers destroyed one APC and seized the other along with body armor, radios and weapons. Five cops were killed, eight injured.

The cop raid was a response to the Five Second Base shooting up the headquarters of Haiti's national electricity company in downtown Port-au-Prince a few days earlier.

Gangs, including some the government has allowed to flourish because they discourage political activity, have blossomed in Haiti's poorest neighborhoods. Some gangs have turned to the crime of kidnapping, doubling the number of kidnappings



Sign in foreground warns “Democracy is in danger!” Port-au Prince protest, Feb. 28.

in 2020. Some Haitian banks have been involved in these kidnapping projects.

The gangs themselves grew out of self-defense militias set up in the 1980s after the fall of the Duvalier father-son dictatorship, which ruled Haiti from 1957 to 1986. The militias protected neighborhoods from remnants of the Tonton Macoutes, the Duvaliers' paramilitary force. Washington backed the Duvaliers and even arranged to fly the son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, safely to exile in France.

Poverty pervasive

Poverty in Haiti is pervasive. Haiti's minimum wage for the highest paid textile workers is about \$6.50 for an 8-hour day. While exact figures are hard to come by, most Haitians — 50% to 80% — survive

on less than \$3 a day. Unemployment officially is estimated at 14%, but many “officially employed” workers' jobs are far from steady.

Family members abroad in the U.S. and other countries transmit \$2 billion a year in remittances back to Haiti through a financial system the U.S. government completely controls. If the U.S. government considered it necessary, it could shut down this flow of money in a few hours.

For the past four decades, Haitian presidents have been either picked, endorsed or deposed by the U.S. secretary of state. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets this year to demand that President Moïse step down since his constitutional term of office has expired. Moïse refuses.

Washington's reaction was to do nothing more than urge Moïse to hold parliamentary elections, which is tacit support for Moïse.

The Haitian bourgeoisie — the urban middle class — appears to be split on how to respond to this crisis, between a faction that wants to smash the gangs and one that would like to see Moïse leave.

It is going to be hard to smash the gangs, since ultimately their existence reflects the vast economic inequality in Haiti between the wealthy and the poor. Moïse is not going to leave before the U.S. tells him to.

One thing is certain: Chaos in Haiti is going to grow. □

10 years ago

Why U.S./NATO forces demolished Libya

By Manilo Dinucci

Ten years ago, on March 19, 2011, U.S./NATO forces began the air and sea bombardment of Libya. The war was directed by the United States, first through its Africa Command, then through NATO under U.S. command. In seven months, the U.S./NATO air force carried out 30,000 sorties, 10,000 of which were bombing attacks, unleashing over 40,000 bombs and missiles.

Italy, with the multi-party consensus of the Parliament (its Democratic Party in the lead), participated in the war using seven air bases (Trapani, Gioia del Colle, Sigonella, Decimomannu, Aviano, Amendola and Pantelleria), with Tornado fighter-bombers, Eurofighters and others, plus the aircraft carrier Garibaldi and other warships.

Before the air-sea offensive began, U.S./NATO agents and client states financed and armed ethnic groups and reactionary Islamic groups hostile to Libya's government, and Qatar deployed special forces to instigate armed clashes within the country.

In this way, the African country was demolished. Libya, as the World Bank documented in 2010, had maintained “high levels of economic growth,” with its GDP increasing by 7.5 percent per year, and recorded “high human development indicators,” including universal access to primary and secondary education and, for over 40 percent of the youth, access to university education. Despite the disparities, the average standard of living in Libya was higher than in other African countries. About two million immigrants, mostly African, found work there.

The Libyan state, which possessed the largest oil reserves in Africa plus others of natural gas, had limited profit margins for foreign companies. Thanks to energy exports, the Libyan balance of trade showed a positive margin of \$27 billion per year. With these resources, the Libyan state had invested around \$150 billion abroad.

Libyan investments were crucial

Libyan investments in Africa were crucial to the African Union's plan to create three financial bodies: the African Monetary Fund, with headquarters in Yaoundé, Cameroon; the African Central Bank, with headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria; and the African Investment Bank, with headquarters in Tripoli, Libya. These bodies would have served to create a common market and a single African currency.

It is no coincidence that the NATO war to demolish the Libyan state began less than two months after the African Union summit of Jan. 31, 2011. This summit gave the go-ahead for the creation of the African Monetary Fund by the end of 2011.

This is proven by emails of the Obama administration's Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, later brought to light by WikiLeaks. The United States and France wanted to eliminate [Libyan leader Muammar] Gaddafi before he could use Libya's gold reserves to create a pan-African currency as an alternative to the dollar and the CFA franc (the currency imposed by France on 14 of its former colonies).

