PRIDE means FIGHT BACK!

This is a statement from the LGBTQ+ Caucus of Workers World Party to Pride Parades, Dyke Marches and Trans Liberation Actions all over the country!

An injury to one is an injury to all. We must unite and fight back together against all attacks!

The brutal violence of class war is something waged against us daily by the ruling class. When a mother cannot or chooses not to have a child is forced to give birth, a gay man is evicted and denied access to homeless shelters because of his sexuality, and a Black child is prohibited from learning their own history in the classroom, extending a legacy of genocide, we are witnessing class warfare. The question is how and when we'll start fighting back together as the working class.

Reactionaries, racists and neofascists across the U.S. are launching vicious attacks on the most vulnerable people. Hundreds of shocking anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced this year. Teachers are threatened with enormous financial penalties for acknowledging the existence of LGBTQ+ people, while parents of transgender youth face child abuse charges for providing them with necessary health care.

Meanwhile, a critical blow is being struck against reproductive rights as Roe v. Wade could soon be overturned. Federal judges have given their approval. Teachers are overlapped fronts in one struggle between the working class and the capitalist class.

Democrats, despite having almost 50 years to codify Roe v. Wade into federal legislatures. The battle for LGBTQ+ rights, the fight against racism and the campaign for reproductive rights are not separate. They are overlapping fronts in one struggle between the working class and the capitalist class.

Democrats, despite having almost 50 years to codify Roe v. Wade into federal law, failed to do so. Why? Because they, like the GOP, are beholden to bigoted state legislatures. Democrats, despite having almost 50 years to codify Roe v. Wade into federal law, failed to do so. Why? Because they, like the GOP, are beholden to bigoted state legislatures. The question is how and when we'll start fighting back together as the working class.

This is why we must not think of ourselves as unrelated elements of society, but as a single class whose problems grow from the same root. If we continue to tackle issues one by one, we'll only be cutting branches from this great, poisonous tree. We must topple it completely.

The LGBTQ+ Caucus of Workers World Party DENOUNCES the murderous attacks on our bodies—the racist attacks on people of color like the vile massacre in Buffalo, New York, the attacks on women and other people who can bear children by denying vital health care, the attacks on LGBTQ+ people with legal weapons that endanger our bodies and minds. We DENOUNCE all attacks on reproductive, voting and queer rights.

But the ballot box alone cannot and will not save us. Rights are not given, they are seized and defended!

We take inspiration from the heroic worker organizing that won unparalleled victories against mammoth Amazon and Starbucks corporations. A solidarity of multinational, multigender, queer, young and older workers are asserting “We are the union,” and they are winning.

Now is the time for militancy, for sharpening our battle axes and FORCING the ruling class to acquiesce to human dignity and working-class power!

We remember Stonewall and the Compton Cafeteria rebellions. Take to the streets. We refuse to allow them to push us back into the closet with the clothes hangers.

This is why we must unite and fight back together against all attacks! We must unite and fight back together against all attacks! We must unite and fight back together against all attacks!

NO new jails!

No new jails!

Mumia on Pride

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Update on Mumia’s case

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Sundia out — free them all

Sundia out — free them all

Rodney Reed vs. Texas law

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Labor pushing back

Fired Starbucks workers

On the picket line

Soccer players win pay equality

Cleveland honors

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NATO expansion

Gwangju 1980

Saberg-rattling in Asia

Sanctions: a wrecking ball
Workers World celebrates LGBTQ2S+ Pride: ‘We won’t go back!’

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

Workers World consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of “The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal.” In 1993, then in 1999, WW republished it as “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View,” with the first book’s original text and a new preface and afterward (These and works below are available at workers.org/books.)

In 2004, WW managing editor and globally respected transgender leader Leslie Feinberg began the “Lavender & Red” series, which ran until 2008 in WW. A group of 24 articles from that series was later published as “Raising the Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” Notify us if you want a free copy paper.

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

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

WW reporters on the ground—from Buffalo, New York, to Portland, Oregon, to Brookwood, Alabama—captured the tremendous groundswell of worker organizing that won historic union victories and public wins for LGBTQ rights.

This year’s LGBTQ2S+ Pride issue has been displayed at workers.org. Not one online issue has been skipped throughout this over two-year health crisis.

For a donation of $60 a year, or $240 or $300, you receive a subscription to WW newspaper and one, two or three free subscriptions for friends, depending on donation level. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World Supporter Program or renew your membership. The program was established 45 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to fight for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

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

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World! 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 level. A free download of the “What Road to Socialism?” book, published in 2020, is available at workers.org/books. Or notify us if you want a paperback book.

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We are grateful for your help in building Workers World! If you are interested in joining Workers World, mail them with your name and address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Put “Supporter Program” in the memo line. Or donate online at workers.org/donate.

We are grateful for your help in building Workers World!

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression. It attacks on im/migrants, LGBTQ+, oppression and mistreatment 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 ever-greater profits.

Workers are the ones who build the world, who have the knowledge and power to build a world that works for everyone.

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 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 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 National Office

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Since 1939, 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. 😊
Social developments — political and economic — are interconnected. They reflect the same rotten, inhumane system of U.S. capitalism. The fascist attacks of Black, Brown, Asian and Jewish people, trans youth, women and the gender-oppressed — from the massacres in the Tops market in the Black community in Buffalo, New York; May 14; to the Taiwanese church in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 14; at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in 2019; at a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018, to the SCOTUS and right-wing attacks on abortion — do not inhabit a political vacuum. They are tied to the current and long-term global economic crisis.

Marxists refer to repressive apparatus like the police, courts, prisons, or extralegal forces that promote and uphold capitalism’s economic and divisions, as the superstructure. The inner operation of the capitalist economy, be it a boom or a bust cycle, is the structure upon which political power is carried out to keep the majority working class powerless.

Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote an article June 8, 1995, entitled "Notes on fascist terror from racist attacks to abortion bans". It is a guide on how revolutionaries should analyze any phase of the current political situation. That is altogether inadequate. We have to look at the broader world economic situation in order to not only understand the present period but be able to put into effect an appropriate political program.

