Cooked meal, when it began to rain.

My Bronx home and eating a home-

watching TV with my loved ones in

ments or in submerged areas.

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tunnels. With flood waters rising,

and highways and flooding subway

stranding numerous cars on roads

serious infrastructural damages,
floods from torrential rains led to

besieged by Hurricane Ida. Flash
storm 10

Hurricane Ida survivor:

Storm fuels anti-capitalist anger

By Quell

On Sept. 1, New York City was
besieged by Hurricane Ida. Flash
floods from torrential rains led to
serious infrastructural damages,
stranding numerous cars on roads
and highways and flooding subway
tunnels. With flood waters rising,
many people were trapped in base-
ments or in submerged areas.

Around 3 p.m. that night, I was
watching TV with my loved ones in
my Bronx home and eating a home-
cooked meal, when it began to rain.

At first, I was honestly grateful that
I wouldn’t have to water the gar-
den. Then the winds picked up and
made the big neighborhood oak tree
away. My partners and I held hands
and worried how much it would
cost to fix. A dripping noise from
upstairs let us know this wasn’t
isolated; before long, the leaks
were in every room, our walls
looking like bubble wrap from the
water pooling around our ankles,
water gathering behind the paint.

Were in every room, our walls
isolated; before long, the leaks
upstairs let us know this wasn’t

My partners and I held hands
and watched from our living room.
Then, our ceiling started leaking.

We couldn’t stay there any
longer—even if we mopped up
all the water and fixed the leaks
magically, the water damage to
Continued on page 6

Texas activists demand

‘Ban the abortion bans!’

By Kathy Durkin

On the morning of Sept. 1, Texas residents woke up
to the news that legal abortion had been declared ille-
gal past six weeks of pregnancy by the state’s legisla-
ture. On top of this shock, another stunning blow was
delivered: There would be no exceptions for victims
of rape or incest!

The full meaning of Senate Bill 8 and how it would
impact anyone who can become pregnant shocked
people across the state. The legislature had, in effect,
declared dead in Texas the 1973 Supreme Court ruling
known as the Roe decision, which legalized abortion
in the U.S.

When the full impact of SB8 was known around the
state, desperate cries for help reached clinics,
both in person and on the phone. Pro-choice
hotlines were clogged with calls by people asking what
they should do.

Along with shock and sadness came activist orga-
nizing and offers of assistance from across the coun-
try. Demonstrations were held at the Capitol in Austin,
Texas, and in Washington, D.C., outside the Supreme
Court. Protesters’ T-shirts were emblazoned with “Bans
off our bodies.” Donations from around the country
have poured into the coffers of pro-choice organizations
and funding groups that assist people with expenses for
abortions, travel and housing. Local and national pro-
tests are in the works.

When the misnamed “Right to Life” organization set
up an anonymous tip hotline for anti-abortion forces
to report anyone who allegedly violated the law, it was
immediately sabotaged by pro-choice tech experts, and
thousands of sympathizers called in fake reports.

$10,000 prize for bounty hunters

Another aspect of this outrageous law incentivizes
anti-abortion groups and individuals to sue anyone who
“aids or abets” a pregnant person, even a 13-year-old
rape victim, in obtaining an abortion after the imposed
fime limit.

Such reactionary “bounty hunters” could win $10,000
for each successful lawsuit against clinic operators,
doctors, nurses, midwives, receptionists, counsel-
ors, pro-choice donor organizations or individu-
als—even Uber and Lyft drivers who transported a
pregnant person to a clinic. Executives at these com-
panies have pledged to pay any penalties incurred by
their drivers.

This bonanza would not only encourage neighbors
to spy on neighbors, but it encourages anti-abortion
activists to file endless lawsuits in their quest to
bankrupt reproductive health centers, their opera-
tors and staff. These vigilantes aim to close all clini-
cs, punish pro-choice organizations, clinic operators
and medical professionals, and end legal abortions
altogether.

By deliberately constructing the law in this way,
state politicians and officials have exempted them-
selves from responsibility for violating people’s
constitutional rights and can’t be sued. With SB8, Texas
politicians are “deputizing” individuals to enforce the
law. They are encouraging vigilante action by anyone
angry about progressive “social” or “cultural” issues.

Planned Parenthood immediately went to court to
get a temporary injunction to protect its staff members
from legal liability and punitive monetary fines that could
result from this SB8 vigilantism.

Roe v. Wade

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court issued the landmark
ruling in Roe v. Wade which legalized abortion, defining
Continued on page 8

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Then, our ceiling started leaking.

We put a bucket underneath
Continued on page 6

50 Years of Resistance:
Black August & Attica

Excerpts from Sept. 2 webinar

Happy birthday,
Juan Balderas!

‘No contract, no snacks!’

NYC rally: Housing rights, Amazon workers

Profits and climate catastrophes

Unemployed pushed into the abyss

Book review ‘World without police’

HIV/AIDS: ‘Fighting for our lives’

Commentary Schools and COVID

Editorial Hands off Roe v. Wade!

Cuba takes on Hurricane Ida

Kabul is not Saigon
We do invoke the resistance of unorganized workers too, including the hundreds of work stoppages demanding COVID protection and sick pay, walkouts at McDonald's and Google opposing sexual harassment, and work and hunger strikes by incarcerated workers. Many articles have supported the Fight for $15/hour (at least) and a union. This year's front pages have focused on the Amazon union drive, led by Black workers, in Bessemer, Alabama, the importance of passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and more pro-labor stories. WW issues include at least one page devoted to workers' struggles. Our biweekly On the Picket Line column contains timely news of organized and unorganized workers in motion.

Your donations matter! Workers World depends on your help. The WW Supporter Program was founded 44 years ago to help build this revolutionary socialist paper. Since the early 1980s, the fund has supported the workers.org website, where WW articles are put up daily and the PDF file of the weekly issue is posted. The newspaper is now being printed and mailed out once a month.

For donations of $60 a year or $120 or $300 or more if you can, members receive a year’s subscription, letters about timely issues and two, or three or free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notice us.) Or read it for free at workers.org/books.

Write checks, either monthly or once a year, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org.
Nabisco strike turns up the heat

By Lyn Neeley

Portland striking Nabisco workers are sustaining a bold picket line, taking shifts 24/7 in front of the dormant plant since Aug. 10. For nearly a month, local support has escalated for the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union. And every Nabisco facility in the U.S. has seen gone out on strike: Chicago; Richmond, Va.; Aurora, Colo.; Addison, Ill.; and Norcross, Ga.

The workers’ message to Nabisco’s owner, Mondelez International, is clear: We deserve a decent contract; stop exporting our jobs to Mexico, and scabs go home. Solidarity from other cities is helping to sustain the strike and stop Mondelez from stealing their pensions, increasing their health care deductible to $8,000 and forcing workers to pull extra hours without overtime pay. Strikers say these cutbacks would cost workers thousands of dollars.