The proof: Before the bombers went into action in 2011, the banks went into action and seized the \$150

billion invested abroad by the Libyan government, most of which disappeared. Goldman Sachs, the most powerful U.S. investment bank, of which Mario Draghi has been vice-president, was prominent in the great robbery.

Today in Libya power groups and the transnational corporations hoard the revenues from energy exports, in a chaotic situation with regular armed clashes. The standard of living of the majority of the population has plummeted.

African immigrants, whom the armed bodies running Libya charged with being “Gaddafi's mercenaries,” have even been imprisoned in zoo cages, tortured and murdered. Libya remains in the hands of human traffickers. It has become the main transit route of a chaotic migratory flow towards Europe that has caused many more victims than the war of 2011.

In the town of Tawergha near the city of Misurata, Libya, the NATO-backed reactionary Islamic militias of Misurata (those who murdered Gaddafi in October 2011) have carried out a real ethnic cleansing, forcing almost 50,000 Libyan citizens to flee and refusing to allow them to return.

The Italian Parliament also has responsibility for this. On March 18, 2011, it committed the government to “take any initiative” (i.e., Italy's entry into war against Libya) “to ensure the protection of the people of the region.”

Dinucci's article was first published in the Italian web daily newspaper Il Manifesto on March 16. Translation into English by John Catalinotto.

Statement on the 10th anniversary of the U.S. war on Syria

The following slightly edited statement was released on March 12, 2021 by the Syria Solidarity Movement — including the International Action Center — on the 10th anniversary of the continuing U.S. war on Syria. Workers World Party has participated in three solidarity delegations to Syria during this 10-year period. Contact information: syriasolidaritymovement.org; facebook.com/SyriaSolidarityMovementIntl and solidarity@syriasolidaritymovement.org.

Since March 2011, Washington has led a coalition of NATO countries, Arab monarchies and Israel, in a proxy regime-change war, using terrorist mercenaries as foot soldiers. Today, U.S. troops illegally occupy nearly a third of Syria, containing much of Syria's oil and gas and some of its best farmland.

In addition, the U.S. maintains a proxy army of Kurdish separatists in Syria's north that seeks to dismember the country by carving out a Kurdish state where the population was overwhelmingly Arab prior to U.S. intervention.

The February 25, 2021, U.S. bombing of Syria signaled the Biden government's intention to continue the U.S. war of attrition on Syria.

Syria has defiantly resisted for ten years, in the face of illegal U.S. attempts to dismember their sovereign state. These included false flag gas attacks by terrorists to blame the Syrian government — with the help of OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-U.N.); attempts by the International Criminal Court to

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The blame game

Of the two big-business political parties in the United States, the Democrats for more than half a century have been seen as the more “liberal,” the Republicans as more reactionary. But when it comes to their attitude toward People’s China, they both drip hostility.

The Biden administration is extending what Trump did to whip up anti-China sentiment, not with vile hate speech but with an anti-China foreign policy. Biden has now imposed sanctions on 24 Chinese officials, accusing them of “coercion and aggression” in relation to Hong Kong, which Washington seems to regard as part of its own territory.

With all this anti-China activity going on at the highest level, is it any wonder that it would spill over into anti-Asian violence inside the U.S.? That’s what has happened in a confluence of anti-woman and anti-Asian attacks in recent weeks.

The group Stop AAPI Hate has tracked nearly 3,800 incidents of hate, discrimination or attacks on Asians in the U.S. from March 2020 through February of this year. That figure is now rising sharply. In Atlanta, Ga., six of the eight people killed in a recent shooting spree were Asian women working in massage parlors.

China is being blamed for the pandemic, since the virus appears to have first jumped from animals to humans there. What is not being mentioned is that China has done an incredible job in defeating the virus and protecting its huge population.

The website Coronavirus Update reports that as of March 21, China had experienced 90,099 cases and 4,636 deaths, with a population just over 1.4 billion. By contrast, the U.S. had 30,521,529 cases and 555,300 deaths with an official 332,339,717 population. To put it another

way, with a population of more than four times that of the U.S., China has experienced less than 1/100 or 1% of the U.S. deaths from COVID-19.

This enormous difference says so much about these two competing systems — one based on capitalist private property, the other on social ownership of the means of production. In China, health care is a human right; here, it is a necessity we must continually fight and pay for.

Now is the time, more than ever, to show solidarity with our Asian sisters, brothers and siblings who are under attack. They are the targets of not only hateful individuals, but of a system that values wealth and property over human lives.

This profit system needs to create scapegoats for the misery it causes. Working-class solidarity is the only real antidote to the hatred spawned by this dog-eat-dog system. □

The cost of the COVID class war

By Feb. 22, COVID-19 related deaths in the U.S. surpassed 500,000. Since then, another 55,000 people have died from the virus, and numbers are trending up. More U.S. lives have been lost in this pandemic than in combat during World Wars I and II combined.

