Demanding China’s exclusion

U.S. blocks world access to vaccines

By Sara Flounders

Just how far is the U.S. government determined to go in the protection of corporate profits?

For the past two years the Biden administration and earlier the Trump administration have blocked every effort to make medicines for the COVID-19 virus widely available. U.S. control of the patents has been ruthlessly enforced.

U.S. trade officials have now announced that the government will veto a global plan that would allow countries on an emergency basis to temporarily ignore patents and make their own COVID-19 vaccines. The U.S. says it will block this plan unless China is explicitly excluded from the waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights. This ultimatum has created international shock waves.

Health officials globally are concerned because U.S. opposition could kill even a limited international deal. Two years of discussions in Geneva were intensified this month in the hopes of signing a final pact in June.

Corporate ownership of patents

Control of patents in technology and medicine play a crucial role in U.S. economic domination. Patents on intellectual property are a set of laws that protect legal rights of products to be privately owned. Even if essential products are developed through the common labor of hundreds of thousands of people, were developed with public funds or are based on science and technology developed over many generations, the corporations that file for the patents can claim ownership of the product and of the manufacturing process.

The idea, first presented by South Africa and India in 2020, of patent or IP waivers, was intended to boost the supply of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutic equipment for the prevention, treatment or containment of COVID-19. This emergency step would help developing nations have faster access to lifesaving products. In April of 2021 the Brazilian Senate voted to suspend patents in a bid to widen access to COVID-19 vaccines. (statnews.com, April 30, 2021)

These desperate pleas for a temporary suspension of vaccine patents have become a political football tossed back and forth by the pharmaceutical industries. Politicians and corporations applauded the idea, while moving to block it from becoming a reality.

The U.S. government now says it will block the international agreement, hammered out slowly over two years of negotiations, if China is not excluded from the pact. In response, China said that it did not wish to be excluded but would voluntarily agree not to take advantage of it.

Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

Solidarity with Uvalde

Workers World Party offers our deepest solidarity, love and condolences to Uvalde, Texas, especially to those who lost loved ones in the May 24 massacre of 19 elementary school children and two teachers. We hope for a recovery for the 17 people injured. But we know they, and all those impacted by this tragedy, are traumatized for life.

One cannot imagine the pain felt in this close-knit working-class community of 16,000 people — nearly 80% Latinx and not far from the Mexican border.

Adding to the trauma was the deplorable, racist conduct of the 100 federal, state, local and school police officers on the scene. While the shooter was inside the school, police remained outside for an hour, handcuffing, tackling, pepper spraying and tasering parents who were trying to get inside and retrieve their children. Police who did enter stayed in the hallway outside the impacted classrooms, refusing...
Workers World celebrates LGBTQ2S+ Pride

“We won’t go back!”

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming communities.

WW consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of “The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal” in 1976. Then in 1993, WW republished it as “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View,” with the first book’s original text and a new preface and afterward. (These and works below are available at workers.org/books.)

In 2004, WW managing editor and globally recognized trans-gendered leader Leslie Feinberg began the “Lavender & Red” series, which ran until 2008 in WW. A group of 25 articles from that series was later published as the book, “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” Notify us if you want a free paper copy.

In 2012 Feinberg engaged in civil disobedience and wrote articles defending Black trans woman CeCe McDonald, who was charged with manslaughter after defending herself from a racist attack.

In 2022 WW extensively covered resistance to the current storm of right-wing “Don’t Say Gay” and anti-trans, anti-youth laws sweeping the U.S. WW articles built resolve in the struggle for reproductive justice, pledging, “We won’t go back,” and documented opposition to racist laws limiting the right to vote and the right to teach a people’s history of resistance to racist laws limiting the right to vote and the right to teach a people’s history of resistance to racist laws limiting the right to vote.

WW reporters on the ground—from Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon, to Brookwood, Alabama— celebrate the tremendous groundswell of worker organizing that won historic union victories against Amazon and Starbucks—victories fueled by the leadership and solidarity of young, multinational, queer, gender-nonconforming workers.

Your help is needed!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when lower print issues have been published due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily, and the PDF of the weekly newspaper has been available at workers.org. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this over two-year health crisis.

For a donation of $60 a year, or $120 or $240, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions to friends, depending on donation. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Mail them with your name and address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate. We are grateful for your help in building Workers World!

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist formation fighting for a socialist and anti-imperialist future. We are a national, multinational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever greater profits.

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

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

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities, attacks on im/migrants and anti-youth laws sweeping the U.S. WW articles have covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming communities.

WW fights for socialism because the working class is the only force fighting for a socialist and anti-imperialist future. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system.

Workers World is the Weekly Newspaper of the Workers World Party. It is the leading English-language daily in the U.S.

Workers World is the official newspaper of the Workers World Party, a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist formation fighting for a socialist and anti-imperialist future. It is time to point the blame at—and challenge—the capitalist system. WW fights for socialism because the working class is the only force fighting for a socialist and anti-imperialist future.

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

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

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

Austin
Austin@workers.org

Bay Area
PO Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02110
617.322.6626
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14212
716.883.2354
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
1811 5th Street
Jackson, MS 39201
601.942.3950
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

Chicago
384 West Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60610
773.267.6816
chicago@workers.org

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

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
duhram@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3545
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minneapolis
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 3429
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
Portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.730.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

a contingent from Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), a youth affiliate of Workers World Party, at the 1974 New York City Pride march.

Vol. 64, No. 22 • June 2, 2022
Closing date: June 1, 2022
Editors: John Carreno, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsy Plittet, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: Albear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Where is war in Ukraine going? .......... 8
WW reporters on the ground—from Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon, to Brookwood, Alabama— celebrate the tremendous groundswell of worker orga-

This week

• In the U.S.
  Spark led to radical po-
  t{
  in 3
  the casting.
  rity.
  
  • Philly youth walk out 3
  ‘White supremacy is terror’ .
  • Resistance to the right to teach a people’s history of resistance to racist laws limiting the right to vote.
  • ‘We won’t go back’ , and documented opposition to racist laws limiting the right to vote and the right to teach a people’s history of resistance to racist laws limiting the right to vote.
  • WW reporters on the ground—from Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon, to Brookwood, Alabama— celebrate the tremendous groundswell of worker orga-
  • Workers World is the Weekly Newspaper of the Workers World Party. It is the leading English-language daily in the U.S.

workers.org

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, work-

Your help is needed!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when lower print issues have been published due to staff health concerns, new articles have been posted daily, and the PDF of the weekly newspaper has been available at workers.org. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this over two-year health crisis.

For a donation of $60 a year, or $120 or $240, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions to friends, depending on donation. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks, either monthly or annu-

Vol. 64, No. 22 • June 2, 2022

Closing date: June 1, 2022

Editors: John Carreno, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsy Plittet, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: Albear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

 Tear Down the walls

Supreme Court attacks prisoners. .4
Shakaboona—Free at last! .4

Editorial

Solidarity with Uvalde .10

Noticias en Español

¡No vamos a volver! .......... 12

workers.org

Workers World

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

© Copyright 2022 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994.

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.
The spark that led me to more radical politics

By Olijimi Alade

The recent leak from a whistleblower that the Supreme Court could reverse Roe v. Wade — ending access to abortion for most people — has put reproductive justice on high alert. In the recent pushback, right-wingers like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and journalist Abigail Shrier came for trans children; then they hamstring queer and anti-racist teachers from teaching and living fully authentic lives, and now they're threatening to finally remove reproductive autonomy.