Scabs offered higher pay

Mondelez hired Huffmaster, a strike-breaking company, to bring in scabs and intimidate strikers. On their website, Huffmaster advertised the need for workers at major national food producing facilities. They listed all the jobs that belong to the striking workers, offering many a higher pay rate than the workers got.

Community groups, members of dozens of unions, students, climate justice and anti-racist protesters are leading the fight to stop scabs from stealing jobs. Huffmaster shuttles scabs to the Nabisco plant in buses and vans with tinted windows from hotels near the airport. Protesters have parked their cars at the Marriott to blast their horns and car alarms at scabs as they leave the hotel for the Huffmaster vans.

On the picket line with Nabisco workers in Portland...

By Ezeza El and Steve Gillis

Solidarity with water protectors

By Asa El and Steve Gillis

Boston

Aug. 25 — Indigenous activists, climate activists and Workers World Party members gathered today in Boston’s early evening glow to challenge Gina McCarthy, a petroleum profiteer ally living in the Jamaica Plains area. McCarthy is currently White House National Climate Advisor under President Joe Biden, serving as his “environmental health and air quality expert.”

Climate Advisor under President Joe Biden, serving as his “environmental health and air quality expert.”

Boston's early evening glow to challenge Gina McCarthy, and Workers World Party members gathered today in the Jamaica Plains area. McCarthy is currently White House National Climate Advisor under President Joe Biden, serving as his “environmental health and air quality expert.”

The large crowd, including some of McCarthy’s neighbors, marched in solidarity with Indigenous peoples to her luxury condos on Jamaica Pond to demand she end her deadly silence about ENbridge corporation’s destruction of the environment. ENbridge’s Line 3 pipeline carries tar sands oil from Alberta to Wisconsin, traversing stolen land and passing through Indigenous-held territory in violation of treaty rights.

A rally against the tar sands pipeline Enbridge 3 took place in Jamaica Plains, Boston, Aug. 25.

During McCarthy’s climate presidential campaign, she refused to deliver at the Nabisco plant. (tinyurl.com/eqnrrj)

A striker told Workers World that for three weeks, when the shipment of flour and sugar to the Nabisco plant was stopped: “We hit them where it hurts. The flour became stale. We want to tell people they can help us by not buying stale Nabisco cookies and crackers.

Aラー rally by the GoFundMe page at tinyurl.com/abfurnew.

Workers rally for union and housing rights

By New York City Workers World Bureau

Worker leader and whistleblower Chris Smalls and a dozen Amazon workers led a Labor Day weekend workers rally Sept. 4, demanding union recognition at Amazon’s Staten Island JFRS facility and passage of the federal union rights PRO Act. They gathered in Union Square across from Amazon-owned Whole Foods in Manhattan.

They also called attention to the housing crisis—dramatised by a rising mass struggle against evictions and the city’s basement apartment deaths caused by last week’s rapid flooding from Hurricane Ida. With the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the eviction moratorium mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—and with the New York state moratorium ending Aug. 31—the Sept. 4 rally included the all-important demand for a permanent eviction moratorium.

Since Labor Day is dedicated to workers rights, the rally called for an extension of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment benefits. The payments are set to expire Sept. 4, the Saturday before the federal holiday recognizing ‘Labor Day.’

Boston

Workercarries tar sands oil from Alberta to Wisconsin, traversing stolen land and passing through Indigenous-held territory in violation of treaty rights. After hearing from several speakers, shouting “Gina, do your job! Stop Line 3!” and carrying a mock-up of a pipeline, the protesters delivered their collective grievance to McCarthy’s door. A climate justice activist recently arrested in Minnesota at Enbridge protests led the crowd in chanting, “We stand with Indigenous nations! F— the Enbridge corporation!”

McCarthy, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, has not spoken one word about the police terror and mass arrests being conducted daily against peaceful water protectors at Line 3. In fact, wealthy neighbors of McCarthy called the cops when representatives of the North American Indian Council of Boston delivered letters and a petition to her door. #StopLine3 #LandBack

A rally against the tar sands pipeline Enbridge 3 took place in Jamaica Plains, Boston, Aug. 25.
Attica – A turning point in American corrections

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The following lightly edited commentary by Mumia Abu-Jamal aired as part of the “50 Years of Resistance: Black August & Attica” live broadcast, hosted by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party Sept. 2.

In my mind, Attica was a turning point in American—and I use the term loosely—history. I say it this way: what road will be taken? And the state, through Rockefeller, the governor of New York, chose the road of mass repression.

The media largely supported his efforts. They maligned and lied against these men using really classic racism and fear. They charged that these men killed the men that the state killed. I think it was 39 people including 10 prison employees.

It took generations to have courts say, in a civil action, that it was not so. But it wasn’t true that day, that night, that month, that week. Attica became a hallmark of American corrections and really the American way of repression, instead of a tribune hour of liberation. What those men asked for was no retaliation, no charges and then specific changes to the prison. And they knew that the state, through prison officials, would kill them.

They said, send us to another country. We would rather go to another country than endure this kind of repression. They had press conferences; they wrote letters; they tried to do everything that we know to be the best thing to do in order to bring some light to the darkness.

They called it the Marivel boatlift. Many of those people ended up in the U.S. prison system and some remain today. They are mostly in Terre Haute, Ind. Because even though they’ve served their sentences, America was like, you can stay in America. But you ain’t going out. That’s the reality.

My point is that why was what an American president did applicable, but what African American and Puerto Rican prisoners said absurd? It’s the same thing. Now they might not have found a great life in the countries they wanted to go to. But you know, hopefully they would have found freedom, something they did not have in the United States. They may have lived to an old age, instead of being slaughtered by state troopers. And they wouldn’t have found the kind of class and race denial that meant their executions in Attica.

Those are the things I think about when I think about Attica. It really was a turning point. There was a live option that could have gone another way, but for the political forces in New York state and in the United States. This just didn’t come from the governor, so much as through the governor. Rockefeller had political ambitions as a Republican official. And the United States didn’t want the embarrassment of people demanding to be freed from the United States prisons. So they kind of killed two birds with one stone.

The legacy of Black August & Attica lives on

By Monica Moorehead

The following edited remarks were made on a Sept. 2 live broadcast, “50 Years of Resistance: Black August & Attica,” sponsored by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party. Moorehead is a WW managing editor and a member of the PSC.

For many revolutionaries and activists of my generation, Black August especially in the early 1970s and the Attica prison rebellion played a significant role in our political development and activism. I had just graduated from high school in Hampton, Virginia, when Jonathan Jackson attempted to free his brother, George Jackson, an imprisoned leader of the Black Panther Party, Ruchell Magee, another political prisoner who has been incarcerated for over 58 years, and others when he took a judge and others hostage in a Marin County courtroom in San Rafael, California, on Aug. 7, 1970.

It was a prelude of what was to come at Attica in 1971. And even though Jonathan, at the tender age of 17, and others were brutally slaughtered by the police, this daring escape attempt had a profound impact on the movement over 30 years ago and even now.

