March 29 — Recent polls show that a majority of people in the U.S. fear that the current crisis might escalate to a war with Russia, a war they want no part of. (cbos42.com, March 28)

President Joe Biden’s comments made March 26 in Warsaw — threatening regime change in Moscow — certainly did nothing to alleviate those fears. The taste of danger remained even after his cohorts immediately walked back Biden’s comment. Biden later excused it as “moral outrage” and not a change in U.S. policy.

Moscow reacted with hostility, which is easy to understand. Washington has pursued policies intended to overthrow other governments around the world, succeeding in the last three decades in Panama, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Honduras, Libya and Ukraine, among others. These overthrows led to imprisonment and/or executions of the heads of state in Panama, Yugoslavia, Iraq and Libya.

Even more dangerous than Biden’s words are the billions of dollars in weapons Washington is shipping to Ukraine in order to use Ukrainian people as cannon fodder against Russia. NATO itself is steadily building up military strength in Eastern European countries surrounding Russia and Ukraine.

“Moral outrage” is an unfitting and hypocritical claim coming from Biden. Biden is the head of state of the empire that first waged 20 years of war and occupation of Afghanistan and then, after finally admitting defeat, imposed deadly sanctions on the government in Kabul.

USA Today reported, “As a result of all this economic disruption [in Afghanistan], including the loss of billions of dollars of aid, 22.8 million people — more than half the population — are facing acute food insecurity.” (March 10) They include 3.5 million children in need of nutrition treatment support.

Much of the world feels moral outrage against Biden and the U.S. government. Those in the U.S. who want to prevent a wider war must mobilize to protest both the words and the deeds of the Biden administration. As can be seen from additional articles in Workers World this week on pages 2 and 8-11, Washington is the main force responsible for the suffering in Ukraine — not to mention much of the rest of the world.

Despite avalanche of anti-Russia propaganda, revulsion for wider war exists among workers in U.S. Here, protest in South Bronx, New York, March 26. See page 2.
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 neoliberalism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war, austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, refugees and LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and imprisonment 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 gassed 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 capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and distributed 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

Vol. 64, No. 13 • March 31, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 14 • April 7, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 15 • April 14, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 16 • April 21, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 17 • April 28, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 18 • May 5, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 19 • May 12, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 20 • May 19, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 21 • May 26, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 22 • June 2, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 23 • June 9, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 24 • June 16, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 25 • June 23, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 26 • June 30, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 27 • July 7, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 28 • July 14, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 29 • July 21, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 30 • July 28, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 31 • August 4, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 32 • August 11, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 33 • August 18, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 34 • August 25, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 35 • September 1, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 36 • September 8, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 37 • September 15, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 38 • September 22, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 39 • September 29, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 40 • October 6, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 41 • October 13, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 42 • October 20, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 43 • October 27, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 44 • November 3, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 45 • November 10, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 46 • November 17, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 47 • November 24, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 48 • December 1, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 49 • December 8, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 50 • December 15, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 51 • December 22, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 52 • December 29, 2022

Vol. 64, No. 53 • January 5, 2023
**Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon**

**Workers’ second organizing drive has ‘more momentum’**

By Minnie Bruce Pratt Centreville, Alabama

Workers at the Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, cast final votes March 25 in a second historic attempt to win representation by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). The workforce at the facility is majority Black and more than half female.

Almost exactly one year ago, worker “yes” votes fell short after blatant union-busting tactics by Amazon. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ordered a new election, due to company actions that made a “free and fair election impossible.”

According to RWDSU, around 6,100 workers were eligible to vote in this round, about 350 more than last year. The union estimates that a little more than half of the current workforce was employed at the facility during the prior election.

Workers Jennifer Bates and Darryl Richardson, both leaders in the previous union mobilization, say there is more momentum this year.

Richardson notes: “We’ve got more employees involved. They are doing more speaking out. They realized during the first election that Amazon wasn’t being true in what they promised.” (al.com, Feb. 1)

As for last year’s “no” vote, Bates commented, “How can you have that a majority of the workers voted ‘no,’ yet you’re using all these tactics to prevent us from forming our union?”

Photos and video posted on Twitter during the current campaign showed union supporters interrupting and refuting Amazon management during mandatory worker meetings that pushed anti-union messages. RWDSU ran an inspiring social media campaign that highlighted Bessemer workers holding signs with their handwritten reasons why they were voting “yes.”

The union was backed by other union and community members who phone-banked and went door to door to win support.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

Workers Jennifer Bates and Darryl Richardson, both leaders in the previous union mobilization, say there is more momentum this year.

Richardson notes: “We’ve got more employees involved. They are doing more speaking out. They realized during the first election that Amazon wasn’t being true in what they promised.” (al.com, Feb. 1)

As for last year’s “no” vote, Bates commented, “How can you have that a majority of the workers voted ‘no,’ yet you’re using all these tactics to prevent us from forming our union?”

Photos and video posted on Twitter during the current campaign showed union supporters interrupting and refuting Amazon management during mandatory worker meetings that pushed anti-union messages. RWDSU ran an inspiring social media campaign that highlighted Bessemer workers holding signs with their handwritten reasons why they were voting “yes.”

The union was backed by other union and community members who phone-banked and went door to door to win support.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

Workers Jennifer Bates and Darryl Richardson, both leaders in the previous union mobilization, say there is more momentum this year.

Richardson notes: “We’ve got more employees involved. They are doing more speaking out. They realized during the first election that Amazon wasn’t being true in what they promised.” (al.com, Feb. 1)

As for last year’s “no” vote, Bates commented, “How can you have that a majority of the workers voted ‘no,’ yet you’re using all these tactics to prevent us from forming our union?”

Photos and video posted on Twitter during the current campaign showed union supporters interrupting and refuting Amazon management during mandatory worker meetings that pushed anti-union messages. RWDSU ran an inspiring social media campaign that highlighted Bessemer workers holding signs with their handwritten reasons why they were voting “yes.”

The union was backed by other union and community members who phone-banked and went door to door to win support.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

Workers Jennifer Bates and Darryl Richardson, both leaders in the previous union mobilization, say there is more momentum this year.

Richardson notes: “We’ve got more employees involved. They are doing more speaking out. They realized during the first election that Amazon wasn’t being true in what they promised.” (al.com, Feb. 1)

As for last year’s “no” vote, Bates commented, “How can you have that a majority of the workers voted ‘no,’ yet you’re using all these tactics to prevent us from forming our union?”

Photos and video posted on Twitter during the current campaign showed union supporters interrupting and refuting Amazon management during mandatory worker meetings that pushed anti-union messages. RWDSU ran an inspiring social media campaign that highlighted Bessemer workers holding signs with their handwritten reasons why they were voting “yes.”

The union was backed by other union and community members who phone-banked and went door to door to win support.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

Workers Jennifer Bates and Darryl Richardson, both leaders in the previous union mobilization, say there is more momentum this year.

