

Global South rejects U.S.-NATO aggression

By Betsey Piette

As the U.S. and NATO work to advance their war against Russia now breaking out in Ukraine, many countries which have experienced imperialist aggression — by the U.S., France, Britain and other NATO members — are speaking out. They are denouncing the impact of U.S. sanctions as acts of war and calling NATO the threat to global peace.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — ALBA — is an inter-governmental organization of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on social, political and economic integration. Many member states have been targets of U.S. intervention and economic sanctions intended to derail popularly elected, progressive governments. Collectively they are speaking out against the U.S./NATO aggression against Russia.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Times Square protest, New York City, March 5.
More on struggle against U.S./NATO, pages 6-8.

Bolivian Indigenous leader Evo Morales called NATO “a serious threat to international peace and security. Its record of

invasions and aggression proves it. Now its expansionist attempt is one of the main reasons for the situation in Ukraine.” In

2019 the government led by Morales was overthrown by a right-wing coup directed by the U.S. A year later Morales’ Movement Towards Socialism party was restored to government in a popular election.

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela’s Ambassador Samuel Moncada, who addressed the March 2 U.N. General Assembly special session on Ukraine, echoed Morales’ sentiments. “We regret to note that the current escalation, with the painful and terrible loss of life it has entailed, originates from the breach of the Minsk Agreements under the encouragement of the United States of the permanent expansion of NATO toward Eastern Europe.

“Venezuela has always condemned the perverse tendency toward unilateral and hegemonic visions of the world, which

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Int’l Working Women’s Day means solidarity



GRAPHIC: ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOR

By Kathy Durkin

International Working Women’s Day is commemorated around the world on March 8. Two words signify its essence: solidarity and struggle.

Established in 1910 at an International Women’s Socialist Conference in Copenhagen, this special day was

intended to broaden global solidarity and strengthen ties among women workers.

IWWD’s socialist founders deplored the terrible working conditions faced by women workers, as they poured into factories in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere. They noted the strikes and massive demonstrations held by women immigrants in New York City.

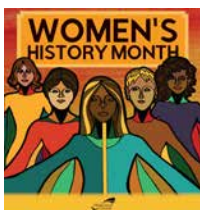
The day’s first commemoration took place in Europe in 1911, as 1 million women marched for jobs and their rights. Then in 1913 and 1914, women on that continent demonstrated against the looming world war and to build solidarity among women in belligerent countries.

IWWD demonstrations worldwide

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Sherwin Williams strike enters second month

By Martha Grevatt
Bedford Heights, Ohio

United Steelworkers (USW) Local 14919 has been on strike against the Sherwin Williams company since Feb. 5. The 55 union members hit the picket line in the Cleveland suburb of Bedford Heights with signs reading “Fair contract now!” The plant where they work manufactures a range of aerosolized chemical products, such as cleansers and deicers.

This Workers World reporter visited the picket line March 2. Other supporters who came to picket included members of Service Employees International Union Local 1 and Nina Turner, a progressive former state representative currently running for Congress.

Strikers want a contract that includes a decent pay increase and paid sick time and does not contain a new proposed attendance policy that would punish workers who stay home when they are sick. Sherwin Williams is only offering a 1.5% raise — an insulting 55 cents an hour that amounts to a pay cut after inflation.

In the middle of the pandemic — along with working around hazardous chemicals — workers have no paid sick leave. Designated essential workers, they have been putting in 12-hour days.

The company, best known for paint products and its iconic slogan “Cover the Earth,” was founded in Cleveland in 1866. A new downtown Cleveland headquarters and a research center in the suburb of Brecksville will be built for the combined cost of around \$600 million. In 2020 the Cleveland City Council approved \$100 million in tax incentives to keep Sherwin Williams based in the city.



Striking workers outside Sherwin Williams plant, March 2, Bedford Heights, Ohio.

The workers are angry that the company says it can’t afford what they are asking for, while spending over half a billion dollars on new buildings. Most of those we met on the picket have been at the plant 10 to 20 or more years. Also picketing was a young worker with only a month in the plant.

One picketer was a recent retiree who said that in 44 years, while Sherwin Williams talks as if workers were part of its “family,” he has never felt like he was treated as equal to management. He has experienced racism as an African American worker. But a short distance from the picket, the company had a sign that read “Hiring Now! Join our Team!” — a team we jokingly referred to as the Bedford Scabs.

Supporters in Northeast Ohio are being asked to visit the picket line and bring food and coffee. □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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

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Buffalo, New York

Workers Power Day

Worker and tenant activists in Buffalo, New York, assembled March 5 for Workers Power Day, which had been scheduled for one week prior but pushed back due to inclement weather. A number of speakers delivered statements expressing solidarity with Starbucks workers across the U.S., taking care to note that the struggle for workers' rights is ultimately inseparable from the struggle against racism and imperialism.

Special attention was given to Starbucks workers who have been illegally fired during the ongoing union struggle, including the Memphis 7 and Cassie Fleischer, a local organizer. Fleischer, who was terminated in February after nearly five years of service for the company, wrote a statement read at the event: "This termination is sadly a great example of exactly why we need a union in all stores across the nation. With the union in place, I can and will fight for reinstatement with back pay and have the ability to legally stand up to Starbucks. We will not be backing down from this fight."

— Report and photo by Ryan Lockwood



'Starbucks Workers United Zindabad!'

By Padma

Padma gave this lightly edited talk at the Boston Workers Power Day demonstration Feb. 26.

I am a health care worker in the Boston area. At the outset let me express my solidarity and deep admiration for the brave workers of Starbucks and Starbucks Workers United. I heard it was a BREWTIFUL day yesterday, with a third unionized Starbucks store in Mesa, Arizona.

Data shows that workers covered by union contracts, on an average, make 11.2% more than nonunionized workers with similar backgrounds in the same industry.

Black union workers are paid 13.7% more than nonunion workers, and Latinx 20% more. Among unionized workers 86% can take paid sick days, compared to only 72% of nonunion workers.

During the pandemic low-wage

workers, especially women and people of color, were forced to work without PPE and without access to health care. The

school bus drivers union and dining hall workers union fought for the health and rights of their workers, and I am proud to

be associated with them.

I am from India. You all must have heard about the historic farmers' struggle for several months, which brought the government to its knees and repealed unjust farm laws. They succeeded because they were organized with several farmers unions and Dalit workers' unions supporting the struggle.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., while speaking to striking sanitation workers in Memphis in 1968, said, "Let it be known everywhere that along with wages and all other securities that you are struggling for, you are also struggling for the right to organize and be recognized." The seven brave Starbucks workers who were fired for their organizing efforts in Memphis must be rehired.

Workers united will never be defeated. Workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. As we say in India, Starbucks Workers United Zindabad! □



Workers Power Day, Boston, Feb. 26.

WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

Opening games canceled

Baseball bosses wage economic warfare

By Martha Grevatt

Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) Executive Director Tony Clark hit the nail on the head when he said at a March 1 news conference, "a lockout is the ultimate economic weapon."

Professional baseball players have been locked out since Dec. 2, 2021, making this the second-longest work stoppage in MLB history. On March 1, Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that Opening Day games and subsequent games in the beginning of the regular season were canceled. (mlbplayers.com)

Clark explained that where progress has been made, it was on issues the union had offered to discuss as early as May 2021. They could have been resolved before the collective bargaining agreement expired, at which point the lockout was immediately imposed. Union executive board members Max Scherzer and Andrew Miller described union-busting actions by the league.

Key issues include fair compensation for new, young, talented players who are

generating huge profits for the owners, as well as the playoff format and other economic and noneconomic issues. The union gave up concessions in the 2016 collective bargaining agreement and does not want to give up more this go-around.

Clark charged that players have been "commoditized," affirming that "players are very much interested in protecting the game itself."

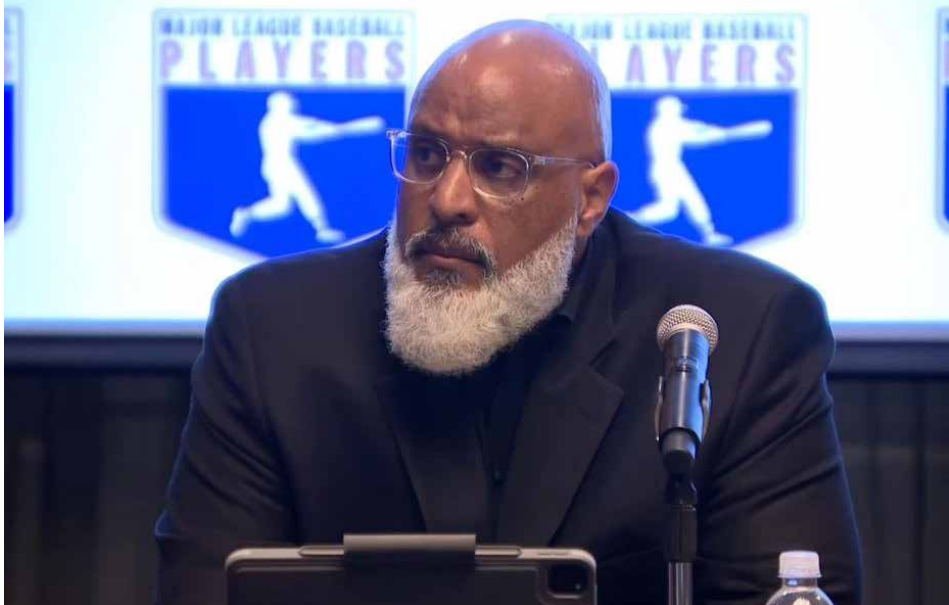
It was the MLB bosses who decided to play hardball and lock out the players, a preemptive move to avert a strike. Even mainstream sports columnists and commentators have called out MLB for potentially threatening the whole season. Dayn Perry of CBS Sports denounced the "owners who lie about their finances with tidal regularity, manipulate service time, treat the game as little more than a line item in a portfolio, and in many instances show no interest in competing." (cbssports.com)

The union is providing locked-out players, who are not being paid, with a stipend and will cover their health insurance if the lockout is not ended when benefits expire April 1.