Our Party declared Jonathan and his companions as heroes, and the others in the movement were critical of their actions. This daring raid reflected the desire for oppressed peoples here and worldwide—Black, Arab, Latinx—to free themselves from centuries-old racism, colonialism and imperialism by any means necessary, including armed resistance.

This daring raid also exposed that the only response from the state to any kind of rebellion, big or small, by the most oppressed, is legalized terror on behalf of the oppressor with no compromise. And that the bestiality of this state-sanctioned violence is a sign of fear and trepidation that those in power always have for the masses whenever their class rule is challenged.

George Jackson was assassinated at San Quentin Prison on Aug. 21, 1971. George’s book, “Soledad Brother,” had resonated throughout the movement inside and outside the prison. His second book, “Blood In My Eye,” was released days after his murder. Thousands attended his funeral.

Huey P. Newton, a founder of the Black Panther Party, gave the eulogy at George’s funeral. Part of that eulogy states: “George was a legendary figure all through the prison system, where he spent most of his life. You know a legendary figure is known to most people through the idea or through the concept or essentially through the spirit. So I met George through the spirit.

He set a standard for prisoners, political prisoners, for people. He showed the love, the strength, the revolutionary fervor that’s characteristic of any soldier for the people.

Attica – ‘The sound before the fury’

Huey’s words reflected how much George was loved and respected by incarcerated revolutionaries everywhere including Attica. In less than a month after George’s death, Attica prisoners went on a hunger strike, wearing black armbands in honor of their fallen hero in protest of horrific conditions and treatment.

On Sept. 9, 1971, they had taken guards hostage before taking over the prison. And the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War and Fascism was so honored to have the late Tom Soto be a part of that. It was a turning point. Their legacies today are about resistance and fight back against capitalism that apply to so many fronts, be they Black Lives Matter, the climate crisis, evictions and more. Their legacies are about freeing all political prisoners and shutting down all aspects of mass incarceration.

When Attica martyr, L.D. Barkley stated that Attica is the sound before the fury of all the oppressed, he was referring to the multinational voices of workers using rebellion to be visible and heard then, but also now with the global work stoppage that will one day take its rightful place as being the gravestones of capitalism.
From chattel slavery to modern prisons

By Mirinda Crissman

The following remarks were given during the “50 Years of Resistance: Black August” event in Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by the Prisoners’ Rights Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party Sept. 2. Crissman is a co-editor of Tear Down the Walls.

I am always very sad when imprisoned people compare their situations to that of Yancy Balderas. That is an accurate portrayal of how prisons, jails and detention centers have historically functioned and continue to function in our country.

I live and organize in Texas and am a perpetual student of where has caging has been institutionalized in this part of the world. Prisons, jails and detention centers in what is now called Texas, Spanish colonizers implemented encomiendas. An encomienda was a grant by the Spanish crown to colonists in the Americas conferring the right to demand tribute and forced labor from the Indigenous inhabitants.

Around the beginning of the reign of Spanish colonizers in the Western hemisphere, African peoples were violently ripped from their continent and subse- quently branded as property, in order for a few people to accumulate vast fortunes from the superexploitation of those violent acts. The beyond-human system of chattel enslavement reigned unchecked in this part of the world for well over a century up until over two years after the end of the Civil War.

While enslavement was declared “over,” via Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, it took until June 19, 1865, for its message and Union troops to reach the hundreds of thousands of enslaved people in Texas; and even then, not all enslaved people were freed instantly. In fact the material conditions of Black people remained largely the same in many ways via sharecropping and the system of convict leasing.

Texas history as safe haven for enslavers

Leading up to the Union General Geronimo Granger’s proclamation of emancipation to the people of Galveston, Texas, it was known that this particular state was a safe haven for enslavers. Galveston, with the Southern port, has the oldest known police force in the state. The police protect the property and wealth of the richest people. Like many early police forces on this continent, they served as patrols for enslaved people.

Henry Louis Gates explained: “Since the capture of New Orleans in 1862, slave owners in Mississippi, Louisiana and other points east had been migrating to Texas to escape the Union Army’s reach. In a hurried reemactment of the original Middle Passage, more than a million enslaved people were moved west to Texas.” (What is Juneteenth?, PBS.org). After news of emancipation reached Texas, the richly relied on the labor of those who were once legally consid- ered their property. They did what they could to maintain that dominance and superexploitation.

This evolved into sharecropping, where the formerly enslaved still worked in the same systems of “sharecropping” and “indentured servitude.” The ruling class developed the system of convict leasing, which was designed to keep freed Black people “less than equal.” This was sanctioned through a clause still found in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Under this system, the Texas Department of Corrections was formed and immediately hired out incarcerated workers to plantation owners as labor- ers. This was done legally and by arrest and by law enforcement for little or no reason. Convict leasing could be even worse in some ways than slavery, because those who worked in convict leasing had no economic stake in their well-being or even in keeping them alive. Yancy Balderas, a Texas death row prisoner, said in “Texas Tough: The Rise of America’s Prison Empire,” more than 3,900 leased incarcerated workers died in Texas between 1866 and 1962 – more people than the number lynched in that period.

More people under carceral control today than during chattel enslavement

The material buildup of prisons in New York State is not identical to the origin of the prison system in Texas, but the process remains similar and certainly influenced the uprising at Attica. Also similar to con- ditions at Attica in 1971 is the state of pris- ons, jails and detention centers today.

Today, more people are under carceral control than were under chattel enslavement. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the state of Texas holds almost 2.3 million people in 1,833 state prisons; 110 federal prisons; 1,796 city and county jails; and 128 immigration detention facilities. This vast interlocking system of oppression also contains military prisons, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals and prisons in the U.S. territories.

Almost 2.3 million people are confined on a daily basis in these various facilities, but incarceration is just one piece of the much larger system of the criminal injustice system. The so-called U.S. justice system controls almost 7 million people, more than half of whom are on probation.

Mass incarceration affects more than those who are locked up themselves. Over 19 million people have been convicted of a felony in their lifetimes and face discrimination – totally legal in the U.S. – that rou- tinely denies them the ability to vote, find housing, education, employment, among other things crucial to basic human sur- vival. In the U.S., 77 million people have some sort of criminal record following them around. And around 113 million U.S. adults have an immediate family member who has been incarcerated.

Concentration camps for the poor

To understand why there are so many prisons, jails and detention centers, why so many people are affected by them and what purpose they serve, we need not look any further than the people most affected by this system was built.

By and large, capitalist cages are filled with people oppressed on the basis of race, gender, ability and orientation – indeed all oppressed oppressions. Black and Brown people are disproportionately locked up. LGBT+ people and disabled people are also disproportionately locked up compared to their make-up of the total population. And many people find themselves under multiple uses of interlocking oppressions all at once. Prisons, jails and detention centers are concentration camps for the poor and oppressed.