U.S. combined military spending for those two major wars was over \$5.07 trillion in 2019 dollars. And military spending has been prioritized ever since. The 2020 military budget — \$721.5 billion — was the largest portion of the discretionary U.S. federal budget.

In 2019, the U.S. spent \$35.4 billion on nuclear weapons. Over the next three decades, nuclear weapons modernization plans could cost up to \$2 trillion.

Ask Congress for money to spend making war and/or producing nuclear weapons and they will likely shell out more than was requested. It fills the coffers of their backers in the military-industrial complex.

But suggest raising the hourly minimum wage to \$15 — which would benefit over 32 million workers — and politicians will fight you tooth and nail.

Politicians from both bourgeois parties were ready to go to war to block passage of long overdue relief for low-wage workers — predominantly people of color, immigrants, women, gender-oppressed and disabled — because the new COVID legislation initially included the minimum wage increase.

Millions of people who survived COVID-19 still face job loss and evictions. Forty-two million people may

experience food insecurity in the U.S. this year — but apparently addressing starvation is not a Congressional priority. Nor is funding infrastructure such as public schools, housing, and transportation.

Biden’s \$1.9 billion American Rescue Plan, signed March 11, was described by House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) as “too costly, too corrupt and too liberal.” He called it “a laundry list of left-wing priorities that predate the pandemic and do not meet the needs of American families” during a floor speech March 10.

He is partially right — the needs of U.S. families have been ignored for decades, and the provisions of the Biden bill do not go far enough in addressing them.

Workers’ needs vs. capitalist greed

Politicians who voted against the bill claimed they were motivated by concerns about increasing the national debt. Flashback to March 2020, when Trump signed the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act surrounded by top GOP leaders. Or travel back to 2017, when Trump signed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that cut corporate taxes by \$1.5 trillion, resulting in deficit spending reaching \$984 billion and causing federal borrowing to skyrocket.

The CARES Act and three smaller measures passed in 2020, with support from both sides of the aisle, were crafted to make sure the biggest beneficiaries were corporations and the country’s wealthiest individuals. While the CARES Act gave \$1,200 stimulus payments to around

159 million people, this was small change compared to the billions in additional tax breaks handed out to the 1% for multiple years or to the total costs of wars.

The Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation found that five tax provisions specifically aimed at the wealthiest families, including the Trumps, would cost nearly as much as all the stimulus checks combined. These measures gave immensely bigger benefits to corporations and a handful of the ultrarich.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the major concern of most U.S. corporations has not been the rising death toll but their falling bottom lines.

Capitalists can gamble on the stock market and will benefit from tax breaks handed to them by lackey politicians. But without workers on the job, producing more wealth for the bosses than the bosses pay them in wages, their profit system starts to crumble.

Under capitalism, labor is the source of all wealth. The push to get workers back on the job is what motivated pro-capitalist politicians to throw COVID caution to the wind and pass only minimal economic relief measures.

Workers need the guarantee of a livable monthly income, protection against evictions and adequate access to food and health care, so that they cannot be forced to work in unsafe conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic just to survive. This is what workers have in socialist countries. □

Biden: Who's the killer?

On March 18, U.S. President Joe Biden called Russian President Vladimir Putin a “killer.”

Since no one has withdrawn this gratuitous insult, we assume this was no Biden gaffe. It indicates instead increased U.S. hostility to Russia — just as the recent Alaska talks showed a developing conflict with People’s China. Both Russia and China, like the U.S., are nuclear powers.

The first question this insult raises is: Is Biden a killer?

We reviewed Biden’s record on important foreign policy decisions in this century that had to do with killing people. Did any decision show an aversion to killing?

In 2001, as a U.S. senator from Delaware, Biden, never known for political courage, joined the unanimous vote supporting the so-called war on terror. This led quickly to the invasion of Afghanistan — where the U.S. still has troops 19 years later. Many Afghans have been killed. U.S. troops too.

In the fall of 2002, Biden was chair of the Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee. He voted and spoke in support of the war on Iraq. Millions of Iraqis were killed. Thousands of U.S. troops, too.

As vice president in 2009, Biden supported the overthrow of Manuel Zelaya in Honduras. This coup unleashed a neoliberal plunder of that Central American country. In turn, many Hondurans were killed. It so disrupted life that many Hondurans fled, trying to migrate to the U.S.

Meanwhile, the Barack Obama/Biden administration deported many Hondurans and other Central Americans back to the Central America the U.S. had disrupted. This led to more killing.