Richardson notes: “We’ve got more employees involved. They are doing more speaking out. They realized during the first election that Amazon wasn’t being true in what they promised.” (al.com, Feb. 1)

As for last year’s “no” vote, Bates commented, “How can you have that a majority of the workers voted ‘no,’ yet you’re using all these tactics to prevent us from forming our union?”

Photos and video posted on Twitter during the current campaign showed union supporters interrupting and refuting Amazon management during mandatory worker meetings that pushed anti-union messages. RWDSU ran an inspiring social media campaign that highlighted Bessemer workers holding signs with their handwritten reasons why they were voting “yes.”

The union was backed by other union and community members who phone-banked and went door to door to win support.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.

The outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted. The National Labor Relations Board decision, when the Milwaukee-based company reached, the high turnover and the fact due to the huge number of workers to be counted, is the outcome of the vote is uncertain, due to the huge number of workers to be counted.
When an incarcerated worker is doing time in a prison and finally makes parole, it is usually a cause for celebration. But being released is not a person under restrictions that can send them back to prison in a heartbeat. And if that happens in New York City, they go to Rikers Island jail.

Rikers Island jail can cause a lot of grief for people in New York City to get goosebumps or even PTSD attacks when they hear that name. Rikers has a long and horrific history of racism, violence, suicides and death. It is a filthy, disgusting place that isn’t fit for animals.

Now, there is a bit of good news for parolees in New York City and the state.

Last summer the New York State Assembly and the State Senate passed a bill in June, 2021, known as the Less Is More Act. In September, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed it into law, and it was to be in full effect by March 1, 2022.

The bill is meant to radically lessen the number of parolees put back in jail for minor violations, like missing a meeting with their parole officers or failing to report a new address or a new job or missing a curfew.

The progressive new law required that anyone picked up for a parole violation had to be in a courtroom before a judge, not a hearing room on Rikers Island or any other jail, within 24 hours.

But the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) decided the law didn’t apply to cases that began before the law was passed. The Legal Aid Society took this denial of law to court on behalf of 91 detainees at Rikers Island who are parole violations, filing papers in the Bronx Supreme Court. They argued that the law was retroactive. In March, the Legal Aid Society won a victory.

“The law is clear: These New Yorkers were enticed to a release hearing as of March 1, 2022, and DOCCS had no legal authority to deny them,” said Lorraine McEvilley, Director of the Parole Revocation Defense Unit at the Legal Aid Society.

According to the March 23 New York Daily News, “In the decision issued Tuesday, Bronx Civil Court Judge David Lewis ordered the new hearings ‘forthwith’ and directed that they be held in regular courthouses rather than in special hearing rooms on Rikers Island.”

“Legal Aid has been fighting this ruling, which upholds the explicit intent of Less Is More to facilitate the decarceration of local jails,” reported McEvilley.

The DOCCS reported it was complying with the judge’s decision, and her spokeswoman issued this statement: “By Thursday, March 24, the department will have requested reconsideration hearings or lifted the warrants for the 91 individuals who are still in custody.”

A united front backs bill

Less Is More was fought for by a coalition of diverse organizations and people. A statewide coalition of community groups, service providers and public safety experts worked together to develop and pass the act.

According to the #LessIsMoreNY campaign: “Restricting the use of incarceration for technical parole violations and giving people incentives to comply with parole conditions will support them as they reenter their communities; reduce jail, prison and supervision populations responsibly; promote safety and justice for families and communities; and save taxpayers money.” (LessIsMore.org)

The #LessIsMoreNY campaign is led by eight organizations: the Katal Center, Unchained, and A Little Piece of Light, but many dozens of it were successful in being enacted.

Kevin Perez, an organizer with the New York City Brown Berets, said: “The Less Is More Act is a breath of fresh air for hundreds of thousands of us who have been suffering from the effects of mass incarceration. Overpolicing does not keep people safe and the idea of mass incarceration is the idea of one of the safest cities in the world. Public safety can only be achieved when we increase the resources available for undermined systems. We transition from being a system focused on punishment to one focused on rehabilitation. We ask that Governor Hochul ensures that #LessIsMoreNY is implemented fully and effectively.”

More than 32,000 people are on parole in New York State. As of September 2021, New York held the distinction of imprisoning more people than any other state for noncriminal “technical violations” of parole rules. As in most states in the U.S., the entire parole process is marked by systemic racism, with Black, Latinx, Indigenous and other people of color much more likely to be re-incarcerated for parole infractions than their white counterparts.

This new law will be helpful for New York, but the solution to the unimaginably horrifying conditions at Rikers Island jails, as well as prisons, is that this should be done all over the country, to abolish them. Crime can only be lessened by creating a new kind of society, that values every single person and provides not just the basics to survive but bread and roses too. 

New York City protest targets Rikers Island jail.

The following slightly edited article first appeared online on May 7, 2013.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Assata Shakur in person at the 1997 World Youth Festival in Havana, Cuba. I was all the more surprised when she recognized me as the 1996 presidential candidate for Workers World Party. A year later, when I was in New York City memorial for Workers World Party, the FBI posted a $2 million bounty on Assata as a “terrorist.”

The Panthers were beloved and respected within numerous poor Black communities, promoting the right to armed self-defense and free breakfast programs, health clinics and education. It is our duty to win. We must love and do everything to destroy the system. It is our duty to win. We must love and do everything to destroy the system.

This new law will be helpful for New York, but the solution to the unimaginably horrifying conditions at Rikers Island jails, as well as prisons, is that this should be done all over the country, to abolish them. Crime can only be lessened by creating a new kind of society, that values every single person and provides not just the basics to survive but bread and roses too.

The Legal Aid Society. The following link is a two-hour wide-ranging rational story about a new generation of younger activists, who are already disconnected from capitalism and all its illusions. And it will bring about a deeper solidarity with Cuba.

The bounty on Assata will boomerang and eventually help to introduce her inspirational story to a whole new generation of young activists, who are already disenchanted with capitalism and all its illusions. And it will bring about a deeper solidarity with Cuba.

Black activists pay homage to Assata at many movement events with her own words: "It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains."
By Monica Moorehead

The Women and Gender-Oppressed Caucus of Workers World Party spon- sored a webinar on March 24 enti- tled “Global Solidarity with Women and Gender-Oppressed Workers.” The webinar was part of a commemor- ation of Women’s History Month and International Working Women’s Day.

The panelists included Norma Pérez from a Call to Action on Puerto Rico and a for- mer teacher; Marie Kelly, a registered nurse and at-large member of National Nurses United; and Stephanie Tromblay, who is a lifelong union activist and Communications Workers member, and is of Huron and mixed Southeast Indigenous nations heritage.

