Starbucks Workers United scores major victory

By Arjae Red

Starbucks workers across the country celebrated a major victory with three new stores voting in favor of unionization. The NLRB counted ballots March 9 for three stores in the Buffalo, New York, area, with a close but decisive vote in each case. This brings the total number of union stores from three to six, effectively doubling the size of the union in one day, with five in Buffalo and one in Mesa, Arizona.

A victory by any margin is an impressive testament to the determination and resilience of the workers, especially considering that in many stores around Buffalo the workforce has increased by more than 100% since the union drive began. The workers who were employed when the stores filed for NLRB elections made up less than half of those participating in the vote. This is especially glaring in the Walden-Andersen store, which was completely closed for more than two months after Starbucks became aware of pro-union sentiment. The fact that, with most of the workforce replaced, Walden-Andersen still won indicates that even many new hires are well aware of the need for a union. This underhanded company strategy of flooding stores with new employees to dilute the vote seems to have backfired, revealing to many workers who were formerly on the fence or even against the union what lengths Starbucks will go to in order to keep its workers from advocating for themselves. Rather than pacify or intimidate the workers, it has only fueled the impassioned organizing drive.

Starbucks workers in Denver, Colorado, walked out on strike Friday, March 11, due to retaliation and intimidation from the company in response to union organizing. Workers plan to strike as long as possible until the company ceases its union-busting activities. This comes just a few days after Starbucks workers in Buffalo filed a new round of Unfair Labor Practice charges against the company, more than 20 in addition to the earlier ULPs alleging illegal anti-union conduct.

Reverend William Barber marched alongside Starbucks workers in Memphis, Tennessee, March 9, to demand the rehire of the Memphis 7—the entire organizing committee that was fired by the company a few weeks ago. Buffalo workers have shown solidarity with the Memphis 7 by inviting members onto their bargaining committee. The first contracts are now being negotiated between the workers and the company, represented by professional union-busting law firm Littler Mendelson. Starbucks workers will keep up the fight against the vicious union busting and for the rehire of the Memphis 7, as well as fired Buffalo workers Cassie Fleischer and Danny Rojas.

Workers World Newspaper will continue to cover the developing story and extends solidarity to Starbucks Workers United!

The author is a contributing writer for Workers World newspaper and a union committee organizer with Starbucks Workers United in Buffalo.

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

In the spirit of International Working Women's Day, Workers World calls on 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. It requested that 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 multilateral, multi-gender, multi-generational political representatives have intensified their attacks against the working class. It is time to point the blame at these representatives.

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 and those subjected to racism, misogyny, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia.

WW coverage supports the Starbucks workers, mostly young women and LGBTIQ+ 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 billionaire owner, Jeff Bezos, got even richer during the pandemic, workers 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 stop 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 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

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 never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on ‘immigrants,’ workers on strike and the oppression of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problem 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.

WWF 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 capital profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and abroad. 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 1960s, 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. To 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!

Your help is needed!

Support Workers World!

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Letters from our incarcerated family

Dear Workers World,

I’m writing to you today to hope to start to receive this paper. I would like to understand more of what’s happening in other parts of the world, with protests, struggle, hoping that good news in general would be great. I would like to thank you for your concern and kindness to a prisoner like me.

Kenneth L.

Tennessee Colony, Texas

What’s with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections? Is this the very first time that I’m coming back? What’s with that? Me and my nephew did not get papers—none!—between August and October! (Grievances attached.)

Get us outta here!

Mr. Yul B.I.

SCI Dallas, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Yul and all our comrades at SCI Dallas,

Thank you for alerting us to the repeated censorship of Workers World by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. We understand the limitations of the grievance system but greatly appreciate and respect you using it to protest this censorship system but greatly appreciate and respect you using it to protest this censorship.

We have not taken our people to the land of that march to freedom. I would like to receive the Workers World newspaper, please.

This criminal justice system is against all of African Americans.

Mr. Jeffrey T.

Fort Worth, Texas

‘What is it that needs to be done?’

A conversation with anti-apartheid freedom fighter Lassy Chiwayo

This excerpted interview was conducted by Workers World correspondent Ted Kelly at Robben Island, off the western coast of South Africa, Lassy Chiwayo is an African National Congress member, former political prisoner, ad homunto wolelwa, Freedom fighter and former mayor of Mhobombo, capital of the Mpumalanga province. He served as the consul-general of South Africa to the People’s Republic of China until 2014. Read the entire interview at workers.org.

Workers World: How many times have you come back to visit Robben Island since your release in 1990?

Lassy Chiwayo: You wouldn’t believe it. This is the very first time that I’m coming back.

WW: You’re kidding. What does it feel like to be back?

LC: I’m completely overwhelmed with mixed emotions. It takes us back to the reasons we were here in the first place, something about which I have no regrets. We fought. We played our part. And I regard myself as one of those who are blessed to have been a former Robben Island prisoner. I think of my own kin, many others to follow would honor and respect that we raised our hands to fight, that we were part of that many march of freedom.

That’s one part. But the other part that obviously comes to mind is a question: Was it worth it? And I would say, yes, it was. Insofar as we were part of that revolutionary chain of generations of prisoners that came here since the 1960s. We were the very first of that batch.

We came here in 1986 and 1987. We came from another generation completely, very different in that we were inspired by the elders of the 1950s and 1960s and of the 1976 uprisings. We are the ones who occupied streets in the mid-1980s, the most militant of all these sections of our people who fought against apartheid. We are the ones who are remembered for using stones, self-made weapons, petrol bombs, anything we could lay our hands on, to fight for the freedom of our people.

We know all the risks involved, including the fact that we might not live. Of course, a lot were killed. Some died in our hands because we were driven to exile. We were arrested, and some of us spent time at Robben Island. We were not deterred. It was worth it. All that nature has taught us is that, in any instance, out of the old, anything that is born goes through a process of evolution that grows, that is nurtured, that reaches a point of maturity. It gets to a point where the old decays and dies, and something new must come out of that.

But what becomes important, as nature teaches us, is that the seed that is born out of the old should continue to germinate new life that blossoms into something new. Perhaps that is where the challenge of South Africa is.

Moments such as this, visiting Robben Island together, impose a need for us to look back and ask ourselves, “What is it that needs to be done?”