While the canceled games represent

loss of income for players and are a disappointment to fans, the ones hardest hit are stadium workers, many of whom lack union representation. The MLBPA has set up a million dollar fund to assist these workers. "The funds will be distributed

to stadium workers and staff, including concession crews, electricians, janitors, ushers, security and transportation staff in addition to its broadcast crews." (npr.org) This is real worker-to-worker solidarity. □



Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark March 1 news conference.

War-fueled racism and xenophobia rising 80 years after ‘Internment’



By Ted Kelly

People who knew about this sordid anniversary in the history of the United States empire marked it Feb. 19. On that infamous day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the mass incarceration of nearly everyone of Japanese ancestry who resided within the United States — over 120,000 people.

Four months later, the U.S. launched a military campaign to invade the Aleutian Islands, the homeland of the Unangax people and a part of Alaska, then a U.S. territory, closest in North America to Japan. At least 880 Unangas were forcibly removed from their land and “resettled” in concentration camps. According to the World War II Alaska Project, “10% of the Unangax died at these camps due to the deplorable housing conditions, rampant epidemics, medical neglect and a lack of potable water.”

The website of the current state government of Alaska admits: “These Alaska Natives were relocated to six areas in Southeast Alaska, as far away as 1,500 miles from their homelands. Many were housed in old and derelict cannery buildings. Lack of proper food, housing and medicinal care resulted in deaths and trauma for those relocated as well as future generations.” (alaska.gov)

The decision to forcibly incarcerate over a hundred thousand Indigenous and Asian American people, both citizen and noncitizen, coincided with a tidal wave of pro-war propaganda. In the wake of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy, the U.S. ruling class used every tool at its disposal to prosecute a bloody conflict between U.S. and Japanese imperialism for control of the Pacific.

This interimperialist conflict claimed the lives of tens of millions of Native people, Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asians, Chinese and Koreans, along with U.S. and Japanese troops and Japanese civilians.

Roots of racism

While we reflect on this grim anniversary, we must understand the massive propaganda campaign that preceded it and made these atrocities possible.

Racism and xenophobia have proved to be grimly effective tools to coerce the working class into a reactionary frenzy. As Workers World has previously reported, “Mass assaults by white mobs on Chinese communities were common in the 19th century, including a Los Angeles attack in 1871 when at least 20 Chinese immigrants were lynched. . . . Legislators, capitalist bosses, whites-only conservative unions and ‘liberal’ white

women suffragists used this accusation to pass the infamous 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act banning Chinese workers from coming to the U.S.

“Division incited between oppressed peoples and workers by this racism resulted in the 1982 murder of young Chinese American Vincent Chin, beaten to death by [a Chrysler supervisor and his stepson].” (workers.org, March 23, 2020)

Whether sanctioned by the state or merely tolerated, this xenophobic violence has only continued to rise, as U.S. politicians become increasingly bellicose toward the People’s Republic of China and its growing influence. Over 10,000 hate incidents have been reported to Stop AAPI Hate, an organization dedicated to tracking and reporting anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander hate crimes.

The targets of verbal harassment and physical assault are disproportionately Asian American and Pacific Islander women; they are victims of 61.8% of all reported attacks. “In particular, AAPI women and girls report these hate incidents 2.2 times as often as AAPI men; and AAPI nonbinary people have also reported experiencing heightened incidents of hate.” (StopAAPIHate.org)

In just the last year, there have been multiple racist mass murders, notably the shootings in March and April that targeted Asian women spa workers in Atlanta and Sikh worshippers in Indianapolis, respectively. The Sikh Coalition said at the time: “It was no accident that

the shooter targeted this particular FedEx facility where he had worked and knew was overwhelmingly staffed by Sikhs. This was not a crime of convenience or a spur of the moment attack; it was one of methodical planning and selection which echoes the targeting of Asian American spa parlors in Atlanta exactly one month ago. The people that were shot and killed were not random targets.” (workers.org, April 19, 2021)

Workers must strike back at white supremacy

It is not enough to condemn this racist violence. It is the responsibility of workers in the United States to strike back at the source of it all: U.S. imperialism. The capitalist ruling class feels truly threatened by the massive success and growing power of the socialist project being carried out by the Chinese working class, particularly their comparative success in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Whipping up racist and xenophobic fervor against Asian people in general and Chinese people in particular has shown to be the first step toward bloody conflict.

Workers must likewise keep our ear to the ground and not ignore the seismic tremors of the war drums currently beating. In 2018, the Wall Street Journal published an essay entitled “Russia’s turn to its Asian past,” complete with a caricature depicting President

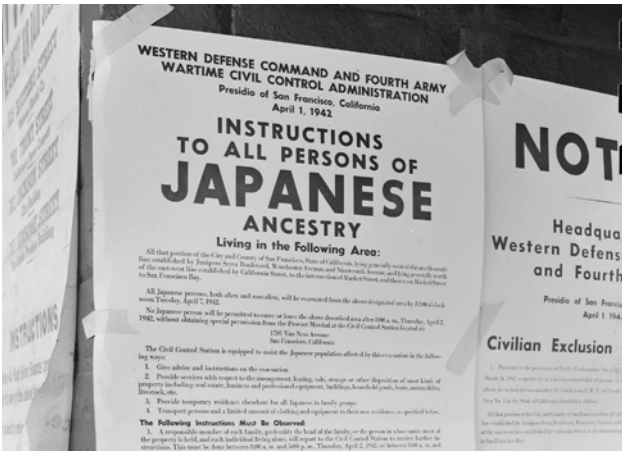
Vladimir Putin dressed in the armor of Genghis Khan charging toward the reader. (WSJ, July 6, 2018)

Since the U.S.-NATO-caused catastrophe in Ukraine, social media users have shared stories of being harassed for speaking Russian in public. A Russian community center in Vancouver was targeted by vandals over the weekend, with its front doors smeared in blue and yellow paint — the colors of the Ukrainian flag (Global News, Vancouver, March 5)

We know that as abolitionists, we must tear down the walls that incarcerate 2.5 million of our brothers, sisters and siblings, disproportionately Black and Brown workers who are there for no reason other than they are poor and workers of color. We must fight against the racist propaganda that manipulates our fellow workers into accepting this brutal state of affairs. We have but one enemy, the ruling-class enemy. We have but one war to wage, the class war against capitalism, white supremacy and imperialism. □



Recently vandalized Russian community center, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



Racist internment notice, 1942.

Georgia rally demands: ‘No prisons for profit!’

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

March 3 — Immigrant rights groups and other social justice organizations responded to a call from the Detention Watch Network to hold demonstrations at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities across the U.S. today.

In Georgia, the Coalition to Shut Down ICE was formed that included dozens of organizations from all parts of the state.

A main local focus was the news that the Folkston Detention Center, operated by the for-profit GEO Group, was going to be expanded into a 3,000-plus bed facility. The prison is located near the Florida border in Charlton County,

the fourth poorest county in Georgia and 11th poorest in the U.S. The economic benefits in jobs and economic growth from Folkston that were previously promised to the town have been proved false.

GEO Group reaps an estimated \$1.9 million a month at present from the 780-bed facility. The expansion would almost quadruple that amount.

Opponents of the Folkston Detention Center traveled from major cities and smaller towns and stood across the street from the multibuilding complex with signs and banners. Speakers using a powerful sound system addressed the criminal treatment of detainees and denounced a system that cages human beings for profit.

In Atlanta, a comparable crowd gathered at ICE Field Office, which is in charge of arrests and detentions in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. People

held up banners and signs, some targeting President Joe Biden for breaking his promise that his administration would end all contracts with private prison corporations.

Another demonstration at Folkston is planned for March 19. □



GRAPHIC: PAUL KJELLAND



WW PHOTO: DIANNE MATHIOWETZ

Atlanta, March 4.

Philadelphia

The struggle to free Mumia continues

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

March 2 — Dozens of supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal — the imprisoned, internationally renowned journalist, community activist and Pennsylvania political prisoner — gathered March 2 outside the city’s Common Pleas Court. At an earlier brief court hearing on Mumia’s current appeals of his unjust sentence, Judge Lecretia Clemons postponed the hearing at the request of the prosecutor’s office, for 120 days, until June 29.

In anticipation of today’s hearing, anti-death-penalty activists in France sent hundreds of letters to Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf calling for Mumia’s release after 40 years in prison. (tinyurl.com/y9uusj5b) On Jan. 4, Judith Ritter and Sam Spital, attorneys for veteran Black Panther Abu-Jamal, had filed a petition for a Post-Conviction Relief Appeal, based on evidence



Philadelphia’s City Hall, March 2. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

contained in six file boxes they had not been able to review until January 2019. Abu-Jamal was prosecuted and sentenced to death in 1982. The boxes were found in a remote storage room in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office in late December 2018. The uncovered evidence reveals a pattern of misconduct and abuse of authority by the prosecution, including bribery of the state’s two key witnesses — a

violation of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Brady v. Maryland — and racist exclusion in jury selection — a violation of the landmark SCOTUS ruling in Batson v. Kentucky.

After the adjourned court hearing, #LoveNotPhear activists gathered at the nearby Harriet Tubman statue before dispersing back to their homes in Philadelphia and New York City.

The nine-foot-tall Tubman statue will be featured in front of City Hall’s North Apron through the end of March to celebrate the abolitionist’s 200th birthday, as well as Black History and Women’s History Months. Tubman had a strong connection to Philadelphia, making her way to the city in 1849 after escaping slavery in Maryland and speaking at the city’s Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.

The sculpture of Tubman by Wesley Wofford is entitled “The Journey to Freedom” — emblematic of the determined 40-year struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. □



Breonna’s deathbed

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Since this audio column was posted on Sept. 23, 2020, on prisonradio.org., no felony charges were ever brought against the three white police officers who caused Breonna Taylor’s murder

during a “no-knock” search warrant in March 2020. One of the officers, Brett Hankison was acquitted on March 3, 2022, on three charges of wanton endangerment when he shot into the apartments of Taylor’s three neighbors.