The co-facilitators of the webinar were Mia Yia X, member of WWPrs Disability Justice and Rights Caucus, and Ted Kelly, a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Caucus of WWPs. Palestinian activist and writer, Susan Abulhawa, recorded an inspir- ing message for the webinar. Deborah Rodriguez, a WWPs candidate, created a beautiful slideshow with music, showing many struggles led by women and gen- der-oppressed people from around the world.

Ted Kelly’s opening remarks focused on a historical overview of International Working Women’s Day. She quoted from an article written by Kathy Durkin, a longtime fighter for reproductive rights: “At an International Women’s Socialist Conference in Copenhagen held 112 years ago, radical activists called for the annual celebration of an International Working Women’s Day to broaden global solidar- ity and strengthen ties among women workers.

These socialists deplored the terri- ble working conditions faced by women workers as they poured into factories. A million women marched in Europe to protest during the first commemor- ation of IWWD on March 8, 1911. Later to protest during the first commemora-

_world.

At an International Women’s Socialist Conference in Copenhagen held 112 years ago, radical activists called for the annual celebration of an International Working Women’s Day to broaden global solidar- ity and strengthen ties among women workers.

The panelists included Norma Pérez from a Call to Action on Puerto Rico and a for- mer teacher; Marie Kelly, a registered nurse and at-large member of National Nurses United; and Stephanie Tromblay, who is a lifelong union activist and Communications Workers member, and is of Huron and mixed Southeast Indigenous nations heritage.

The co-facilitators of the webinar were Mia Yia X, member of WWPrs Disability Justice and Rights Caucus, and Ted Kelly, a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Caucus of WWPs. Palestinian activist and writer, Susan Abulhawa, recorded an inspir- ing message for the webinar. Deborah Rodriguez, a WWPs candidate, created a beautiful slideshow with music, showing many struggles led by women and gen- der-oppressed people from around the world.

Ted Kelly’s opening remarks focused on a historical overview of International Working Women’s Day. She quoted from an article written by Kathy Durkin, a longtime fighter for reproductive rights: “At an International Women’s Socialist Conference in Copenhagen held 112 years ago, radical activists called for the annual celebration of an International Working Women’s Day to broaden global solidar- ity and strengthen ties among women workers.

These socialists deplored the terri- ble working conditions faced by women workers as they poured into factories. A million women marched in Europe to protest during the first commemora-

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

Women revolutionaries speak truth to power

In less than two years, March 8 also became synonymous with anti-imperial- ism. Women throughout Europe demon- strated against their own imperialist governments who plunged the world into war in 1914.

“It is essential to extend solidarity to workers superexploited by global capital- ism, including millions of women migrant workers, incarcerated workers and all people demanding economic, social and political rights.”

“Workers World supports struggles against racism, misog- gyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and physical and sex- ual abuse on and off the job. We call for reproductive justice everywhere. We adamantly support Indigenous women worldwide, leading the fight against cor- porate destruction of the planet.

“We applaud the fights for union- ization, with workers of color, women and gender-nonconforming people in the forefront, including Starbucks and Amazon workers here in the U.S.”

Connecting all the issues

When asked why every issue is a wom- an’s issue in the struggles against capital- ism and imperialism, and how important is the need for global solidarity, each of the panelists provided unique answers. Pérez stated, “Women are leading the liberation movement while still facing gender oppression. Women were the first to suffer from the current pandemic and economic crisis, forced out of jobs with no childcare, working from home where faced with anti-woman attitudes.

“This global crisis of capitalism has no concern for the survival of people, while women suffer at work and are at risk especially as teachers and health care workers. We women are the first to face food and water shortages and war. We are on the front lines, leading the fight. The revolutionary movement needs to con- tinue to grow. The face of struggle around the world is a female face. We are the ones facing oppression; we are the ones fighting back! It is urgent to continue the feminist anti-capitalist struggle until we free our- selves from patriarchy, imperialism and reactionary local regimes. For example, in Puerto Rico, women earn between 20% and 39% less than men who have the same training and do the same job. The more education and age, the greater the wage gap.

“Although women prepare more aca- demically and are the majority of the population, they are the minority in the workforce (40%). In administrative posi- tions, the majority are men. Some 86% of sexual harassment and abuse is per- petrated against women; femicides have been on the rise.”

Pérez concluded: “Everything is contin- uously changing. I am under continuous construction to gain knowledge of what I don’t know. I wish they knew the younger ones are teaching me and what I can share and be open to learning about different perspectives. This is not a time for waiting; now we are fighting. We have to share our experiences, what we are suffering, and be humble and listen and learn from others and build community. It is because I am a teacher; I always have faith that we can change thinking and find the points in common.

A salute to women workers

Tromblay remarked: “For women of color, the struggle means whether or not their families and their children will be safe from the police, from racist attacks, along with the global threat of femicide.

“And for Native women, the threat of violence overall we see manifested in the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirits and all Indigenous Persons. There are benefits and men missing and murdered too.

“The treatment of women and all work- ing people—who under the profit system give up one-third to one-half of the hours of their daily lives to the corporate bosses—has worsened to where we saw teachers nationally walk out on wildcat strikes before the pandemic. And workers are fighting for unions again! The Starbucks workers, who are often LGBTQ+ women and gender-oppressed workers, are on a roll filing for union elections.”

Tromblay emphasized: “We salute all the Amazon workers, working in horri- ble, even killing conditions, fighting for a union. And I’d like to give a shout out to the 150 Meow Wolf Workers Collective/ CWA here in Santa Fe, who are bargain- ing this week for their first contract.”

Marie Kelly responded with: “The pan- demic has made it impossible to hide how broken the profit-driven U.S. health care system is, but nurses working in hospi- tals knew it firsthand, well before the

almost 1 million COVID-19 deaths in this country.

Now is the time to be active in cam- paigns against for-profit health care and advocate for nurses in their fight for safe patient-to-nurse staffing ratios. Nursing is still a profession predominated by women. Nurses experience misogyny and the oppression of patriarchy, despite being the essential workers caring 24/7 for the sick and dying.

“The so-called nursing shortage is not due to a lack of nurses but is a result of hospital administrations’ deliber- ate understaffing in order to maximize profits. Nurses see the dangers here and are furious that they are being forced to either provide inadequate patient care or leave the profession.”

She went on to say, “It is a fact that the U.S. population has poorer health than most industrialized countries, and this is directly linked to the for-profit health insurance industry, big pharmaceuti- cal companies and hospital capitalists. Only a universal single-payer system will guarantee that health care is a right that everyone is able to claim.”

Deborah Rodriguez commented: “I realized how important it is to normalize the point about women being the face of the struggle. But even the ones who are not in a movement are literally strug- ging to get by to day, regular work- ing women, Black and oppressed women, incarcerated women.