In 2011, Vice President Biden praised NATO’s war on Libya. This war destroyed a stable and prosperous African country. Along with the wars in Syria, Iran, Afghanistan and Yemen, the Libyan collapse caused a new wave of

migration to Europe. In that wave thousands are killed each year in shipwrecks, among other disasters caused by this disastrous war on Libya.

Already, only 36 days into Biden’s own administration, he authorized the air strike on Syria.

Whatever Biden feels about those kinds of decisions, he has shown he is willing to kill. Biden campaigned hard and often to become president. To be president of the United States means to be the chief executive officer of world imperialism.

This is the person with the legal authority to direct the Pentagon, the State Department, the CIA and other more shadowy centers of U.S. foreign policy to oversee the exploitation of humanity in the interest of a relative handful of billionaires.

Being a killer is part of the job description. □

10th anniversary of the U.S. war on Syria

Continued from page 9

indict President Assad; propaganda constructs like the White Helmets to support Western military intervention; increasingly severe economic sanctions which devalued Syria’s currency, created widespread unemployment, impoverished millions and created huge shortages in the midst of a pandemic; spurious propaganda like the “Caesar photos”; and covert operations to buy the support of Western mainstream media.

With allies Russia, China, Iran,

Hezbollah and Palestinian militias, support of Venezuela and Cuba to North Korea, and supporters in the global peace movement, the Syrian government has frustrated most of the above schemes and avoided becoming a Libya-style failed state.

Syria has paid a great price: nearly half a million dead; 6.6 million internally displaced persons; 5.6 million refugees across the Middle East, Europe and North America; enormous civilian infrastructure

destruction; looting of archeological treasures; physical and psychological trauma to its citizens; and much, much more.

All these cry out for an international accounting with reparations from those responsible.

The wide portrayal of the conflict as a “revolution” or popular uprising ignores Wikileaks revelations that the U.S. has been promoting destabilization and sectarianism inside Syria since 2005. The Syrian people have shown great

courage and endured great sacrifices in order to preserve their secular, pluralistic and Arab socialist state, with universal free education and medical care.

The Syria Solidarity Movement seeks to end the criminal war on Syria, and we call upon others to join this effort. In particular, we ask you to put pressure on your elected officials to: Stop the war against Syria; Resume diplomatic relations with Damascus; End the coercive economic measures against Syria and Syrians; and Support the reconstruction of Syria. □



Vacunas: China contra el imperialismo occidental

continuación de la página 12

otro lado del cercano muro del apartheid, la gente no está recibiendo vacunas que salvan vidas.

Racismo en la distribución comunitaria de vacunas en los EE.UU.

A mediados de febrero, EE.UU. ha estado administrado aproximadamente 1,5 millones de dosis de vacunas al día, sin embargo, la desigualdad en la distribución de vacunas es muy evidente en las comunidades pobres de color del centro de la ciudad. Se remonta a las raíces históricas del racismo y la opresión económica.

En el condado de Los Ángeles, a mediados de febrero, por ejemplo, según los datos del condado de Los Ángeles, la tasa de vacunación entre los residentes blancos y asiáticos sigue siendo significativamente más alta que entre los residentes negros/afroamericanos y latinos/latinx:

- Los afroamericanos son el 9 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero hasta la fecha solo han recibido el 5,2 por ciento de las vacunas.
- Los residentes latinos son el 46 por ciento de la población del condado de 16 años o más, pero representan solo el 23 por ciento de los vacunados.

La razón principal de esta discrepancia es que las comunidades pobres continúan careciendo de un acceso conveniente a las instalaciones de vacunación, lo que no es el caso de las comunidades blancas acomodadas.

Es la misma situación espantosa en Chicago. Los habitantes de Chicago que no son blancos, que constituyen la mayoría de los casos de COVID-19, han enfrentado enormes dificultades para inscribirse en las citas de vacunas debido a las barreras tecnológicas y los “desiertos de farmacia”. Según el diario The Guardian:

“A pesar de que los negros solo representan el 30% de la población de Chicago, los negros de Chicago representan el 60% de todos los casos de COVID-19. Y la falta de hospitales, la prominencia de los desiertos alimentarios y otras desigualdades han convertido a COVID-19 en una crisis de salud aún más letal para estas comunidades. Pero incluso durante la Fase 1A de Chicago, cuando solo los trabajadores de la salud y los residentes y el personal de las instalaciones de atención a largo plazo eran elegibles para la vacunación, la mayoría de los vacunados provenían de áreas más prósperas como el centro y el North Side ...”.

Además, el experimento de Tuskegee, un ejemplo notorio de desigualdad económica y médica histórica, ha significado que muchos afroamericanos siguen dudando sobre la nueva vacuna COVID-19.