There is always a great temptation for Marxists to paint the current situation in terms of imminent economic or political collapse. But that is a poor guide for a mature political party, whose members seriously regard the party’s prognosis as a guide to action. The party’s political conclusions are derived from its economic analysis. They are taken primarily in considering not only broad political initiatives but more immediate, local ones.

White supremacy and youth alienation

Similar to the senseless 2015 killings of nine Black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, by white supremacist Dylann Roof, the massacre in Buffalo was not spontaneous but was well-planned for weeks and months, by another teenage white supremacist, Payton Gendron. He was influenced by the "great replacement theory," a vile racist doctrine promoted during the 1930s by the Democratic Senator Theodore Bilbo, who presided over the Senate to promulgate the "poison" pays lip service to the crisis but offers a tremendous hike in swollen defense expenditures were really to take place in the immediate period ahead. Such conditional "ifs", however, are wholly unwaranted by the very grim realities of the present situation as it continues to develop." (workers.org/marcy/klan)

These words written 40 years ago are more profound than ever before, regarding this unprecedented social crisis.

Racism and attacks on abortion

Ironically, the massacre of 10 Black people at Tops happened the same day an estimated 1 million people took to the streets around the U.S. May 14 to demand abortion rights. Coincidence or not, these two events are bound together by the same oppressive system. White supremacy, along with the oppression of women and gender-oppressed people, is the underlying driving force behind the recent wave of fascist terror attacks, which disproportionately target poor women of color.

The leak of the SCOTUS draft ruling calling for overturning the right to access to abortion on a federal level will bring back state rights, reminiscent of the days of the pro-en enslavement Confederacy. Almost half the extreme misogynist, ultra-right-wing-led state legislatures are cramming about the near future. These are the same politicians who don’t give a damn about raising healthy children, as the baby formula crisis exposes.

The Democratic Party is attempting to co-opt protests expressing outrage over the assault on women and others who can become pregnant into votes for the midterm elections and away from class struggle. The repressive state is being put on notice for any “violent” protests, once the FBI/CIA/FTRU is still around, they can “break up” any protest on abortion sometime this summer.

White supremacy doesn’t just target people of color but women, the gender-oppressed, LGBTQ2S+, people, Jewish people, Muslims, im/migrants and others. White supremacy, while influencing every capitalist institution, is in every way anti-working class.

This relationship illustrates an important connection between all the struggles. White supremacy serves to keep the entire working class down by using divide-and-conquer ideology, like racism and patriarchy, to scathe the most oppressed in order to safeguard the fragile, out-of-control capitalist system.

When one section of our class is under siege by the ruling class and its repressive state, whether it’s Black and Brown lives in Buffalo, Charleston or El Paso, whether it is the right to abortion, defending trans youth in Florida, or the right to organize and not be retaliated against with firings of young workers at Starbucks and Amazon, the lack of a classwide struggle weakens the entire class. Every struggle, large and small, domestic or global, needs a classwide fight-back response.

Biden going to Buffalo to proclaim that white supremacy is a “poison” is a farce. The president has no solution. Only a united fight for socialism can and will eventually overturn all class relations based on white supremacy to liberate our class, especially youth, from racism and all forms of capitalist exploitation.
WW speaks with fired Starbucks workers Part 3

Legacy of May Day: Making sacrifices

On April 30, WW managing editor, Monica Mbodj, interviewed 25-year-old Beto Sanchez and 22-year-old LaKota McGlawn, two of the seven fired Starbucks workers based in Memphis, Tennessee. The two young workers were in New York City to speak at the May Day rally and march initiated by the Workers Assembly Against Racism (WAAR). The other fired workers are Nikkii Taylor, Nabretta Hardin, Kylie Threkmorton, Emma Worrell and Florentino Excepcion. Go to bethosanctos and kota.mcg1992 on TikTok and memphis_sevens01 on Instagram. This is part three of a three-part series. Go to workers.org/2022/05/06/3dayrally/ to read the entire interview.

WW: The two of you all flew here from Memphis to New York City to be here for May Day, International Workers Day. The eight-hour day was won because of that particular struggle through so much sacrifice, similar to the sacrifice that you all are making right now. Why is it important for you all to be here on May Day 2022?

Beto Sanchez: It takes movements like this that you get to see parts of history right in front of yourself. It’s honestly like picking up where they left off. Every day that I was in Memphis, we lived so close to the Civil Rights Museum. There’s so much rich history there about the many people that had to give their lives for sacrifices, for people that they will never meet in the future. Some of the people that we have met are the leaders of the food-workers union. They’re not getting the same attention that we are. And this is for those workers everywhere. And I’m hoping that we could at least be a source of inspiration for them.

WW: Well, you certainly are. The Memphis Seven are the perfect example of an injury to one is an injury to all. LaKota McGlawn: I really feel like Beto. We were lucky to have our case handled by the NLRA. A lot of other workers who go to court for the same situation can wait up to 10 months for them to get their job back. We didn’t want to share support for those workers and even show that billionaires can’t keep getting away with this union busting and the exploitation of their workers who they treat as disposable. I just really want to show that the working class is not disposable. And you can’t replace us all with robots.

WW: Cool. That’s great. Do you want to say anything more on the kind of support you all have been getting around the country and to build on this support forward?

LM: We’ve had a tremendous amount of support from our community and from other unions as well. We’ve had other union leaders offer to give us a space if we need a place to make posters or to congregate and have meetings. Even my mom asked me to give her pens and pants for her co-workers, because she’s also a member of a union. She was also wrongfully terminated, and she was with her union and her union reps, who are still her co-workers. She was able to get her job back. But seeing the support from other people, who walk by us and even just like see our shirt and say like, hey, I support the fight. It really makes me emotional.

BS: There’s a power in numbers. It’s about having people with a common cause, being able to have something to fight against. It’s a lot of times in history that unfortunately, there’s a lot of people that put down their lives for things like this. But at the same time, when you give people something to fight for, they will go the full mile for it.