The feelings I had on May 3, the day of the leaked news, were very similar to the feelings I had on Nov. 8, 2016, when Trump was elected U.S. president. I feared for my family and for the well-being and safety of marginalized people in the United States.

But the solutions that were presented to me were very similar to the ones now presented to horrified millennials and zoomers. Just double down; join the movement to resist the Republican party, and, come November, vote blue no matter who. And then tell your friends to tell their friends to vote blue no matter who.

That was what I believed six years ago. Then as I set about doing my part in righting the wrongs of the Trump election, I slowly started to learn that the Democratic Party was taught to admire and uphold wasn’t any different in functionality from the Republican Party.

Democratic Party rhetoric

My epiphany started with the rhetoric Democrats were using to galvanize their voter base. One of the reasons I was a Democrat was because I saw the party as the beacon of progressivism and the defender of women. However, rather than look in the mirror and reflect why (mostly white) people were voting in droves for Donald Trump, the Democratic Party leaders decided to point the finger at two women: Jill Stein and Susan Sarandon. They blamed Stein for taking away Hillary Clinton's votes, and they attacked Sarandon as “mentally unsta-
ble and psychotic” for saying what so many dedicated voters, and they attacked Sarandon as "mentally unstable and psychotic" for saying what so many dedicated

論者认为,2016年11月8日,当时的民主党总统候选人希拉里·克林顿在竞选中被指责为“反堕胎”者,甚至有人认为她“不正常”。

Realizing that the Democratic Party waseffectively the same as the Republican Party was the spark that led me to pursue more radical politics.

Needed: mass political awakening

Now the attack on access to abortion has the potential to awaken more “recovering liberals” like me. However, the messaging from the politicians in blue is redirecting the energy that could lead to a mass political awakening, back into a bourgeois and capitalist party that offers only empty rhetoric and false promises.

During his “Hope and Change” world tour in 2008, Obama promised to sign the “Freedom of Choice” bill into law, which would have guaranteed that reproductive rights would be constitutionally protected in the U.S. When asked about that same bill during his first-100-days press conference, he offered this pathetic cop-out: “Now the Freedom of Choice Act is not my highest legislative priority. … I think the most important thing

that we can do to tamp down some of the anger sur-
rounding this issue is to focus on those areas that we can agree on. And that’s where I’m going to focus.”

Eight years later, Democrat Hillary Clinton, whose presidential campaign was poised to shatter the glass ceiling, selected as running mate Tim Kaine, a senator from Virginia whose stance on abortion was not solid and consistent. This could have been an issue with a Republican majority, forcing a Clinton Administration to “out-compromise” in the Senate.

Last but not least, Ruth Bader Ginsburg — yes, the notorious RBG — had every opportunity to retire before the end of Obama’s second term to allow for the opportu-
nity for a liberal Supreme Court justice who would not vote to overturn Roe v. Wade. But she didn’t, laying the founda-
tion for Trump to pack the court with Brett Kavanaugh, an outright sexual predator, and Amy Coney Barrett, with her strong and public stand against reproductive rights and abortion.

With all that inaction and indifference, it is infuriating to hear the Democratic party leaders repeat platitudes about the coming November vote: “This is the most important election of our lifetime” — as if voting for Democrats has really changed things in a substantial manner.

The Democratic Party leaders have proven that they are will-
ing to let reproductive autonomy and other human rights fall by the wayside in favor of the capitalist status quo. It does not have the masses’ interest at heart — only those of the big corporations, oligarchs and defense contractors.

It’s time to divest from the Democratic Party, once and for all, and build solidarity with proletarian move-
ments of all stripes in the fight for a better life for all.

Hoboken, New Jersey, rally defends abortion

By Marsha Goldberg

Over 100 people rallied in Hoboken, New Jersey, May 26 in support of right to abortion and reproduc-
tive justice. “We are devastated; we are furious, and we are fighting back,” shouted Bethany Diaz from Planned Parenthood Action Fund of N.J., with Stephanie Mills from Hudson Pride Center, who spoke of the importance of including people of all genders who can get pregnant.

All the speakers stressed making abortions accessible to anyone who needs one. There were many handmade signs in the crowd that showed people were also protesting the mass killings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas.

May Ravi Bhatla chaired and also spoke. The fea-
tured speaker was Tammy Murphy, the spouse of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. She spoke about keeping abortion legal and prohibiting people from being forced to seek an abortion. Robert Menendez Jr., who is running for his father’s seat in the House, spoke.

Emily Jabour, a City Council member and member of Moms Demand Action, which was formed after the 2012 Sandy Hook school killings, was a last-minute speaker. A high school student sang “This Is my Song.”

The NJ-TV Cable 11 spoke about being so mul-
taneously into the microphone, saying: “We are devastated; we are furious, and we are fighting back!”

Every struggle is a woman's struggle

This compilation of articles on the breadth and depth of women’s oppression and struggle appeared in Workers World from late 2016 through Women’s History Month 2018.

FREE download at workers.org/books

Youth walk out for abortion rights

By Betsey Piette

Several hundred high school students demanding abortion rights walked out of their classrooms and marched to City Hall for a rally May 25. Starting at noon, the rally grew in size as more contingents of youth joined in. The level was electrifying.

Rally participants were majority youth of color, reflecting the concerns of communities already lacking adequate access to maternal health care and most likely to be hardest hit by any abortion bans.

Participants included students from Masterman High School and Middle School, Franklin Learning Center, Friends Select High School and Middle School, Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, The University School, Science Leadership Academy, Central High School, Girls High and the University of Pennsylvania-Venn-Penn Med.

Demands included free abortion and gender-affirming care under a Medicare-for-all system; make Roe v. Wade the law; full funding for schools, including nurses and counselors in every school, every day; and comprehensive, inclusive sex education with free confidential counseling.

The students called for ending attacks on LGBTQ+ rights and for support for queer youth, along with living wages and union rights for all workers.

Workers World Party flyers handed out “We Won’t Go Back!” handed out by this reporter were quickly snatched up.

The protest was part of a national call for student walkouts in response to the threatened SCOTUS ban on abortions. More walkouts are expected. ☑
Supreme Court rules 'ineffective counsel' doesn’t matter

By Joe Piette

The list of incarcerated people who have been unjustly convicted because their attorneys were poorly paid, overloaded with cases and unprepared for trial is very long. The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution supposedly guarantees every defendant the right to a competent attorney; but for poor and working people, particularly people of color, well-funded prosecutors have an inherent advantage over court-appointed public defenders.

The opportunity to challenge convictions because of "ineffective counsel" has always been difficult for impoverished incarcerated people to prove, but a May 23 U.S. Supreme Court decision now makes it an almost insurmountable task.

In the case of Shinn, Director, Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry v. Ramirez (2022), SCOTUS ruled that the two Arizona death row inmates—David Ramirez and Barry Jones—may not raise evidence of ineffective counsel in their federal habeas corpus petitions. The two defendants argued that the process of obtaining their convictions or sentences violated the Sixth Amendment.

Jones maintained that his lawyers were so ineffective, they failed to uncover evidence that he was innocent of the crimes. Jones was convicted at trial and sentenced to death. The SCOTUS decision means Arizona may now proceed with his death sentence, even though new evidence would prove he is not guilty.