Según un informe de octubre de 2020 publicado por el Instituto de Política Pública de California (PPIC), solo el 29 por ciento de los afroamericanos en el estado dijeron que “definitivamente” o “probablemente” recibirían la vacuna COVID-19. La baja confianza entre este grupo racial contrasta con el 54 por ciento de los latinos, el 60 por ciento de los blancos y el 70 por ciento de los asiáticos californianos que dijeron que definitivamente o probablemente recibirían una vacuna. (En una nota positiva, la actitud de los afroamericanos hacia la vacunación ha mejorado lentamente en los últimos meses desde que comenzó la campaña de vacunas).

Con la desconfianza histórica de la comunidad y el acceso inadecuado a los

EXIGENCIAS SOCIALISTAS

PARA LA CRISIS DEL COVID-19

1. Asistencia sanitaria gratuita para todos.

2. Nacionalizar el sistema de salud bajo control comunitario. Construir hospitales de emergencia.

3. Pago completo, beneficios e ingresos garantizados para todos.

4. Alimentos, vivienda, suministros médicos y servicios públicos, incluido internet para todos.

5. Suspender alquileres, desalojos, hipotecas, cortes de servicios públicos y TODAS las deudas.

6. Priorizar recursos para comunidades de color, migrantes, personas LGBTQ2+, personas mayores, jóvenes, personas con discapacidades.

7. Vaciar prisiones y centros de detención. Cierra ICE. Poner fin a los ataques racistas.

8. Control comunitario. Sin policías. No militar.

9. \$2 billones para los trabajadores, no para los bancos.

10. Poner fin a las guerras, las sanciones y la destrucción del medio ambiente de EE. UU.

MUNDO OBRERO

sitios de vacunación, las comunidades pobres y de color del centro de la ciudad definitivamente serán las perdedoras en la lucha por las vacunas.

Solidaridad mundial China con las vacunas

Si bien China no estaba en la lista inicial de vacunas COVAX, ha enviado y/o donado millones de dosis de vacunas en todo el mundo, especialmente al Sur Global.

Según el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de China, Wang Yi, a mediados de febrero China había donado vacunas a 53 países en desarrollo, incluidos Somalia, Irak, Sudán del Sur y Palestina. También ha exportado vacunas a 22 países. Además, lanzó proyectos de cooperación en investigación y desarrollo con más de diez países. También a pedido de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, China contribuirá con 10 millones de dosis de vacunas a COVAX.

Hasta el 14 de febrero, según China Global Times, al menos 40 países habían pedido o donado al menos 561 millones de dosis de vacunas chinas; Algunos de los principales compradores son Perú (38 millones), México (35 millones), Indonesia (122,8 millones), Filipinas (25 millones de dosis con una donación adicional de 0,6 millones), Turquía (50 millones), Brasil (120 millones) y Chile (60 millones). Otros compradores son Colombia, Uruguay, Myanmar, Malasia, Tailandia y Laos, y Marruecos, Egipto, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Senegal y Guinea Ecuatorial en África.

En Europa, Serbia recibió vacunas chinas, lo que convierte a ese país en el segundo país más vacunado de Europa, después del Reino Unido, Hungría se convirtió en el primer estado miembro de la UE en recibir vacunas chinas (que aún no están aprobadas por la UE).

El éxito de las vacunas de China en todo el mundo muestra el verdadero

significado de la solidaridad mundial. No es sorprendente que los países occidentales estén respondiendo con un escepticismo sin sentido y una rabia celosa. Están difundiendo rumores infundados sobre la seguridad de las vacunas chinas (tal como lo hizo Estados Unidos el año pasado, cuando difundió el llamado engaño del “virus filtrado en el laboratorio militar de Wuhan”).

Sin embargo, durante los últimos dos meses, una docena de líderes mundiales han tomado el pinchazo chino frente a las cámaras para mostrar su apoyo a las vacunas chinas, que incluyen:

- Presidente de Seychelles, Wavel Ramkalawan
- El presidente turco Tayyip Erdoğan
- El presidente de Indonesia, Joko Widodo
- Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, primer ministro de los Emiratos Árabes Unidos (EAU)
- El presidente de Guinea Ecuatorial, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo
- El presidente serbio Aleksandar Vučić
- Primer ministro jordano, Bisher Al-Khasawneh
- Presidente de Chile Sebastián Piñera

y muchos otros líderes mundiales y altos funcionarios gubernamentales.

¿Por qué? Además de que muchos países se resisten al imperialismo occidental de las vacunas, los expertos dicen que las vacunas chinas son más adecuadas para el Sur Global. Las vacunas chinas cuestan menos y tienen requisitos logísticos más sencillos, considerando que la vacuna de ARNm de Pfizer necesita congeladores ultrafríos, una tecnología y un costo que muchos países en desarrollo no pueden permitirse.