The narrative of liberation is a very important one. But I don’t think it has really come to a point where we say all the policemen and financial industry of our people to sacrifice their lives has been realized. So there has to be a way where we look at the past way of taking the struggle forward.

For me I came here as a member of the ANC. I’ve known nothing else from age 13. I’ve known no other life outside of being a member of the ANC. But any other intervention that can really ensure what Mandela, what Walter Sisulu, what Ahmed Kathrada, what Joe Slovo and many others, fought and died for is not in vain, would still be a very important effort.

Read the Harare Declaration at tinyurl.com/g4sks2ye.
Boston community-labor rally for striking Machinists

March 7 — Leaders of the Greater Boston Labor Council and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, along with powerhouse rank-and-file unionists like UNITE HERE Local 26 members, today joined 30 striking International Association of Machinists Local 447 technicians in Dedham, Massachusetts.

The strikers have said “Hell No!” to the $80 billion transnational Cummins corporation’s concessionary demands, which would turn hourly wages into 19th century piecework rates. The lunch-break crowd of nearly 300 was outraged to hear IAM Chief Steward Rick Lipinsky tell how Cummins—a world giant of the military and industrial supply chain with 58,000 workers—wants to pay them like gig workers: by the job. For these technicians, who have worked underpaid overtime during the pandemic to keep generators running at hospitals, nursing homes and factories, it was a unanimous vote to fight like David against their Goliath employer. The union, with Teamster delivery drivers’ solidarity, has also shut down Cummins shops in Concord, New Hampshire, and Scarborough, Maine, since Feb. 12. Management’s only response has been to illegally mail out insulting union decertification forms to strikers’ homes.

To support these frontline strikers in their fight against naked capitalist greed, donate to the strike fund at goiam.org/iam-strike-fund. — Report and photos by Steve Gillis

Baseball lockout ends, players union lauds ‘significant progress’

By Martha Grevatt

The 99-day player lockout, imposed by Major League Baseball, came to an end March 10. The eight-member executive subcommittee together with player representatives from 30 MLB teams voted 26 to 12 in favor of accepting the latest agreement negotiated between the Major League Baseball Players Association and the team owners.

“Our union endured the second-longest work stoppage in its history to achieve significant progress in key areas that will improve not just current players’ rights and benefits, but those of generations to come,” said MLBPA Executive Director Tony Clark. “Players remained engaged and unified from beginning to end, and in the process reenergized our fraternity.” (mlbplayers.com)

A key gain was raising the minimum salary. This affects newer, younger players the most; 60% of the approximately 1,200 players represented by the MLBPA are at the bottom of the pay scale. Their average career length is about four years, with salary increases typically starting in their third year of playing.

The owners were demanding an increased playoff season, involving 14 teams as opposed to the current 10. The new contract only raises the number to 12. Other clauses in the contract begin to close the gap between relatively stagnant player compensation and team earnings, which have risen enormously since the last collective bargaining agreement was signed in 2016. Nevertheless, the executive subcommittee voted unanimously to reject the tentative contract. The eight members, joined by four player representatives, reportedly believed the collective bargaining agreement did not go far enough in assuring players an equitable share of the value they generate for team bosses.

Clark had previously termed the lockout strategy “the ultimate economic weapon.” The struggle between MLB and the players demonstrates why every worker needs a union.

Efforts by professional baseball players to unionize go back to 1885. When the MLBPA signed its first contract in 1968, players had not had a salary increase in 20 years. The union’s first executive director, the late Marvin Miller—who helped win the players a 42% pay increase—was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame last year. (†)

On the picket line

By Marie Kelly

Union Kitchen two-day strike

Dozens rallied at Washington, D.C.’s Union Kitchen stores, as workers there held a two-day strike in February to protest unfair retaliation against union organizing. Union Kitchen workers have formed the United Kitchen Workers union with United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 400.

One striker roused the crowd to cheers by asking “How many of y’all want some job security so you can’t get fired for some bullshit?” (tinyurl.com/2w5e-eaaw) Workers at three stores filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board Feb. 3. Special Metals on strike five months

Workers at the West Virginia Special Metals plant are in their fifth month striking for better safety and health care. The 450 workers are members of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 40. The plant is the largest of its kind in the world and the oldest employer in Huntington, West Virginia. The strike is impacting the local economy and U.S. military contractors, who rely on the Special Metals plant’s nuts and bolts used in navy ships and submarines. (tinyurl.com/3p8ydz4)

Retirees win health insurance battle

After a year-long fight against a proposed cost-cutting measure, New York City retirees were victorious and will not be forced to accept an unauthorized privatized health insurance plan or pay almost $200 per month to keep their current health insurance plan. For retirees at the lower end of the city’s pension scale, which bottoms out around $15,000 a year, that cost threatened to become a significant financial burden. A judge ruled that as long as the current health care program exists, it must be offered to retirees free of charge. (ehnnews.com, March 3) (†)
Midwifery on the African continent can be traced back to antiquity. The tombs of queens in Africa depict midwives assisting at the births of royalty. This is significant because it implies that midwifery was held in the highest regard. Given the gender structure of ancient African societies, it would be women, not men, who practiced midwifery. These women were expected to be knowledgable, trained and eloquent writers. The Kahun papyrus is an ancient gynecological text dating back to 1800 BCE. It is the oldest known document of gynecological concepts. There is even archaeological proof that ancient African used spermicidal plants for contraception.