Ramirez argued that his lawyers failed to uncover mitigating evidence that would have persuaded the jury to sentence him to a term of years in prison, rather than the death penalty he now faces. Referring to statutes in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, signed into law by President Bill Clinton, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote: “a federal habeas court may not conduct an evidentiary hearing or otherwise consider evidence beyond the state-court record based on ineffective assistance of state post-conviction counsel.” (bit.ly/3t5Z7KF)

Thomas called federal judicial intervention to overturn a state prisoner’s conviction and sentence an “intrusion on state sovereignty … [that] overrides the state’s sovereign power to enforce societal norms through criminal law.” The Supreme Court ruling set aside the judgments of four federal judges on both the federal district court and the federal court of appeals. (bit.ly/3t3DbA1)

Joined by Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor opposed the decision with a 20-page dissent, which read in part: “The decision is perverse. It is illogical. … It is hard to imagine a more ‘extreme malfeasance’ … The Court’s decision will leave many people who were convicted in violation of the Sixth Amendment to face incarceration or even execution, without any meaningful chance to vindicate their right to counsel.” (bit.ly/3tZ2KF)

By Betsey Piette

Kerry “Shakaboona” Marshall walked out of the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia May 11, after serving an unconditional sentence of life without parole (LWOP) since 1988. The sentence was imposed when he was 17 years old.

Pennsylvania has sentenced more children to die in prison than any other U.S. state or country on the planet. Statewide over 500 people are serving these unconstitutional sentences. More than half are from Philadelphia, where Shakaboona was sentenced.

Sentenced to die in prison, and incarcerated more than 33 years, recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions gave Marshall the opportunity to be resentenced and eventually released.

In 2012, in the case of Miller v. Alabama, SCOTUS found mandatory LWOP sentences to be unconstitutional when imposed on children. In 2016, in Montgomery v. Louisiana, the court held that its decision in Miller applied retroactively to convictions, including Shakaboona’s, that had long been considered final.

The rulings led to the resentencing in 2018, to 29-to-life. Upon parole in 2021, Shakaboona was transferred to federal custody to serve time on a 110-month federal sentence imposed in 2001. After a successful petition under the federal First Step Act, that sentence was revised to time served, during a federal court hearing May 4.

A press release from the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC) addressed Shakaboona’s many contributions to the movement for human rights advocacy, within and outside the prison walls. In 2000, he and his mother Patricia Vickers co-founded the Human Rights Coalition in Pennsylvania along with other incarcerated and impacted community members. He is the founder or co-founder of several groups located outside prison walls, including Families United and Families of Prisoners and Communities Union.

Shakaboona co-founded the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration and established HRC’s “The Movement” magazine. He was Vice President of the Pennsylvania Lifers Association at SCI-Huntingdon, Committee Chairperson of the NAACP Graterford Branch, President of the Paraprofessional Law Clinic at SCI-Graterford, and Secretary of the Regents Betterment Organization at SCI-Mahanoy.

He has published over 120 commentaries on Prison Reform and was a lead plaintiff, along with former juvenile- lifer Robert Saleem Holbrook and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, in a 2015 lawsuit filed by the Abolitionist Law Center that successfully overturned a parole denial.

Shakaboona and his mother Patricia Vickers outside the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia, May 11.

Pennsylvania statute designed to silence prisoner free speech and censor publications of their writings.

Shakaboona’s family and movement supporters gathered at the court house that day to support him. Prosecutor Daniel Costello released a statement saying the ruling “leaves the door open for this type of action. The statute was drafted to silence prisoners.” Shakaboona said in a statement: “We are pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that the federal government and the state of Pennsylvania cannot silence prisoners, and we thank the Court for this decision.”

Press releases from the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, Abolitionist Law Center.

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Sacramento, New York

Central New York activists and community members marched in Syracuse on May 25 to memorialize and protest the deaths of 10 Black people—who were family, friends and regional neighbors—in the May 14 white-supremacist massacre in Buffalo. The rally was held on the second anniversary of George Floyd’s murder at the hands of Minneapolis cops.

A crowd of over 50 Black and white people gathered at the Victory Temple Fellowship in the Hawley Green neighborhood with banners: “Stop racism,” “White supremacy is terrorism” and “Black Lives Matter.” They then marched downtown to the main police headquarters, the “Public Safety Building,” chanting “No justice, no peace, no racist police!” Called by the city’s chapter of the National Action Network, other groups attending were Black Lives Matter-Syracuse, Rebirth SYR and Veterans for Peace.

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Syracuse, New York, May 25

‘White supremacy is terrorism’
By Tony Murphy

On May 24, a union vote was scheduled at a Memphis, Tennessee, Starbucks. This particular Starbucks store was one of the seven that the Memphis 7 were fired at. The Memphis 7 are among the workers who are organizing for union representation. The vote will take place on June 7.
served the dictates of patriarchal private insurance companies do not fund home- and community-based services. This is institutional bias. In order to live in the community, people with disabilities would need to provide with long-term services and supports. These include durable medical equipment, personal assistive devices, medical services, personal care attendants and support from Independent Living Centers.

In the United States, home- and community-based services become mandatory Medicaid services funded by the federal government. The group demands that these services be made available for long-term services and supports, based on type of disability, age and other factors, and calls for eliminating service or cost caps. Medicaid should be required to fund programs that assist disabled people with parenting and taking care of pets, so they can stay in their homes and communities.

Fund human needs, not war!

Shea stressed, “$4 billion was given to Lockheed-Martin and Raytheon to carry out NATO’s expansion and war on Russia in the Ukraine. Congress authorized the funds right away, and Biden signed it. They actually gave more money

Continued on page 7

Anti-gay, anti-trans laws rooted in class rule

By Leslie Feinberg

The following is one installment of Feinberg’s “Lavender & Red” series on the historical intersection of LGBTQ+ and socialist history, which appeared in Workers World on 9/27, 2007, in Workers World newspaper. The 120-part series was published between 2004 and 2008 and can be downloaded freely at workers.org/books.

In today’s capitalist tidbits, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans mass political ideas are often cast as an intersection of oppression against those who are anti-trans, anti-gay, and other forms of sexual expression. This is a lie.

In today’s capitalist tidbits, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans mass political ideas are often cast as an intersection of oppression against those who are anti-trans, anti-gay, and other forms of sexual expression. This is a lie.

Political views against LGBTQ+ lives

A law in one of Europe’s most liberal countries, Brazil, will go into effect on October 1st, becoming the first in Latin America to allow for ‘gender identity’ to be recognized on official documents. The law, known as the Transgender Law, will empower transgender people to change their gender on government documents, including passports.

The law, known as the Transgender Law, will empower transgender people to change their gender on government documents, including passports. The law is expected to be passed in Brazil’s lower house of Congress, where it has already been approved, and is now being debated in the Senate.

The law will allow transgender individuals to change their gender on official documents, including passports, birth certificates, and driver’s licenses. The law also guarantees the rights of transgender people, including access to health care, education, and employment.

The law is expected to be passed in Brazil’s lower house of Congress, where it has already been approved, and is now being debated in the Senate. If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.

The law has been met with mixed reactions. Some have praised it as a positive step towards equality and inclusion, while others have criticized it as a threat to traditional gender roles.