Being able to be here at Union Square, being able to have the Memphis Seven here in New York, it’s honestly a wonderful thing to be able to inspire people, because even though we were fired for wanting to make the world a wonderful thing to be able to inspire people, because we have the Memphis Seven here in New York, it’s honestly time, when you give people something to fight for, they will unite, because we are able to move mountains, whenever you need a place to make posters or to congregate and have meetings. Even my mom asked me to give her pens and pants for her co-workers, because she’s also a member of a union. She was also wrongfully terminated, and she was with her union and her union reps, who are still her co-workers. She was able to get her job back. But seeing the support from other people, who walk by us and even just like see our shirt and say like, hey, I support the fight. It really makes me emotional.

LM: There’s a power in numbers' WW: The community has been an important part of keeping us going. Being able to fight a Fortune 100 company like this, it does take a lot out of you. There’s been times where I find myself exhausted, seeing how some times it seems like an uphill battle, but at the same time keeping track with all these stores that are unionized, being able to meet these leaders everywhere, being able to talk to these workers one-on-one, it rejuvenates me.

And as well as being able to see the tremendous amount of support that the community has been able to show us, even when I was still working at Starbucks and being part of the organizing committee, the first time that we had announced the organizing, there were so many customers that would show us support. They would write us emails and say something to us. They would tell us to put their order in for Union Strong. They would show their support through the drive-through.

There are so many media that at this point it’s important to be able to take a moment to just think about everything that has been going on and to be able to properly show my gratitude for people everywhere who are understanding this. Because what we’re going through is unfortunately something that’s not new. It’s happening to workers everywhere, in many trades, many disciplines, many industries.

And I’ve always said that the coffee industry has always been a great place for unionization, because what’s happening to us is unfortunately happening to the coffee farmers. It’s happening to the supply-chain workers. It’s happening to the manufacturers. So the warehouse is where all of us have been underneath the same scrutiny from the same managers, from the same corporations.

And it’s something that I was able to relate with every single time I met another union leader from a different union or different trade. The moment that we had the AFL-CIO or UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) or any of the food-workers union people seeing what was happening to us, they said what’s happening to union leaders back in the ‘60s, back in the ‘80s — that is happening now. It’s unfortunately an old story, the story of workers being exploited for profit. But thankfully, the community has been able to help me see that there’s a power in numbers. There’s always going to be more of us than there will be of them. There is a great power whenever workers unite, because we are able to move mountains, whenever we find we have something that we need to fight for. And in terms of direct support you’re always able to send a message to any of us on social media. We’re everywhere.

And I’m sure there’s going to be a lot of support for a lot of the union leaders out there everywhere, because these are just kids. A lot of times there’s so much going in their head that sometimes makes them want to just fall down and cry. But being able to just say a word, just say something or show any type of support, it means the world to us. And I’m glad to be able to keep doing this for workers everywhere.

But there’s definitely many out there, for several workers that have been fired. There’s a GoFundMe for us, for the workers in Seattle, for Layla, for Lisa, for Cassie, for many of the workers out there that I had the pleasure to meet and thank you. I’ll be going to people that are out there to help workers.

WW: This is a global struggle too. Starbucks is exploiting workers all over the world just like Amazon is. PW: And Amazon was a big one too. And I’m very eager to be able to ever meet Chris Smalls. I definitely want to point out how significant something like that is, because Jeff Bezos, unfortunately, is a heavy fighter in exploiting. Being able to have a victory like that over a company like Amazon, if that doesn’t give you hope, I’m not sure what would. Yeah.
Hawaii mental health providers strike over critical worker shortage

The pandemic has increased the burden for mental health services everywhere, even in the “island paradise” of Hawaii. The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Hawaii released a statement calling for support of mental health care providers, due to the great stress put on them because of workforce shortages.

The psychologists and other mental health workers at Kaiser Permanente are frustrated by the company’s disregard for the well-being of the workers and their patients. Contract negotiations have dragged on for four years. One patient, Carlos from Maui, reported waiting four months for an appointment with a mental health provider, even though he was in crisis.

The mental health workers at Kaiser Hawaii took action May 18 by calling a three-day strike to demand the company increase staff numbers and retention incentives. The 47 full-time mental health care providers are members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW). “None of us wanted to do this,” said Kaiser Maui Lani Primary Care Clinic psychologist Rachel Kan. “We’re really tried everything we could do first and found that management is not interested in offering us an incentive to not strike.” (tinyurl.com/2pgyztm)

Disabled janitors win NLRB ruling

Janitors at an acute care facility of Sinai Hospital in Baltimore prevailed in their drive to join Service International Union (SEIU) United Healthcare Workers East, despite attempts by the hospital to deny them employment. The Janitors hired through the Vocational Service Program (VSP) have disabilities, and Sinai Baltimore attempted to characterize them as rehabilitative associates rather than employees. This classification allows companies to pay disabled workers less than the minimum wage.

However, the NLRB ruled against Sinai Baltimore and determined the VSP janitors are lawful employees and eligible for collective bargaining rights through union representation. The NLRB found that same work and are subject to the same employee policies as janitors hired by the hospital directly.

Protests as U.S. tries to drag Finland, Sweden into NATO

By John Catalinotto

May 22 — Under heavy pressure from U.S. imperialism to aid its anti-Russian offensive as part of the Ukraine war, the governments of Sweden and Finland applied to join the NATO military alliance. President Joe Biden is attempting to rush through acceptance of their membership as part of the hybrid war against Russia.

This rush is further evidence of the belligerent aims of U.S. imperialism in this period and its willingness to use the Ukrainian people as a battering ram — and as cannon fodder — in the anti-Russian offensive. Such an expansion would place 10 enemies surrounding Russia’s access to the Baltic Sea. Only the refusal of the Turkish government to accept the two countries is postponing what might have been a lightning-quick expansion of NATO.

The Erdogan regime’s response is based mainly on the non-hostility of Sweden and Finland to the anti-Russian offensive and their organizations, whom the Turkish rulers consider “terrorist.”

In a report to Workers World, Mike Powers — a U.S. war resistor from the 1960s who emigrated to Sweden — wrote that in 20-odd cities and towns throughout Sweden, protesters joined rallies and marches over the May 21-22 weekend to oppose the government’s decision to apply for membership in NATO. He wrote that the formal decision to abandon the more than 200-year-old policy of neutrality came in the midst of a frenzy of fear whipped up by propaganda about the armed conflict in Ukraine and a threat to the security of Europe.