Law enforcement rounds up mem- bers of our class with strained histori- cal relationships to property and locks them in prisons, jails and detention cen- ters. Women and gender-nonconforming people’s oppression is rooted in the rise of private property. The enforcement of imaginary borders drawn by imperi- ists often criminalizes migrants, despite the fact that living beings have migrated across the continents for thousands of years. Under new Texas law, people with accumulated wealth who own property are depurized to oppress those without.

Confinement, imprisonment, incarcer- ation, enslavement, whatever we call it, serve to keep the oppressed from rising up against their oppressors – those who have any accumulated wealth and property off the backs of working and oppressed people. To abolish our current conditions living in the afterlife of enslavement, we must abolish capitalism and the rule of one class over another.

When we examine the historical origins of the prison-industrial complex, who end up in these institutions and the dire condifi- tions people inside face during a global pandemic – we clearly see the only ben- efit of these institutions is the ruling class to maintain their exploitation. And if Attica has taught us anything, it is that oppressed peoples do not have to remain quiet as they are targeted for exe- cution by state violence and neglect. Attica also teaches us that the solidarity from people on the outside is critical to ensur- ing members of our class -- the working class -- are not slaughtered in silence and forgotten. Attica means fight back!

Happy Birthday, Juan Balderas!

By Gloria Rubac

A few days in advance of his 35th birth- day, family, friends and supporters of Texas death row prisoner Juan Balderas gathered by the dozens to celebrate, sing Happy Birthday, speak to the media and eat some delicious cake his mother brought from El Salvador.

Balderas has been on death row for 8 years, fighting to prove his innocence. Fortunately, the family and family have not only stood by him but vis- ibly and legally fought for him. They have marched, rallied, held press conferences and been a voice in America by bringing his case to the public’s attention.

There have been television specials on his case and extensive news coverage in English- and Spanish-language media. Balderas was born in Mexico and has dual citizenship. His spouse, Yancy Balderas, is from El Salvador. Since both are bilin- gual, media coverage is easily accom- plished in both languages.

On the day of his birthday party out- side of the Harris County Criminal Courthous, Estrella TV covered Balderas’ case and the party. A crew of reporters from Telemundo 20 from San Antonio did an in-depth “60 Minutes” type pro- gram in Spanish to be shown throughout Texas.

Being locked up in a prison, a jail or a detention center can be a harrowing, cruel and brutal experience. What can help ease the superExploitation and horrible kind of detention? Good lawyers and a supportive, open network of family and friends. And money.

The family is from El Salvador. Since both are bilin- gual, the accurate portrayal of how prisons, jails and detention centers can historically function and continue to function in our country.

In the United States, millions of people are incarcerated. Balderas was not the only person incarcerated on his birthday. That is an accurate portrayal of how prisons, jails and detention centers have historically functioned and continue to function in our country.

In the United States, millions of people are incarcerated. Balderas was not the only person incarcerated on his birthday. That is an accurate portrayal of how prisons, jails and detention centers have historically functioned and continue to function in our country.
Report from New Orleans

Government does nothing for the poor

By John Catalinotto

Sept. 1 — Gavielle Gemma, union and political organizer since the 1970s and now working with the New Orleans-based Workers Voice Socialist Movement, called Workers World to report on the situation there, post-Hurricane Ida. Gemma is now living in a modest single-family home in the Florida neighborhood of New Orleans, part of the Upper Ninth Ward.

"It’s bad," she said. "On poor folk stayed once the mayor and governor advised that people evacuate. That the means people had left, no place to pay for hotels or motels — assuming they could find a room. If they had made the evacuation mandatory, the government would be responsible for the welfare of the people who left. But they’re doing nothing.

The biggest immediate problem is that there is no electricity. Twenty-four hours a day. "There is no electricity for company that provides it — Entergy — says it may be a month before they restore full service. And it is hot, hot, hot, in the ’90s with high humidity. To stay alive in this weather, you need water and a way to get cool. The cooling centers — for people in danger of heat exhaustion — had no food or water."

"Look, we don’t expect miracles. They can’t stop a hurricane. But even if we’re not doing anything, they’re letting us starve in the streets. From Day One, someone should have been out," said Gemma, "telling people what to expect and what to do. Tankers with water and with food were there. But instead they were sent into the city to terrorize the residents who were trying to survive and after the hurricane."

"The Central Gulf Coast branch of Workers World Party issued the following statement Aug. 29."

As Hurricane Ida slams into Louisiana and assaults the entire Central Gulf Coast, we must remember that when disasters occur, capitalism does not respond with aid but instead accelerates misery. The people who have suffered even worse, especially Black and Brown working-class people, are once again left to fend for themselves. In socialist Cuba, there is an entire rapid response program for hurricanes, regardless of category, that ensures a minimal amount of damage for the 1 million people on the island. In the U.S., the government and billionaires have no issue sacrificing thousands of people to buy back our power as workers. It’s the money to buy one lousy F-35 bomber would be enough to get a home generator to every household in the city.

Continued from page 1

Ida: ‘Capitalism accelerates misery’

The Central Gulf Coast branch of Workers World Party issued the following statement Aug. 29.

As Hurricane Ida slams into Louisiana and assaults the entire Central Gulf Coast, we must remember that when disasters occur, capitalism does not respond with aid but instead accelerates misery. The people who have suffered even worse, especially Black and Brown working-class people, are once again left to fend for themselves. In socialist Cuba, there is an entire rapid response program for hurricanes, regardless of category, that ensures a minimal amount of damage for the 1 million people on the island. In the U.S., the government and billionaires have no issue sacrificing thousands of working and oppressed persons and would sooner do that than invest in our survival against climate change, another major, critical result of capitalism-imperialism’s plundering of the planet.

It’s critical that we educate the masses of the dangers of climate change and why climate change is occurring; we must organize and mobilize the masses, the workers and oppressed persons, against the destruction of our planet, which is treated as being disposable by billionaires all over the world. We must mobilize and organize to demand a rapid response program for the Gulf Coast, as hurricanes continue to happen and intensify year by year. We must educate the masses of workers and oppressed persons being impacted more and more.

Storm fuels anti-capitalist anger

Continued from page 1

the building structure would lead to hazardous levels of mold. In tears, wracked with anxiety, my partners and I gathered our most treasured possessions and enough food we’d need to keep on our person. We loaded into the car, panicked, and drove to a motel. Before I left, I saw the ceiling in my bedroom burst, drywall and water contaminating everything.

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Buckets could not keep up with leaking water.

The money to buy one lousy F-35 bomber would be enough to get a home generator to every household in the city.

Compound crises: COVID, cutbacks, Ida

"This will give your readers an idea of what the state government is like here," Gemma added. "The state government rejected the extra COVID-19 federal unemployment insurance of $300 a week for the last two months. This was like robbing $2,400 from people who need the money to pay for hotels. And if you’re poor, you know, no one gets paid sick days here.

"The state is even abandoning New Orleans with enough resources to evacuate or relatives to house them. The governor’s message to them is: ‘Don’t come back. We can’t take care of you. And if you do have insurance, many people will have no money to buy food."

And for every purchase you need cash, no food stamps, no SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

"Already people are being evicted from their homes. It will only get worse after Ida.