In July, the Brazilian Senate passed a bill that would allow transgender people to change their gender on official documents, including passports. The bill was passed primarily along party lines, with the majority of senators voting in favor of the bill.

The bill has faced opposition from some political groups, who argue that it will lead to confusion and a breakdown of traditional gender roles. However, the bill has also received widespread support from civil society groups and the transgender community.

If passed, the law will make Brazil the second country in Latin America to recognize gender identity on official documents, after Uruguay.
Resident activists vs. greenwashing corporation

By Linden Jenkins and Phebe Eckfeldt Boston

Protesting corporate greed and destruction, groups of women and men from Vermont, Rhode Island, Maine, and western and southeastern Massachusetts gathered May 4 outside Boston Westin’s Seaport Hotel to demonstrate against A.D. Makepeace, a corporation based in Wareham, Massachusetts.

The protest was joined by Save the Pine Barrens, was joined by members of Extinction Rebellion Boston; Mass Peace Action-Indigenous Subgroup, Community Land Defense Coalition; and Workers World Party.

At the hotel, Makepeace was receiving the “Private Company Board of the Year” award from the National Association of Corporate Directors. Makepeace produces voluminous public relations material that green-washes its rampant destruction, over decades, of hundreds of acres of mature forests, globally rare pine barrens and Wampanoag Indigenous cultural sites in southeastern Massachusetts. In response to the corporation’s mining, sand and gravel sales and real estate developments are located. Pine barrens—plant communities that occur on dry, acidic, infertile soils—are estimated to be 2.6 million years old.

This region is the ancestral and current home of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and one of the largest in the state. Jim Makepeace is the corporation’s President and CEO. They are the only resident communities, making it impossible for them to have open windows and create an inevitable, but as yet undocumented, respiratory and other health problems.

Makepeace actively green-washes its activities, promoting itself as “sustainable,” citing a recent project with Brightview Landscaping, a multifaceted “green” corporation, to “provide environment for” Harvard University’s Science & Engineering Complex in Cambridge—U.N. Global Perspectives, news.un.org)

The sand is used in concrete, cement, glass manufacturing, wildlife habitat, water filtration and manufacturing of such diverse commodities as toothpaste, elastic and others. Because its extraction is unregulated, it is being used faster than it can be replaced by geological processes, at the rate of 50 billion tons per year. Because of its scarcity, sand is becoming increasingly rare. (U.N. Global Perspectives, news.un.org)

Greenwashing environmental crime

Makepeace uses “cranberry farming” as a cover for its mining operations, but earth renewal is not necessary to grow cranberries, contrary to statements the company has made to state agencies and municipal land use boards to get approval for activities which have been ongoing for years. Makepeace actively gets subsidies from energy companies and exemptions from environmental regulations for its “agricultural activities.”

Makepeace has created a subsidiary, Read Customs Soils, which extracts sand and gravel from southeastern Massachusetts, where extracted sand and gravel is conveyed to Read Custom Soils, with several locations in Massachusetts energy subsidies are given to such corporations. The groundwork panels consume acres of land, with solar panels installed in spring 2021. Still standing almost a year later, sunk 20-30 feet down, these panels endanger a single-source aquifer that serves seven area towns.

Big corporations make lots of profit building ground-mounted solar systems, instead of on rooftops or already cleaned land like power-line and highway easements. Massachusetts energy subsidies are given to such corporations. The groundwork panels consume acres of land, with solar panels installed in spring 2021. Still standing almost a year later, sunk 20-30 feet down, these panels endanger a single-source aquifer that serves seven area towns.

Clearing trees and vegetation creates increased stormwater runoff, damaging wetlands and polluting water. Companies like Makepeace get permits to fill in the wetlands and alter the riverfronts.

Disability rights activists demand services now!

Continued from page 6

than was requested, but the waiting lists for affordable housing and home- and community-based services are years-long.”

On May 8, Mother’s Day, ADAPT orga- nized a speak-out focused on the vast majority of people doing home care and personal care who are women, particularly women of color.

Shea explained, “In Massachusetts, personal care attendants are organized by SEIU1199, but they still do not have vacation and sick time. They worked to get COVID-19 pay but will lose this at the end of July, which can mean a huge loss of income.”

“We are demanding personal care attendant services be required under the Affordable Care Act and in the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Voluntary workers to be paid $20 an hour. It is a dire situation in a state like Texas, where these attendants are paid $8 per hour. Under the Affordable Care Act, we should find locations to work these shifts, because of low pay and the precarious nature of the work.”

Wheelchair users’ militant action

On May 10, 50 people in wheelchairs blocked the entrances to the American Heart Association in Boston, demanding the American Heart Association allocate funds for nursing homes. They were chanting “I’d rather go to jail than die in a nursing home!” When they refused to move, 16 were arrested.

Shea explained, “This communicates what a life-and-death situation we are in. They are on the verge of hospitalizing people with disabilities, buying up nursing homes to be sold. They are driving people out of their homes. They purchase politicians, keeps profits high, and regulations or oversight low-to-non-existent and keeps wages of workers as low as possible.”

National ADAPT’s website states: “COVID-19 has killed over 32,750 dis-abled people in substantial nursing homes in the United States, and an average of 140 per day for the past year. More than 8,000 people, one-fifth of the total number of people in nursing homes, have died of COVID-19. The deaths are so numerous that we can no longer list them.”

The National Council on Disability reported Oct. 29, 2021, that 181,000 people with disabilities are in long-term care homes died from COVID-19 by March 2021. Shea stresses the number of COVID-19-caused deaths in these facilities is difficult to understand.

Shea concluded: “In a society driven by profit like capitalism, some people are dis-possessed and have no way of surviving like capitalism. People need to be able to live with dignity, the power to vote, the right to hold corporations accountable, and the right to control your own body.”

For local and state legislators to push for the passage of a bill that would protect people who are in danger of losing their homes and the right to independent living. ADAPT and other disability rights groups are calling for the state to pass a bill that would protect people who are in danger of losing their homes and the right to independent living.

April 2021. Shea stresses the number of those being people of color. National ADAPT is compelled to speak up against this widespread and horrifying human rights catastrophe.”

The National Council on Disability reported Oct. 29, 2021, that 181,000 people with disabilities are in long-term care homes died from COVID-19 by March 2021. Shea stresses the number of COVID-19-caused deaths in these facilities is difficult to understand.

Shea concluded: “In a society driven by profit like capitalism, some people are dis-possessed and have no way of surviving like capitalism. People need to be able to live with dignity, the power to vote, the right to hold corporations accountable, and the right to control your own body.”

For local and state legislators to push for the passage of a bill that would protect people who are in danger of losing their homes and the right to independent living. ADAPT and other disability rights groups are calling for the state to pass a bill that would protect people who are in danger of losing their homes and the right to independent living.

The company obtains these materi- als seemingly without paying property taxes or extraction fees for the properties where their mines are located. The company gets agricultural exemp- tions, but now has been hit with a 7 million-time fee on every acre of carrying sand and gravel from the mines to Read Custom Soils and other locations. In addition to these harms, mining sil- ver is released into the air and breathed in by humans, causing toxic health problems. Dust covers the vehicles, yards and homes of the very residents it is supposed to be bene- ficial for them to have open windows and cre- ate an inevitable, but as yet undocumented, respiratory and other health problems.