El racismo, el imperialismo y la mala gestión de las vacunas en los países occidentales han provocado un drama masivo

y caótico en el desarrollo y la distribución de vacunas y un desastre en la logística de la vacunación.

Mientras promueven afirmaciones infundadas sobre la seguridad de las vacunas chinas, los principales medios occidentales han mencionado poco sobre la muerte de 23 ancianos noruegos después de que tomaron la vacuna Pfizer.

Tampoco los medios informan análisis científicos críticos. Al 12 de febrero, con aproximadamente 43 millones de personas vacunadas, se han reportado casi 16.000 casos de efectos adversos (o 3 de cada 10.000) después de recibir las vacunas Pfizer o Moderna. Ha habido 929 muertes en los EE.UU. de personas que se han puesto las vacunas, algunas de las cuales posiblemente podrían atribuirse a las vacunas. Cualesquiera que sean sus razones, el silencio de los medios occidentales y la comunidad científica corporativa deja mucho espacio para que los movimientos de derecha anti-Vaxxer usen los datos para respaldar sus teorías de conspiración de vacunas salvajes.

Entonces, qué debemos hacer?

Los activistas progresistas de los movimientos antirracistas, comunitarios, por la paz y la justicia social de todo el mundo son cada vez más críticos con las gigantes corporaciones farmacéuticas de los países occidentales por participar en el racismo y el imperialismo de las vacunas contra las comunidades de color dentro de sus países y países pobres de todo el mundo.

Muchos están pidiendo una campaña de justicia de vacunas de base amplia para responsabilizar a las naciones occidentales ricas y sus compañías farmacéuticas multinacionales y para invitar a las comunidades, los países del Sur Global y China a participar activamente en la búsqueda de una solución. ¡DIVIDIDOS CAEMOS, UNIDOS GANAMOS! Juntos construimos la solidaridad global para una distribución más rápida, más asequible y más equitativa de vacunas a todas las comunidades y en todo el mundo.

Lee Siu Hin es un coordinador nacional de la Red Nacional de Solidaridad con Inmigrantes; China-EE.UU. Red de Solidaridad (CUSN); y e-Medical Alliance, una red de académicos y activistas comunitarios de ambos países comprometidos con el diálogo de base. Se puede contactar a Lee en ActivistWeb@gmail.com y actualmente está lanzando una campaña de justicia de vacunas global basada en la comunidad. Los datos son del 23 de febrero.

Philadelphia Asian community speaks

In response to the brutal murders in Atlanta March 16, this statement was issued March 17 by members of the Philadelphia’s Asian community including Woori Center, VietLead, Asian Americans United, API PA, City Council Member Helen Gym, Modero & Co., Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, Pejuang, CAIR Philadelphia, APALA Philadelphia, Red Umbrella Alliance, Asian Arts Initiative and PCDC.

Our hearts are heavy today after the murders of eight people, six of whom were Asian women, in Atlanta last night, making six more people and their loved ones victims of the anti-Asian violence that has terrorized our communities in the U.S. since its genesis.

The recent surge in anti-Asian violence, while horrific, is only part of the longer and larger history of systemic violence in the U.S. Anti-Asian violence, and gender-based violence against Asian and Pacific Islander women in particular, isn’t new.

It is the product of interlocking systems of power that oppress



marginalized communities — that strip our communities of resources that we need to live, deport our loved ones, murder our Black community members, make women and elders scared to walk alone at night, force students and teachers to go to school in toxic buildings, gentrify our immigrant neighborhoods, perpetuate unsafe working conditions, and more.



MO FOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

Rally de Harlem, Nueva York, 20 de marzo.

Vacunas: China contra el imperialismo occidental

Por Lee Siu Hin

23 de febrero — China y Rusia se encuentran entre los primeros países del mundo en vacunar a las personas [contra COVID-19], según el sitio web Our World in Data. Para el 15 de diciembre de 2020, al menos 1,5 millones de chinos habían recibido un golpe. Estados Unidos y el Reino Unido también habían comenzado sus campañas de vacunación a principios de diciembre; para el 15 de diciembre habían vacunado a alrededor de medio millón de personas.

Hasta ahora, China lidera el mundo en el número de personas que están completamente vacunadas o que al menos han recibido el primer pinchazo. Según los medios chinos, hasta el 23 de enero, casi 16 millones habían recibido un pinchazo, seguido de cerca por el número de personas vacunadas en los EE.UU. Para el 9 de febrero, China había administrado 40,52 millones de dosis y EE.UU. había administrado 43,2 millones.