“I’m reminded that it’s just a lot of women out there who are struggling to get by to day. And they may not have all the analysis and all the depth that is being shared here today; but only if they knew, I wish they knew and would join in. So the struggle for us is just to get them on our side.”

Mia X stated, “I’ve had ‘the Women of Vietnam’ book in arm’s reach. Madame Nguyen Thi Binh talked about political consciousness. She mentioned that [the Vietnamese] organized village by vil- lage. Those who knew how to fight taught others.

“And when we say brick by brick, block by block, you know how vital it is that each one of us really do that political education to become internationalist. As we sit in the belly of the beast or wherever we may be, when imperialism tries to make us think like we have amnesia, like what we’re seeing them do right now; we haven’t seen this before.”

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDvYi-S22ts to view the webinar.

The treatment of women and all work- ing people—who under the profit system give up one-third to one-half of the hours of their daily lives to the corporate bosses—has worsened to where we saw teachers nationally walk out on wildcat strikes before the pandemic. And workers are fighting for unions again! The Starbucks workers, who are often LGBTQ+ women and gender-oppressed workers, are on a roll filing for union elections.”

Tromblay emphasized: “We salute all the Amazon workers, working in horri- ble, even killing conditions, fighting for a union. And I’d like to give a shout out to the 150 Meow Wolf Workers Collective/ CWA here in Santa Fe, who are bargain- ing this week for their first contract.”

Marie Kelly responded with: “The pan- demic has made it impossible to hide how broken the profit-driven U.S. health care system is, but nurses working in hospi- tals knew it firsthand, well before the...
Heat waves melt ice at both poles of Earth

By G. Dunkel

The climate crisis is real. Millions of people throughout the world are suffering and dying from floods and rising sea levels, droughts, stronger hurricanes and derecho storms, and raging wildfires — several out of their normal season. Wind and ice storms, blizzards, heat waves, cold snaps, wildfires and mudslides are more frequent. Meltwater or structurally disintegrating “rotten ice” threatens the livelihood of Arctic people who rely on ice to hunt. While many of these weather events occurred before global warming became established, their intensity and frequency are certainly due in great part to the atmospheric changes generated by capitalist production’s reliance on fossil fuels.

On March 25, the youth organization Fridays for Future held 778 demonstrations and protests worldwide to “strike for climate reparations and justice.” Their website asserts “The catastrophic climatic scenario that we are living in has resulted in catastrophes of exploitation and oppression through colonialism, extractivism and capitalism.” (fridaysforfuture.org/marches/)

Heat wave in the Antarctic

The heat wave on the Antarctic eastern coastal saw temperatures rise by 70 degrees the second week of March, which led scientists on-site to take a picture of themselves in shorts and T-shirts. They were flabbergasted by this rise, since the Antarctic was entering its fall season. In the 100 or so years of meteorological observation in Antarctica, this was the first heat wave.

According to the Washington Post, “Satellite imagery and computer models indicate significant snow, rain and melting also occurred. During the heatwave, the ice sheet experienced its fourth-wettest day in more than four decades.” (March 22)

Along with this heat wave, the 1,200-square-kilometer Conger Ice Shelf, slightly larger in area than New York City, collapsed completely. It had been towering before, but the heat wave was at last straw. These ice shelves surrounding the Antarctic continent keep the thick glaciers covering its land from melting.

According to the AP, if all the glaciers in Antarctica melted, the seas would rise by 160 feet. (Yahoo News, March 24)

The Arctic heat wave

The Arctic experienced a heat wave at the same time as the Antarctic, which is surprising since it is in a different hemisphere and since its winter lasts until late April.

The Arctic is home to a number of Indigenous nations who depend on ice for transportation between communities, which are not linked by roads, and for hunting and fishing and supplying their food.

There are at least 60 words in Inuktitut, the Inuit language, to precisely identify ice in its various stages.

Andrew Arreak is an Inukitut scientist with SmartICE, a community-based enterprise that offers tools to adapt to climate change, integrating Inuit knowledge of sea ice with monitoring technology. It helps communities in 32 communities in the Canadian North.

Arreak lives in Pond Inlet on Baffin Island in Nunavut. His community has had to cut its residents off from the rest of the world due to the ice breakers used by the iron ore mines on the island. He told Bloomberg News, “Sea ice is coming a little later, and melting a little earlier, each year.” He went on “It’s not just the thickness of the ice, it’s also what type of ice it is, whether it’s first-year ice or newly formed ice.” (March 23)

The Arctic is warming much more rapidly than the rest of the planet, except the Antarctic. The Inuit, whose ancestors moved into the area thousands of years ago, want to have a say in what happens there.

The rapid changes and climatic gyrations taking place at both Poles are due to global warming throughout the world.

While the capitalists see the chance for big profits — for example, when the big oil companies are expanding their explorations on the North Slope and the effects of using sanctions on Russia to make billions in profits from the German energy market — all their pretensions on renewableables are ignored in the blink of an eye.

The changes in the Arctic and Antarctic cause major changes for the rest of the world. For example, the Arctic means more heat is absorbed and more energy made available for storms to intensify. The warmer Antarctica gets, the faster the ice breaks up, affecting the ice cover melts, and the quicken the seas rise throughout the world.

Renewables won’t solve all the problems of global warming. But adopting them quickly will give the world time to develop other, more comprehensive solutions.

Idaho

Say NO to abortion bans! Reproductive justice bans now!

By Kathy Durkin

Hundreds of people demonstrated at the Idaho State Capitol against anti-abortion Senate Bill 1309 on March 19 in Boise, Idaho, a community-based reproductive rights coalition, organized the action and is determined to continue to fight this attack.

Both houses of the state legislature have passed the legislation. Although the protesters pressured Gov. Brad Little to refuse to sign this awful bill, he signed it anyway on March 23, in violation of fundamental human rights to bodily autonomy and decision-making on medically necessary procedures.

Like Texas Senate Bill 8, this law bans abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy, before most people know they are pregnant. It is the first state to copy the Texas bill implemented Sept. 1, 2021. Texas now bans all abortions after state officials’ declared deadline, with no exceptions for rape or incest victims, even children.

However, Idaho’s law would allow later abortions for rape or incest victims, but only if the abortion seekers provide a police report to prove they are eligible to obtain the procedure! Only one-third of rapes are reported. The Texas and Idaho laws are similar in that they turn the public, not state or city officials, into bounty hunters.

Idaho’s law would allow the public, not state or city officials, into bounty hunters.

The attacks on this fundamental human and medical right expose the U.S. health care system’s inequities and racial injustice. All of the prohibitions, restrictions, obstacles and abortion bans fall the hardest on oppressed people and those already discriminated against in the health care system.

We say fight back!

Millions of people across the country who will be impacted by these attacks are awaiting the Supreme Court ruling in June in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case. The justices could overturn its 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade, which legalized access to abortion.