"Biden took responsibility for leaving Afghanistan — good that the U.S. got out. He could order federal efforts to deliver aid to New Orleans. In California, giant planes are used in firefighting. He could use cargo planes to deliver aid here."

"Biden is an idiot! He doesn’t see Louisiana post-Ida. The people in my neighborhood are angry as hell that nothing is being done to help. They’re ready to protest."

On top of the other problems in Louisiana is the surge in COVID-19 cases. Jamming people into a shelter to solve one problem will cause another. It’s criminal how the state authorities have handled the pandemic here.

"We’ll turn these words into action. The Workers Voice Socialist Movement will mobilize to fight for demands to help the working people of New Orleans. I’ll be part of that."

Nutrition Assistance Program.

And for every purchase you need cash, no food stamps, no SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)."

The brunt of the ongoing climate crisis brings, we’ve got to organize. We’ve got to take back our power as workers. It’s not only do we have no power and no food, but there is no gasoline available. There are already long lines of people waiting for gas and for ice. The only people getting by are those few with generators.

"Actually, the building structure would lead to hazardous levels of mold. In tears, wracked with anxiety, my partners and I gathered our most treasured possessions and enough food we’d need to keep on our person. We loaded into the car, panicked, and drove to a motel. Before I left, I saw the ceiling in my bedroom burst, drywall and water contaminating everything.

Since then, I’ve bounced from hotel to hotel, waiting for generators, but for me personally, as painful and traumatic, I find myself filled with another emotion — anger. I’m angry at the corporations and bourgeois scum who have ravaged our planet for profit. I’m angry at the systems that push marginalized people, especially Black people, into living in locations prone to flooding and natural disasters. I am angry that profit is valued over human life, that individuals are left to fend for themselves, forced to pay untold dollars that they may not even have. I am angry that the government, regardless of party affiliation or the person in the White House, doesn’t truly care about working people. In short, I’m angry at capitalism.

The brunt of the ongoing climate disaster will be borne by working and oppressed people. The capitalists sit in their yachts and towers, retreating to their compounds and bunkers when the crisis begins to affect them as well.

If we want to avoid death by burning heat, by floods, by tornadoes, crop failures and all the other horrors that the climate crisis brings, we’ve got to organize. We’ve got to take back our power as workers. It’s workers who grow the food, run the factories, build every building and dig every ditch. It’s workers who make the world run, and it’s high time that workers ran the world!

I want to live in a world where I don’t have nightmares about whether I’ll become homeless, because I know I’ll be guaranteed housing even in the face of disaster. I want to live in a world where my labor doesn’t make some CEO rich, but instead enriches the whole of humanity. I want to live in a socialist world, a workers’ world, and I will fight for that world until my dying breath. Whatever happens to me, whatever tragedy befalls me, I will never shirk my responsibility to fight for the liberation of all the relations of life on this planet."

Chairman Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party said, “Peace to you — if you’re fighting to fight for it.”

Now more than ever, it’s time to fight. If you feel sorrow when you read my story, organize. If you feel despair about the future of the world around you, organize. If you want to live without fear, organize and fight. You have nothing to lose but your chains.

The writer is a member of Workers World Party.
Cuba

The response to damages caused by Hurricane Ida is evident that there is collaboration and dedication. Today, the Cuban President of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, First Secretary and President of the Republic, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, concludes a working tour in several places in the province of Pinar del Río, where he arrived early in the day, to later continue on to the Isle of Youth special municipality.

By Yaima Puig Menaes

The coronavirus continues to be a challenge, even on the Isle of Youth, where the epidemic has been under control. The President asked residents to "continue to take care of yourselves, because although we talk of the country in confronting COVID-19 and have maintained rigorous control, you cannot lower your guard."

We must mount a hurricane ourselves, of effort and determination,” the President said.

Regarding the rainfall, local authorities commented that the precipitation was mostly beneficial, especially in the municipalities of San Juan y Martínez and Isabel Rubio. In the midst of the additional complex situation derived from the extreme weather caused by Hurricane Ida, the President insisted that no neglect of the battle against COVID-19 in the territory can be allowed, since high levels of transmission of the disease had been noted during the last few days.

Ariel Godoy del Llano, provincial director of Public Health, commented on the reestablishment of these services. He pointed out that a decrease in the number of patients being treated in health institutions had been observed recently, although more than 4,000 remained isolated at home on the 29th, which is a great challenge. He also referred to the vaccination program underway for those over 19 and have maintained rigorous control, the work of community activists in People’s Councils will ensure that all damage is guarded and included in estimates.

Much remains to be done

Shortly before concluding the day on the Isle of Youth, the President commented on the characteristics that distinguished Hurricane Ida. First, he said, that is a storm which moved across the country in a very short period of time, meaning that the evolution to different phases of the response was rapid, demanding additional effort from leaders and the populace. On the other hand, particularly in Pinar del Río, action was taken in accordance with the determination. This is what we are calling for,” he said.

By G. Dinkel

The Department of Labor estimates 9.2 million workers are enrolled in programs providing unemployment aid to workers affected by the pandemic. They include those covered by traditional unemployment insurance — gig workers and the self-employed for instance — and workers who have exhausted their regular benefits. Federal Unemployment Pandemic Compensation added $300 a week to existing claims.

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U.S. workers being pushed into an abyss

For many U.S. workers – especially low-wage workers – it has suddenly become much more difficult to put food on the table and to keep a roof over these tables.

The number of new hires for August was a sharp reduction from July’s figure of 1.05 million. With the spread of the COVID Delta variant, “3.6 million people reportedly repaired or were unable to work because of the pandemic,” according to the Department of Labor. The unemployment rate for Black workers (9.8%) remained nearly double the rate for white workers). While more Black workers found work in August, about twice as many looked for work and didn’t find it.

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Envisioning a world without policing

By Christian Noakes

George (Geo) Ciccariello-Maher’s “A World Without Police: How Strong Communities Make Police Obsolete” is one of the most compelling arguments for police abolition and a complete depoliticization of the nationwide George Floyd uprisings (and events around this historic time of rebellion) to date. Using extensive historical and contemporary evidence, Maher shows that violence meted out by police on people of color and the working class is inherent in the institution and therefore not something to be adequately addressed by law enforcement reform.

This ongoing struggle is not simply a matter of doing away with the police. It implies the creation of alternative structures, which truly protect and empower working-class communities of color. As Maher states, “Today, as a century ago, the positive, creative face of abolition, the building of the comprehensive frameworks of security, equality and freedom — is inseparable from the process of destroying those relics of the past that continue to stain our present. Abolition is a tight spiral, a double helix, of both processes.”

The abolitionist cause is a struggle not against the police but against the entire white-supremacist superstructure (e.g., political, legal and cultural institutions) of capitalism. It is not the cops alone that perpetuate the systemic violence upon which U.S. capitalism relies, but the political, legal and cultural institutions (including the police) that perpetuate the systemic violence upon which U.S. capitalism relies, but the political, legal and cultural institutions (including the police) that

The right wing has intensified its fight against this basic right through the courts and state legislatures to weaken the right to legal abortion. Since January 1, a record 600 bills have been introduced in 47 state legislatures to further restrict abortions. Ninety laws have been enacted this year.