Midwifery After enslavement

Midwives of African descent enslaved in the Southern states were not permitted to learn how to read or write. This necessitated their passing on expertise orally to the next generation of Black midwives. In this oral form, their body of midwifery knowledge was transmitted. This is likely how Black midwives, as under the direction of the U.S. Children’s Bureau and the public health nurses. The school, established in 1941, was the first of its kind in the South, which remedied or, worse, witchcraft instead of the science that it was. By the 1740s chattel slavery existed in every North American colony; but after 1808, the importation of people for enslavement was prohibited by U.S. law. The practice of increasing the number of enslaved people for sale through rape and forced pregnancy became an economic incentive. About 71% of children living in poverty are people of color. (tinyurl.com/3pixy64zk) Food insecurity, inadequate housing, lack of safe water and poor air quality are consequences of poverty and negatively impact maternal-child health. These conditions could be eliminated, if we can provide access to food, water, clean air and safe housing. Given the ever present root causes of systemic racism, there was a noticeable decrease in Black infant mortality credited to the Tuskegee nurse midwife program. Unfortunately, poor working conditions and underfunding forced the school to close after only five years. Racial disparity in infant mortality today

The infant mortality rate signifies the likelihood that a newborn will die before they are a year old. It is a grim and heart-wrenching statistic.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cites the overall rate of infant mortality in 2018 in the U.S. as 5.7 infant deaths per 1,000 births. Interestingly, Black infants were twice over two times more likely to die, at 10.8 deaths per 1,000 births, than their white counterparts. Additional racial disparities surrounding maternal-child health include these facts: Black infants are four times as likely to die because of low birth weight complications. They are twice as likely to succumb to sudden infant death syndrome than white infants. Black mothers were twice as likely to receive late or no prenatal care as white women. (tinyurl.com/eaabhzw) Preterm birth is a widely recognized risk factor in all Black communities. The premise for the school was that Black women of childbearing age would accept care from Black public health nurses, trained as nurse-midwives, more readily than from white doctors. Nursing education was mostly racially segregated, and Black women were excluded from attending most schools of nursing. The National Association of Black Graduate Nurses reported in 1943 there were 23 Black nursing schools but only 15 nursing schools that admitted both white and Black students.

The Tuskegee School of Nurse Midwifery was in operation until 1946 and graduated 31 Black nurse midwives. The accomplishment of these women in reducing the Black infant mortality rate is exemplary, considering segregation and other racist practices of 20th century health care.

Black women were often excluded from hospitals serving a white clientele. Hospitals for Black people were inadequately equipped and staffed. In 1941 there were just 110 Black hospitals—serving a Black population in the U.S. close to 14 million. Most of the hospitals were in urban areas, so Black rural populations were even further underserved. The U.S. Public Health Department statistics for infant mortality in 1946 for Black infants was 74 deaths per 1,000 births, contrasted with 43 deaths per 1,000 births for white infants. The maternal mortality rate among African American women was three times that of white women.

The Tuskegee nurse midwives worked alongside the Black lay midwives and taught classes required under the Sheppard-Towner Act for lay midwifery certification. Despite the ever present root causes of systemic racism, there was a noticeable decrease in Black infant mortality credited to the Tuskegee nurse midwife program. Unfortunately, poor working conditions and underfunding forced the school to close after only five years.

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Right-wing forces are generating legalized hatred and bigotry in the U.S. under the banner of “Save Our Children!” In Texas, parents arranging medical and mental health support for their trans children can now be prosecuted as “child abusers.” In Florida, teachers and school systems with a curriculum of LGBTQ+ sexuality and gender issues can be sued by parents under a “Don’t Say Gay” state law. In Idaho, a pending bill would sentence medical professionals to life in prison, if found “guilty” of providing gender-affirming care to youth.

In the first months of 2022, over 151 pieces of state legislation were introduced to restrict health care or access to athletics to trans youth, permit “religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTQ+ adoptive or foster parents and ban LGBTQ+ curriculum and books in public schools. (tinyurl.com/y560q3ej)

The big lie — again

An anti-LGBTQ+ “Save Our Children” campaign in Florida in 1977 — fronted by Anita Bryant, a Miss America pageant runner-up — aimed to fire all gay teachers in the state on the grounds they were “child abusers.” That vile lie was just resuscitated by Florida’s gubernatorial press secretary, tweeting that opponents to “Don’t Say Gay” were “probably goners” — trying to lure children into sex. (tinyurl.com/vug83ax)

These right-wing bigots — shouting “Save the Babies!” — have fought tooth and nail to forestall reproductive rights to childbirthing people since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court. They have physically threatened people at clinics, bombed medical facilities, and closed abortion clinics. They have mounted a war on reproductive rights for 50 years.

Result? A vicious SCOTUS decision last December favorable to Texas Senate Bill 8 banning abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy — no exceptions for rape and incest. The war on women and people who desire to terminate a pregnancy will have murderous results. The Guttmacher Institute estimates that, before Roe, one-sixth of all pregnancy-related deaths were caused by illegal abortions. (Workers World, Oct. 15, 2021)

Look at the actual voting records of those shouting “Save Our Children.” They reject progressive agendas to get food, shelter, education or any meaningful support to the most vulnerable families. The heaviest burdens fall on children of color and those from low-income families, often trapped in a profit making school-to-prison pipeline and condemned by racism to a life struggling against an “injustice system.”

Using “the children” to excuse and justify oppression is the most disgusting hypocrisy of a culture war created by the right-wing.

Histories of resistance

Legislative attacks demonizing people based on sex, gender, nationality, race or property status are consistent with the bloody history of U.S. nation-building — under whichever political party.

Indigenous peoples had their children stolen from them in the name of white-supremacist “civilization.” Genocidal U.S. wars on Native nations showed no mercy to the women, gender-nonconforming people or children, whom soldiers slaughtered.

Women of African tribes and nations kidnapped and enslaved in the U.S. were deliberately raped into pregnancy for children whom owners could sell away from them for profit.

The same right-wing forces are attempting to wipe out the history of racist injustice, by sponsoring anti-Critical Race Theory laws, and to shut down progressive curricula in public schools.

This amounts to a ban on histories of resistance by people against white-supremacist, woman-hating, anti-LGBTQ+ repression and more.

Fighting for their lives

Young people are fighting back, and they need stories of resistance to help win against the right-wing onslaught. The bigots are afraid that young people will discover the resistance of the past — and act on it!

As Emma nomonde Aunjaine Ellis said: “I went through 12 years of school. Went to a respectable col- lege and majored in African-American studies. But did not have a day, not one day where I was taught any- thing about Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer [a Mississippi hero of the Black Freedom Struggle]] I was from McComb, Mississippi. Everybody was getting bombed there [in the 1960s]. Everybody was getting beat up. Everybody was getting shot at. ... We were a town of Fannie Lou Hamers! The older I got, I started hearing more, but through that grapevine of freedom-rights stories told at family functions.” (tinyurl.com/ata8gsw)

Coco Gauff, the talented African American tennis player and a Florida native, spoke out against the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, saying: “I think it was in 2019 or 2020, when I talked to my school. I said it was important to have those tough conversa- tions; and from the people that I spoke to who are part of the community, it definitely makes a difference when you don’t have to hide who you are.” (ESPN, March 10)

We call for histories of oppression to be part of public education. We call for the right of people to have self-autonomy with their own bodies — queer bodies, young bodies, disabled bodies, people of color bodies, childbearing bodies and bodies that choose not to bear children. We call for people to have collective determination as workers over their conditions of edu- cation, work and governance.