Fue como una carrera cuerpo a cuerpo. La campaña de vacunación china se ralentizó durante las vacaciones del Año Nuevo chino (del 11 al 17 de febrero). Para el 21 de febrero, unos 63 millones de personas en Estados Unidos habían disparado, en comparación con los 53 millones estimados en China. Pero ahora que las vacaciones han terminado, se espera que China aumente la velocidad y vuelva a ponerse al día rápidamente.

China y Estados Unidos enfrentan situaciones muy diferentes. Al ritmo actual, EE.UU. podría vacunar a su población en seis meses; muchos estiman que China, con 1.400 mil millones de habitantes, tardará hasta dos años en vacunar completamente a su población. Sin embargo, debido a su estrategia anti pandémica muy eficaz, con su tasa de infección por COVID muy baja, los expertos creen que, a diferencia de los EE.UU., China no necesita apresurarse por la vacunación completa para lograr el objetivo de la “inmunidad colectiva”.

China ya ganó la guerra epidémica y ahora está actuando para prevenir nuevos brotes del virus.

Sus primeras prioridades de vacunación, después de los trabajadores médicos, son los trabajadores que se enfrentan al público o manipulan bienes importados. Estos incluyen trabajadores de logística, conductores de autobuses, trabajadores de la hostelería, etc. Las personas mayores en China tienen menos probabilidades de infectarse con el virus, por lo que la prioridad para vacunarlos viene después de estos trabajadores públicos, a diferencia del mundo occidental, donde los trabajadores públicos suelen estar al final de la lista. Esa es una de las razones por las que China puede vacunar a sus ciudadanos a un ritmo cómodo y poder asignar suficientes vacunas para enviar al resto del mundo, y la estrategia está funcionando.

En cuanto a la solidaridad con las vacunas, China se ha convertido en el país exportador de vacunas más grande del mundo, especialmente de vacunas destinadas a los países en desarrollo del Sur Global. Debe señalarse que, si bien los Estados Unidos y los países europeos

han obtenido gran parte de los miles de millones de dosis de sus vacunas que se han pedido, en realidad “ordenado” es muy diferente de los pedidos que se han enviado. La mayoría de los pedidos chinos son pedidos en firme o pedidos que se entregarán pronto.

¿Quién lidera la carrera mundial de las vacunas?

A mediados de febrero, diez vacunas COVID-19 habían sido aprobadas para autorización de uso de emergencia (AUE) en todo el mundo, y China lidera el camino, con cuatro de ellas (Sinopharm / Beijing, Sinopharm / Wuhan, CanSino y Sinovac). Estados Unidos tiene uno (Moderna), Estados Unidos-Alemania tiene uno (Pfizer / BioNTech), Reino Unido-Suecia tiene uno (Oxford / AstraZeneca), Rusia tiene dos (Sputnik V, EpiVacCorona) e India tiene uno (Covaxin).

Según Our World in Data, para el 21 de febrero, aproximadamente 98 países/regiones estaban solicitando las vacunas. La inmensa mayoría (aproximadamente 85 países/regiones) ordenó vacunas de fabricación occidental (Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson). Aproximadamente 16 países pedían vacunas chinas (Sinopharm/Beijing, Sinopharm/Wuhan, Sinovac) mientras que nueve países solicitaban una vacuna rusa (Sputnik V).

Sin embargo, “ordenado” no significa que hayan recibido las vacunas, o incluso que las recibirán pronto. En la reunión de las Naciones Unidas del 19 de febrero sobre las vacunas COVID-19, el secretario general de la ONU, António Guterres, criticó duramente la distribución “tremendamente desigual e injusta” de las vacunas COVID, en la que solo diez países del mundo, en particular los EE.UU., Canadá y ocho países occidentales europeos han tomado el 75 por ciento de todas las dosis de vacunas, mientras que otros 130 países no han recibido ni una sola dosis.

Imperialismo y apartheid las vacunas

Las naciones ricas acaparan la mayoría de las vacunas y se las niegan a las naciones pobres. Es Estados Unidos/Reino Unido contra Europa, gente rica contra gente pobre, blancos contra gente de color — una pirámide de vacunas racistas donde los blancos occidentales ricos están en la cima de la cadena alimenticia y los pobres no blancos, los países en desarrollo están siempre en el fondo.

Hasta ahora, se han entregado muy pocas vacunas de fabricación occidental al Sur Global.

Los términos “imperialismo de las vacunas” y “racismo en la distribución” se basan en que los países ricos compran la mayoría de las vacunas fabricadas en Occidente, muchas más de las que necesitan, dejando muy pocas para los países en desarrollo.