Her name, Breonna Taylor, has become a chanted and shouted call in protests, along with those of many other Black people killed by the state with absolute impunity. In a recent decision, a grand jury* in the state of Kentucky did not issue a single indictment of murder against the police officers who broke into her apartment, shooting more than a dozen times. At least six shots hit Breonna as she lay in her bed. The policemen were ostensibly carrying out a raid against drug trafficking, but, note that they did not find any drugs.

Only one cop, who had been fired before, now



faces charges. He is accused of endangering neighbors by shooting at their apartments. Philosophers sometimes conduct thought experiments to see all sides of a controversy. Imagine, if you can, that a 26-year-old white woman named Breonna Brezinsky, who worked as a technician in medical emergencies, is killed, shot in her bed by half a dozen police officers in a misguided raid. What do you think would happen to those police officers? The case of the Black woman, Breonna,

reminds me of Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton, a 21-year-old Black man, shot in his bed after being drugged in the early morning hours of Dec. 4, 1969, in Chicago. Fifty years later, and the lives of Black people still matter. From the imprisoned nation, I am Mumia Abu-Jamal.

*A grand jury does not determine a person’s innocence or guilt as a jury in a criminal case, but investigates a possible crime, accuses one or more persons and establishes the charges against them. □



GRAPHIC: KAITLYNN RADLOFF

New York City

Student-community-labor coalition grows

By G. Dunkel
New York City

A growing student-community-labor coalition held a large rally March 6 on demands related to New York City educational institutions. After gathering at Brooklyn Borough Hall, participants marched over the Brooklyn Bridge to Foley Square in Manhattan. Key organizers of the rally and the coalition were the Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York (American Federation of Teachers Local 2334), United University Professions (AFT Local 2190) and CUNY Rising

Alliance, a coalition of 30-plus student, worker and community organizations “fighting for free and high-quality CUNY.” About 600 people heard James Davis, president of PSC-CUNY, and Fred Kowal, president of UUP, explain the needs of students and workers they represent at various institutions and how the pending New York state budget should recognize these needs. A number of unions sent solidarity delegations, including Teamsters Local 237, representing workers at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, and AFSCME District Council 37, the city’s largest public sector employee union. □



Brooklyn Borough Hall, March 6. WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

World says ‘No NATO war!’

By WW New York City bureau

Over 80 actions — in the U.S., around the world and in cyberspace — have been held or will be held in March to oppose U.S./NATO aggression in Russia and Ukraine. (unacpeace.org)

These actions are taking place amidst an overwhelming barrage of pro-U.S./NATO and anti-Russian propaganda. The role of the U.S. media and politicians is to overwhelm and drown out any opposition. Under these conditions even a small force standing up to the barrage becomes a magnet to attract that opposition.

In New York City on Times Square, a group of anti-NATO protesters found themselves surrounded by thousands of Ukrainians carrying printed signs calling on the U.N. to declare Ukraine a “No Fly Zone.”

The antiwar activists, representing a broad range

of peace, social justice and anti-imperialist organizations, held their signs and held their ground.

Among the messages receiving the strongest applause and cheers at the demonstration were those from Margaret Kimberley of Black Agenda Report, Larry Holmes of Workers World Party and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center. They underlined the need to resist this U.S./NATO war that could be ended right now if the U.S. would stop pumping in the weapons.

“I’m a veteran,” said Holmes, “and I learned when the U.S. invaded countries, it wasn’t to liberate them. It was to dominate them.”

“Let’s take courage,” Flounders said. “Let’s continue to say no NATO war; no NATO war; no NATO war!” □



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Larry Holmes, representing Workers World Party, addresses March 5 antiwar rally, New York City.

WW COMMENTARY

The West has lost all credibility

By Susan Abulhawa

Last year, an elementary school in Birmingham, Alabama, forbade their students from discussing the occupation of Palestine, due to the political nature of the topic. They said it was not appropriate to mix education with politics. Last week, that same elementary school held a fundraiser for Ukrainian refugees.

FIFA and UEFA have routinely fined football fans for flying Palestinian flags during matches against Israeli teams. They have likewise punished players who expressed solidarity with Palestinians. In 2009, at the height of Israel’s assault and rampant murder of Palestinians in Gaza, and as Palestinian footballer Mahmoud Sarsak was wasting away on a hunger strike in an Israeli prison, Seville striker Frédéric Kanouté was slapped with a fine for exposing a T-shirt reading “Palestina” under his jersey.

Colin Kaepernick was booted from the NFL for kneeling in protest for unrelenting police brutality against Black America. Repeatedly we were told it was

not appropriate to mix sports with politics. But within days of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, FIFA and UEFA announced they were banning Russia’s national and club soccer teams from all international football competitions, including the upcoming 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Many musicians and other cultural workers who rebuffed the Palestinian call to boycott Israel told us that culture should not mix with politics. Some of those same celebrities, like Nick Cave, are now cancelling their performances in Russia. Venues around the United States and Europe are cancelling Russian ballets, orchestras and other performances. Even the International Cat Federation — who knew there was such a thing? — banned Russian cats from competing.

Palestinians, who have faced constant bombs, apartheid, murder, theft, harassment and unspeakable terrorism from the Israeli military and their paramilitary settlers, have been calling on the world for over a decade to boycott Israeli goods as a minimal act of solidarity with a besieged and occupied civilian population with no

way to defend itself.

But we were told that boycotts are “unhelpful,” and we should instead “negotiate” with our colonizers for our freedom. In fact, nearly every state has since passed so-called “anti-BDS laws” meant to literally criminalize boycotts of Israel. But within days of Russia taking military action in Ukraine against increasing NATO threats on its border, stores around the world are removing Russian products from the shelves.

When the U.S. was carpet-bombing Iraq, one of the oldest civilizations in the world, the media called it “Shock and Awe.” They showed us explosions, as if fireworks. That same media has referred to the attack in Ukraine as a “Nazi-style blitzkrieg,” even though what Russia did does not compare in severity, death toll or duration to what the U.S. or Israel did in any of their imperial wars throughout the Middle East.

We always knew — even if we hoped otherwise — that the West was irredeemably racist and terminally corrupt. But



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Susan Abulhawa speaks at rally supporting Palestine in Philadelphia on April 12, 2018.

whatever doubts we may have had before have been put to rest. The West hates us. They have nothing but contempt or occasional pity for our lives. They have never been our friends, nor can they ever be. I don’t know what it will take for the Global South to finally understand this.

Palestinian activist Susan Abulhawa, a member of Workers World, is a globally acclaimed novelist. Her latest novel is “Against the Loveless World,” Atria, 2020.

Global South rejects U.S.-NATO aggression

Continued from page 1

disregard the principles of diplomacy, organize invasions with total impunity in countries such as Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, and promote media shields that limit freedom of expression and manipulate opinions and emotions to increase xenophobia and hate speech.”

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro called for talks between Russia and Ukraine and repudiated economic sanctions against Russia. Maduro denounced mainstream media campaigns targeting Russian millionaires as “oligarchs,” asking what U.S. millionaires are called. Maduro repudiated censorship against Russian media, citing a new geopolitical age taking shape. “Despite the empire’s attempt to impose itself with the blackmail of the dollar and the financial and commercial system to impose a unipolar world, a multipolar world of new poles of power has been born.” (tinyurl.com/yckmwzt8)

“I had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin,” wrote Maduro on Twitter. “I confirmed Venezuela’s condemnation of NATO’s destabilizing actions. I reiterated a firm disposition in favor of understanding and dialogue as a way to preserve peace.” Maduro stressed the importance of countering the campaign of lies and disinformation unleashed by the U.S. and other NATO countries. He defended Russian sovereignty over Crimea and supported the demilitarization and denazification of the Ukrainian state, to guarantee its neutral and nonnuclear status. (tinyurl.com/ydp3vuay)

Venezuelan journalist Patricia Villegas Marín, director of TeleSUR, denounced the European Union ban on Sputnik and RT, noting: “in the name of democracy, voices are being silenced. We at TeleSUR have experienced [this



African residents wait at the Lviv railway station, west Ukraine, Feb. 27.

type of blockade] many times at decisive moments in the political life of Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Cuban resistance to U.S./NATO aggression

Addressing the emergency session on Ukraine, Ambassador Pedro Luis Pedrosó Cuesta, Cuba’s Permanent Representative to the U.N., stated: “U.S. determination to continue NATO’s progressive expansion toward the Russian Federation borders has brought about a scenario with implications of unpredictable scope, which could have been avoided. The United States’ and NATO’s military moves in recent months toward regions adjacent to the Russian Federation, preceded by the delivery of modern weapons to Ukraine, which altogether add up to a military siege, are well-known.

“Ignoring for decades the well-founded claims of the Russian Federation for security guarantees and assuming that Russia would remain defenseless in the face of

a direct threat to its national security was a mistake. Peace cannot be achieved by sieging or cornering States. History will hold the U.S. accountable for the consequences of an increasingly offensive military doctrine outside NATO’s borders, which threatens international peace, security and stability.” (tinyurl.com/4e6b4ww9)

Nicaragua’s representative to the U.N. Orlando José Tardencilla laid the blame on the backers of the 2014 coup d’état in Ukraine and the attacks and bombings against the populations of Donetsk and Lugansk.

The ALBA countries were not alone in opposing the U.N. vote condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The U.S.-backed resolution passed with 141 votes in favor, but there were five no votes and 35 abstentions. Abstainers included China, India, Iran, Iraq, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Half of the states that abstained or did not vote at all were African. Belarus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Syria and Eritrea voted with Russia to reject the motion.