In Florida thousands of high school students walked out against the infamous bill, shouting “We Say Gay!” and waving Pride flags. STRIVE (Socialist Trans Initiative) of Florida said in “GAY IS HERE TO STAY”.

“The ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill is just the latest of the Florida GOP’s attempts on the lives of queer and trans kids’ lives. That’s what this is: a slow, painful and torturous attempt at killing off queer and trans kids. STRIVE condemns this bill and the many representatives and senators who passed it. The day will come when they will be made to answer for it. We must fight for that day to arrive. Love and solidarity with all queer and trans youth: They are terrified of y’all. Give them more reasons to be afraid.” (facebook.com/socialistransinitiative)

Young people are fighting for their future. We must all be in this struggle with them.

In 1975 as a lesbian, Pratt lost custody of her young sons, ages 5 and 6, under the anti-LGBTQ+ “crime against nature” laws that were on the books in the U.S. until the Lawrence v. Texas decision by the Supreme Court in 2003.

WW Commentary

‘Save our children’— from bigotry and hatred!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

It was with great sadness that Workers World learned that Hyun Lee, an African American social justice leader, passed away on March 7. The statement below was released by two organizations with which she worked.

Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! are deeply saddened to announce that our beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, friend and sister, Hyun Lee, passed away on March 7 surrounded by her family and closest friends after a long battle with cancer.

Hyun served as a bridge between people, organizations and policymakers in Korea and the United States. Beginning in 2018, Hyun served as the U.S. National Organizer, and then the Campaign Strategist, for Women Cross DMZ and our Korea Peace Now! campaign. Her ability to move an organizing and advocacy agenda was instrumental to building the Korea Peace Now! Grassroots Organizer, and then the Campaign Strategist, for Women Cross DMZ and Korea Peace Now! Peace Foundation.

It was with great sadness that Workers World passed it. The day will come where they will be made to answer for it. We must fight for that day to arrive. Love and solidarity with all queer and trans youth: They are terrified of y’all. Give them more reasons to be afraid.” (facebook.com/socialistransinitiative)
Comrades, especially in the U.S., we need to seriously talk about what’s going on in the working class

By Larry Holmes

“The absence of organization, working people do not constitute a class but rather an incoherent mass, scattered over the whole country and broken up by their mutual competition.” — Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, The Communist Manifesto

To all who consider themselves to be communist, socialist or leftist, no matter what issue you’ve been organizing around, no doubt you’ve taken note of the new level of activity in the working class starting six months ago with “Striketober.” The organizing drive at Starbucks and Amazon are the most prominent reflection of what’s happening. But there are hundreds if not thousands of other examples of workers organizing nationally and locally.

This includes delivery workers, retail and food service workers, factory and warehouse workers, health care workers and workers in virtually every industry you can think of. Class struggle is not just in workplaces — it includes migrants fighting inhumane detention conditions; workers of color fighting racist cops; women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQ+ people fighting the patriarchal condition of being frozen in; loggers fighting for access; young workers are leading the way.

The level of worker activism has not yet reached the level of an irreversible, massive worker uprising. Still, to be heading in this writer, see analogies between today and the beginning of the workers’ upsurge that brought tens of millions of industrial workers into the class struggle in the 1930s.

Why the analogy? Something is happening, something that’s been long awaited and something that holds the potential of awakening the sleeping giant that is the U.S. working class — but also transforming its organizational and political character.

What drives class consciousness?

Karl Marx and other great theoreticians grappled with the question of how the working class could develop from a politically disunited and divided state, a state capitalists work hard to keep workers frozen in, to being “a class for itself.” Marx predicted that the material basis for the working class to develop from the condition of workers to being a class of their own for the emancipation of man must be the creation of conditions that would be the crucial link in the global struggle for social revolution.

In Lenin’s time the U.S was the rising worldwide imperialist power. A lot has changed since then, but the U.S. remains the center of world imperialism, even while its ruling class is in a desperate struggle to hold on to that position. When significant sections of the working class in the U.S. break with U.S. imperialism, the historical tide turns toward world revolution.

The Ukraine war crisis illustrates the urgency of doing all that we can to foster the continued development of an independent U.S. working class. To complete the acquisition of the countries of the former Soviet Union, U.S. imperialism and its European allies are ready to flirt with and even risk a third world war between nuclear powers.

This is not in the class interest of U.S. workers and of the workers of the world. But the working class will not be able to effectively assert its independent class interest unless it undergoes the revolutionary transformation that recent developments make possible. This is possible if those who know best do our part.

For too long, revolutions have been marginal to the working-class movement in the U.S. This problem goes back to the anti-communist witch hunt of the 1940s and 1950s, when communists were denied pos-

Amazon Labor Union supporters rally in New York City outside National Labor Relations Board Oct. 25, 2021, after filing for a union election.

Constitutional law, including those of the states they live in. The new entity in the U.S. ruling class is in a desperate struggle to hold on to the position.

Pushing back “business unionism”

There are of course many splendid examples of revolutionary rank-and-file unionism. But those examples have not been enough to buck the tide and push back those whom revolutionaries have called the “labor lieutenants of capital.” That is until now.

For reasons not of their own making, but rather a product of reactionary times and a labor movement that is moderate and tied to the Democratic Party, many young activists have no experience with working-class organization.

In part, the process that’s underway right now as workers are beginning to fight back, is one of many young activists, including veterans of the Occupy Wall Street movement and more recently the Black Lives Matter uprising, starting to look at the new world order in the next logical step in their political evolution. This is a welcome and vitally necessary development, but it must be intensified.

Even the capitalist media has had to admit that the intention to unionize workers in the U.S. has not been entirely due to working conditions, but also the radicalization of young workers who became politically aware during the Bernie Sanders presidential campaigns and the street protests against racism, sexism and anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry.