Speakers at the Stockholm protest included Thomas Hammarberg, a former socialist MP and European Council Commissioner for Human Rights; Kajsa Ekman, a well-known writer and journalist; as well as representatives from the Nordic Union group, Folket i Bild (People in Pictures); Women for Peace; and the Revolutionary Communist Youth (RKU).

According to Powers, the Swedish government is trying to avoid a referendum on joining NATO. Despite the overwhelming government and media propaganda against Russia and for militarism, polls have shown that a majority of the people either opposes Sweden joining NATO or has grave doubts about that choice.

In Finland too, there was a demonstration against NATO membership in the past week, writes Tommi Lievemaa of the Communist League. But in the parliament, the decision to apply for NATO membership was passed by 188 to 8 votes. The leftist parties in the government, the Social Democratic Party and the Left Alliance, both accepted NATO membership. Only a handful of representatives of the Left Alliance opposed it.

Lievemaa writes that anti-Russian propagandists have been strong in Finland for years, but after the Ukraine war it reached a whole new level with the government’s aim of persuading the Finnish people to accept NATO membership. It is beyond ridiculous that Russian cats were barred from attending a cat show in Helsinki and Russian violinists were barred from the Sibelius violin competition.

After years of struggle

Women’s soccer team players win equal pay

By Otis Grotewohl

A landmark moment for gender equality was made when the U.S. Women’s National Team Players Association and the U.S. National Soccer Team Players Association reached agreements between the unions and the U.S. Soccer Federation that will continue until 2028. The language on benefits, including player health and safety, was postponed.

The ratified CBAs feature strong language that make them a first of their kind. The new CBAs were attained at a time when workers and oppressed people, especially youth, are challenging the profit-driven capitalist system. They are fighting back as the profiteers are trying to raise prices on commodities, while squeezing every bit of labor power out of workers without providing additional compensation. Amazon and Starbucks employees, among other low-wage earners, are collectively fighting for better working conditions and pay. They have a much better chance at winning.

Solidarity and raised class consciousness can give our class the ability to smash the sexist and transphobic glass ceiling, one roof at a time!

Game developers vote union despite union-busting tactics

The Raven Software quality assurance testers have organized under the Game Workers Alliance union in association with the Communications Workers (CWA). The National Labor Relations Board reported May 23 that a majority voted to join the union.

Raven Software of Madison, Wisconsin, is a subsidiary of Activision Blizzard, a video game holding company based in Santa Monica, California. The parent company is majority owned by Activision Blizzard, a video game holding company based in Santa Monica, California.

The NLRB shot down another union-busting attempt, this time when workers at Raven attempted to unionize. The Board recognized that the quality assurance testers constituted an appropriate, separate bargaining unit. The same day the election results came out the NLRB ruled that Activision’s social media policy illegally intimidated workers.

In January, Microsoft’s announcement that it was buying Activision caused the latter company’s stock to jump 40%. The acquisition will have all 230 Raven employees vote. The Board recognized that the quality assurance testers constituted an appropriate, separate bargaining unit. The same day the election results came out the NLRB ruled that Activision’s social media policy illegally intimidated workers.

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The working class and the global capitalist crisis

By Larry Holmes

The following excerpts are from remarks by Larry Holmes, Workers World Party First Secretary, at a May 19 New York City branch meeting.

Most bourgeois economists are now predicting a recession, which is a sharp downturn in the economy. A recession used to be considered cyclical, but that has changed, just as the nature of the capitalist crisis has changed. Because capitalism has realized its death knell and is in a permanent crisis.

There is no scientific definition of the term “recession.” It just means something bad is going to happen during the downturn—unemployment, austerity, small and mid-size and large businesses going out of business, etc. Or maybe even something worse, something far worse. I’m sure that some of you have seen videos of the wild social market swings lately.

The U.S. capitalist government is in maybe the biggest bind that it has been in for quite some time. They have determined the only way they can help capitalism, the only way they can restore profit margins, is to raise interest rates.

This raises a discussion of the falling rate of profits, and I saw some comrades reading what Comrade Sam Marcy wrote about that 40 years ago. This is something good to read at this time: “The Changing Character of the Working Class,” Chapter 4 in “High Tech, Low Pay.” (marxists.org/history/etol/writers/marcy/hightech/chap4.html)

Raising interest rates is something the capitalists are afraid doing since the 2008 global financial crisis. Because they were worried that the underpinnings of the capitalist economy on a global basis were so weak that raising interest rates might precipitate something worse than a “recession.”

So instead, in order to save capitalism, they’ve been pummeling trillions and trillions of dollars into the economy, particularly into the financial markets. And even more so during the pandemic, to keep the capitalist economy afloat.

This has created enormous “bubbles” — when the price for something, a stock, a financial asset, etc., exceeds its fundamental value by a large margin — leading to incredible debt. And when that debt starts to come, a lot of it’s hidden, but it’s still in the trillions of dollars. The capitalists don’t know; they’re not even sure, can’t even imagine, what the ramifications are for the economy.

“Stagflation”

You’re hearing the word “stagflation” a lot. That is what capitalist economists and politicians called the crisis that capitalism was in during the 1970s into the early ’80s. That was the biggest capitalist crisis since the Depression. And the capitalist class came to label it “stagflation.”

But “stagflation” is really the breakdown of the capitalist economy. It’s the economy’s inability to function based on capitalist assumptions and rules of the game it had been functioning up to that time. So economists and politicians considered what they call stagflation to really be a capitalist crisis — an existential threat to capitalism.

They came to the conclusion in the 1980s that they had to take dramatic steps to save capitalism. So that’s where you got concepts and plans like restructuring, neoliberalism, globalization and high tech — essentially a ruling-class declaration of war on the working class. This was them tearing up the relative “peace contract” the capitalists had with sections of the working class with what we call respect to unionism.

We could go back to the economic crisis, take the nuances and the words, break them up and study them. This is all good if it clarifies and doesn’t confuse. But I want to focus on what I think is the most important aspect of this developing economic crisis.