Texas nightmare

The Texas ban has been a nightmare for pregnant people who have traveled hundreds or thousands of miles out-of-state to obtain abortions. It is particularly harmful for low-income individuals and those who are Black, Brown, indigenous, women, migrants, disabled, youth, rural residents and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Abortion seekers have to take time off from work, find childcare and transportation and raise funds. While a number can obtain medication abortions, some have no options.

Anti-abortion politicians and other reactionary forces are determined to overturn reproductive rights any way they can, through legislative action, court rulings and even violence. At the root of this is a setback, then we have to redouble our efforts to defeat this right-wing attack and adamantly fight for our rights.

Additional source: Letter from Planned Parenthood President Alexis McGill Johnson.


Ketanji Brown Jackson & the U.S. Supreme Court

By Monica Moorehead

If Ketanji Brown Jackson is confirmed as the newest member of the U.S. Supreme Court, replacing the soon-to-be retired Justice Stephen Breyer for whom she once clerked, she will become the first African American woman to occupy the highest judicial seat in U.S. history.

Jackson will be the third Black person and the sixth woman to hold this office. Her nomination would be almost equivalent to Barack Obama’s election as the first Black person to become U.S. president.

Why did Joe Biden pick Ms. Jackson as his nominee? She has been a federal judge for almost 10 years, mainly on the District Court in Washington, DC, and is a Harvard University graduate and a Harvard Law School graduate. She has been a corporate lawyer and served in the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a congressional agency that examines disparities in sentencing based mainly on nationality.

As a public defender, Jackson has represented clients accused of terrorist acts who are serving time at Guantanamo Bay. She has been a mother of three young children. She has been praised by both the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Police. But though Ms. Jackson is a career public defender, an objective person would think that Ms. Jackson would meet bourgeois standards for being a U.S. Supreme Court justice and doubt fellow capitalist to the letter. Additionally, her becoming a justice would not change the SCOTUS political balance as she is well respected. Ms. Jackson characterized the 1967 Project as a “proven advocate.” (Washington Post, March 24) For this new mild reform, she was attacked as reaffirming that the U.S. was founded on a racist basis.

Ms. Jackson was praised by Black women friends and contemporaries, along with members of the Black Congressional Caucus, most notably Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), before and during her nomination. Ms. Jackson has received the support of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Women’s Rights National Committee.

Ironically, the outcome of the hearing is shaped by a 9-0 decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Reactionary role of the Supreme Court

In the interests of the workers and oppressed peoples, racism in any form must be condemned. This will not preclude exposing the limitations and contradictions within the struggle, especially if within a bourgeois-established institution. In this case, that institution is the Supreme Court.

The U.S. president, Congress and Supreme Court were established in 1789 within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. This document was written by the white “founding fathers,” many of whom were rich property owners, enslavers and proponents of genocide of Indigenous nations. These same elements developed into the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the capitalist government. All three are to share the power of upholding class rule — to protect the private property of big landowners and bosses.

Jackson is confirmed as the next U.S. Supreme Court Justice will not alter the entrenched white supremacy that permeates every aspect of U.S. society. The fact that the Black masses and the working class in general have directly shut out of the process of deciding who sits on this court, which makes decisions that will impact their daily lives — from the right to organize to access to reproductive justice — is another example of why conceptions of relations must be overturned to lay the basis of a true workers’ democracy — socialism.

Bessemer, Alabama, Amazon

Workers’ second organizing drive

Continued from page 3

RWDSU president, issued a March 26 statement that said in part: “Amazon knowingly kept workers at their stations for hours during the incident, failed to properly evacuate the facility and told workers to go back to work before any clarity on the safety of the vapor in the air was known. It is unconscionable that Amazon would keep workers at their stations when there is a known health and safety issue. Workers’ lives should never be put in jeopardy for profits, something Amazon has an inexorable history of doing.

“Workers did the right thing leaving when they felt unsafe yesterday and in requesting this to OSHA, who must investigate this fully. Amazon must be held accountable for this. We hope the substance workers were inhaling for hours has no long-term harmful effects, but the simple fact that workers were in that situation demonstrates Amazon’s blatant disregard for the health and safety of their employees.”

Despite Amazon’smight and Alabama’s reactionary “right-to-work-for-less” laws, there is a militant tradition of worker organizing in the state, especially for Black workers, going back to the 19th century. Black Civil Rights actions in Alabama were the starting point in the 20th century of a movement against racism that continues throughout the country today.

Workers at Amazon who work in Bessemer, a Black-majority community in the Birmingham area, are demanding a vote on whether to form a union.

Amazon is declining to provide details about Bessemer’s Amazon warehouse, which opened in 2019 with the promise of 2,800 and 35 miles from Bessemer, March 27.

Workers.org    March 31, 2022    Page 7

Support for Amazon workers in the Four Points neighborhood of Centreville, Alabama — population 2,800 and 35 miles from Bessemer, March 27.
President Joe Biden's March 25 announcement made in Brussels, Belgium, was at an NATO meeting — that the U.S. would accept up to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees — is all the more remarkable. His welcome exposes again the racist hypocrisy of Washington's immigration practices.

The number may be small considering that 5 million people have left or are trying to leave Ukraine — although most apparently prefer to stay in Europe and eventually return to Ukraine. Biden's stance toward Ukrainians contrasts sharply with his refusal to accept refugees and migrants from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa.

Since President Biden took office, over 20,000 Haitians have been deported, many of whom had lived in the U.S. for years. Most are being flown back to Haiti under COVID-19 spread. Biden has left Title 42 in place, and it has been applied to Haitians apprehended at the U.S. Mexico border, deporting them instead of allowing them to apply for asylum. The Haitians are forced to return to conditions of dire poverty, low access to COVID-19 vaccines and political instability.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced. To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.

Biden promises food shortages

This expensive catastrophe for millions of working people in Russia, Ukraine and throughout Europe, Africa and the U.S. was well understood long before the U.S. announcement has taken place. This is what economic sanctions are designed to do — create suffering and foment dissent against governments targeted for “regime change.”

The growing economic integration of Russia and China with Europe is the greatest threat to U.S. corporate domination.

The EU is the largest importer of Russian trade with Russia is $260 billion a year, 10 times its trade with the U.S. Forcing the EU to cut its trade with Russia is creating shockwaves and not only for the working class. The EU’s corporate dependencies are designed to do — create suffering and foment dissent against governments targeted for “regime change.”

Sanctions backfire on U.S., EU

The sanctions confiscated $300 billion in gold and foreign exchange assets Russia is fighting a war. Russia is demanding that it be returned to its previous status.

Sanctions have stretched to more than 50 countries covering a third of the world’s population. The demand to comply with these onerous U.S. conditions creates economic havoc in surrounding countries.

But as the number of countries struggling to survive sanctions has grown, the U.S. has been forced to use its sanctions and continue trade has likewise grown.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced.