What’s so important about this? To build a new kind of worker movement, it will take workers who are not only interested in fighting for their immediate needs but in wider political and ultimately revolutionary goals.

May Day a springboard

I propose that, as a movement, we look at May Day, International Workers Day 2022, as an occasion to take concrete steps on a wide basis to intervene in this incip-
U.S. racist hypocrisy on refugee crisis

By Betsy Piette

The disparate and often racist treat- ment of refugees of war is starkly appar- ent as the crisis unfolds in Ukraine. With 24.7% coverage, Western media has not missed an opportunity to garner sympa- thy for the nearly 2 million disproportionately white Ukrainians currently fleeing the war. However, the-development of this situ- ation is devastating and heartbreaking.

What is in question, however, is why the same Western media gave little to no coverage of the 1.5 million other Ukrainian refugees forced to flee their homes to escape bombing and shelling by their own government following the 2014 U.S.-instigated, right-wing coup d'état in the U.K. The U.N. reports that at least 14,000 peo- ple have died, with no known figures for internal con- flicts inside Ukraine since 2014, but little was reported on by this corporate media.

The United States’ 20-year war in Afghanistan left that country in devast- ation and displaced one in 10 Afghans. Yet Western media paid scant attention to the 2.6 million Afghan refu- gees. Our media have much sympathy for the 6.7 million refugees forced to flee Syria, as the result of 10 years of civil war, largely fueled by the U.S. arm’s forceing opponents to President Bashar Assad. In

Harriet Tubman, a woman called General Moses

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Harriet Tubman was born on a Dorchester, Maryland, plantation sometime during March 1822 and died March 10, 1913, at her home in Auburn, New York. Workers World celebrates the March 10, 1913, at her home in Auburn, New York. Workers World celebrates the centennial of Harriet Tubman’s death.

She has been gone for almost a century; and still her name is on millions of lips, tinyurl.com/4cdr5ev8) on Mumia Abu-Jamal’s “Radio Essays.” In commentary, first posted Feb. 18, 2007, it was noted: “I had crossed the line. I wasn't what the slaveowning class wanted me to be. Threatened with a beating, the girl fled and, running so fast that her little legs gave out, she fell into a bog-slopping slough. Hunger forced her to return to the house of her ‘mistress,’ where she was promptly and viciously flogged by the ‘master.’ This child no doubt learned an important lesson by the violence of this experience. I was not happy or content. In several days they were in Canada. She said it. She meant it. She did it. She returned repeatedly to the Tidewater and carried off folks, with cleverness, courage and determination. She returned to the plantation two years after her escape for John Tubman, but the “free Negro” had remarried, and thinking himself free, didn’t want to leave Maryland. Still, this wouldn’t deter her from her sacred mission: freedom. She was a stranger in a strange land; and my home, after all, was down in Maryland, because my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters and friends were there. But I was free, and they should be free! I would make a home in the North and bring them there!”

From the Wisconsin State Journal, March 11, 1913:

“Harriet Tubman in 1911.

She would later say, of her upbringing and children to force them to do their will.

 foreigners instead of living. Tlaib gave examples of mainstream news report- ers who were described by many refugees as “more civilized,” “more intelligent,” “more educated” and, because they were white, “more worthy” of concern than Arab or African refugees.

These white-supremacist comments help explain the non-stop attention the U.S. and European media are giving Ukraine refugees. For the first time in recent history, the majority of those flee- ing a war zone are European, white and therefore “worthy of attention.”

“Colau’s actions are atrocious and reprehensible.”

In a March 10 statement, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) expressed dis- approval of Colau’s racist treatment of Black families from the African diaspora and other people of color seeking to flee the war zone only to be pushed from trains and police cars. They condemned these crisis moments, choosing citizenship over humanity is an atrocity. These calls for atrocities and reprehensible. As the world comes to the aid of Ukraine and nations support the resettlement of people fleeing the nation, every individual must be treated with dignity and humanity.”

They called on the Biden Administration and the United Nations to take action to protect the rights and to ensure the safe passage of all persons fleeing the war zone. “The NAACP will do everything in its power to fight rac- ist, cruel acts as these — no matter where they are happening.”

On March 9, the NAACP and part- ner civil rights organizations sent a let- ter to Urvula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, address- ing these concerns and calling on that body to take “swift and proactive action to ensure the fair and humane treatment of all refugees with special attention to non-European refugees.”

Signers included the NAACP; Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; National Action Network; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; National Coalition on Black Civil Participation;Black Women’s Collective; National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; and the National Urban League. The following is a link to the letter: (tinyurl.com/bsy79v2)

Harriet Tubman in 1911.

Continued on page 9
Russia and China demand investigation into Pentagon-funded ‘biolabs’

By Richie Merino

On March 9, Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova demanded transparency from the United States on its military biological weapons (‘biolabs’) program, which is reportedly funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. (tinyurl.com/yessajj) The Russian military previously claimed to have intelligence evidence that Ukrainian authorities have been hastily destroying dangerous evidence of high pathogens and biological weapons research, which they allegedly kept in laboratories funded by the Pentagon. (tinyurl.com/cjgq4k)

Speaking that such laboratories were located near the border with Russia and confirming the presence of dangerous pathogens such as anthrax and cholera, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ruled out any peaceful use of the biological weapons programs in Ukraine.

The following day, Russian Defense Ministry Spokesperson Igor Konashenkov denounced the U.S.-financed biolabs as “biologias” for carrying out experiments on humans and animals. (tinyurl.com/svvfexw)

“According to the documents, the American side planned to conduct work on pathogens of birds, bats, and reptiles in Ukraine in 2019, with a further transition to studying the possibility of carrying out African swine fever and anthrax,” Konashenkov said, adding that the researchers were looking into how to effectively spread pathogens by migratory birds.

The purpose of this, and other Pentagon-funded biological research in Ukraine, was to create a mechanism for the covert spread of deadly pathogens, he explained.

China’s foreign ministry has called on the U.S. to disclose information on the Pentagon’s biological weapons laboratories in Ukraine “as soon as possible.” (tinyurl.com/bdvkwxf) Spokesman Zhao Lijian stated that according to data released by the American side, the U.S. Department of Defense controls 336 biological laboratories in 30 countries around the world, including 26 in Ukraine alone. (tinyurl.com/jdkelzms)

Particularly alarming is that the “biolabs” are clustered on the borders of the Pentagon’s largest enemies: China, Russia and Iran. Zhao warned that the U.S. “has been exclusively obstructing” the establishment of an independent verification mechanism and that the biological laboratories in Ukraine are just “the tip of the iceberg.”