In analyzing the vote, David McNair, Executive Director of Global Policy, noted “Of the 7.7 billion people represented by governments taking part in the vote, only 42% were from countries approving the motion.” Many of those abstaining are countries who have suffered under crippling U.S. economic sanctions — another act of war.

The Ukrainian authorities’ racist treatment of African students studying in Ukraine when they sought to leave the country speaks volumes. African countries will certainly face U.S. pressure for refusing to condemn Russia. But that didn’t stop a demonstration in the Central African Republic’s capital Bangui, where hundreds of participants called for the end of NATO and the end of U.S. hegemony and imperialism. □

U.S. sanctions: an act of war against workers

By G. Dunkel

Mass media in the United States and throughout the countries of Western Europe are exhaustively and intensely depicting the suffering of the Ukrainian people as Ukraine confronts the Russian army.

It is the U.S. and its NATO proxy who have now broadened the war being fought in Ukraine.

What the media is not covering is the impact of this war on the working and poor people inside Russia.

In an alliance with the most economically powerful capitalist governments and their central banks, the U.S. has managed to cut the Russian economy off from many of the world's financial arteries. According to the conservative weekly *The Economist*, "No major economy in the modern world has ever been hit so hard by such weapons." (March 5)

Hundreds of billions of dollars in Russia's central bank reserves were frozen by this capitalist consortium of banks. This has meant that Russia could not defend the value of its currency by buying rubles. Russia's ruble lost 30% of its value over the weekend of Feb. 26-27.

Currently, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on over 10,000 people or firms, affecting over 50 countries making up 27% of the world's GDP.

To say that the sanctions on Russia have had an unprecedented impact is clearly to define a catastrophic situation.

War's impact on workers

Big business Western media have spent a lot of time, screen minutes and ink asserting travel bans against Russia are only disrupting the luxurious vacations of the Russian ultrarich — the people they call oligarchs.

The capitalist media spend no time talking about ordinary working



Workers at a Moscow bank attempt to gain access to their money tied up by U.S. sanctions, March 1.

people who have had their lives disrupted catastrophically.

Since Russia imports substantial supplies of food, chemicals and machinery, the prices that workers in Russia now face — and have to pay to meet their daily needs — are going to spike. The world's two largest shipping companies — Maersk and MSC — have suspended operations to and from Russia.

Google Pay, Apple Pay, Mastercard, Visa, Discover and Amex have all announced that they are suspending or restricting operations in Russia. Tens of thousands of people living in Russia — who use these cards to pay their bus and subway

fares to get to work, school, pharmacies or supermarkets — could not do so starting Feb. 25, because the card companies were sanctioning Russia.

It is the U.S. and its NATO proxy who have now broadened the war being fought in Ukraine. What the media is not covering is the impact of this war on the working and poor people inside Russia.

The jobs of tens of thousands of workers in Russia employed by foreign companies are in jeopardy. If they work, they must be paid, but their companies have no legal way to pay them. Some foreign-owned companies have put themselves up for sale, and others are abandoning their investments.

Canceling credit/debit cards, closing air spaces and imposing travel bans have meant that the 150,000 people who domicile in Russia but who were outside the country were

likely without funds, unable even to pay their bills, at the time of sanctions. The 27,000 people in countries covered by air travel bans have an additional major worry — simply getting home. (NPR, March 2)

Inside Russia, even people from the U.S. and other countries who support the sanctions face being stranded and unable to leave. Given legal restrictions on financial transactions, whether they can pay their bills is questionable. The U.S. Embassy is advising U.S. citizens to leave immediately.

Class war

Sanctions cut both ways. The current sanctions against Russia have one big exception: Russia will be allowed payment for supplying Western Europe with 40% of its oil and gas. If this flow were sanctioned, oil prices, which have been volatile but trending higher due to war uncertainty, might go through the roof.

Russia then might do better selling less oil at higher prices on the spot market. Then again it might not. There's a fog of war and a fog of sanctions.

Either way, workers in the U.S. and Europe involved in producing goods or services for Russia will lose. This loss won't be tracked, because the governments involved want to pretend that the only cost of sanctions is on the nation that is sanctioned.

The tens of thousands of sanctions imposed by the U.S. cost many thousands of workers their jobs. In Russia, a cratering currency, short supplies and skyrocketing inflation point to life becoming much harder for ordinary working people.

For analysis of how U.S. sanctions further an imperialist agenda, see "Stop U.S. sanctions!" Workers World, April 25, 2019.

Serbian activist speaks out

Stop the war on Russia

By Milos Raickovich

The author is a Serbian composer living in the U.S. who actively opposed the U.S.-NATO war against Yugoslavia in 1999.

On March 24, 1999, NATO crossed its own redline, when it bombed Serbia and Montenegro, the last two republics still remaining at that time in a union of the South-Slavic peoples called Yugoslavia. The 78-day bombing campaign was a criminal act against a sovereign and truly independent nation, unprovoked and justified by lies and demonization of the country's leader and its people.

As a result of that war, NATO carved out of Serbia the province of Kosovo and Metohija, a territory that is still not

recognized as an independent country by the U.N. Even some NATO countries won't recognize it. It is an absolutely lawless territory today, dominated by criminal gangs and their masters based in the U.S. military's Camp Bondsteel.

From a so-called defensive alliance, NATO has become the largest criminal enterprise on Earth. After Yugoslavia, NATO went on to destroy Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria; and now it is waging a proxy war, with the help of the corrupt Ukrainian right-wing elites, against Russia.

For years, the U.S. has bribed Ukrainian politicians with billions of dollars. A right-wing coup was orchestrated, the elected president removed and the new regime introduced blatantly discriminatory policies toward Russian-speaking citizens



Candlelight vigil on 20th anniversary of U.S./NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, held in Belgrade, Serbia, 2019.

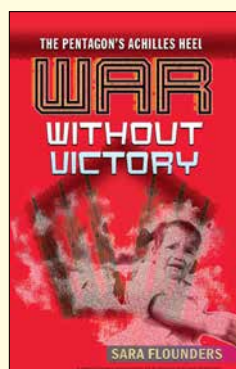
of Ukraine. The Ukrainian government's war against the Russian-speaking population in the Donbass region started seven years ago; 14,000 people have been killed. The war started then, in 2014, not last week.

This massacre has to stop. The only way to achieve a permanent peace between the two neighborly peoples, Ukrainians and Russians, is to stop the U.S. and NATO in their frenzied drive to impose their domination in a unipolar world. The U.S. and NATO could stop the war with a single phone call to the Ukrainian president, with a demand to respect the

already signed Minsk agreement of 2015.

The existence of NATO and its current proxy war against Russia is costing dearly. It's the ordinary people around the world, including here in the U.S., who will suffer in the years to come from the cost of the wars and sanctions. People must organize to stop the military spending and demand their tax money goes to improve their own lives.

Disband NATO, money for free health care, education and housing! Russians are not the enemy, capitalism and militarism are. □



WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;
Foreign Minister, Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Free PDF available at www.workers.org/books.

U.S.-NATO imperialism pushes Ukraine to the front line

By Manuel Raposo

Raposo is the editor of the Portuguese Marxist web magazine *jornalmudardevida.net* and was a key organizer of the 2004 Portuguese session of the People’s Tribunal on the crimes of imperialism during the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Translation: John Catalinotto.

March 4 — In the deluge of propaganda regarding Russia’s military intervention in Ukraine, the people of the U.S. and the European Union have the opportunity to see, in a mirror, the actions of their governments during the last few decades. The same goes for the Portuguese authorities and each of the European governments, which have never raised any objection to the military interventions, sanctions and threats of all kinds, originating in the U.S. or the EU itself against countries such as Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Venezuela, Iran or Cuba — all of which are as sovereign as Ukraine.

At the point events have reached, moral judgments that justify Russian self-defense or condemn Russian aggression are of little importance; what matters is to understand the reasons that led to such an outcome and why it was not avoided. If this is ignored, national and world public opinion will be corralled by a deluge of irrational propaganda with no idea what it is leading to.

If the Western imperialist powers really wanted to avoid war, the measures were there: Abide by the Minsk agreements of 2014-15 with regard to the Eastern Ukrainian regions and declare that Ukraine would never join NATO. It was this path that the U.S. and E.U. refused.

What really irritates the leaders of the imperialist West is that this time it is Russia that is ignoring international law in the name of its strategic interests. Law that the U.S. and the EU have trampled on at will — unpunished — since the end of the Cold War gave them unchallenged supremacy over the world.

In 30 years of free rein, the West has invoked at will the right to “preventively defend itself” against alleged threats to its security. That this was not defense is proven by the U.S. military doctrine, adopted since George W. Bush’s mandate, of using its nuclear arsenal, not as a mere means of response or deterrence but as an instrument of first strike.

U.S. supremacy now in question

Invoking the “moral superiority” of its democracies, the West has imposed wars, expanded its military alliances, promoted changes in political regimes, organized “color revolutions” and coups d’état, assassinated leaders, surrounded its main competitors with military bases and naval squadrons, and threatened the world with space warfare. It was not law that guided the West: It was the unchallenged strength at its disposal for years. It is this supremacy that is now in question.

Since the U.S. got rid of the USSR, the international organizations that were born out of the relative balance

imposed by the East-West confrontation — starting with the U.N. — have been devalued, torpedoed and annulled by Yankee arrogance, with the collaboration or passivity of the EU. Instead of rules accepted by the community of countries, the imperialist triad U.S.-EU-Japan imposed on the world the law of the strongest, shielded by U.S. military power. And in recent years it has done its utmost to replace the formally democratic norms contained in the U.N. Charter by “rules” and “values” it dictated, which the rest of the world would have to obey.

In the case of Ukraine, therefore — considering the confrontational logic that the West has put into play in international relations — Russia has more right to invoke the right to its security than the U.S. or the EU ever did.

Confronted with its own decadence, U.S. imperialism has set in motion a new Cold War: Russia and China are its main targets. It is in this framework that the Ukrainian question has to be evaluated.