Makepeace actively and boldly green-washes its activities, promoting itself as “sustainable,” citing a recent project with Brightview Landscaping, a multifaceted “green” corporation, to “provide environment for” Harvard University’s Science & Engineering Complex in Cambridge—U.N. Global Perspectives, news.un.org)

Cranberries, contrary to statements the company has made to state agencies and municipal land use boards to get approval for activities which have been ongoing for years. Makepeace actively gets subsidies from energy companies and exemptions from environmental regulations for its “agricultural activities.”

Makepeace has created a subsidiary, Read Customs Soils, which extracts sand and gravel from southeastern Massachusetts, where extracted sand and gravel is conveyed to Read Custom Soils, with several locations in Massachusetts energy subsidies are given to such corporations. The groundwork panels consume acres of land, with solar panels installed in spring 2021. Still standing almost a year later, sunk 20-30 feet down, these panels endanger a single-source aquifer that serves seven area towns.

Big corporations make lots of profit building ground-mounted solar systems, instead of on rooftops or already cleaned land like power-line and highway easements. Massachusetts energy subsidies are given to such corporations. The groundwork panels consume acres of land, with solar panels installed in spring 2021. Still standing almost a year later, sunk 20-30 feet down, these panels endanger a single-source aquifer that serves seven area towns.

Clearing trees and vegetation creates increased stormwater runoff, damaging wetlands and polluting water. Companies like Makepeace get permits to fill in the wetlands and alter the riverfronts.

In addition to these harms, mining sil- ver is released into the air and breathed in by humans, causing toxic health problems. Dust covers the vehicles, yards and homes of the very residents it is supposed to be bene- ficial for them to have open windows and cre- ate an inevitable, but as yet undocumented, respiratory and other health problems.

Makepeace actively and boldly green-washes its activities, promoting itself as “sustainable,” citing a recent project with Brightview Landscaping, a multifaceted “green” corporation, to “provide environment for” Harvard University’s Science & Engineering Complex in Cambridge—U.N. Global Perspectives, news.un.org)
China has objected to a key provision of the WTO agreement that will, in reality, discourage shipments of doses to poorer nations. The current proposal contains a footnote that excludes China, because it is the only developing country that has exported more than 10% of global COVID-19 vaccine doses.

China is now the world’s largest producer of COVID-19 vaccines, said Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the fifth session of the 13th National People’s Congress, at a news briefing on March 4. In total, China has provided over 2.1 billion doses to more than 120 countries and international organizations, accounting for one-third of the total number of vaccines administered outside China. The majority have been provided to developing countries, Zhang said.

‘China’s vaccines have played an important role in helping many developing countries to build immunity barriers, resume normal lives and boost their capacity, confidence and determination to beat the pandemic,’ said Zhang. He added that China will continue to prioritize developing countries and make them major partners in vaccine cooperation.

President Xi Jinping announced at the 2021 UN General Assembly that China will provide a further 1 billion doses to African countries, with 600 million to be given as donations and the other 400 million provided through joint production between Chinese companies and African countries. China will also build 10 health projects with 600 million to be given as donations.

This is the real crime that China has committed. It is providing the technology, along with raw materials and intellectual property waivers for its vaccines. China has moved far beyond temporary patent waivers that others don’t have the raw materials to manufacture their own vaccines. The emphasis is on developing partnerships in sales and manufacturing, not purely on donating vaccines.

Most important for the movement in the U.S. and Europe, the speakers underlined the need to counter and break the rising class war propaganda and mobilize popular resistance to the war, based on its disproportionate costs to communities of color and the working class in general.

Webinar speakers included Ajamu Baraka, national organizer for Black Alliance for Peace; Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center; Scott Ritter, a career U.S. Marine officer and former U.N. weapons inspector turned anti-war activist; and Alan Freeman, representing the International Manifesto Group.

Facilitating the discussion was Joe Lombardo, coordinator of UNAC, a coalition that has opposed militarism, racism and the threat to the environment, with a focus on Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, from a consistent anti-imperialist perspective.

The webinar’s direct link on YouTube is tinyurl.com/zp88xjp6. According to the WHO, China, in the 2 years from Jan. 3, 2020, to May 27, 2022, has had a total of 16,219 COVID-19 deaths. China is protecting not only its own population but also the entire world. China has thrown its full weight behind the developing world. It has provided billions of vaccines. What is an even greater contribution is that it has moved far beyond temporary intellectual property waivers for its vaccines. It has provided public access to the technology, along with raw materials and intellectual property.

This is why China is targeted by U.S. imperialism — the world’s main defender of corporate power. 

U.S. blocks world access to vaccines

Maria Pagan stated that China’s offer was not enough. Naomi Klein added that the U.S. would not accept Beijing’s offer to voluntarily opt out of the agreement. China must be excluded in print. (Bloomberg, May 16)

An agreement planned to fail

World Trade Organization (WTO) deals are still being decided, and the WTO has failed to advance any multilateral agreements for years.

China has objected to a key provision of the WTO agreement that will, in reality, discourage shipments of doses to poorer nations. The current proposal contains a footnote that excludes China, because it is the only developing country that has exported more than 10% of global COVID-19 vaccine doses. China was initially even excluded from the talks on vaccine access.

But, China has exported far more vaccines than any other country. This global contribution to health throughout the developing world is the reason for China’s exclusion.

Claiming that China would gain an unfair advantage, U.S. policymakers want to prevent developing countries from accessing any technology, including vaccine technology.

In March of 2021 India, which is a major vaccine manufacturing hub in the developing world, administered an average of 26.7 million vaccines per day on vaccines they produce due to their own overwhelming outbreak of COVID-19. So India remains below the 10% eligibility threshold that USAID set.

China — world’s largest producer of vaccines

China is now the world’s largest provider of COVID-19 vaccines, said Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the fifth session of the 13th National People’s Congress, at a news briefing on March 4.

In total, China has provided over 2.1 billion doses to more than 120 countries and international organizations, accounting for one-third of the total number of vaccines administered outside China. The majority have been provided to developing countries, Zhang said.

‘China’s vaccines have played an important role in helping many developing countries to build immunity barriers, resume normal lives and boost their capacity, confidence and determination to beat the pandemic,’ said Zhang. He added that China will continue to prioritize developing countries and make them major partners in vaccine cooperation.

President Xi Jinping announced at the 2021 UN General Assembly that China will provide a further 1 billion doses to African countries, with 600 million to be given as donations and the other 400 million provided through joint production between Chinese companies and African countries. China will also build 10 health projects with 600 million to be given as donations.

This is the real crime that China has committed. It is providing the technology, along with raw materials and intellectual property waivers for its vaccines. China has moved far beyond temporary patent waivers that others don’t have the raw materials to manufacture their own vaccines. The emphasis is on developing partnerships in sales and manufacturing, not purely on donating vaccines.

Most important for the movement in the U.S. and Europe, the speakers underlined the need to counter and break the rising class war propaganda and mobilize popular resistance to the war, based on its disproportionate costs to communities of color and the working class in general.

Webinar speakers included Ajamu Baraka, national organizer for Black Alliance for Peace; Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center; Scott Ritter, a career U.S. Marine officer and former U.N. weapons inspector turned anti-war activist; and Alan Freeman, representing the International Manifesto Group.