It’s the political crisis that this evolving capitalist crisis generates that’s of great importance to the working class and to those who are struggling, like ourselves, at the heart of world imperialism, to help be the vanguard of the working class. This economic crisis comes at a very unique time. It comes when workers have finally begun to rise up, where there is an incipient worker uprising in its early or intermediate stages. However you want to characterize this uprising, it’s on a level we haven’t seen since the 1970s, that big move forward for the working class in terms of organizing.

The question now is this: Will the economic crisis — with the prospect of layoffs, job closings and all that comes with that — take the steam out of this worker rebellion? We’re looking at Amazon and Starbucks, two huge multinational capital behemoths. And they are the big targets of workers, and that affects other organizing drives, and their stocks are down! That raises the prospect of those companies closing Amazon warehouses or shutting down coffee shops, whether directly related to fighting the union drive or because of the economy.

No permanent gains under capitalism

So will the economic crisis take the steam out of the worker organizing? Or will it make workers more angry, maybe even make them more revolutionary? These are questions that we have to take very seriously. And there is a hope that the latter is true — that the economic crisis won’t take the steam out of the workers’ movement but will fuel it, and that will make workers more revolutionary. We shall see.

In the wake of a deepening capitalist crisis on a global level, it’s important to understand what Marx and all the great Marxist theoreticians have taught us. And that is that the fight of workers for better conditions is essential to them as a class as a whole.

In the wake of a deepening capitalist crisis on a global level, it’s important to understand what Marx and all the great Marxist theoreticians have taught us. And that is that the fight of workers for better conditions in their particular location is essential to them coming together as a class as a whole.

Because, comrades, whether it’s up or down, whether they win or lose, whatever gains the workers achieve through the struggle, those can never be permanent under capitalism. Unless and until capitalism is overthrown, those gains will always be something that the gyrations, changes of class relations and capitalist crises can take back.

I have been reviewing some of the positions on the Ukraine war, NATO and U.S. imperialism, sent out by Danish and Portuguese communist parties regarding the Ukraine war and global capitalist crisis. These views seem close to ours. They see the war as a catalyst hastening the global economic crisis and the working class as the vanguard of the working class. That is a discussion in itself — fuel prices, food, etc.

Just as we communists in the U.S. are, of course, against U.S. imperialism and NATO, so are these parties against the imperialists of their countries. But this is the problem with the views of these countries at this point: They are not even the most feeble of these parties against U.S. imperialism can resist the propaganda and the stance of their own ruling classes in relating to the war.

What ultimately will happen is the ability of the working class to understand there are more factors than that; there’s a fear of world war, etc.

All issues tied together

But to the problem — and this is a historical problem. The left in this country, due to historical circumstances and events beyond their control, has made this point many times, but I feel it’s necessary to repeat it — has been rendered somewhat weak in relation to the historical role of the working class, as Marxist and communist revolutionary theory sees it.

That’s because the working-class movements have been weak in the U.S. The working class has not only been weak, not only in terms of numbers, but by not operating in militancy. And now is a time when we need to decide how we are going to fight. This must be seen as the only answer to these crises, whether it’s the economic crisis, the crisis of U.S. imperialist war such as in the Middle East, or the crisis of the U.S., such as growing attacks on women, LGBTQ+ people and people of color.

That class struggle is the only strategy capable of defeating war and fascism and ultimately bringing about communist revolution. (©)

‘Cleveland to Jenin, justice for Shireen!’

Members of Cleveland’s Palestinian community kept up militant chanting for hours during a May 20 demonstration to demand justice for martyred Shireen Abu Akleh. The Israeli military killed the Palestinian-American journalist May 11 in Jenin.

The mostly youthful crowd also commemorated Naksa—the catastrophe—the 1948 expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland to create the Zionist state of Israel. Chants of “Palestine will be free” and “Revolution will bring it!,” along with “The blood of your children is the same as our children’s” were chanted for hours during a May 20 demonstration against the war in the Ukraine.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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Larry Holmes speaks in front of the penthouse of Starbucks CEO, Howard Schultz, on May 1, in New York City.
The rights of transgender people to live in safety and dignity have never been respected by the capitalist system, but they are currently faced with a renewed and vicious attack by the reactionary forces in control of the U.S. government. It is the responsibility of the working class to fight for its most vulnerable members, as none of us can be liberated until we are ALL liberated. Nothing will be granted to us; our rights must be seized and protected. Gender is not defined by genitalia. It is the right of all people to define their own gender and gender identity and make their own decisions about their body.

Understanding this, the LGBTQ+ Caucus of Workers World Party demands the recognition and preservation of the following rights for EVERYONE, but especially Black, Latinx, transgender, nonbinary and gender-variant people and Indigenous Two-Spirit people who are under attack:

1. **Employment:** Guaranteed employment with a thriving wage, no discrimination in the workplace, full respect for gender identity, the right to a union and the abolition of “at-will employment.”

2. **Housing:** Decommodify and guarantee housing. End discriminatory housing practices and unequal access to shelters and social services.

3. **Health care:** Free, universal health care, including gender-affirming care and surgeries, medication and mental health. Ban all conversion therapy. Make trans-competent reproductive care and fertility preservation counseling available.

4. **Parental rights:** Prohibit anti-transgender discrimination in family court, adoption agencies and the foster care system. Each of these systems must be free and accessible. Recognize the legal rights of transgender families.

5. **Children:** Stop all anti-trans laws, especially the attacks on youth. Support the right of young people to live their gender identity. Protect access to hormone therapy and gender-affirmative counseling for minors. Allow trans youth to compete in sports appropriate to their gender realness. Any attacks on gender-affirming medical care will be blocked.

6. **Education:** Teach LGBTQ2S+ history, especially the historical landmark moments played by the transgender community, and comprehensive sex and gender education. Ban expression of gender identity at school of education workers and students, and prohibit policies that require teachers to out LGBTQ2S+ students to their parents.

**7. Incarceration:** Stop the violence, oppression and targeting of transgender prisoners. Stop misgendering and wrongly assigning prisoners to prisons that don’t align with their gender. Full access to medical care including hormone treatment and all requested corrective surgeries.