To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.

Sanctions backfire on U.S., EU

The sanctions confiscated $300 billion in gold and foreign exchange assets Russia is fighting a war. Russia is demanding that it be returned to its previous status.

Sanctions have stretched to more than 50 countries covering a third of the world’s population. The demand to comply with these onerous U.S. conditions creates economic havoc in surrounding countries.

But as the number of countries struggling to survive sanctions has grown, the U.S. has been forced to use its sanctions and continue trade has likewise grown.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced.

To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.

Sanctions backfire on U.S., EU

The sanctions confiscated $300 billion in gold and foreign exchange assets Russia is fighting a war. Russia is demanding that it be returned to its previous status.

Sanctions have stretched to more than 50 countries covering a third of the world’s population. The demand to comply with these onerous U.S. conditions creates economic havoc in surrounding countries.

But as the number of countries struggling to survive sanctions has grown, the U.S. has been forced to use its sanctions and continue trade has likewise grown.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced.

To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.

Sanctions backfire on U.S., EU

The sanctions confiscated $300 billion in gold and foreign exchange assets Russia is fighting a war. Russia is demanding that it be returned to its previous status.

Sanctions have stretched to more than 50 countries covering a third of the world’s population. The demand to comply with these onerous U.S. conditions creates economic havoc in surrounding countries.

But as the number of countries struggling to survive sanctions has grown, the U.S. has been forced to use its sanctions and continue trade has likewise grown.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced.

To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.

Sanctions backfire on U.S., EU

The sanctions confiscated $300 billion in gold and foreign exchange assets Russia is fighting a war. Russia is demanding that it be returned to its previous status.

Sanctions have stretched to more than 50 countries covering a third of the world’s population. The demand to comply with these onerous U.S. conditions creates economic havoc in surrounding countries.

But as the number of countries struggling to survive sanctions has grown, the U.S. has been forced to use its sanctions and continue trade has likewise grown.

This month, after Washington expanded sanctions on Russia, U.S. imperialism arrogantly expected world compliance. The imperialist partners of the U.S. in the EU, Canada, Japan and Australia acquiesced.

To the shock of U.S. strategists, however, most of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America refused. This is a substantial trading bloc. China’s Belt and Road investments have opened new possibilities globally.
Latest U.S. ‘war for oil’ fuels global warming

By Betsy Piette

Is the U.S./NATO-instigated war with Russia, taking place on the battlefields of Ukraine, yet another “war for oil” — or a war over control of global sales of natural gas?

At an emergency NATO summit in Brussels March 25, President Joe Biden announced the U.S. will accelerate liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to Europe, sending an additional 15 billion cubic meters (bcm) of LNG shipments on seagoing tankers in 2022, on top of 2021 exports of 22 bcm. Biden said U.S. exports of LNG will continue to grow through 2030, averaging 50 bcm to Europe annually.

Before Biden’s NATO address, the U.S. Department of Energy issued two long-term orders March 16 giving Cheniere Energy projects in Louisiana and Texas “additional flexibility to export the equivalent of 1.2 bcm of LNG per day” to “any country with which the U.S. does not have a free trade agreement, including all of Europe.” Despite the fact that U.S. LNG exporters were already at or near maximum capacity, the DOE approval allows every U.S. LNG project to export to any country under U.S. sanctions.

Fracking and the 2014 Ukraine coup d'etat

In 2014, the U.S. financed and armed a right-wing coup in Ukraine. Even before that, the U.S. was promoting exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas to Europe as the way to weaken the European Union from its dependency on Russian gas imports. The U.S. moved to secure global markets for its more expensive and more environmentally hazardous fracked gas, even before infrastructure was fully in place to accommodate this trade.

For years, with limited success, the U.S. energy industry pressured Ukraine and other European countries to open up to U.S. exports. With domestic overproduction of fracked gas, and U.S. earnings around $3 per mmBtu (million British thermal unit), the industry was eager to export LNG to markets with higher rates of return. In 2013, natural gas in Europe sold from $11 to $13 per mmBtu and in Southeast Asia $18 per mmBtu or higher. (tinyurl.com/mnrn3mgh)

Energy industry public relations firms pushed the message that people in the U.S. had to accept the environmental risks stemming from fracking in order for the U.S. to achieve “energy independence.” Yet in April, following the February Ukraine coup, two bills were introduced in the U.S. Congress seeking to fast-track U.S. LNG exports to Europe.

Pressure blocked Nord Stream 2 pipeline

In 2011, Russia and Germany cooperated to begin construction of a large, direct gas pipeline from Russia’s northwestern border to Germany. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline would have cemented growing economic relations between Russia and Germany, both U.S. economic competitors.

Completed in September 2021, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline was scheduled to open in early 2022. In late 2021, the U.S. began ramping up pressure on Ukraine to join NATO, simultaneously issuing daily announcements about Russia plans to invade Ukraine. By imposing the most extreme economic sanctions against Russia and demanding compliance from EU countries including Germany, the U.S. successfully blocked the Nord Stream 2 opening, further compelling Russia’s defensive war.

LNG exports a setback for limiting global warming

In calling for increased LNG exports to Europe, the Biden administration aban- doned any pretense of enacting major climate legislation. Bowing to energy industry pressure, it issued a “fact sheet” promoting expanding LNG exports to the EU, claiming this is “not in conflict with the net-zero climate goals that we’re shooting for” and that LNG is a “cata- lyst” for doubling down on investments in clean energy.

Biden’s March 25 pronouncement was met with immediate concerns from global climate activists, who see it as a serious setback for efforts to phase out fossil fuel usage to limit global warming. Miles Jones, managing director of policy at Food & Water Watch, called on Biden to “firmly reject any plans to fast-track gas export terminals here in the U.S.” Corporate pollsters are brazenly seizing on this crisis to secure decades of dependence on dirty energy, which will further devastate frontliner communities and abandon any hopes for bold climate action.

Liquefied natural gas production generates higher levels of carbon emissions than any other energy source, except for coal. While Russian gas would have been sent through the already constructed Nord Stream 2 pipeline, U.S. LNG ship- ments will require the construction of new gas terminals and pipelines. These fossil fuel infrastructure projects will take years to build and would be used for a long time.

Somini Sengupta, Global Climate Correspondent for the NY Times, wrote: “U.S. gas export buyers are under long-term contracts. Export terminals are already shipping out all the gas they can. Not all EU countries have import termi- nals to take in more LNG. If they had to build more, it could lock in reliance on gas for 10-15 years.” (March 25, 2022)

Promoting LNG exports would leave Europe more dependent on U.S. energy, while prolonging global reliance on a fossil fuel sourced by hydraulic fractur- ing or “fracking.” Fracking releases toxic and carcinogenic chemicals into the environment, wastes millions of gallons of vital water resources and contaminates air and water in communities adjacent to fracked wells. Serious health issues and deaths have been linked to exposure to fracking chemicals and waste products.