U.S. confirms biological research facilities in Ukraine

While the U.S. corporate media denies that the Pentagon instructed its Ukrainian “Qanon conspiracy theories.” Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland testified before a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing March 8 and confirmed “Ukraine has biological research facilities.” Nuland said that “it is not completely clear on how they can prevent any of these research materials from falling into the hands of Russian forces, should they approach.” (tinyurl.com/3jyq4x)

Nuland’s testimony begs the question: If the research the U.S. was funding in these Ukrainian biological laboratories is innocent, why is Nuland so concerned that this research material could fall into Russian hands? Russia is a world leader in scientific research, so much that they beat U.S. Big Pharma in the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. (tinyurl.com/ycttvhwq)

“The only reasonable explanation for Nuland’s concern is that Russian forces could definitely expose the biowarfare research funded by the U.S. as a direct violation of the United Nations Biological Weapons Convention, which ‘effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons.’” (tinyurl.com/zps8k6g)

Nuland had played a key role in the U.S.-backed coup in Ukraine in 2013-14, where she gained notoriety for her statement, “Fuck the EU.”

On March 7, Russian Armed Forces revealed they had found dozens of biological laboratories in Ukraine and had obtained documents that proved researchers were weaponizing anthrax, among other pathogens. Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov claimed that the only reason Kiev reportedly moved to destroy the materials was out of concern that Russian experts would discover “not only a possible biological weapon, but also biological and toxin weapons.”

U.N. Security Council on Ukraine’s biological research

The U.N. Security Council gathered last Friday to hear Ukraine’s official statements declaring that Russian military forces discovered documentary evidence that the Kiev regime is urgently concealing traces of a military biological weapons program, implemented under the direction of and with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense. (tinyurl.com/uyhpez) Amassed documents reveal experiments funded and directly supervised by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and institutions of which they claim which worked so that deadly infectious disease could be intentionally spread by ectoparasites such as fleas, ticks and lice.

The U.S. and Russia are not the only countries creating biological weapons. Vassilly Nebenzia noted that after the 2014 Maidan coup, there have been outbreaks of rubella, diphtheria, tuberculosis and other diseases in Ukraine. By March 2016, a total of 364 people had died of swine flu alone in Ukraine. “While the U.S. itself shut down a military-purpose biological research over territory, due to high risks it posed to the American population, the Kiev authorities actually agreed to turn their country into a biological testing site and have their citizens used as potential test subjects.”

The documents revealed that the Ukraine’s “biolabs” were directly supervised by U.S. private contractors, who were awarded diplomatic immunity.

Documents obtained by Russia reveal that the Pentagon instructed its Ukrainian “biolabs” to instantly accuse Russian Armed Forces of chemical weapons attacks, should another outbreak occur. Russia said they will soon submit these documents to the U.N. Security Council as official documents so that member states can also study and verify them.

Diplomatic immunity for private contractors in ‘biolabs’

Nebenzia’s statement accuses the United States of granting employees of the highly-confidential “biolabs” diplomatic immunity, which is normally reserved for consuls, ambassadors or government officials working on an international diplomatic mission.

Gaytandzhieva is a Bulgarian investigative journalist, who is best known for being expelled from the European Parliament for asking the Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Health questions about the Pentagon-funded biological laboratories surrounding Russia, China and Iran. For this, she has been on the ground investigating the diplomatic immunity granted to private contractors working in U.S.-funded “biolabs” in Ukraine and Georgia.

Gaytandzhieva’s investigation found that U.S. scientists were granted diplomatic immunity to research deadly viruses, bacteria and toxins and enjoy legal protection from prosecution in the event their work results in death or injury to local populations. (tinyurl.com/3jyq4x)

U.S. false flag op in Ukraine

Principled anti-imperialists opposing the U.S./EU/NATO axis of dominance must be on high alert for a coordinated false flag operation in Ukraine by U.S. intelligence agencies. It is ironic that Vladimir Putin warned that if a biological attack were to occur, everyone should be “100% sure” that it was Russia who did it. In reality, false flag operations are straight out of the Western imperialist playbook, a technique whereby the U.S./ EU/NATO carry out violent attacks on innocent civilians and blame their enemies in order to justify invasions.

The war in Syria is a prime example. The media lied endlessly about the Syrian government and fabricated a narrative that Syrian forces carried out a chemical weapons attack on civilians. We’re seeing American imperialists do it again: The Washington Post has printed a story about a potential “Russian chemical attack in Ukraine.” This statement is being propagated by President Biden’s Press Secretary Jen Psaki, former CIA Director and Obama White House official John Brennan and the Atlantic Council’s Anders Aslund in a now-deleted tweet.

Anyone who dares exercise basic critical thinking skills and opposes the official narrative is smeared as a “Putin puppet” or “Russian asset.”

Information warfare

A major corporate media propaganda campaign is manufacturing consent for direct intervention in Ukraine by U.S./NATO forces. One of the most egregious examples is a story circulated by Western media outlets, claiming that Russia bombed a maternity hospital in Mariupol. But days earlier, Russia’s Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia had made a statement at a U.N. Security Council briefing on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, in which he reported that the same hospital had been emptied and was turned into a “firing site” by Ukraine’s Armed Forces. (tinyurl.com/bdjdebc7)

It’s evident that we are in the middle of the most sophisticated, coordinated and integrated propaganda operation we’ve ever seen. Any point of view that diverges from the official imperialist narrative is being restricted or outright censored. Big tech firms, including Facebook and YouTube, are censoring “Russian state media” from its platforms, while simultaneously encouraging calls for violence against Russian troops and even allowing their users to wish death upon President Vladimir Putin of Russia and Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus.

What the ‘biolabs’ mean to you

While the COVID-19 pandemic has killed more than 6 million people worldwide, the U.S. government has refused to seriously investigate its origins, instead choosing to place all blame on China. How can humanity prevent another global pandemic from wreaking havoc on the poor and the working class when it seems to know no bounds? A recent paper on COVID-19 (which is strange for a country so heavily invested in defense)?