U.S. turns Ukrainians into cannon fodder

The West has turned the Ukrainians into cannon fodder. It brought about regime change in 2014 through a coup d’état, planned the country’s integration into NATO, took confrontation with Russia to an extreme by disregarding all its complaints, closed diplomatic channels and instigated military confrontation. And now it seeks to take dividends with public opinion, pointing to Russia and Putin as intractable.

Europe, even with some feeble attempts at mediation, ended up submitting to the hard line defined from Washington. Still barely recovered from the pandemic devastation, it will bear the brunt of the predictable losses of the war: a new wave of refugees, a general increase in prices, a drop in energy reserves, worsening economic stagnation, greater dependence on the U.S. And instead of seeking ways to appease, it is adding fuel to the Ukrainian fire and going down the path of its own militarization, as Chancellor [Olaf] Scholz’s announcement of a “new era” in German defense policy showed.

European generosity in receiving refugees goes hand in hand with the supply of arms to the Kiev regime. The glorification of Ukrainian patriotism is accompanied by miraculous predictions of a Russian military defeat. All this is a thin smoke screen to hide the unwillingness of the U.S. and the EU to avoid war and their gamble of throwing Ukraine into the conflict, knowing perfectly well that the country would have no chance to prevail.

All the aid now given to [Volodymyr] Zelensky is only meant to prolong the war to wear Russia down as much as possible at the expense of the Ukrainian population’s sacrifices.



WW GRAPHIC: SASHA MAZUMDER

The voices bemoaning the lack of muscle in NATO and the West and making irresponsible calls to arms are the direct result of the same confrontational policy that pushed the Ukrainians to the front. They aim to create conditions for world public opinion to accept the escalation of the conflict with Russia — in a climate of a new Cold War — in a primary logic of either-us-or-them, of reasonableness versus madness.

The demonization campaigns of Saddam Hussein, of Moammar Gadhafi, of Islam, of the Arab world, the theories about the “clash of civilizations,” the lies set up by the secret services — and the role that all this played in preparing public opinion for the wars that followed — show the path that is being opened when insulting Putin, the Russian regime and Russia itself in the most unabashed way.

To see in the Ukrainian conflict a struggle between two world views, between autocracy and democracy, between tyranny and freedom, is a mystification. What is being disputed is the space that the loss of hegemony by the imperialist West leaves to the new powers that yesterday were in the shadows and were therefore sidelined and that are now asserting themselves with the capacity to compete on the world stage.

It is unclear what form the new order heralded by the conflict will take. But it is certain that it will reflect the irremediable change in the world balance of power. Those forces that align with the U.S. and EU camps — on the pretext that they represent “Democracy” and “Freedom” — are in fact once again capitulating to imperialism — and this time their surrender is no longer to a rising force, but to an old world that is sinking. □

Portland ‘Abolish NATO! Resist U.S. imperialism!’

By Madison Johnson
Portland, Oregon

Cries of “Abolish NATO!” and “Resist U.S. imperialism!” echoed around Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, Oregon, March 6. These were the phrases that garnered the loudest cheers from the nearly 160 protesters gathered to protest NATO encroachment on Eastern Europe. A coalition of groups organized the “Stop NATO War on Russia! Stop the Sanctions!” rally. Workers World Party collaborated with the International League of Peoples’ Struggle to initiate the demonstration. Danny O’Brien, who has written for Workers World on the subject, gave much needed historical context to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

“The people of Ukraine will see their country torn apart further by imperialist powers,” O’Brien explained. “Because



Portland, Oregon, March 6.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

of the sanctions levied against them, Russia’s people could potentially starve, be hit with massive hikes in poverty rates, lose access to proper medicines and fuels for heating and transport. Europe’s working class will suffer from a rise in inflation and poverty. U.S. workers will face rising gas prices, potentially lower wages, higher inflation and a cultural uptick in racism, xenophobia and blind patriotism.”

As should be expected, local news coverage of the event by KOIN TV completely ignored the anti-NATO emphasis of the rally, co-opting it into the State Department’s narrative that places the blame entirely on Russia. Luckily, their words could not hide their footage of protesters with anti-imperialist signs.

Also speaking were representatives from the Resist U.S.-Led War Movement, BAYAN, Veterans for Peace and Extinction Rebellion. □

Despite U.S. blockade

Socialist Cuba combats COVID-19

By Kathy Durkin

Juan Antonio Quintanilla, permanent Cuban envoy to the United Nations, adamantly stated that this Caribbean nation will stay on its socialist path, despite continual U.S. aggression via the blockade. In a speech to the U.N. in Geneva March 3, he emphasized that this is the Cuban people’s will and that nothing would cause them to change course. They are resolute in defense of their revolution.

Decrying Washington’s intensified economic warfare, Quintanilla stated, “The blockade constitutes the most flagrant and massive violation of the human rights of an entire people and the main obstacle to its economic and social development.”

The ambassador criticized the U.S. government for taking advantage of the global COVID-19 pandemic to intensify the blockade and implement new destabilization plans against the socialist island. (Telesur, March 3)

The Trump administration from 2017-2021 enacted over 240 hostile measures against Cuba, many of them during the pandemic. Significantly, President Joe Biden’s administration has not overturned any of these hostile acts. This should be duly noted by all supporters of the Cuban Revolution.

There is bipartisan agreement on the part of the Democrats and Republicans, no matter who sits in the White House, to squeeze the Cuban people economically and pressure them to overturn their socialist state. This goal underlies all of Washington’s actions aimed at Cuba.

The Communist Party of Cuba’s (PCC) Central Committee denounced the 60 years of “economic, commercial and financial blockade” imposed Feb. 3, 1962,

during the Kennedy administration. Its statement deplored the formalization of the “total embargo” on trade with Cuba, which began when the Revolution won.

The leadership condemned the “encirclement and economic asphyxiation . . . meant to restrict the legitimate right of Cubans to defend our sovereignty and forge an emancipatory project, without imperialist domination.” This economic weapon is illegitimate, violates international laws and is meant to prevent Cuba’s trade with other countries and cut off income sources. (Granma, Feb. 3)

But Cuba’s sovereignty is recognized by the overwhelming majority of the world’s countries, as shown every year when they vote against Washington’s blockade in the U.N. General Assembly.

China slams blockade

China’s State Council Information Office demanded cessation of the U.S. economic war against Cuba and

punitive measures against Syria, Iran and Venezuela. Their statement called it a “massive, flagrant and unacceptable violation of the human rights of the Cuban people” and said, “just like the virus, the blockade asphyxiates and kills and must cease.” (Granma, March 3)

Despite Washington’s economic siege, the Cuban Revolution has made achievements not gained in the wealthiest capitalist governments. Cuban socialism ensures free, quality health care for its people. The priority is to meet people’s needs, not line corporate coffers.

Socialism’s superiority is shown in the government’s handling of the pandemic internationally and at home. Cuba’s Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade has sent medical teams to 27 countries to fight COVID-19.

At the National Assembly of People’s Power on Dec. 22, 2021, PCC Central Committee First Secretary Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez congratulated Cubans for joining the government’s anti-pandemic campaign. He emphasized the country’s achievements: producing three COVID-19 vaccines and two vaccine candidates and being one of the most advanced countries in vaccinating the population, especially children.

“Public health is not a commodity; it is a right of all and a responsibility of the State,” emphasized Díaz-Canel. (tinyurl.com/4zhmb62n) Could any wealthy capitalist country say that?

Over 1.6 million children from two to 18 years of age were vaccinated. No pediatric deaths have occurred since that campaign ended. Cuba initiated a countrywide pediatric vaccination effort as soon as it could. Schools were not reopened until all children were vaccinated. Now, that is socialist planning! (Granma, Jan. 26). □



Portrait of Cuban child
ARTWORK: MAISEL LÓPEZ

International Working Women’s Day means solidarity

Continued from page 1

have opposed imperialist war and oppression. This year Workers World calls for solidarity with women and people of all genders living under the gun of U.S./NATO-backed wars, occupations, sanctions and blockades, and all people oppressed by U.S.-backed dictatorships. We back those defending their countries against imperialist economic and military aggression.

WW supports our sisters and siblings in Cuba, building a socialist society attentive to women and gender-nonconforming people, prioritizing people’s needs and showing international solidarity.

It is essential to extend solidarity to workers super-exploited by global capitalism, including millions of women migrant workers, incarcerated workers, and all people demanding economic, social and political rights. We adamantly support Indigenous women worldwide, leading the fight against corporate destruction of the planet.

WW supports struggles against racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and physical and sexual abuse on and off the job. We call for reproductive justice everywhere.

On IWWD, we applaud the fights for unionization, with workers of color, women and gender-nonconforming

people in the forefront, including Starbucks and Amazon workers here in the U.S.

Capitalist governments give lip service to the significance of IWWD with receptions and proclamations about women’s equality, while corporations try to commercialize it.

Nevertheless, International Working Women’s Day’s working-class roots and overriding theme of global solidarity break through.

On March 8, working women from varied industries and workplaces, those of all nationalities, genders, cultures, religions and ages proudly demonstrate worldwide with colorful banners held high. □

Mark International Working Women’s Day! Support Workers World!

In the spirit of International Working Women’s Day, March 8, Workers World hails women workers and oppressed people around the world, as well as in the U.S. In 1910, the International Socialist Women’s Conference in Copenhagen declared March 8 International Working Women’s Day. People of all genders commemorate this special day worldwide.

But this newspaper doesn’t show this solidarity only on that date or in March, Women’s History Month, as proclaimed by Congress in 1987. Its pages relate the news and show whose side we’re on

weekly: the multinational, multigender working class and those most oppressed by capitalism.

WW promotes the view that “every struggle is a woman’s struggle,” including the fights for affordable housing, jobs at a livable wage, unionization, free medical care for all with full reproductive health services, voting rights, a clean environment and an end to imperialist wars.

We embrace the mothers whose children have been killed by racist police and vigilantes, from Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon

Martin’s mother, to Wanda Cooper-Jones, Ahmaud Arbery’s mother.