The right wing is capitalizing on the Trump appointees to the Supreme Court. Now they have the majority on the high court, and five of their justices — three of them Trump appointees — just delivered a victory to reactionaries who seek to overturn the right to legal abortion.

SCOTUS ‘shadow docket’

Conservatives have schemed for years to pack state legislatures and courts and get a majority of anti-abortion justices on the Supreme Court. Now they have the majority on the high court, and five of their justices — three of them Trump appointees — just delivered a victory to reactionaries who seek to overturn the right to legal abortion.

SCOTUS justices issued a short ruling on Sept. 1, which by a vote of 5-4 allowed Texas SB 8 to stand. Of the dissenting opinions, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the most scathing attack on this company of traitors and politicians, but on the five justices who sided with Texas reactionaries and who seek to overturn Roe. In what is called a “shadow docket,” the Court’s decision was handed down without signatures, prior notification, written legal briefs or oral arguments. The ruling was done in secrecy, as part of a plan to quietly get abortion rights.

Since 85% to 90% of abortions occur after six weeks’ gestation, this law is a nearly complete ban on access to abortion. Medically safe, legal abortions will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall the hardest on people who already will fall
Schools are reopen- ing in September for tens of millions of stu- dents; more had already opened in August. Most students are entering the building for the first time in over a year after having little or no provisions for distance learning from home. The reopening is a welcome change for both parents and students who have been conflicted with parents’ nervousness about the COVID pandemic. The risk of infection remains high. The reopened schools are ordered to reopen with plans that are not adequate for the dangers posed to young children and children by the Delta variant. In September, the 7-day average of new U.S. cases per 100,000 population is now over 550 cases per 100,000, more than double the $150 per 100,000 rate that most schools used to reopen with plans.

In San Francisco, the number of new cases is expected to rise in the coming weeks, which could lead to a surge in hospitalizations and deaths. The city has already seen a rise in hospitalizations in recent weeks, with the number of COVID patients in city hospitals increasing significantly over the past month. The city has also seen a rise in the number of new cases, with daily counts reaching record levels. The city has also announced that it will be implementing a new COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all city employees, including teachers, starting in October.

By Devin Cole

A Marxist history of HIV/AIDS

Part 4


By Jim McManahan

HIV/AIDS activist Bobbi Campbell (right) and Marsha Johnson, on the-born Workers’ World Party candidate Leslie Feinberg embrace in the All Peoples Congress office, San Francisco, 1983.

Will reopening schools help students?

By Ellen Catalinotto

The hoped-for economic recovery has slowed due to the pandemic. Federal Pan- demic unemployment benefits for 9.2 mil- lion workers were terminated. The eviction moratorium affecting millions of workers ended in August. The Biden administra- tion has said done anything to stop the anti- worker attacks.

Joe Biden and Democratic governors can’t stop COVID, because they are tied closely to the capitalist system. The people are being abandoned just as they were under Trump. Students, along with their teachers, bus drivers and other school workers, should make it to be mandated to walk a tightrope to go back to school!

But Peoples’ China has shown the way to stop COVID and have economic pros- perity at the same time. Only 5,000 peo- ple in China, which is four times bigger than population than the U.S., have died of COVID. In the U.S., the deaths are around 650,000. In China a social great mobiliza- tion of the working class stopped COVID. That’s not authoritarianism, that’s mass participation with workers’ solidarity.

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The storm before the storm

There is no doubt that the climate catastrophe threatens the future of life on the planet. A massive mobilization of the working class will be needed to combat this threat. But rebellion is inevitable. Hurricane Ida is the storm of wind and rain before the coming storm of protest. The challenge is to carry future waves of resistance through to a definitive social revolution for the abolition of capitalist wage-slavery. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, writing in 1848, said that the working class, “...will one day find the power necessary to set up that power...”

That world’s very fate is in our hands.

WW demands ‘Hands off Roe v. Wade!’

Workers World condemns in the strongest terms the Supreme Court of the United States in its ruling Sept. 2 that refused to restrict a Texas ban on abortion procedures as early as six weeks into pregnancy.

The Texas statute also codifies the right for anyone, including a complete stranger, to sue a person seeking an abortion and collect $10,000. This is reminiscent of bounties used by slave patrols for the return of runaway enslaved Black people back to the plantation.

This is the same Texas with the highest rate of medically uninsured people in the country, plus the expansion of the Affordable Care Act, which would have increased federal monies for Medicaid programs for low-income people, including those living with disabilities as well as single mothers and children. A disproportionate number impacted are people of color including migrants. Most working poor aren’t even eligible for Medicaid.

This is the same Texas that has executed far more incarcerated people than any other state since reinstating the death penalty in 1976. And Texas was the last state to grant freedom to once-slaved people in 1865, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was passed.

So it should come as no surprise that, at this moment, Texas has taken the lead in instituting the most draconian anti-abortion law to date, with Mississippi being the poorest U.S. state, threatening to pass a similar law later on this fall.

Nancy Northup, president and chief executive of the Center for Reproductive Rights, one of the groups suing Texas, stated: “We are devastated that the Supreme Court has refused to block a law that blatantly violates Roe v. Wade. Right now, people seeking abortion across Texas are panicking. They have no idea where or when they will be able to get an abortion, if ever. Texas politicians have succeeded for the moment in making a mockery of the rule of law.” (Washington Post, Sept. 2)

A threat to Roe v. Wade

This Texas law championed by the majority of SCOTUS puts into serious jeopardy Roe v. Wade, the groundbreaking law that won the right to abortion for all women, including the poorest. The landmark legal decision was issued just over a year ago by a majority of the Supreme Courts, during the Richard M. Nixon administration. A mass movement took an independent, anti-capitalist position in fighting this ruling that declared women had the right to control their own reproductive system, not the church and not the state, including all levels of government.

Today, due to technological advances, the right to abortion is also extended to gender-nonconforming people. The Texas law does not even extend the right to abortion for survivors of rape and incest.

Now a majority of states are attempting to pass laws similar to Texas that could come to our shores.

Since the beginning of class society thousands of years ago, women were viewed as property by men, no different from a horse or cow. Women were used as incubators to produce sons as heirs. This recent law reinforces this second-class status for keeping women enslaved at home and disempowered, which has become increasingly more difficult economically with the raging pandemic.

On Oct. 2, nationally coordinated marches will take place in every state capital to defend the right to abortion, initiated by at least 90 feminist organizations. The Democratic Party will no doubt play a leading role in calling for these demonstrations, which nevertheless will be of a progressive character. However, those on the left, including our Party, must take an independent, anti-capitalist position to distinguish this bourgeois, racist and pro-war party, similar to the Republican Party.