The people of the world must know what experiments the U.S. government is funding abroad, especially when there is clear evidence they are experimenting with deadly viruses. The poor and working class must no longer be guinea pigs for biological warfare.
Pentagon wins, workers lose

The ominous omnibus

A $1.3 trillion “omnibus” spending bill, which included significant March 15, passed the House and Senate March 10. Over half the money in the Consolidated Appropriations Act — $782 billion, a $42 billion increase over fiscal 2021 — is going for Pentagon programs. In particular, the Pentagon’s proxy in Europe, gets a piece of the pie.

On top of that, $13.6 billion is slated to go to Ukraine — and not only for the propagandistic weapons of food and other “humanitarian” assistance. The U.S. is providing “assistance to the security forces.” Moreover, almost $7 billion is set aside for various arms of the U.S. government — mostly the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines but also its international ideological arm, Voice of America — “to respond to the Ukraine situation.” (rales.house.gov)

And it’s not just the Pentagon money is going to programs that benefit working-class and oppressed people. Tens of billions of dollars will go toward policing — from Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to the FBI and CIA, to capitol police and local police departments. For the latter, policing reforms stipulated under the George Floyd Act, passed by the House, were scrapped.

COVID-19 funds cut

Congressional Democrats had proposed $80 billion to continue the fight against COVID-19, then cut the amount by more than half under pressure from their Republican counterparts. After more progressive Democrats complained about the lowered amount, mainstream Democrats took the remaining $14 billion out of the budget altogether — with a dubious promise to get it back in a separate bill.

What had been earmarked for vaccine development and distribution along with mass testing is about equal to what the Senate, in a 68-31 bipartisan vote, agreed for the right-wing cozy regime in Ukraine. Billions more dollars are going to so-called “democracy programs,” supposedly “to counter disinformation propagated by malign actors, including the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation.” In fact it is U.S.-funded entities such as the National Endowment for Democracy that have spread disinformation and fomented dissent for decades against governments not subservient to U.S. capitalist aims.

Another $80 million is set aside to target Venezuela. The Director of National Intelligence is required to report on China’s biotech industry and the Belt and Road initiative — which countries and entities are doing business with China — as well as “human rights” in Hong Kong and the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions on target countries.

The Israeli apartheid state, meanwhile, is in line for at least $3.3 billion in U.S. assistance in the current fiscal year.

Robber barons of Capitol Hill

From the money left one must come food and housing assistance, Medicare and Medicaid, education funding, family planning (with no federal money allowed for abortions in the bill), substance-abuse prevention, disaster relief, labor- and civil-rights enforcement agencies, mass transit and all the social programs the masses depend upon.

This is a massive transfer of wealth — value created by the working class — away from human services and into the coffers of the military-industrial complex. This ruling class thieves comes at a time when workers and poor people are struggling with inflation at a 40-year high and now extortionary, war-driven prices to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes. The bill hurts communities of color, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQ+ people, youth, elders, low-wage workers, and people with disabilities the hardest.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York, called the Act “the strongest, boldest and most significant government funding package we’ve ever seen in a very long time.” (New York Times, March 10) Schumer’s comment should shred any delusions that the Democratic Party is the party of labor and civil rights.

A mass, class-based war — not against Russia or China but against the capitalist system — is the only war worth fighting. Or funding.

Haitians attempt to emigrate

By G. Dunkel

While the world’s attention focuses on the conflict in Ukraine that could quickly escalate, living conditions for the working people of Haiti are still festering.

Workers demanding their salaries bri- paled the left for the streets for the moment. Two out of five Haitians are still “food insecure,” which means they get less to eat than they need. Housing, jobs and health care are scarce. Hospitals and schools are clos- ing. Criminal activity on the streets, partic- ularly kidnapping, intensifies.

A wooden coastal trader capsized in the Florida Keys March 6, with 356 Haitians on board. Some of them managed to swim to shore, while others were captured by the Coast Guard, which by March 11 had sent 200 of the survivors back to Haiti. This is the fourth large-scale attempt to reach the U.S. by ship in the past four months.

Visits of top level U.S. diplomats

Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Anne Witkowsky was in Haiti March 7-9, fol- lowed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Daniel Erikson who visited Haiti March 9-11. While Witkowski met with Haitian President Ariel Henry and his coterie, as well as the director of Haiti’s national police, she went to Haiti to keep the lid on, to make sure that there’s no social explosion that would disturb its imperialist interests. Erikson met with leaders of Haiti’s Coast Guard to improve the coordination that they need to stop the flow of Haitian boat people.

Kidnapping, strike at the General Hospital

Crime statistics are inaccurate, with many crimes unreported or under- counted. Kidnapping victims are often locked up in the capital.

According to Haiti’s Prime Minister, a police officer, youth, elders, low-wage workers, and people with disabilities the hardest.

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Kidnapping, strike at the General Hospital

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Lockheed and Raytheon—today’s ‘Masters of War’

By Betsey Piette

“Come, you masters of war; You that build the big guns; You that build the death planes; You that build all the horror that_health world oil in your veins; You that hide behind desks; I just want you to know; I can see through your masks.” From Bob Dylan’s iconic song, “Masters of War,” written in 1963. It is all the more relevant today.

That the U.S./NATO-instigated war in Ukraine could result in a third world war is of major concern for all of humanity, especially workers and oppressed people who ultimately bear the brunt of any war. Yet for some global billionaires—today’s ‘masters of war’—this conflict is seen as an opportunity to increase profits.

Among those already reaping gains are companies involved in the production and sale of weapons, planes and other military hardware. This includes 14 of the world’s 20 largest “defense” companies headquartered in the U.S. Topping this list are Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon Technologies, which combined had arm sales in 2019 nearing $100 billion.

On Feb. 24, the day Russia invaded Ukraine, Lockheed Martin’s stock soared. Raytheon and Lockheed officials openly told investors the “great power competition [between the U.S. and Russia] … is good for business. In a company “earnings call,” issued Jan. 25, Raytheon CEO Greg Hayes described how they could benefit from the conflict. Similarly, Lockheed CEO James Taiclet told investors the “great power competition between the U.S. and Russia” over Europe into NATO drastically increased the potential for armed conflict between the U.S.-led NATO and Russia.