Our paper decries the superexploitation of African American, Latinx, Indigenous and immigrant women who earn the lowest wages. WW expresses solidarity with these women workers and those subjected to racism, misogyny, bigotry, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia.

WW coverage supports the Starbucks workers,

mostly young women and LGBTQ+ workers, fighting to unionize stores owned by this global corporation. We applaud the Memphis 7, mainly Black and Brown workers, who were fired for daring to organize their Tennessee store.

This newspaper extensively covers the struggles of Amazon workers for safer, better-paying jobs and a union. While the corporation’s centibillionaire owner, Jeff Bezos, got even richer during the pandemic, women still comprise one-half of the lowest-paid workers, while two-thirds of them are Black and Latinx.

Socialists have long recognized the only way to improve women’s lives is the struggle to overturn capitalism. WW newspaper espouses this view and boldly states that socialism is the only system that can ensure real liberation for women, workers and oppressed people.

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 truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary

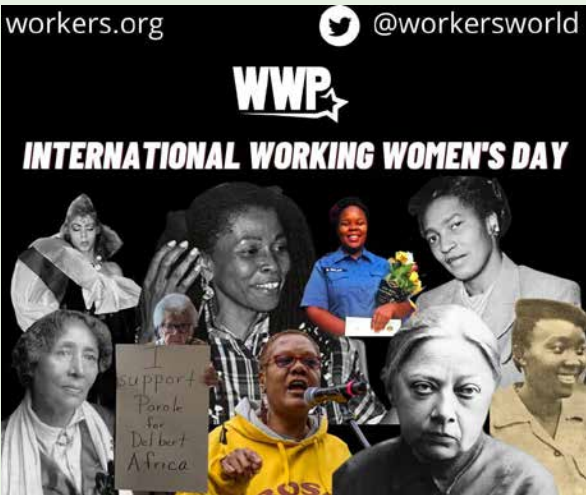
change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has helped sponsor the workers.org website. Throughout the pandemic when fewer 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 posted at *workers.org*. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this two-year health crisis.

For a donation of \$60 a year, or \$120 or \$300, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions for friends, depending on donation, and updates. 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 and 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! □



Fight xenophobia – a form of war

The U.S.- and NATO-instigated conflict in Ukraine is rooted in the quest to plunder and profit off Russia’s vast wealth in natural gas and oil. This has been a major pillar of U.S. imperialism’s quest to rebuild its global empire since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The imperialists will do whatever it takes to gain new markets to make profits, even with the global threat of nuclear war.

Russia has had the right to protect its borders as the rise of neofascist elements inside Ukraine has been a constant threat to its sovereignty since 2014, resulting in the breakaway of the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk from Ukraine.

This conflict — engineered by the U.S. and NATO — has been conducted on various fronts. Russia has become its latest target with unmitigated imperialist hostilities extending beyond sanctions — an act of war — and other political attacks.

Even though there is no longer a Soviet Union, xenophobia has once again become a weapon in the hands of the U.S. and its virulent anti-communist junior partners in NATO.

Anything or anyone associated with Russia has become viciously demonized and ostracized. This type of labeling has especially had a devastating impact on international sporting events involving Russia.

Russian athletes have been banned from participating in the upcoming Winter Paralympics in Beijing. The 2022 Olympic gold and silver medal-winning women

figure skaters, Anna Shcherbakova and Aleksandra Trusova, have been barred from the upcoming World Figure Skating Championships later on this month in Montpellier, France.

FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) and UEFA (Union of European Football Association) have suspended Russian national teams and clubs from all soccer competitions. This also means that Russia cannot host any international soccer competitions.

Russia has been banned by the Ice Hockey Federation, World Rugby and Rugby Europe sport federations, along with the International Basketball Federation. And because Belarus is a strong ally of Russia, their athletes have also been banned from many of the same competitions. These banishments are just the tip of the iceberg.

Collective punishment

Xenophobia is not a new tactic, when it comes to isolating whole groups of people based on their race and nationality in the interests of enriching the power and coffers of the ruling class. As the imperialist war between the U.S. and Japan accelerated in 1942, over 100,000 Japanese people in the U.S. were forced into 10 internment camps from 1942 until 1945. Japanese people who had emigrated to the U.S. and their descendants endured racist treatment as they were portrayed as “enemy combatants.”

Following the 9/11 attacks in 2001,

the U.S. government declared a “war on terrorism” mainly against Muslim people. The war included the “USA Patriot Act” by which the U.S. government, including the FBI and CIA, could detain and torture anyone suspected of a so-called terrorist act, especially if they originated from any Muslim country. The right to a trial and counsel was denied to thousands. Racist taunts, assaults and even murder were unleashed on Brown people or Arab people with impunity. Ignored was that those who had carried out the 9/11 bombing were mainly from Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally.

What about the recent war on Asian people, who have been victimized since the COVID-19 pandemic? Then-President Donald Trump spewed before rabid right-wing supporters that China was to blame for the virus. His racist tirade erupted in a tidal wave of assaults, especially on people of Chinese and Korean descent. In March 2021, six of the eight people shot to death in Atlanta-area spas in a mass killing were women of Asian descent, mainly Korean. Just this January a 40-year-old Chinese-American woman, Michelle Go, was killed when she was pushed onto the tracks of a New York subway train.

Xenophobia is one of the most vicious kinds of class division. It works in the interest of the superrich class to put the



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

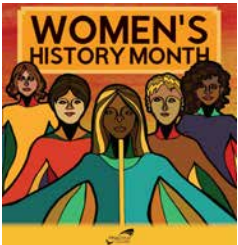
New York City anti-war demonstration, March 5, Sara Flounders speaking for International Action Center.

blame on another marginalized group or oppressed nation for all the ills of a white-supremacist, capitalist society that puts profits before meeting the needs of people.

Xenophobia and the threat of imperialist war go hand in hand. China understands that it is in the crosshairs of U.S. imperialism just as much, if not more so, than Russia.

U.S. imperialism and NATO could care less about the people of Ukraine, Russia, China or any other country when it comes to their real geopolitical aim — to recolonize the world by superexploiting the workers and their resources.

This is another reason why the movement must be visible in the streets to demand “Fight racism, not Russia!” and “Lift the ban on Russian athletes!” □



1929-2022

Autherine Lucy—Fighter against white supremacy

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Autherine Lucy, who heroically enrolled at the University of Alabama in 1956 to break state laws of racist segregation governing that public school, died March 2. She was 92 years old and lived in Bessemer, Alabama.

Lucy was the first African American person ever admitted to a “whites-only” public university in Alabama.

In 1952, she and Pollie Myers, a friend and NAACP civil-rights activist, applied to the University of Alabama. The women were accepted — and then refused admittance, when authorities discovered they were African American.

Backed by NAACP legal efforts, Lucy — already holding a B.A. from Miles College — was finally able to enroll in 1956, seeking to earn a master’s degree. Her first class was Feb. 3 in the College of Education building, named for former governor and Ku Klux Klan leader Bibb Graves.

On Feb. 6, riots broke out on the campus, and a mob of more than a thousand racist men marched through the streets of Tuscaloosa, where the university was located, intent on stopping Lucy’s enrollment. On the campus, laughing male students openly marched, held white supremacist rallies, burned crosses and hoisted a Confederate flag on University Avenue, the central street of the school.

When Lucy was driven to and from campus for classes, the white mob stoned the car, and men climbed onto the vehicle to try to harm her. Her life was repeatedly threatened.

The university board of trustees denied Lucy a dormitory room and access to the dining halls, in an attempt to force her to

quit. Then, only three days after she had enrolled, they expelled her. This was ostensibly “for her safety,” but in fact the trustees were in agreement with white-supremacist law and howling mob violence.

Lucy and the NAACP, under the direction of Thurgood Marshall, filed contempt-of-court charges against the university’s trustees and president, against the dean of women for barring her from the dining hall and dormitories and against four white men unconnected to the university for participating in the riots. The federal court in Birmingham ordered that Lucy be reinstated and that the university take adequate measures to protect her.

In response, the university trustees expelled her permanently, claiming that Lucy had slandered the university by pursuing legal action.

Subsequently, Lucy had difficulty securing work as a teacher, due to her public position against segregation. She married divinity student Hugh Foster, taught school around the South, moved with her family back to Alabama in 1974 and began teaching in the Birmingham school system.

Educating with a building’s name

Not until April 1988 — 30-plus years after her heroic action — did the University of Alabama annul Lucy’s expulsion. She then enrolled in the university’s College of Education graduate program and received an M.A. degree in May 1992.

But the education building was still named “Bibb Graves Hall.” Graves served two terms as a segregationist Alabama governor, from 1927 to 1931 and from



Autherine Lucy enrolls at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, 1956.

1935 to 1939.

She was granted an honorary doctorate by the University of Alabama in 2019 — over 60 years after her brave challenge.

In spring 2022 a movement arose at the university to have the Bibb Graves College of Education building renamed for Lucy. Anti-racist organizing on campus, fueled by the Black Lives Matter campaign against racist statues and monuments, had already resulted in white-supremacist names being removed on several buildings at the school.

Graves pushed through some “populist” reforms, including an end to the infamous convict-lease system, and increased funding for schools, public health and roads. But Graves secured his political survival by relentlessly enforcing legal segregation and actively protecting white-supremacist vigilante violence. He was a Grand Cyclops in the Ku Klux Klan, lobbied against anti-Klan laws, worked to undermine investigations of Klan violence and refused to pardon the falsely convicted Scottsboro



Autherine Lucy Foster speaks at the dedication of a historical marker in her name at the University of Alabama, 2017.

Nine—Black teenagers framed in 1931 in Scottsboro, Alabama for the rape of a white woman—after promising to release them. (Montgomery Advertiser, Feb. 4)

On Feb. 3, the university trustees tried to “compromise” by adding Lucy’s name to the building, coming up with Lucy-Graves Hall.