Facilitating the discussion was Joe Lombardo, coordinator of UNAC, a coalition that has opposed militarism, racism and the threat to the environment, with a focus on Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, from a consistent anti-imperialist perspective.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has cost tens of thousands of dead — 14,000 in the eastern Donbas region from 2014 until the Russian intervention — and billions of dollars of damages in Ukraine. Disruptions in the supply chain, caused by the war and even more by sanctions, threaten to limit food exports from Russia and Ukraine to East Africa, raise the price of wheat and starve hundreds of thousands of people, mainly children.

With support from an almost unanimously U.S. ruling class and both the Republican and Democratic Parties, the Biden administration has committed $4 billion to aid, both military and economic, to Ukraine. Washington plans to fight this war to the last tank. China is the only country that might drag the rest of the world behind them.

The media in the United States has gone all out to present this support for Ukraine as exposing the neo-conservatives’ feeling of people in this country — all-out for the people of Ukraine — and suppressing voices in opposition. Social media, like Twitter, Facebook and Google — also owned by big, profit-driven capitalists — has found ways to cancel opposition with clever algorithms that don’t remove posts but make them hard to find.

Where is war in Ukraine going? How should the peace movement respond?

By G. Dunkel

For antiwar, anti-racist and working-class activists, a May 23 webinar on the role of the U.S., NATO and Ukrainian neo-Nazis in provoking and prolonging the war in Ukraine provides an antidote to the poisonous propaganda in the U.S. corporate media.

Those who missed the webinar can view it by visiting the home page of the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) at unacpeace.org. Hundreds of people are viewing it daily, and millions could watch it in the future.

The webinar’s strength was that the speakers were not only knowledgeable, articulate and convincing, they covered the issues from diverse angles — exposing media lies, explaining military plans, presenting geopolitical strategies of Washington and its imperialist partners in Russia and China. Their organizers were aware that even within the antiwar movement, there was confusion about the role of Russia as well as the other states involved, and the webinar clarified many of those issues.

Most important for the movement in the U.S. and Europe, the speakers underlined the need to counter and break the rising class war propaganda and mobilize popular resistance to the war, based on its disproportionate costs to communities of color and the working class in general.

Webinar speakers included Ajamu Baraka, national organizer for Black Alliance for Peace; Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center; Scott Ritter, a career U.S. Marine officer and former U.N. weapons inspector turned anti-war activist; and Alan Freeman, representing the International Manifesto Group.

Facilitating the discussion was Joe Lombardo, coordinator of UNAC, a coalition that has opposed militarism, racism and the threat to the environment, with a focus on Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, from a consistent anti-imperialist perspective.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has cost tens of thousands of dead — 14,000 in the eastern Donbas region from 2014 until the Russian intervention — and billions of dollars of damages in Ukraine. Disruptions in the supply chain, caused by the war and even more by sanctions, threaten to limit food exports from Russia and Ukraine to East Africa, raise the price of wheat and starve hundreds of thousands of people, mainly children.

With support from an almost unanimously U.S. ruling class and both the Republican and Democratic Parties, the Biden administration has committed $4 billion in aid, both military and economic, to Ukraine. Washington plans to fight this war to the last tank. China is the only country that might drag the rest of the world behind them.

The media in the United States has gone all out to present this support for Ukraine as exposing the neo-conservatives’ feeling of people in this country — all-out for the people of Ukraine — and suppressing voices in opposition. Social media, like Twitter, Facebook and Google — also owned by big, profit-driven capitalists — has found ways to cancel opposition with clever algorithms that don’t remove posts but make them hard to find.

All the more important is this webinar, that, while not answering every question, smashes the obscene avalanche of pro-war propaganda and makes it clear that in the imperialist United States, the main enemy is the ruling class at home.

John Catalinotto contributed to this article.

The webinar’s direct link on YouTube is tinyurl.com/zp88xjp6.
Sanctions — wrecking ball in a global economy

By Sara Flounders

Read the entire article at workers.org/2022-05/64273/

Commentators in many countries of the Global South made note of the hypocrisy of silence and lack of any condemnation of the lawless conduct of the U.S. in unleashing war and sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Libya and Syria and providing the blockade and tactical support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen. This was compared to condemnation of the Bush administration's aggression for Russia by responding to military attacks on its borders.

Within Europe, Serbia, Belarus and even Hungary — an European Union and NATO member — refused to join sanctions, expressing internal cracks in the sanctions’ regime. (Boston Globe, March 16)

With SWIFT bank transactions cut out by U.S. sanctions, Europe was unable to pay for Russian gas and oil. This created the need for new Nathaniel Rothschild to continue contracts in gas and oil at the same rates but to now demand payments in rubles, the Russian currency. The U.S. and the EU reacted with outrage. But 10 European countries have quickly complied. It is the only way to keep their industries supplied with energy.

Accepting payments in rubles and allowing countries not enforcing sanctions to pay in Chinese yuan, Indian and Pakistani rupee and other currencies meant that both the dollar and the euro were no longer the reserve currencies for trade transactions.

The result is that the Russian ruble has rebounded as of mid-May, while the U.S. dollar and especially the euro have been sinking.

The capital controls imposed by Russia, maintained until May 16, have turned the ruble into the world’s best performing currency this year, up more than 15% against the U.S. dollar since the start of the year. “A total of 20 European companies have opened accounts to pay in rubles. (Bloomberg.com, May 11 and 12)

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said that Germany and Europe would start paying for Russian gas in rubles. He asserted that other countries will also be able to pay for gas in rubles without breaching sanctions, dismissing the European Union’s decision.

U.S. provoked proxy war

U.S. policy is to seek to grind down Russia’s resources in a long and ongoing onslaught. The U.S. had instigated the crisis by enlisting Russia with NATO bases, organizing constant militant provocations and supplying heavy weapons to Ukraine to fire near Ukraine’s borders.

Washington orchestrated a “color revolution” in Ukraine in 2004 and a far more extreme coup in 2014, using pro-fascist forces to invade Crimea and install a government that has systematically destroyed the sovereignty of Ukraine and turned its people into a proxy force to fight Russia. The tens of U.S./NATO military trainees, mercenaries and equipment had already destroyed Ukraine’s economy.

By placing nuclear weapons on U.S. and NATO bases in Europe and setting up nuclear-capable weaponry near Russia’s borders, NATO openly provoked Russia to strike in self-defense.

Biden Threatens World War

Russia finally responded Feb. 24, as Moscow had warned. “Western alliances can happen if Ukraine’s attacks continued.

U.S. corporate power benefits from energy sanctions on Russia, but this comes at an assigned advantage for European consumers. The sanctions will do more harm to the EU than to Russia. How did Washington force the EU to go along with sanctions against their own immediate neighbors?

Biden issued a public ultimatum Feb. 26 declaring that the only alternative to the EU joining U.S. sanctions against Russia “would be the Third World War.”

“Europe’s choices are two options. Start a Third World War; go to war with Russia, physically. Or, two, make sure that the country that acts so contrary to international law ends up paying a price for having done it. … I know these sanctions are the broadest sanctions in history and economic sanctions and political sanctions.” In this interview with Bloomberg’s Brian Tyler Coburn, Biden asserted that the “goal from the very beginning” was to keep NATO and the European Union “on the same page.” (Fox News, Feb. 26)

The European Union quickly got the message. In essence, the U.S., through its command of NATO, is holding all of Europe hostage in order to reestablish its economic dominance and expand its military might on the continent.

The billions seized of Iranian funds, despite every signed agreement to free the funds, and the billions seized from Venezuela had already undermined confidence in the security of Western capitalist banks.