We cannot rely on either of the bourgeois parties, SCOTUS or any arm of the repressive state to defend or save our class from right-wing slander and anti-abortion bigots. The best way to defeat these anti-woman and anti-oppressed gender forces, legal and extralegal, is to build a powerful multinational, multigendered and multiracial movement, similar to Black Lives Matter, with sustained protests with mass and militant tactics to both defend and strengthen Roe v. Wade. We must build a broad program of working-fightback to promote the right to raise healthy children in a society free from racism, sexism, heterosexism and transphobia; where health care includes prenatal and neonatal care, affordable housing, nutritional foods, a clean environment and the right to a union job and livable wage are rights for all working and oppressed peoples. Defend Roe v. Wade! Down with SCOTUS!

Ed Asner, actor, and activist

By Martha Grevatt

On Aug. 29, Ed Asner passed away. To television watchers he is best known for his Emmy-winning performances as Lou Grant on the award-winning Lou Grant series was canceled in 1982.

At the time he was fundraising for the Farahbod Marti Liberation Front, which was fighting the U.S.-backed fascist dictatorship in El Salvador and providing medical relief to the population. In 2000, Asner was among the voices calling for a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal at a historic program also featuring Ossie Davis, Leslie Feinberg, New York Mayor David Dinkins, Ramsey Clark, Elva Nora Africa, Lillian PIe and Larry Holmes. Madison Square Garden Theater was filled to capacity.

He opposed the U.S. war against Iraq in 2002. “We do not sign on to these acts, such as a unilateral invasion of Iraq, and to the Abramson of civil liberties in this country to pursue these war-like acts, the same acts which legislated the Holocaust, the same acts which set the stage for genocide, for poverty, violence, war, and legal and social injustice, both in the United States and around the globe.” (sagafrn.org).

Ed Asner, center, at a rally in support of striking air traffic controllers.

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Ed Asner, center, at a rally in support of striking air traffic controllers.
Argentine Marxist on Afghanistan
An imperialist defeat, but no analogy to Saigon 1975

This Aug. 25 interview with Claudio Katz, Argentine member of Left Economists and political analyst, was published in fabian.org and translated by Michael Otto.

Mario Hernández: The images of Saigon come to my mind, regarding the situation in Afghanistan. Only the images, because I do not have the same ideological identification with the Taliban. But undoubtedly this withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan reminds us of the defeat of imperialism in Vietnam. What do you think about it?

Claudio Katz: First the obvious: It is another defeat, a fiasco and a total humiliation of U.S. imperialism. The army they had trained with Special Forces deserted; their puppet government disintegrated, and there was an abrupt flight of everyone who worked for the Pentagon. The images you mention are pathetic, of helicopters, airports overwhelmed by a mass of people desperate to escape. A striking image.

I would say that we have to remember that the negotiations with the Taliban that [President] Joe Biden was carrying out, and that Donald Trump had attempted, collapsed, because these presidents had already concluded a long time ago that the U.S. had lost the war. They expected to accomplish a new version of a Potsdam Conference in Afghanistan, but everything was left up in the air. It was a crushing defeat.

The U.S. was unable to win a war during two decades in which it had deployed 200,000 troops and spent $35 billion per year.

This is relevant is that this lightening withdrawal demolishes all the lies spread by the U.S. for so many years. We now know that they did not invade in retaliation for the attack on the Twin Towers — because that crime was committed by a Saudi network — but by an Afghan network. Osama Bin Laden [head of al-Qaeda] was not an Afghan. And Biden admitted that the U.S. never intended to create a democracy. It’s what we always knew.

Imperialist goals
The U.S. occupied Afghanistan because of the strategic location of that country, which is very close to China and Russia, crisscrossed by all the routes across Central Asia. The U.S. did not go there to modernize the country. They installed military bases that were financed on the ground with the production of opium and heroin, which expanded significantly during all these years of NATO presence.

Nor was the goal to fight terrorism. We recall that the mujahideen who preceded the Taliban were fabricated by the CIA in 1978 to destroy an Afghan government that was secular, progressive and allied with the USSR.

And, of course, the U.S. never defended women, even to the extent that in recent years they have been dealing with the Taliban, who operate a network of buying and selling of women with unimaginable degradation.

What Washington really wanted to do with the Taliban was to arrive at a coexistence similar to the one it has with the theocratic regime of Saudi Arabia, which oppresses women in a very similar way that the Taliban does.

The abrupt retreat created a crisis scenario with everyone blaming each other. Boris Johnson disagrees with Biden. Trump has resurfaced, and the Yankees’ generals don’t know what to say. The U.S. confronts a dilemma: Either maintain a tough stance to see if they can regain lost international space — or seek to negotiate with the Taliban, which could help the U.S. save face by manufacturing the image that they have changed and become more reasonable.

Let’s see what the Taliban do, because there is a new generation of leaders. Let’s see if they disguise their fanaticism or plunging the country back into the Middle Ages, dominated by the most reactionary religious law.

Taliban less isolated
I think these Taliban now are not as isolated as the Taliban of the past generation. They have many agreements with Russia. Putin is very pragmatic, and he made arrangements with the Taliban, as he wants to distance them from the terrorist groups that are closer to Saudi Arabia. Above all, the Taliban have signed many agreements in recent years with China. The country has already been incorporated as a de facto member of the Silk Road.

Therefore, it is a strategic location.

To let the gas pipeline pass through there, as it were. So, I would say that the fall of Kabul is a geopolitical fact with consequences that we will see later. In the immediate term, it severely affected Biden’s domestic program, which was for a Keynesian revival and the coordination of an international bloc against China. But in order to carry out his program, he needed political oxygen, and that oxygen has been sucked out with this defeat in Afghanistan.

I would like to make a final point. We must be very careful with the analogy that is being made all the time with Saigon in 1975.

MH: I am referring only to the images.

CK: Precisely because of that. Because there are many images that are similar. The abrupt departure from the two places is so similar, even the very role-playing of the Taliban. The similarities from Saigon would not be repeated. But as you well warned, be careful with the comparison because the only thing they have in common is the U.S. failure. Everything else is totally different.

In Vietnam the revolutionary forces triumphed, and in Afghanistan it was the reactionary militias. The Taliban are the absolute inverse of the Vietcong. It is a band of troglodyte clerics, who are the opposite of a liberating army. The medieval oppression that they promote is the antithesis of an emancipatory project of human liberation.

The defeat in Afghanistan is being made all the time with Saigon in 1975.

Likewise for Latin America this is good news, because any defeat of imperialism on a global scale widens the margin of autonomous action within our region, because it restricts the aggressive capacity of the U.S. ☐

The pandemic continues to disrupt trade and shipping. Here: containers stockpiled at Long Beach Port in California on Aug. 20.

U.S. workers being pushed into an abyss
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Dr. William Spriggs, chief economist for the AFL-CIO and an economics professor at Howard University, commented to Business Insider on the frequent references that companies can’t find workers. Drs. Spriggs called this “the self-evident discrimination in the labor market revealing itself.”