Increasing LNG exports would greatly push back efforts to move away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources — solar and wind power. Compared to renewable energy, produc- ing LNG emits 14 times the amount of carbon as does solar power and 50 times as much carbon as wind power. Resources invested in more fossil fuel production and distribution mean less funding on research, development and distribution of renewable energy sources.

Methane gas emissions more potent than CO₂

When natural gas in any form is burned for energy, it releases carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. But environmental activists see LNG as especially problematic for the climate. “In every step of its life cycle — from extraction to processing to storage to transportation — LNG emits methane,” said Marta Guerreró with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) which found methane (CH₄) 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the first 20 years after emissions.

LNG must be chilled to temperatures of minus 259 F and held to that extreme temperature throughout its entire trans- port — whether by ship, rail or truck — a very energy-intensive process. Warming it back to normal temperature requires yet more energy. All told, LNG is responsible for nearly twice the greenhouse gas emissions as ordinary natural gas.

A Feb. 4 study by Duke University tracked hundreds of very large and previously unreported methane leaks, released at oil and natural gas pro- duction sites around the world. In 2021 Duke’s Drew Shindell, writing for the United Nations Climate report, found that reduc- ing methane emissions was the single most effective way to slow global warming. (tinyurl.com/yzyd4dj)

Turn the Guns Around

By John Catalinotto

Draftees and enlisted — eighteen-year-olds from Watts — hate the military and the Vietnam War. They throw a wrench into the Pentagon’s war machine, becoming leaders of the anti-war move- ment and organizing a union in the conscript mili- tary to battle war, racism and their officers.

Get your copy today at workers.org/books

Bomb train transporting liquefied natural gas rolls through Hudson Valley, New York, community as school buses pass nearby.
The main job of an imperialist diplomat is to lie. And to lie with conviction. If lucky, they don’t get caught in a flagrant lie.

Strangely enough, career diplomat Madeleine Albright, who died March 23, is most infamous for her one slip up when, caught off guard, she told the truth. And she exposed just how criminal U.S. policies are.

To be U.S. secretary of state means being the chief liar of world imperialism. It’s true; people in this post may help plan wars, subvert, intervene in countries and everything to try to keep the U.S. and its monopoles atop the world. John Foster Dulles in the 1950s and Dean Rusk in the 1960s advised. Others just obeyed. But they all lied.

Gen. Colin Powell, who succeeded Madeleine Albright as secretary of state in 2001, had the task of telling one Big Lie with a straight face. Before the United Nations, in 2003, he told the world that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. This created a pretext for the March 2003 U.S.-British invasion and destruction of Iraq.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright did her share of lying. She defended every bomb and rocket launched by the Pentagon and any of the other NATO war machines against Serbia in 1999, including those that hit bridges, schools and television studios, among other military targets that were among the alleged crimes of the leaders of Serbia. And she praised the gagsters leading the Kosovo terrorists.

When pressed by her lies, she was upended the one time she told the truth. On the interview show “60 Minutes,” May 12, 1996, host Leslie Stahl asked Albright, who was then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, “We have heard that half a million [Iraqi] children have died [from sanctions]. I mean, that is more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?”

“I think that is a very hard choice,” Albright answered, “but the price, we think, the price is worth it.”

Like the imperialist strategist Zbigniew Brzezinski, Albright’s roots were in Eastern Europe, hers in Czechoslovakia, and she was a confirmed anti-communist, anti-Russia diplomat all her academic and diplomatic life. She was especially active in the U.S. campaign to destroy multinational Yugoslavia and expand NATO eastward. One can argue today that the war in Ukraine is part of Albright’s legacy.

But she could never live down her moment of truth. U.S. imperialism aimed to destroy Iraq and if it took the unnecessary death of half a million Iraqi children, Albright showed she was tough enough to do it. Being a world-class war criminal is part of the job description for the U.S. secretary of state, no matter what obstacles— even patriarchal bias—one had to overcome to get appointed. It goes with the territory.

Sanctions are not a deterrent to war or a substitute for war. They are in fact an escalation of the war.

Using the dominant role of the dollar in the world economy, Washington has imposed more than 5,500 sanctions on Russia and is forcing other countries to reconfigure their economies to abide by these extreme economic penalties. The sanctions on Russia are the world’s most extreme economic war measures. (tinyurl.com/299p598c)

Sanctions create hyper-inflation, artificial famines, social upheaval and artificial famines that punish civilian populations. As deadly as bombs and rockets, they are a form of war. They are correctly labeled a Crime Against Humanity.

Will sanctions succeed in restoring the position of U.S. imperialism? That is the central question.

In 2021, the Center for Strategic and International Studies deputy managing director Gita Gopinath gave an authoritative view of this expectation that financial sanctions will drive Russia into “deep recession,” and “shift global economic and financial upheaval. It has implications for the global economic order as we know it.” (tinyurl.com/2chjw8f6) Other news articles predict that the Russian economy is going down the ice chute, will “tumble,” “go into free fall,” etc.

Several economists warn that it will impose a huge financial burden. To the bankers and financiers, the pain of millions, even within the U.S., is of no concern, as long as they can pick up the pieces afterward.

Speculators predict “defense” industries and energy companies will prosper. All financial predictions in the U.S. and Europe suggest this will hit the European economy much harder.

Third of world sanctioned

Today more than 40 countries, encompassing one-third of the world’s population, already suffer under economic measures imposed by Washington. The U.S. has sanctioned Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Sudan and others. Countries that trade with targets of U.S. sanctions face heavy fines. This deadly form of economic warfare impacts all the nearby countries and destroys regional development.

Many of these countries, however, are finding ways to survive through complex barter and exchange programs that are developing as the number of sanctioned countries grows. Almost all of the countries that have been hit by these harsh U.S. destabilizing measures and asset confiscation sanctions have signed up with China’s Belt and Road Initiative development programs. Many of the sanctioned countries, including Venezuela, Cuba and Syria receive reliable shipments of needed fuel and grain from Russia. These new forms of exchange, developed through necessity, are beginning to weaken the intended economic stranglehold. Russia still has these markets for its exports beyond the reach of U.S. sanctions.

Russia is also a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This is an economic and security alliance that is the world’s largest regional organization, covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world’s population and more than 20% of global gross domestic product (GDP). Of the 14 members of this trading bloc, six are already under U.S. sanctions but continue normal economic relations.

Several countries, not willing to openly confront U.S. economic wrath, have simply stated they would only comply with the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council, where a Russian or Chinese veto would make such a veto unlikely. U.S. economic and political pressure on all these countries to comply will intensify in the coming period.