As the arms industry predicted, the invasion of the former republics of the Soviet Union and formerly socialist countries in Eastern Europe into NATO drastically increased the potential for armed conflict between the U.S.-led NATO and Russia.

El Sur Global rechaza la agresión de EE. UU. y la OTAN

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Ucrania, que en conjunto suman un asedio militar.

“Igualar durante décadas los fondos reclamados de gabinete de seguridad de la Federación Rusa y asumir que Rusia per- manecería indefensa ante una amenaza directa a su seguridad nacional fue un error, un crimen de alto cargo, un crimen que inclinaba o arrinconaba a los Estados. La historia responsabilizará a Estados Unidos por las consecuencias de una doctrina militar cada vez más ofensiva fuera de las fronteras de la OTAN, que amenaza la paz, la seguridad y la estabilidad internacionales” (tinurl.com/402x572).

El representante de Nicaragua ante la ONU, Orlando José Tardecilla, culpó a los patrocinadores del golpe de Estado de 2014 en Ucrania y los pactistas y bimber- deos contra las poblaciones de Donetsk y Luhansk.

El Sur Global rechaza la agresión de EE. UU. y la OTAN

Ucrania no fue el único país que se opusieron al voto de la ONU que convalidó la invasión rusa de Ucrania. La resolución respaldada por Estados Unidos fue aprobada con 141 votos a favor, pero hubo cinco votos en contra y 35 absten- ciones. Los abstencionistas incluyeron a China, India, Irán, Irak, Mozambique, Pakistán, Senegal, Sudán, Sudáfrica, Togoló, Vietnam y Zimbabue. La mitad de los esta- dos que votaron abstenerse o no votaron en absoluto eran africanos. Bielorrusia, la República Popular Democrática de Corea, Siria y Eritrea votaron con Rusia para rechazar la moción.

Al analizar la votación, David McVay, director Ejecutivo de Política Global, señaló: “De los 7,700 millones de personas representadas por gobiernos que partici- paron en la votación, solo el 42% pro- dian de países que aprobaron la moción. Muchos de los que se abstienen son países que han sufrido las paralizantes sanciones de Estados Unidos, otro acto de guerra.

El trato rracista de las autoridades ucra- nianas hacia los estudiantes africanos que estaban en Ucrania cuando se decidió abandonar el país dice mucho. Los paí- ses africanos sin duda se enfrentarán a la presión de Estados Unidos para que abandonen a Conadora a Rusia. Pero eso no detuvo una manifestación en la capital de la República Centroafricana, Bangui, donde cientos de participantes pidieron el fin de la OTAN y el fin de la hegemonía y el imperialismo de Estados Unidos.

Aunque la guerra en Ucrania podría continuar, en especial si los Estados Unidos siguen apoyando a sus papeles en el conflicto, no se debería esperar que el conflicto se expanda. En lugar de eso, los países africanos que se abstienen en la votación deben tomar medidas para asegurar su propia seguridad y prosperidad. Es importante que la comunidad internacional trabaje juntos para encontrar una solución justa y duradera para el conflicto en Ucrania.

If you care about Ukraine, disband NATO

By Sara Flounders

Long before the Feb. 24 Russian intervention, the 2014 U.S.-backed fascist coup regime had reduced Ukraine to the poorest country in Europe, and with the highest rate of migration. ‘The International Monetary Fund restructuring the economy and demanded austerity measures that gutted the pensions and cut social spending. Mass pri- vatizations of socially owned property brought economic ruin.

Now human trafficking in commer- cial sexual exploitation and forced labor, along with the buying of children from orphanages, is more widespread in Ukraine than in any other European country. The largest surrogacy indu- stry in the world is in Ukraine. Surrogate mothers are paid $15,000 per child.

Ukraine, although flooded with NATO weapons, is so lacking in basic social ser- vices that it has the lowest cost of vacci- nation rates for polio, meningitis and diphtheria at 57%. And only one in five Ukrainians have received a full course of COVID-19 vaccine, rais- ing concerns of new COVID-19 variants arising under crowded refugee conditions outside Ukraine. (tinurl.com/5yax8ist)

Ukraine: A NATO pawn

Ukraine, although not officially a member of the U.S.-commanded NATO military alliance, has received hundreds of millions of dollars in lethal military equipment from the U.S. Ukrainian troops served under NATO-NATO com- mand in Iraq and Afghanistan. As an “Enhanced Opportunity Partner,” Ukraine hosted joint military training exer- cises with U.S., British and Canadian troops.

Weapons with tactical nuclear capac- ity, which could reach Russian cities within minutes, are being moved into Ukraine by NATO and in NATO- controlled countries.

The war in Ukraine could end today if the U.S. would stop pumping billions of dollars of lethal arms and thousands of U.S. military “advisors” and private mil- itary contractors — mercenaries — into Ukraine. This devastating war would never have started if these U.S.-trained and equipped forces hadn’t been shell- ing the 1,400-mile Ukrainian-Russian border for the past eight years, all while the U.S. and NATO have been encircling Russia with military bases in surround- ing countries.

Ukraine is a pawn in this strategic arms race against Russia. The only way toward peace is to disband NATO. NATO out of Ukraine!
Luchar contra la xenofobia, una forma de guerra

El conflicto instigado por Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania tiene sus raíces en la búsqueda del imperio unipolar, una tendencia que se ha convertido en su objeto político. Este tipo de blocos tiene un impacto especial en los eventos deportivos internacionales, especialmente en los aficionados rusos que se ven afectados por estas medidas. Este es el caso de los rusos de las competiciones de fútbol, que han sido excluidos de la selección de Rusia. Este cambio ha generado un escenario con implicaciones en las relaciones internacionales.

La xenofobia se ha convertido en una amenaza global de una guerra nuclear en el mundo multipolar. Esta tendencia hacia el dis-![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

El periodista venezolano Patricia Villegas Marín, directora de TelesUR, denunció la prohibición de la Unión Europea de Sputnik y RT, señalando: “en nombre de la democracia se están silenciando voces. Nosotros en TelesUR hemos defendido la soberanía rusa sobre Crimea y apoyado la desmilitarización y desarmamentización del estado ucrainiano, para garantizar su estatus neutral y garantizar la paz en el mundo. Continúa a página 11