Para una distribución global justa de vacunas, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), junto con la Alianza Global de Vacunas (GAVI) y la Coalición para Innovaciones de Preparación para Epidemias (CEPI), crearon COVAX. Espera entregar más de dos mil millones de dosis de vacunas a personas en 190



Racismo de las vacunas: cómo las naciones ricas almacenan vacunas que salvan vidas, mientras que los países pobres y la gente pobre dentro de estos países son ignorados. Cómo los países occidentales critican a China, a pesar del éxito de China en contener el virus y proporcionar vacunas al mundo.

países en menos de un año. En particular, quiere garantizar que 92 países más pobres reciban acceso a las vacunas al mismo tiempo que 98 países más ricos.

COVAX ha recaudado \$6 mil millones, con una necesidad adicional de \$2 mil millones para 2021. Entonces, ¿quién está financiando COVAX y qué países podrían beneficiarse más del acuerdo? Desde el nacimiento de COVAX, ha estado trabajando en estrecha colaboración con los países occidentales y sus compañías farmacéuticas, ayudándoles a dominar rápidamente el mercado mundial de vacunas. El Reino Unido (\$734 millones) y los Estados Unidos (\$4 mil millones) son algunos de los mayores donantes de COVAX; Estos países obtuvieron la aprobación de sus vacunas desde el principio, como la vacuna COVID Oxford/AstraZeneca del Reino Unido, que los ayudó a convertirse en los mayores proveedores de vacunas del mundo.

Pero los pedidos grandes no significan que puedan cumplir con los pedidos rápidamente. Al igual que un vendedor de autos usados, solo presionan con fuerza para obtener más pedidos, eliminando a la competencia (en este caso, vacunas chinas y rusas) para controlar el mercado, pero no les preocupa cómo entregar sus productos o la calidad de estos. Con mil millones de dosis ordenadas, el primer lote de vacunas occidentales solo está garantizado para el mundo occidental. El resto del mundo, ¡lo siento! Tendrán que esperar meses, incluso un año, antes de recibir sus productos.

Además de las guerras de vacunas en curso entre el Reino Unido y la UE por los suministros de Oxford/AstraZeneca, casi no se han enviado vacunas a otros países.

Según una investigación del Centro de Innovación en Salud Global de la Universidad de Duke, hasta el 19 de enero, los países de altos ingresos habían pedido cerca de 4.200 millones de dosis, mientras que los países de ingresos bajos y medianos bajos, habían pedido menos

de 700 millones. Se puede argumentar que un país debería pre ordenar suministros para al menos uno o dos años, pero muchas naciones ricas han preordenado muchas más vacunas de las que necesitarán. Por ejemplo:

- La Unión Europea con una población de 450 millones ha ordenado 1.85 mil millones de dosis, suficiente para que todos se vacunen cuatro veces.
- Estados Unidos, con una población de 331 millones, ha ordenado 1,21 mil millones de dosis, también suficientes para que todos se vacunen cuatro veces.
- Australia, con una población de 25,5 millones, ha ordenado 115 millones de dosis, suficientes para que todos se vacunen 4,5 veces.
- Un ejemplo extremo es Canadá, con una población de 37,7 millones de personas. Canadá ha ordenado 362 millones de dosis, un número enorme que permite que todos se vacunen nueve veces.

En comparación, los “desposeídos” de las vacunas del Sur Global se encuentran en una situación desesperada:

- El Salvador, con 6,5 millones de habitantes, ha ordenado 2 millones de dosis, solo lo suficiente para vacunar a una de cada tres personas.
- La Unión Africana, con 1.320 mil millones de personas, ha pedido 270 millones de dosis; lo suficiente para vacunar a una de cada cinco personas, o al 20 por ciento de la población.
- Irak, con una población de 40 millones, ha ordenado 1,5 millones de dosis, lamentablemente solo lo suficiente para que el 4 por ciento de la población iraquí reciba un pinchazo.

¿Por qué los países occidentales compran en exceso las vacunas? Algunos activistas sugieren que están ejecutando un esquema de monopolio del mercado de vacunas, donde controlan el mercado, por lo que controlan el precio. Al igual que con el mercado de comercio de futuros, pueden vender sus vacunas “excedentes” a los países pobres a cambio de un rescate político o un precio más alto.

Además del nacionalismo de las vacunas, también existe el bloqueo de las vacunas, donde las economías occidentales impiden que los países sin dólares estadounidenses o sin poder de transferencia bancaria compren vacunas. Esta se ha convertido en la nueva arma imperialista contra otros países.

Las sanciones ilegales de Estados Unidos contra Irán han impedido que los iraníes compren PPE, equipos médicos y ahora vacunas que salvan vidas, porque no tienen acceso a dólares estadounidenses (la moneda común para el comercio internacional) o al servicio de transferencia bancaria internacional. Básicamente, la transferencia bancaria internacional necesita un código SWIFT, que está controlado por EE.UU.

Israel ha publicitado mucho que vacunó completamente a sus ciudadanos en muy poco tiempo, pero en Palestina, al

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