Threatening China

China’s top banking regulator, Guo Shuangqing, says: “We will not participate in such sanctions, and we continue to maintain normal economic and trade and financial exchanges with relevant parties.” (New York Times, March 11) After Mastercard and Visa stopped their operations, Russian banks turned to China’s UnionPay, which offers payment options in 200 countries. China has not yet given economic or military assistance to Russia. It has simply refused to cut off its normal economic relations. This is infuriating the Biden administration.

The U.S. publicly threatened China for helping Russia evade sanctions. China was reminded that two of its biggest trading partners are the U.S. and European Union. China needs access to those markets.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan threatened China directly, stating: “We are communicating directly and privately to Beijing that there absolutely will be consequences” if China helps Russia “subsidize its losses from the sanctions.” We will allow Russia to re-export and allow there to be a lifeline to Russia from these economic sanctions from anywhere in the world.”

Sullivan said China and all countries are on notice that they cannot “basically bail Russia out ... give Russia a war- rampart to put up its defenses with impunity.” (tinyurl.com/3j3suqye)

If such brazen and insulting threats are being openly made to China, then harsher threats are being raised to other countries.

New forms of trade and exchange do challenge the dominant power of the U.S. dollar. But extreme measures imposed on Russia will create intense economic pain of spiraling inflation and unemployment on a global scale.

The U.S. ruling class, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. corporate media are at this time unanimously in support of an economic war and even a military confrontation, regardless of how destructive they would be to human life, as long as they would break open new markets and destroy their rivals.

The Democrats quickly dropped Build Back Better promises and a COVID-19 health package in order to saturate Ukraine with weapons. Working people in both the U.S. and Europe will pay the price.

The growing danger is that a U.S. imperialist war on this scale, combined with the demand that the whole world participate, could dangerously escalate.

Read both parts 1 and 2 online at www.workers.org/2022/03/62628/
La guerra en Ucrania y sus efectos en América Latina y el Caribe

Carlos Mauricio Ferolla y Marcelo Depieri

La guerra en Ucrania y sus efectos en América Latina y el Caribe

By Carlos Mauricio Ferolla and Marcelo Depieri

March 23, 2022 — On Feb. 24, war broke out in Ukraine after the invasion of the Russian army. The war has a global impact on a multi-national system, hyper-connected and in a critical stage, undergoing a process of economic globalization.

The military conflict adopts new configurations, what Igacario Ramonet calls a new type of war, taking the form of an economic, media, political, cultural, etc. war. In addition to the economic effects of the military conflict, there is the global impact of the sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies on the export of products such as oil, metals, and fertilizers. The shockwave of the war will be felt all over the world. It is known how a war begins but not when it ends; and its consequences on a region will have a significant impact.

From pandemic to war

The social and economic structure of Latin America and the Caribbean has been shaken by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The deepening of inequalities, the continuation of economic and social problems, migration, health and environmental crises, the contraction of GDPs and the increase in the countries’ indebtedness were some of the main consequences of the pandemic.

In this context, the inter-american pan-American of Latin America 2021 report, social indicators are even worse than before the outbreak of the coronavirus. In 2019, in Latin America and the Caribbean, 51 million people were in poverty, and another 11.4 million lived in extreme poverty. In 2021, 32.1 million people were in poverty and 13.8 million in extreme poverty in the region. As if this were not enough, the pandemic has been followed by a significant rise in international food prices, which has had an enormous impact on the populations of the region. As if this were not enough, a few oligopolistic companies benefited from the increase in the value of commodities through exports.

In this context, Russia and Ukraine are major producers of and exporters of energy and food, which have had a significant impact on the economies of the most unequal countries.

The debate on how to contain the escalation of prices and decouple the price of food from the price of oil, and the impact of international prices on domestic prices are at the forefront of the debate, since governments will have to deal with concentrated sectors of the economy. The increase in the price of wheat flour and other inputs has a direct impact on the price of bread, which is affecting several countries. In the case of Venezuela, for its part, besieged by coercive U.S. sanctions, the impact of the increase in energy prices is being amplified by the increase in the price of basic foodstuffs, as well as in the price of food products.

How to contain the escalation of prices and decouple international prices from domestic prices are at the forefront of the debate, since governments will have to deal with concentrated sectors of the economy. The increase in the price of wheat flour and other inputs has a direct impact on the price of bread, which is affecting several countries. In the case of Venezuela, for its part, besieged by coercive U.S. sanctions, the impact of the increase in energy prices is being amplified by the increase in the price of basic foodstuffs, as well as in the price of food products.
Los trabajadores del aeropuerto italiano se niegan a cargar armas para Ucrania

Por Alessio Arena

Fronte Popolare, Italia

Los trabajadores del aeropuerto Galilei de Pisa -un aeropuerto civil- denunciaron el 12 de marzo que habían participado en la carga de un avión de carga con lo que supuestamente era ayuda humanitaria destinada a Ucrania. La ayuda resultó ser armas y municiones destinadas a las tropas del régimen de Zelensky.

Tras conocer el contenido real del cargamento, los trabajadores se negaron a completar las operaciones de carga e informaron a su sindicato de base, Unione Sindacale di Base (USB), que denunció públicamente el incidente.

"Desde el Cargo Village, situado en el aeropuerto civil, despegan vuelos con armamento ucraniano atormentado por semanas de confusión de información hegemónica de occidente a oriente.

El conflicto militar adopta nuevas connotaciones presentes con la pandemia. Al enfrentarse al nuevo contexto económico que se entrecruzan estas variables y las políticas que tomen los gobiernos se verá cómo afecta esto a la economía de los países y a su capacidad para comprar armas.

La pandemia y la guerra tendrán un efecto negativo para las economías de los países más desiguales.

El dilema de los gobiernos latinoamericanos

Los países del continente no tienen un rol relevante en la disputa geopolítica desencadenada con el conflicto en Ucrania. Si bien la mayoría de los gobiernos se posicionaron contra la invasión rusa en Ucrania y otros han optado por no tomar partido, lo más interesante es analizar los debates y las políticas que deberán encarar estos países para hacer frente al nuevo contexto económico que se viene con la guerra, que -como ya hemos señalado- en algunos casos son continuación de las tendencias presentes con la pandemia.

Los precios internacionales están en el medio de la preocupación que está puesta en la escalada inflacionaria en que esto puede derivar. El aumento de la tarifa de energía, del transporte, de los combustibles, así como de productos alimenticios de primera necesidad pueden llevar a la alarma de urgencia de los gobiernos.

Por Carlos Mauricio Ferolla y Marcelo Depieri

(OBSAL – Observatorio de Coordinación de América Latina y el Caribe del Instituto Tricontinental) Resumen Latinoamericano el 23 de marzo, 2022

El 24 de febrero inició la guerra en Ucrania tras la invasión del ejército ruso. El conflicto bélico impacta globalmente en un sistema internacional multipolar, hiperconectado y en estado crítico, atraídos a estas dinámicas presentes con la pandemia.