Who pays the price inside the U.S.?

The costs of the U.S. military offensive will wipe out many of Biden’s election promises. Build Back Better infrastructure programs, COVID-19 relief and preparation for other health emergencies, student loan debt relief and every other promised social program have been pushed off the agenda.

The sanctions have to be reinforced with an endless war — a sure profit maker for the U.S. military-industrial complex. By April 11 Bloomberg News reported $8 billion in additional money to military contractors for war against Russia, along with a billion dollars added to funding of the EU, and $414 billion from EU institutions.

By April 28 President Biden enlarged the military handouts for their preparations. The Pentagon has sent $133 billion and sent the package to Congress, which within days increased this to a $40 billion package on top of funds already provided.

The Biden administration’s response, with overwhelming support of Republicans and Democrats in Congress and major banking and industrial corporations, along with the largest military machine in human history, has been to double down on rushing more and more advanced weapons, NATO troops labeled as “trainers” and escalating military maneuvers and “war games” on Russia’s borders.

Targeting China

U.S. policy is to expand NATO to China’s periphery. By trying to create an Asian version of NATO, the U.S. intent is to seriously undermine economic cooperation and prosperity in Asia and bring about new divisions to the regional geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape. China’s views are well-known and are the increasing target of U.S. sanctions since the Pivot to Asia in the Obama Administration.

Within a week of Russia’s intervention in Ukraine, all 57 countries had moved to freeze Russia’s foreign currency reserve assets. Switzerland joined Feb. 28. The seizure of $500 billion dollars in Russia’s funds held in U.S. and other Western banks added to the awareness that no country’s assets were safe from seizure.

The billions seized of Iranian funds, despite every signed agreement to free the funds, and the billions seized from Venezuela had already undermined confidence in the security of Western capitalist banks.

Within a week of Russia’s intervention in Ukraine, all 57 countries had moved to freeze Russia’s foreign currency reserve assets. Switzerland joined Feb. 28. The seizure of $500 billion dollars in Russia’s funds held in U.S. and other Western banks added to the awareness that no country’s assets were safe from seizure.

The sanctions against Russia will remain a long-term negative factor for the global economy. This will also lead to the further dominance of the West in the global financial, economic and trading systems.

“Targeting China, though, will have the impact of further isolating China and its partners, including China, India, Indonesia, Brazil and others that have refused to take sides over Western sanctions against Russia, need to consider ways to strengthen their economic coordination to weather the constant shocks brought about by the West.”

“It is important to note that developing countries need to see solutions to chronic financial trade cooperation. It’s time for the BRICS to take the first step by creating their own financial coordination mechanism.”

Beijing is making preparations to withstand further U.S. sanctions arising from China’s adherence to U.S.-imposed sanctions on Russia. Even banks in Hong Kong, a global financial hub, and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority are making contingency plans should they be cut off from SWIFT transactions.

The Financial Times reports April 30 that China is meeting with banks to discuss protecting China’s overseas institutions from Western sanctions. An “unofficial” decision held April 22 included officials from China’s central bank and finance ministry and executives from local and international banks.

Top regulators, including Yi Haiman, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and Xiao Gang, who chaired the CSRC from 2013 to 2016, asked bankers in attendance what they could do to protect the country’s assets. China’s massive dollar holdings range from more than a trillion dollars in U.S. treasures to New York office buildings. China further expressed concerns to the Russian central bank’s dollar holdings had alerted Beijing to the danger.

China’s GDP was roughly to times larger than Russia’s. China is the world’s top trading economy and the number-one exporter of manufactured goods.

Every U.S. plan for sanctions on China starts with a manufactured crisis over Taiwan. In violation of 40 years of past agreements with China, Washington is rapidly increasing military action over Taiwan.

All U.S. strategists admit that sanctions and military confrontation with China will be massively disruptive on a world scale. But that prediction does nothing to slow their relocation of China.

The international movement opposing NATO’s current war in Ukraine needs to know what else is on the imperialist drawing boards.

There is an urgent need for a global campaign against economic sanctions — a crime against humanity.
Haiti needs reparations, not sanctions

By By Pat Chin

This slightly edited article first appeared in Workers World on July 17, 2009. The writer, Pat Chin, was a contributing editor of WW until her death on May 16, 2005, at age 56. Chin was of Jamaican and Chinese heritage and visited Haiti a number of times. She was also a contributing editor of the 2004 book, “Haiti: A Slave Revolution – 200 Years After 1804.” Go to iaconter.org/wp-content/uploads/Hait-Book.pdf to read the book. Almost 20 years after this article first appeared, the Haitian people are still owed billions of dollars in reparations by French and U.S. imperialism.

The Republic of Haiti will mark the 200th anniversary of its independence on Jan. 1, 2004. Preparations for celebrating the bicentennial are being made against the backdrop of a deepening economic crisis in that oppressed country, exacerbated by economic sanations.

For over two years,” reported the May 23 Inter Press Service, “the United States, the European Union and multilateral lenders have been holding up some $800 million in aid and loans, because they say Aristide’s government and Lavalas Family party have failed to reach a compromise with opposition parties, which boycotted the 2000 Presidential race after protesting allegedly fraudulent parliamentary contests in 2000.”

The Washington-backed “Democratic Convergence” is made up of 15 tiny bourgeois opposition parties, ranging from hard-core Divorlatistas to social democrats, with no real support in the popular masses. The group is similar to the imperialist-backed “Democratic Coordination” in Venezuela that has unsuccessfully tried to out-organize progressive Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. The Convergence has reportedly received some $120 million from the U.S.-based right-wing National Endowment for Democracy.

While it is nice to see the imperialist maneuver to force a “regime change” by tightening the economic squeeze, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has called on France – the original colonial power – to make restitution for an
Famine in East Africa—hundreds of thousands threatened

By G. Dunkel

Food prices are soaring worldwide. Not just prices of wheat and other grains, which is where the U.S. and its allies in the European Union have focused their attention, but also on products like industrial butter and milk powder, whose prices have just tripled in a year (February, May 20).

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has pointed to the price of wheat, claiming that “Russia is weaponizing global food supply.” His comments echo a conference he had with U.N. officials May 20. (New York Times video, May 20)

But experts in the field of crisis management point to other factors that have affected the prices of wheat and the foods wheat is used in. The price of the energy used to transport the foods, plant and harvest the crop, and then transport it to market has shot up. And of course the companies that supply the energy aim to see their profits climb along with their prices.

The truth is that Blinken and the U.S. media machine are weaponizing the threat of famine parts of the world in order to score propaganda points against Russia in the U.S./NATO’s ongoing proxy war in Ukraine.

Much of the fertilizer that farmers need for good yields comes from natural gas, potash and nitrogen, all processes that require extensive energy. A good deal of the world’s fertilizer supply used to come from Belarus and Russia, before sanctions were applied to these countries. COVID-19 has affected the production of food, with bottlenecks in farm labor, processing, transport and logistics, as well as momentous shifts in demand. Regulations designed to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 sometimes hindered the production of food.

Farming is a seasonal affair; crops must be planted, cared for, harvested at fixed times of year based on weather. The droughts that have hit many wheat-exporting areas of the Northern Hemisphere have severely limited production, reducing supply—which has resulted in higher prices. The extreme heat waves that hit India this spring and the heavy rains that struck China when its winter wheat was being planted—both phenomena associated with global warming—have had major impacts reducing the harvest.