8. **Immigration:** Grant transgender people immediate asylum solely on the basis of gender oppression. Abolish ICE, and stop all deportations.

9. **Identification:** Abolish any mandated surgery as a requirement for gender recognition. Allow transgender, nonbinary, Two Spirit and other gender markers, including nondisclosure, to be used in all government documentation.

10. **Hate crimes:** Expand hate crime laws everywhere to include crimes of violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

**We demand Congress pass the Equality Act now! But we must continue to fight in the streets for all of our rights!**

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**Early gay liberation: anti-racist solidarity**

By Leslie Feinberg

The following is excerpted from Part 76 of Feinberg’s "Lavender & Red" series on the intersection of LGBTQ+ and socialist history, which appeared Oct. 7, 2006, in Workers World newspaper. The 120-installment series was published between 2004 and 2008 and can be downloaded at workers.org/books.

One particularly militant action by a multi-national group of gay men took place during the Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention in fall of 1970, convened by the Black Panther Party. It included a demonstration of anti-racist unity.

During the convention, a group of four gay men — two Puerto Rican, one African American and one white — at least one of whom was reportedly wearing “a bit of makeup,” went out to eat at an area restaurant. Management at the restaurant, which reportedly catered to a white clientele, refused to serve the group. The four left and returned with 30 or more gay men. The restaurant boss ordered them out.

According to a report in the Advocate: “A fight erupted when management, security guards and several patrons attacked one Puerto Rican and two Black Gays. Glasses were thrown, windows broken and other damage done in the free-for-all which developed.” (Dona Teal, “The Gay Militants”)

The other gay men of various nationalities came to their aid and fought alongside them.

After the group left the restaurant, police stopped 12 of the gay men as they drove away and charged them with assault, illegal entry and destruction of property. The defendants later won an important legal precedent — the right to use prospective jurors about their prejudices against same-sex love. Ultimately the charges were dropped.

**More solidarity**

As early as November 1969, left-wing gay liberationists actively organized in support of Chicano/Mexican grape pickers who were trying to organize a union — the United Farm Workers (UFW) — in the fields of California. The “Revolutionary Caucus” at the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations won a resolution in support of the farm workers, even though the convention had drawn more moderate forces.

Renowned labor leader César Chávez continuously extended his hand of solidarity to gay liberation, as well. In summer 2005, when the National Executive Board of the United Farm Workers — a predominantly Latinx union — announced its principled stance in support of the right of same-sex marriage, UFW Southern California Political Director Christian Chávez restated his grandfather’s support of gay rights.

She recalled: “Beginning in the 1970s, before there was widespread public acceptance of gays, especially among Latinos, my grandfather, César Chávez, spoke out strongly for gay rights. He attended gay rights rallies and marches. He brought with him the UFW’s black-eagle flags and farm workers who wished to participate.”

Chávez helped carry the lead banner in the 1979 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights.

Early gay liberation won support from Puerto Rican revolutionary youth as well, particularly from the Young Lords Party.

Shortly after Huey Newton issued his powerful statement of support for the gay and women’s liberation movements in The Black Panther newspaper on Aug. 21, 1973, a 19-year-old Puerto Rican gay person — participant in the national gay caucus. One of its first members was Latino trans Stonewall combatant Sylvia Rivera.

Rivera described joining in autumn 1970: “It was just the respect they gave us as human beings. They gave us a lot of respect. It was a fabulous feeling for me to be myself — being part of the Young Lords as a drag queen — and my organization [STAR — Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries] being part of the Young Lords.” (Feinberg, “Transgender Warriors”)

The Young Lords Party held its own inquiry into the death of a Black gay prisoner — Raymond Lavon Moore — after he was found dead in November 1970 on the fourth floor of the Tombs prison in lower Manhattan. That was the floor where gay and trans prisoners were locked up. The conference leadership tried to overturn the measure, a wider vote sustained the resolution.

A GLF representative spoke at the huge May 1970 rally in New Haven organized to free Panther co-founder Bobby Seale.

The case of the Panther 21 drew demonstrative support from gay liberationists of all nationalities. The 21 were arrested in New York April 2, 1969, in a pre-dawn police raid and charged with conspiracy to bomb the Botanical Gardens, department stores and other sites. They were finally acquitted of all charges on May 13, 1972, after 45 minutes of jury deliberation following what had been the longest political trial in the city’s history.

During the long trial, gay activists, including members of the Gay Liberation Front, had organized in support of the Panther defendants. The GLF Marxist study group — Red Butterfly — organized a gay liberationist contingent at a massive rally to “Free the Panther 21 and All Political Prisoners.” And the New York GLF donated $500 — quite a sum for activists in those days — to the Committee to Defend the Black Panthers.

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In the final analysis, the struggle for gay liberation would become a central pillar of the broader anti-racist unity movement.
The sickness that simmers at the core of the ‘American soul’

By Mumia Abu-Jamal
March 18, 2000

After several brutal anti-LGBTQ+ murders, including 21-year-old gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard and a growing movement to close this jail complex by 2026 and open four new jails across the country, upwards of 70% of people are held pretrial simply because they cannot afford to pay bail to get out and await their day in court—have long been abhorrent. People have experienced all sorts of physical and psychological abuses, faced extreme medical neglect, and died. Complaints as to the conditions at Rikers have been raging for decades, and every shot at reform has failed from reformers who wanted a clearer division between the ‘deserving’ virtuous poor and the ‘vicious’ ‘criminal’ poor. The prisons, jails and detention centers—where, like most in the United States, people are locked in service of capitalism. From their inception to warehouse poor workers to a current plan being pitched to specific groups of people, and it is clear that “reforms” to make these cages more “humane,” throughout their entire history have failed to bring more humane conditions.

Humane would be to provide for basic needs for all people, like housing, food and protection from a global pandemic, rather than criminalizing acts of survival—especially for people disproportionately targeted by the criminal punishment system. These include but are not limited to poor people, Black, Brown and Indigenous people, LGBTQ2S+ people, disabled people and those who find themselves at the intersections of multiple class-based oppressions.