“This is disingenuous,” Spriggs said.

“While it is true that the current labor market is tight, the skills needed to perform the work are readily available,” Spriggs said.

And, of course, the labor market is not monolithic.

Economy still turbulent
One of the features of the current world economy is globalization, which means production of a given product is spread over a number of countries. “Just-in-time” manufacturing is a practice by which companies rely on timely deliveries in place of large inventories, which tie up capital and are subject to taxation.

This means major companies manufacturing autos and trucks rely on a few factories in Taiwan and mainland China for computer chips that are essential components of their products. These factors were shut down in anticipation of a drop in demand due to COVID. Then chip manufacturers started back up to supply the increased demand for chips in personal electronics. When auto companies needed chips, they were last in line. They have had to limit production, resulting in major layoffs.

Beyond these bitches in chip supply, which are extremely significant, there is a major transportation problem. At least half the trade between countries in this era of globalization is conducted using containers, essentially truck trailers stacked on container ships by the thousands. While moving 10,000 or more containers on a ship only requires the labor of 20 or 30 seafarers, the facilities to unload them and send them to their final destinations are specialized and have been disrupted by COVID-induced slowdowns.

At the end of August, 44 container ships were waiting to dock and unload at the port of Los Angeles/Long Beach in California, which handles most of the trade between China and the United States. The normal backlog at LA/LB is zero to one ship. There are similar backlogs, although none as large — at other U.S. ports.

The waiting for essential goods like sheetrock, small motors, toilet paper and so on is very disruptive and a good part of why so many workers are unemployed.

The lack of planning under capitalism, driven by competition, has combined with the COVID pandemic to create mass suffering for workers. Now benefits that helped mitigate suffering have been eliminated by the heartless capitalist state. ☐
Finalmente, después de meses de negaciones, despi- dos y escusas de órbita por incidentes incidentes de acoso sexual, el gobernador de Nueva York Andrew Cuomo ha renunciado a su cargo. Esta acción se produjo sólo después de que la fis- cal general del estado, Letitia James, una mujer africana-amerindia, publicara el 3 de agosto un mordaz informe de 168 páginas sobre su investigación de cuatro meses. La abogada de derechos civiles e investigadora Anne Clark afirmó que 11 mujeres que prestaron testi- monio -muchas de las cuales se han identificado púbica- mente- consideraron el comportamiento del gobernador -"profundamente humillante y ofensivo". Cada una de ellas relató de forma gráfica y detallada los manoseos, las palmadas, los besos y los comentarios insinuantes -sin invitación. La mayoría experimentó el abuso en un entorno de trabajo, pero la hija de Sherry villfotografió al gobernador Cuomo cuando parecía forzar a una a Villa durante una visita a los daños causados por las inundaciones en la casa en 2017, (ABC News, 10 de agosto).

Creemos a los supervivientes. Rechazamos inequívocamente las patéticas explica- ciones de Cuomo de que sus acciones fueron "errores" o que eran "verdaderos a los roles de mujeres inten- cionalmente." Más aún, rechazamos sus negaciones de toques no deseados, que intentan convertir en mentiras a las valientes mujeres que se presentaron, muchas de ellas con riesgo de perder sus carreras e ingresos. Los acontecimientos que han con- ducido a la dimisión no son inusuales. Millones de mujeres y trabajadores con problemas de género sufren abu- sos sexuales por parte de sus jefes, así como de sus compañeros de trabajo. Los trabajadores de color son especialmente vulnera- bles, debido a las multiples formas de discriminación a las que se enfrentan. Tanto como los hechos de este caso, los conflictos políticos dentro de la clase dirigente con- tribuyeron a la caída del vengativo, abusivo y abusivo gobernador.

Cuomo, uno entre millones La exposición pública sólo se produce con los abu- sadores de alto perfil, y entre ellos no sólo se encuen- tra el gobernador Cuomo, sino el presidente Joe Biden y el ex presidente Barack Obama. Por no mencionar al esclavizador racista Thomas Jefferson y los noto- rios mujeriegos John F. Kennedy y Bill Clinton. Entre los abusadores sexuales se encuentran los jueces del Tribunal Supremo Brett Kavanaugh y Clarence Thomas, este último denunciado por Anita Hill hace 30 años. Otros entre los más famosos incluyen al productor de cine Harvey Weinstein, cuyo comportamiento de acoso y agresiones llevó a 300 mujeres de la industria del entre- tenimiento a lanzar #TimesUp en 2018.

En 2001, el gobierno de Estados Unidos enarboló la bandera de los "derechos humanos" -la opresión de las mujeres en Afganistán por los tal- ibanes- para justificar una guerra para controlar la tierra, el trabajo, la riqueza, los recursos minerales y el camino hacia el petróleo y el gas de ese país. En 2021, Estados Unidos se retirará de Afganistán. Las mujeres y las niñas de ese país estarán bajo el dominio reaccionario de los tal- ibanes. Hay una preocupación legítima al respecto. No se está produciendo ninguna revolución progresista. Esto ocurrió en 1978, cuando los socialistas y comunis- tas afganos tomaron el poder y empeña- ron a derrocar siglos de dominio patriarcal en el país. Pero la intervención de Estados Unidos y las conspira- ciones de la CIA acabaron con esa evolución positiva, y pusieron en marcha los acontecimientos que pusieron a los talibanes en el poder. ("Cuidado con el casto de la sirena: las mujeres y Afganistán", workers.org).

No podemos dejarnos engañar por las lágrimas de los sofocadores capitalistas que ahora se derraman sobre el destino de las mujeres en Afganistán. ¿Cómo respondi- ron las mujeres de Madison Avenue a la difícil situación de las mujeres y niñas afganas cuando Estados Unidos emprendió a bombardeos en 2001? Anna Wintour, edi- tora de la revista Vogue, organizó un envío gratuito de pintas labios a ese país, supuestamente para elevar la "moral" de las mujeres y niñas afganas. Aquí un nuevo mercado para la industria de los cosméticos. (London Telegraph, 17 de noviembre de 2002)

Estamos a favor de la liberación de la mujer y, al mismo tiempo, en contra del imperialismo. Sabemos que las mujeres y las personas oprimidas por su género nunca encontrarán un camino de liberación a través del pantano del capitalismo y el imperialismo. Hay una lista interminable de guerras en las que los imperialistas hicieron sus juegos de manos para cubrir el hecho de que ellos son los opresores y el capitalismo el sistema opresor. El gobierno de Estados Unidos, ya sea encabezado por demócratas o republicanos, fabrica pruebas, engaña por omisión, socava los movimientos progresistas y nos enfrenta unos a otros, para tratar de engañar a los traba- jadores y a los oprimidos y obligarnos a trabajar y matar para el capitalismo que nos explota.

Para trabajar por la liberación de las mujeres y de los oprimidos de género - por la liberación de los traba- jadores y de todos los oprimidos - debemos tomar firmes en el camino hacia el socialismo, organizan- donos de todas las formas creativas posibles contra el capitalismo.