According to the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the decline in food exports from the Black Sea region has been partially offset by increased exports from the EU and India, leaving a gap of about 3 million tons.

That’s small on a global scale. But Russia and Ukraine contribute about half the cereals imported by Lebanon and Tunisia and two-thirds of those imports for Libya and Egypt. Ukraine’s food exports normally provide the calories to feed 400 million people. These four countries that import cereals are facing severe difficulties finding alternative suppliers. The FAO is urging countries to be very careful about imposing export restrictions which “exacerbate price increases and reduce trust.” António Guterres, U.N. Secretary General, recently warned of the threat that a global food shortage could last for years. Around the world, 181 million are forecast to be in crisis levels of hunger in 2022.

While a famine has not been officially called in East Africa, people—mainly children—are dying of hunger. Oxfam estimates that 350,000 children are likely to die by the end of summer. Oxfam and Save the Children estimate that across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, on average six people die every five minutes from acute hunger linked to conflict, COVID-19, the climate crisis and inflationary and market pressure accelerated by the current conflict in Ukraine.

There is enough food to feed everybody a decent diet. The big problem is that the big capitalists haven’t figured how to do this profitably.

Africa Day: No to French imperialism

By G. Dunkel

On the occasion of Africa Day, several hundred South African radical left activists gathered May 25 in front of the French Embassy in Pretoria to condemn French interference in the African continent. This is the first event of its kind in this country.

Hundreds of people were carrying red placards in party colors with anti-French slogans: “France is responsible for genocide in Africa,” “West Africa is not a French colony,” “Wealth of France on the backs of Africans,” and even “France Out!” Under the theme of the fight against Western imperialism, the march had France as its main target.

Economic Freedom Fighters, a South African anti-imperialist political party, organized the march. Several hundred people demonstrated May 14 in N’Djamena, capital of Chad, against the presence of France in north-central Africa and in support of the anti-French struggle in Mali.

Demonstrators burned at least two flags of the former colonial power and vandalized several Total Service stations, a “symbol” according to them of France, tearing off gas pumps.

Haiti needs reparations, not sanctions

Continued from page 10

indemnity Haiti was forced to pay was to force militarily defeating the French, forcing slavery’s end and declaring independence.

The French government in 1825 had demanded 90% of the indemnity “to compensate” white planters for property loss, due to the revolutionary war. It was decades later that Haitian independence was recognized and celebrations were held. The Aristide administration calculates the sum owed Haiti by France, including interest, to be well over a billion.

The indemnity insured that Haiti would remain in debt to French financiers for most of the 1800s.

Reparations for hundreds of years of forced labor are also being demanded. This call is supported by African American organizations that have launched a movement for reparations for U.S. African Americans. For example, the NAACP has said that “the United States is racist; it is our responsibility to right that wrong. We must not let the injustice of slavery, the past, be swept under the rug.”

Haiti’s current President, Moïse, has repeatedly called for reparations. Rivasseau cites loams made to the Haitian government, while blaming alleged corruption and mismanagement by the Aristide administration for Haiti’s economic problems.

At a May 23 “Flag Day” celebration attended by thousands of demonstrators and other supporters, Aristide condemned global poverty and the Third World debt. “Two hundred years after the victorious revolution,” he said, “the bull that turns the mill doesn’t get to drink the sugar syrup. We refuse to be slaves to subservient misery.”

Why is Haiti so poor?

The main political point made by the Boston-based Northern Convoy—like that of the racist white colonizers and imperialists—is that Haiti is wretchedly poor because the slaves killed all their children in the struggle for independence and liberty. Haiti has consequently remained poor and dependent and in need of U.S. economic domination and control. (U.S. domination is also a fundamental part of the problem, they say.)

But this grossly distorts reality. Haiti’s economy lies mainly in the centuries-long crime of slavery, which produced enormous wealth for France, followed by 200 years of economic, political and military aggression waged by the European and U.S. bourgeoisies against the first free Black republic. The only country in the world where enslaved people had liberated themselves by overthrowing their masters, Haiti was a powerful symbol of resistance and had to be punished.

The country’s liberation was a beacon of hope for an end to slavery everywhere. It sent shock waves through the Americas and European capitals growing fabulously rich from the brutal trade in human Black labor. Fearing the implications for their own slave-based economies, France joined forces with the U.S. and other European powers.

In fact, after the first rebellion in Haiti, U.S. President George Washington—a slave owner himself—directed his secretary of state to “compensate” France with $400,000 for arms and food to resist the uprising. The U.S. did not recognize Haiti’s independence until 1862 after its own Civil War had begun. On Jan. 1, 1848, Haitian revolutionar- ary hero Gen. Jean-Jacques Dessalines had declared the country’s independence. His proclamation was the culmination of years of a national liberation struggle enacted by enslaved African people, who had freed themselves in a revolutionary upsurge that started at a Voodoo ceremony in 1791. Voodoo, as a result, has been turned into a pejorative term.

The twisted, sadistic form of colonial logic—where the white oppressors get compensated for their loss of the ability to cruelly exploit, while the Black victims are condemned to punishing poverty—was also applied in Jamaica, under the British colonialists, and in the U.S., after slavery ended.

The foreign imperialists and their collaborators among Haiti’s bourgeoisie have a daunting task ahead. It is one that will surely fail as the people—supported by a solidarity movement abroad—continue to draw on their long history of struggle and resistance against racist demonization, neoliberal capitalist exploitation and imperialist plunder.
El actual Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos legalizaría el violento fascismo racista y de odio a las mujeres del KKK vigilante, cuando ese grupo terrorista "limpiaba los pueblos" desnudando y literalmente emplumando a las mujeres que eran sexualmente independientes.

¿Sabías que...?

Un lavado de cerebro es una técnica de reeducación utilizada en países como Corea del Norte, China y Rusia. La técnica consiste en someter a los participantes a una serie de procedimientos que incluyen insulina, dietas restrictivas, ejercicios físicos intensivos y sesiones de lavado mental. La finalidad es reprogramar el pensamiento y la conducta de las personas para que se apeguen a las normas establecidas por el gobierno.

Un centenar de manifestantes marcharon desde la casa del juez del Tribunal Supremo Brett Kavanaugh, acusado de violar en las audiencias del Senado para su nominación a la Corte.

Un centenar de manifestantes marcharon desde la casa del juez del Tribunal Supremo Brett Kavanaugh, acusado de violar en las audiencias del Senado para su nominación a la Corte.

¿Parece una exageración? Pero consi-

demante, y otros restringirían aún más el

¿Sabías que...?

Existe un temor fundado de que un

tar la vida, al tiempo que han respaldado

El actual Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos legalizaría el violento fascismo racista y de odio a las mujeres del KKK vigilante, cuando ese grupo terrorista "limpiaba los pueblos" desnudando y literalmente emplumando a las mujeres que eran sexualmente independientes.

¿Sabías que...?

Un centenar de manifestantes marcharon desde la casa del juez del Tribunal Supremo Brett Kavanaugh, acusado de violar en las audiencias del Senado para su nominación a la Corte.

Un centenar de manifestantes marcharon desde la casa del juez del Tribunal Supremo Brett Kavanaugh, acusado de violar en las audiencias del Senado para su nominación a la Corte.

¿Parece una exageración? Pero consi-