The deadly jail of Rikers Island

A precursor to the modern jail, New York’s first city-run ‘charitable’ institution, charged with ‘caring for the poor, the beggars and the dependent sick’ was a workhouse established in 1736. An almshouse, Bellevue’s Blackwell’s Island and Ward’s Island all followed suit in the middle of the 19th century. The Department of Public Charities and Correction was established in 1860 to oversee the city’s institutions of social welfare and crime control. “The city designated Rikers a correctional island in 1884, one year before the Department of Correction split from the Department of Public Charity under pressure from reformers who wanted a clearer division between the ‘deserving’ virtuous poor and the ‘vicious’ ‘criminal’ poor. The project to open Rikers finally came to fruition a half-century later [in 1932] in part because conditions in the city’s existing workhouses and jails had been deteriorating for at least 20 years, generating numerous reports on the poor conditions in which incarcerated people languished.” (Current Affairs, March 15, 2021)

Conditions on Rikers Island are so abhorrent that most jails across the country, upwards of 70% of people are held pretrial simply because they cannot afford to pay bail to get out and await their day in court—have long been abhorrent. People have experienced all sorts of physical and psychological abuses, faced extreme medical neglect, and died. Complaints as to the conditions at Rikers have been raging for decades, and every shot at reform has failed from reformers who wanted a clearer division between the ‘deserving’ virtuous poor and the ‘vicious’ ‘criminal’ poor. The prisons, jails and detention centers—where, like most in the United States, people are locked in service of capitalism. From their inception to warehouse poor workers to a current plan being pitched to specific groups of people, and it is clear that “reforms” to make these cages more “humane,” throughout their entire history have failed to bring more humane conditions.

A growing movement to close this jail complex by 2026 and open four new jails across the country, upwards of 70% of people are held pretrial simply because they cannot afford to pay bail to get out and await their day in court—have long been abhorrent. People have experienced all sorts of physical and psychological abuses, faced extreme medical neglect, and died. Complaints as to the conditions at Rikers have been raging for decades, and every shot at reform has failed from reformers who wanted a clearer division between the ‘deserving’ virtuous poor and the ‘vicious’ ‘criminal’ poor. The prisons, jails and detention centers—where, like most in the United States, people are locked in service of capitalism. From their inception to warehouse poor workers to a current plan being pitched to specific groups of people, and it is clear that “reforms” to make these cages more “humane,” throughout their entire history have failed to bring more humane conditions.

The sickness that simmers at the core of the ‘American soul’

By Mirinda Crissman
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The sickening attacks on gay people in New York City have faced criminal punishment for the sexual in nature, is an attack on the self, this violence, which seems psychosexual in nature, is an attack on the self, the people who find themselves attacking gay folks violently are replacing a violence that they grew up with or that they learned out of, against their family or children.

Is it a coincidence that Richmond, the city where a Black man was burned to death and decapitated, follows several months later with the decapitation and torture of a gay man? I think not.

This cruel and savage violence must be stopped—but it won’t be the cops that stop it, for they are the agents of the surrounding state violence. The brutality that occurs in their own homes daily—in hundreds of cases—in the recent spate of cops who kill their wives and kids, more than proves it.

The people are the solution! So my thanks to the Rainbow! On a Move! To Freedom! To Free the Move 9! ☐

No new jails!

By Mirinda Crissman

The prisons, jails and detention centers in New York City have long been evolving in service of capitalism. From their inception to warehouse poor workers to a current plan being pitched to specifically house gender-oppressed people, it is clear that “reforms” to make these cages more “humane,” throughout their entire history have failed to bring more humane conditions.

Humane would be to provide for basic needs for all people, like housing, food and protection from a global pandemic, rather than criminalizing acts of survival—especially for people disproportionately targeted by the criminal punishment system. These include but are not limited to poor people, Black, Brown and Indigenous people, LGBTQ2S+ people, disabled people and those who find themselves at the intersections of multiple class-based oppressions.

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After 50 years of imprisonment
Sundiata Acoli is granted parole

By Judy Greenspan

The New Jersey Supreme Court decided what the parole board refused to do since Sundiata Acoli was first eligible for parole in 1993. An old Acoli, a Black political prisoner and U.S. prisoner of war, parole on May 10. Acoli, now 85 and suffering from dementia and other serious health problems, plans to live with his daughter and grandchildren in New York City upon release.

The story of Acoli’s near 50-year incarceration is unfortunately an all too familiar one. Acoli, a former Black Panther Party member, was first arrested and imprisoned in 1968 for his role in the Black Panther Party 21, a FBI-fabricated conspiracy case against the New York Branch of the BPP. Acoli and the others were incarcerated for more than 18 years. Although the charges were eventually dropped, he and other Panther Party members faced constant FBI surveillance, harassment and intimidation. These provocations drove Acoli and others underground. (sundiaatacoli.org)

In May 1973, Acoli and his comrades were ambushed by New Jersey state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. State police have a well-documented hundred-year history of racism and terrorist attacks on Black and Brown people. During this attack, Zayd Shakur was killed and Asatsapp Shakur was injured and captured. A state trooper was killed and another wounded. Acoli was captured three days later. Asatsapp Shakur later escaped from prison and is living in national sanctuary.

Needless to say, after a highly sensationalized and biased trial, Acoli was found guilty and sentenced to N.J. state prison for life plus 30 consecutive years. In New Jersey, even those with a life sentence are eligible for parole after 20 years. This former Black Panther was placed in a specially constructed lockdown unit and eventually moved to a maximum security federal prison.

When Acoli was first eligible for parole in 1992 for his first parole hearing, he was not even allowed to attend in person. In fact, true to the racist and vindictive nature of the New Jersey injustice system, Acoli received an unprecedented “20 year hit” due to his prior membership in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army.

Acoli is internationally recognized as a political prisoner, a war captive of the imperialist war machine of the United States and other organizations. Thousands of people have written letters and signed cards over the last four decades demanding immediate parole and freedom for Acoli.