Their decision drew an equal sign between Autherine Lucy, the fighter against racism, and Bibb Graves, the Klansman. University students, faculty and the community were outraged and vociferously protested. After a week the trustees were forced to drop Graves’ name completely. On Feb. 11 they renamed the education building the Autherine Lucy Hall.

Autherine Lucy Foster was present at the renaming ceremony at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Feb. 25 and died six days later — tenacious and justice-seeking to the end.

Pratt is an LGBTQ+ alumnae of the University of Alabama, class of 1968.

The Ford Hunger March of 1932

By Martha Grevatt

This lightly edited article was first published in 2009 for the 77th anniversary of the Ford Hunger March in Michigan. Detroit labor and community activists will commemorate the 90th anniversary on March 5, 2022, by retracing the steps of the marchers.

March 7 was the 77th anniversary of one of the bloodiest chapters in Detroit labor history: the Ford Hunger March of 1932.

The stock market crashed in October 1929. By 1930 millions were without work. Nowhere was the pain felt more deeply than in Detroit, where the auto industry’s promise of prosperity had turned into its opposite. When the Trade Union Unity League, the Communist Party, the Young Communist League and the newly formed Unemployed Councils called a coast-to-coast demonstration in the U.S. on March 6, among the millions of participants were 100,000 at a rally in the Motor City. Detroit police broke up the protest, clubbing and arresting scores of marchers.

Two years later the crisis had deepened; one statistic showed four Detroiters dying of hunger every day. Unemployment compensation did not exist. With two-thirds of his employees laid off, Henry Ford, then the richest man in the world, said the unemployed created their own misery by not working hard enough.

Detroit’s network of Unemployed Councils had grown into one of the strongest in the country, saving untold numbers of families from a life on the streets. A citywide meeting of the councils—there were more than 80 neighborhood-based chapters in metropolitan Detroit—decided to march on the Ford Motor Co.’s River Rouge complex in Dearborn.

The march, called by the Unemployed Councils and the United Automobile, Aircraft and Vehicle Workers of America (which predated today’s United Auto Workers), had 14 demands: “Jobs for all laid-off Ford workers; immediate

payment of 50% of full wages; seven-hour day without reduction in pay; slowing down of deadly speedup; two 15-minute rest periods; no discrimination against Negroes in jobs; relief [welfare], medical service; free medical aid in Ford hospital for employed and unemployed Ford workers and families; five tons of coal and coke for the winter; abolition of Service Men [Ford’s hated private army of spies and thugs, led by the notorious Harry Bennett]; no foreclosures on homes of Ford workers; immediate payment of lump sum of \$50 for winter relief; full wages for part-time workers; abolition of the graft system of hiring; and the right to organize.” (Philip Bonosky, Brother Bill McKee: “Building the Union at Ford”)

‘Arise, ye prisoners of starvation’

The protest brought out thousands of workers. Beyond the immediate 14 demands, signs connected issues affecting workers around the world. They called for freedom for the Scottsboro Nine, a group of Black youths falsely accused of raping two white women. They said “Hands off China,” a reference to the sale of scrap iron to Japan, which used it in attacking the Chinese people.



The funeral procession for the workers killed in the Ford Hunger March drew an estimated 80,000 Detroit workers. March 12, 1932.

The march began and proceeded without incident in Detroit. Dearborn, however, was Ford’s personal fiefdom; his cousin Clyde Ford was the mayor. Marchers were attacked with tear gas at the city’s border but forced police to retreat with a barrage of stones and clumps of frozen mud. Police regrouped, only to have the scenario repeated.

At the entrance to Ford’s complex, Dearborn police were reinforced by the Dearborn Fire Department, Detroit police and Ford’s own “Service Department.” The firefighters turned their hoses on the unarmed marchers, while police fired a hail of bullets. Coleman (also spelled Kalman) Leny, Joe DiBlasio and Joe York—the 19-year-old district leader of the YCL—were killed. Another 50 were wounded.

When Unemployed Council leader Alfred Goetz attempted to lead an orderly retreat, machine-gun fire, this time from Ford’s own goons, began anew. The auto magnate’s right-hand man, Harry Bennett, was immediately recognized and injured by stone-throwing workers. Bennett emptied his own gun and then a police officer’s revolver into the workers. He and his goons killed 16-year-old YCL member Joe Bussell and left many more

injured. And 48 workers, some in their hospital beds, were later arrested.

More repression followed, with hundreds fired if they possessed left-wing literature or donated to the martyrs’ funerals. Membership in the CP was cause for arrest.

At the March 12 funeral, Ben Bussell spoke loudly: “In the name of my murdered brother, I call upon you to organize and fight. Long live the workers of the world.” As a band played the International—the lyrics “Arise, ye prisoners of starvation” particularly fitting—some 80,000 joined the march to the cemetery.

In June a Black worker, Curtis Williams, died of wounds suffered during the march. Segregation policies kept him from being buried with his comrades; the funeral committee hired a plane and scattered his ashes over the cemetery—or by some accounts, over the Rouge complex.

Leftist Detroit attorney Maurice Sugar had written two months earlier that police brutality “grows out of the institution of private property, under which one class in society lives in luxury at the expense of the great mass of workers who are compelled to live in a state of poverty, wretchedness and despair.” He defended the arrested marchers in court and later represented unions in the 1936-37 sit-down strike wave. (Christopher H. Johnson, “Maurice Sugar, Law, Labor and the Left in Detroit, 1912-1950”) Although Sugar was able to convince the grand jury not to indict any of those arrested, no one was ever indicted for the Ford massacre.

In 1941, after years of sacrifice and struggle, the Auto Workers union finally won recognition from the Ford dynasty. In 1992 UAW Local 600 retirees bought five headstones—including one for Curtis Williams—and placed them by the four graves. On each is carved the words, “He gave his life for the union.”

As workers begin again to fight evictions, foreclosures and the layoffs that cause them, the unyielding courage of the Ford hunger marchers is an inspiration. □

Guerra de EE.UU. contra Rusia: Una estampida hacia el precipicio

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están construyendo apresuradamente. (tinyurl.com/8b9n4w62)

La amenaza de que se impongan sanciones más duras a Rusia -incluido el inevitable bloqueo del gasoducto Nord Stream 2- ha impulsado las ventas estadounidenses de GNL y ha llenado de capacidad las terminales europeas de GNL.

Washington está desesperado por cortocircuitar cualquier plan europeo de mayor integración con Rusia o China. Sancionar a Rusia e interrumpir su comercio con Europa — comercio que es ventajoso para Europa y Rusia — le da al imperialismo estadounidense una ventaja financiera y geopolítica.

Poca consulta con los competidores imperialistas

Al intensificar la propaganda antir-rusa, el presidente Joe Biden, el secretario de Estado Antony Blinken y la subsecretaria de Estado Victoria Nuland han incluido amenazas de medidas económicas drásticas. Estas medidas remodelarán y empobrecerán a Europa y la pondrán firmemente bajo el control del mercado estadounidense y bajo

el control de la OTAN bajo el mando de Estados Unidos.

El 7 de febrero, el presidente Biden, mientras estaba junto al nuevo canciller de Alemania, Olaf Scholz, dijo que Estados Unidos “pondría fin” al gasoducto Nord Stream 2 si Rusia invade Ucrania.

Cuando se le pidió detalles sobre cómo cumpliría esa promesa, dado que el gasoducto no está bajo el control de Estados Unidos, Biden respondió: “Se lo prometo; seremos capaces de hacerlo”.

El canciller alemán Scholz, por su parte, declinó adoptar una postura firme sobre el destino del Nord Stream 2. Luego, el 20 de febrero, el primer ministro británico, Boris Johnson, declaró que Londres y Washington cortarían el acceso de las empresas rusas a los dólares estadounidenses y las libras esterlinas y congelarán todas las transacciones. Sin embargo, Alemania, Francia, Hungría e incluso Ucrania se han opuesto a tales predicciones.

EE.UU. promueve golpe de Estado en Ucrania en 2014

Cada guerra de Estados Unidos y cada imposición de sanciones económicas de Estados Unidos han ido acompañadas

de incidentes fabricados, tras meses de propaganda.

Después de que el golpe de Estado orquestado por Estados Unidos en Ucrania en 2014 derrocara al gobierno elegido en Kiev, la capital, los trabajadores de la fuertemente industrializada Ucrania oriental se negaron a reconocer el nuevo régimen anti-ruso. En su lugar, se separaron del gobierno golpista fascista de Kiev.

La República Popular de Donetsk y la República Popular de Lugansk, en el Donbass, han resistido dos veces los esfuerzos de las fuerzas ucranianas, incluidos los elementos fascistas, para derrotar a esta región escindida. El régimen de Kiev está intensificando los bombardeos y los ataques con misiles contra las repúblicas independientes para provocar que Rusia las proteja.

¡Alto a la agresión de Estados Unidos!

Estados Unidos tiene decenas de miles de tropas en Europa; está poniendo tropas en alerta máxima y enviando más. Están armando al ejército ucraniano, y están ampliando las bases de la OTAN y enviando más armas y misiles a otros países de la OTAN en la región. Sólo

meses después de la caótica derrota de la ocupación estadounidense de Afganistán, el imperialismo estadounidense parece estar preparándose para otra guerra mucho más peligrosa.

El imperialismo estadounidense necesita guerras interminables para mantener los beneficios de sus gigantescas industrias militares.

El imperialismo estadounidense necesita una amenaza de guerra para mantener su posición en Europa.

El imperialismo estadounidense necesita una amenaza de guerra para bloquear la expansión del comercio europeo con Rusia y China.

Como demostró Lenin en “El imperialismo”, el impulso de la guerra y la amenaza de guerra pueden explotar fácilmente en una conflagración que destruya un continente.

El pueblo trabajador de Estados Unidos y de la Unión Europea, por no hablar de Rusia y Ucrania, no tiene ningún interés en otra guerra imperialista.

La propaganda bélica de Estados Unidos debe ser recibida con una oposición decidida. □



Zaragoza, La España, 20 de octubre 2015

Guerra de EE.UU. contra Rusia: Una estampida hacia el precipicio

Por Sara Flounders

Boletín: Desde el 22 de febrero, Rusia ha reconocido las dos repúblicas populares de la región de Donbass, en el este de Ucrania, la República Popular de Donetsk y la República Popular de Lugansk, establecidas en 2014. Rusia ha dicho que enviará tropas para proteger a las dos repúblicas si son objeto de nuevos ataques de Ucrania/OTAN. Washington y algunos aliados europeos han anunciado sanciones económicas contra las dos repúblicas y/o contra Rusia. Los trabajadores de todo el mundo deben oponerse a la agresión y expansión de Estados Unidos/OTAN, que están creando el peligro de una guerra masiva.

21 de febrero — Crear una estampida es una táctica antigua. Los primeros cazadores sabían que una manada entera podía caer en estampida por un acantilado mediante el uso calculado de humo, ruido y tambores implacables.

La Unión Europea está siendo empujada a un precipicio.

Los estrategas, los planificadores de guerra, los medios de comunicación corporativos y los políticos estadounidenses son unánimes en exigir que la Unión Europea se prepare para imponer las sanciones económicas más extremas, especialmente la drástica medida de bloquear el nuevo gasoducto Nord Stream 2 de Rusia.

¿Por qué los funcionarios estadounidenses están tan centrados en bloquear el gasoducto Nord Stream 2 de Rusia a Alemania y otros países de la UE? ¿Por qué se amenaza también el comercio de otros suministros energéticos esenciales?

Los anuncios diarios de Estados Unidos de información ominosa sobre los planes rusos de invadir Ucrania han dominado los medios de comunicación durante dos meses. Los titulares de las noticias de última hora anuncian información secreta que la inteligencia estadounidense tiene de 150.000 tropas rusas en la frontera ucraniana.

Hay otra acumulación masiva de tropas que los medios de comunicación estadounidenses apenas mencionan. Está siendo organizada por el ejército estadounidense.

El ejército ucraniano tiene ahora una fuerza de 150.000 soldados, armados con modernas armas estadounidenses y entrenados por “asesores” de Estados Unidos, junto con mercenarios fascistas y unidades de Operaciones Especiales cerca de la frontera rusa y de las regiones independientes de Donbass, que han estado bombardeando.

Miles de tropas estadounidenses adicionales están llegando a la región. Las bases de la OTAN bajo el mando de Estados Unidos en Polonia y Rumanía se están ampliando con baterías de misiles avanzadas, capaces de disparar misiles con capacidad nuclear que pueden alcanzar ciudades rusas en 30 minutos. Durante meses, las operaciones navales estadounidenses y británicas han

continuado en el Mar Negro, frente a la costa rusa.

Lenin explicó el impulso imperialista hacia la guerra

Para entender el impulso imperialista hacia la guerra con Rusia, es útil revisar “El imperialismo: la etapa superior del capitalismo” de Lenin, escrito hace más de 100 años y que sigue siendo tan relevante.

Lenin escribió durante la Primera Guerra Mundial sobre la enorme presión económica de la necesidad del capitalismo monopolista de controlar los mercados y las colonias utilizando el poder militar de su Estado de origen; esta presión conducía inexorablemente a la guerra. Ahora, en el capitalismo tardío, el enfrentamiento fundamental del imperialismo estadounidense y de la UE sigue siendo por los mercados y por acaparar todas las ventajas económicas.

Detrás de la amenaza de guerra con Rusia está esta lucha de los mayores capitalistas monopolistas por el control de los mercados y recursos europeos.

Compitiendo con el imperialismo alemán

El imperialismo estadounidense, la potencia mundial dominante, se esfuerza por mantener su posición económica y su dominio del comercio y las finanzas mundiales.

Actualmente, Rusia es en gran medida un exportador de materias primas y tiene una economía más pequeña que la de Corea del Sur, Canadá o Brasil. Washington fabricó la crisis de Ucrania en un intento de aislar, debilitar y dividir aún más a Rusia.

La crisis expone la intensificación de la competencia por dominar toda Europa, especialmente Alemania, la mayor potencia económica de Europa y la fuerza dominante en la Unión Europea. El imperialismo alemán es a la vez un aliado de Estados Unidos dentro de la OTAN y un competidor económico capitalista de Estados Unidos.

El hecho de que Rusia haya proporcionado una fuente de energía fiable amenaza el dominio económico de Estados Unidos sobre Europa. Washington percibe que este comercio abre la puerta a nuevos intercambios comerciales con Rusia. Y, lo que es aún más preocupante, es una apertura a las iniciativas comerciales y de desarrollo de China “Belt and Road” [Franja y Ruta es una estrategia de desarrollo de infraestructura global adoptada por el gobierno de la República Popular China en 2013].

China ya ha superado a Estados Unidos como mayor socio comercial de Alemania y de la Unión Europea (UE), en su conjunto. Y la UE es el mayor inversor en Rusia.

La OTAN, una alianza militar bajo el mando de Estados Unidos, existe para imponer el dominio de Washington dentro de Europa y para intervenir en otras partes del mundo. La OTAN se expandió a todos los países de Europa del Este para fijar la restauración capitalista de los



Grand Central Terminal, Nueva York, 19 de febrero.

antiguos países socialistas. La amenaza de expansión de la maquinaria militar de la OTAN a Ucrania, en la frontera de Rusia, junto con las operaciones navales de la OTAN en el Mar Negro, son provocaciones directas a Rusia.

La expansión del comercio de la UE con Rusia y China amenaza la base misma de la OTAN y el propósito de posicionar cientos de bases militares estadounidenses en Europa.

Nord Stream 2

El gasoducto de 745 millas llamado Nord Stream 2, un proyecto energético conjunto de Alemania y Rusia, socava la capacidad de las gigantescas corporaciones energéticas estadounidenses para vender su gas natural, mucho más caro, extraído mediante fracturación hidráulica o fracking.

El gasoducto Nord Stream 2 ya está terminado. Estaba pendiente de la certificación final por parte de los reguladores alemanes, que el gobierno alemán está reteniendo. El gasoducto, que transmite el gas natural ruso bajo el Mar Báltico directamente a Alemania, también evita la infraestructura de tránsito ucraniana.

Rusia ya suministra alrededor de un tercio del gas natural de Europa a través de otros gasoductos existentes. Aunque es mucho más barato, preferible desde el punto de vista medioambiental y más directo construir gasoductos desde Rusia hasta los clientes europeos que exportar desde Norteamérica, las empresas estadounidenses se ven impulsadas a descargar el gas natural licuado (GNL) en Europa, Asia o cualquier otro lugar.

Tanto los políticos demócratas como los republicanos están unidos en su determinación de detener el Nord Stream 2.

El capital financiero estadounidense, sus bancos y sus corporaciones petroleras, gasísticas y militares consideran que el gasoducto es una amenaza para el control estadounidense de Europa, por lo que Washington ha tratado de sabotear el proyecto en todo momento.

La administración Trump lanzó sanciones contra el proyecto Nord Stream 2. Pero para frustración de Washington, la construcción del gasoducto continuó.

Con el nuevo oleoducto ya terminado, la administración Biden está preparando medidas más drásticas.

Los medios de comunicación corporativos de Estados Unidos son totalmente unánimes en la repetición de

las implacables acusaciones de que Rusia es el agresor y debe ser detenido mediante el sabotaje del gasoducto Nord Stream 2. Según esta propaganda, nada menos será suficiente.

En toda Europa se han construido decenas de terminales de GNL para aceptar el gas fraccionado de América del Norte en los mercados europeos.

El gas fraccionado y el GNL

La llegada de la fracturación hidráulica o “fracking” ha transformado a Estados Unidos en una superpotencia del petróleo y el gas. Estados Unidos es el mayor exportador de GNL del mundo, superando a Qatar en diciembre de 2021. Estados Unidos ha superado a Rusia como mayor productor de gas del mundo.

La mayor parte del gas estadounidense se produce mediante fracking. Los ecologistas se han opuesto a la fracturación hidráulica, porque el proceso de extracción envenena la calidad de las aguas subterráneas locales y provoca fenómenos sísmicos.

Para almacenar y transportar el gas natural extraído mediante fracking, se enfría a menos 162 C (menos 260 F), lo que lo transforma en gas natural licuado, que es 1/600 de su volumen en estado gaseoso. El líquido se transporta en enormes buques cisterna reforzados, llamados buques de GNL, en grandes tanques superenfriados (criogénicos) a bordo, hasta las terminales especiales de GNL en Europa.

El GNL debe ser transformado de su estado líquido a gas y luego transportado por tuberías a alta presión.

El reto para las empresas de combustibles fósiles de Estados Unidos es asegurar los mercados. Se está produciendo más gas natural del que se puede utilizar en el país.

Los gigantes del petróleo y el gas de Estados Unidos, así como todos los políticos de ese país, han presionado a los países europeos para que aumenten su capacidad de recibir GNL enmarcándolo como una cuestión de seguridad energética. Trasladar las compras a Estados Unidos hará que todas las economías europeas dependan de los precios estadounidenses.

Desde la reunión de 2018 de los presidentes de la Comisión de Estados Unidos y la UE, las exportaciones de GNL de Estados Unidos a Europa aumentaron un 2.240%. (tinyurl.com/y9xwrne)

La mayoría de las noticias sobre el papel de Nord Stream 2 y la presión para ampliar la venta de gas fracked de Estados Unidos están en las noticias de negocios. (tinyurl.com/78h2yymt)

Pero un artículo del New York Times del 15 de febrero de 2022: “How a Ukraine Conflict Could Reshape Europe’s Reliance on Russia”, describía el conflicto con gráficos, mapas de vastos gasoductos interconectados desde Rusia hacia el este de Europa, Alemania e Italia. También detallaba las docenas de terminales de GNL que se

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