In fact, it was only the legal intervention of the New Jersey Supreme Court two weeks ago, overruling the refusal of the parole board to grant parole, that finally opened the door to Acoli’s freedom. The legal decision granting Acoli parole was finally won. In its opinion, the New Jersey Supreme Court justices stated, “Acoli must be released because the statutory standards for granting parole have been met.” (Sundiata Acoli v. New Jersey Supreme Court Parole Board)

There are many elderly and infirm political prisoners in U.S. prisons who are most vulnerable during this 40th anniversary. Dr. Mutulu Shakur, who has been incarcerated for nearly four decades, is suffering from life-threatening bone cancer and was recently turned down for federal parole. Mumia Abu-Jamal, former BPP member and internationally acclaimed journalist, has been incarcerated for over 40 years and now has severe cirrhosis of the liver and hypertension. Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier, falsely incarcerated for over 40 years, has been in declining health and tested positive for COVID-19 in January. It is time to release these three and all U.S. political prisoners back to their communities. In 2022, it’s time to finally free them all.

Death row prisoner Reed challenges Texas law before SCOTUS

By Gloria Rubac

Finally, The U.S. Supreme Court announced the petition of death row prisoner Rodney Reed would be heard, regarding the constitutionality of Texas laws on DNA testing of crime-scene evidence, on April 25.

For decades Texas courts denied such testing, including of the murder weapon, in Reed’s case. The federal courts said Reed waited too long in asking for DNA testing. Now, a decision will be made as to time limits if DNA testing is sought. The real question is, who are the cops and the DA trying to protect? Possibly her fiancé, Jimmy Fennell, as the perpetrator.

Among other things, new evidence of innocence points to Stites’ white fiancé, Jimmy Fennell, as the perpetrator.

But Texas and the Texas courts have refused to allow DNA testing of key crime-scene evidence, including the ligature and the perpetrator in the commission of the crime. And when Mr. Reed sought access to DNA testing in federal court, the federal courts wrongly threw out his claims as unripe, reasoning that he could have started his federal action while the state court proceedings were still pending. We look forward to having the Supreme Court consider our arguments.” (InnocenceProject.org)

Reed does not have an execution date. His last date in November 2019 of a 1996 conviction was indefinitely stayed, after an outsourcing of political and legal support from attorneys, celebrities, religious leaders and the general public. Millions of people signed an online petition in support of Reed. His mother, Sandra Reed, and his brother, Rodrick Reed, have built and led a movement of activists from around Texas and the country. They have challenged the Bastrop District Attorney and local cops, exposed the faulty trial testimony and questioned why the actual evidence has been ignored by the state for almost 24 years.

According to CNN Supreme Court analyst Steve Vladeck, “The basic question is a technical one about when the clock starts running for federal lawsuits by prisoners who seek DNA testing of newly discovered evidence that might exonerate them. But the implications could be much broader; especially for prisoners in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, where the current law makes it exceedingly difficult to bring such claims.”

Unlike on television shows, crime-scene evidence in this case—including the belt used to strangle Stites and her clothing—was never tested for DNA. Prosecutors have fought the efforts to possibly show that it was all based on the mes- sate handling of the evidence might mean the DNA could be contaminated and testing results unreliable.

Reed contends that testing will prove that he had nothing to do with Stites murder and could prove who the actual killer is. The real question is, who are the cops and the DA trying to protect? Possibly her fiancé, Jimmy Fennell, a local cop who told people Stites would “have to pay” for having an affair with a Black man.

Release Mumia now!

Special to Workers World

July 3 will mark 40 years since Black Panther and Pan-African revolutionist journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal was given the racist death sentence for the alleged murder of a Philadelphia cop. As a result of false claims and legal misconduct in a highly contested trial, Abu-Jamal has been incarcerated since December 1981 under inhumane and degrading conditions.

When Mumia was 10 years on death row, in 2016 a door opened in the Pennsylvania's death row. In New Jersey, even those with a life sentence are eligible for parole after 20 years. Mumia was granted parole in 2022.

In New Jersey, even those with a life sentence are eligible for parole after 20 years. Mumia has been incarcerated for nearly four decades, is suffering from life-threatening bone cancer and was recently turned down for federal parole. Mumia Abu-Jamal, former BPP member and internationally acclaimed journalist, has been incarcerated for over 40 years and now has severe cirrhosis of the liver and hypertension.

Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier, falsely incarcerated for over 40 years, has been in declining health and tested positive for COVID-19 in January. It is time to release these three and all U.S. political prisoners back to their communities. In 2022, it’s time to finally free them all.

Rodney Reed’s mother Sandra Reed and sister-in-law Wana Akan at March press conference.

Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal will be free this summer.

The struggle to free our brother has only grown stronger throughout the last 40 years. In 2016, Mumia opened his legal struggle for his case to continue on appeal, based on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling: Williams v. Pennsylvania. In December 2018 Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Leon Tucker allowed Mumia’s original appeals to be rehashed. His next court appearance is scheduled for Philadelphia’s Common Pleas Court June 23.

The movement, determined to win Mumia’s release, must continue to grow—despite every effort by the FOP, the courts and other capitalist state forces to block his liberation. To make sure the majority of the sentencing, there will be demonstrations in at least 40 cities around the globe, including Philadelphia, or plan a protest where you live.

Over recent years political prisoners including the MOVE 9, Russell Maroon Shoates, Jalil Muntaqim, David Gilbert and Sundiata Acoli have been freed. Let’s make Mumia next!
Biden: Baby formula, not war

By Otte Grotewohl

President Joe Biden used his first trip to Asia as an opportunity to reframe baby-rat- tling against the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. In Japan May 23, when asked if the U.S. would “defensively” militarily if China were to intervene, he replied, “Yes, that’s the commitment we made.” (Reuters, May 23)

During three days of travel to South Korea starting May 20, Biden met with business leaders and held a summit with recently elected President Yoon Seok-youl. The former prosecutor ran on an anti-commu nism platform. The two leaders discussed an expansion of joint military exercises against socialist Korea. Such exercises had slowed down following the meeting between Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un in 2019.

As a result of Yoon’s threats and calls for strengthening sanctions against the DPRK, the socialist govern ment has had to consider countercontinental ballistic missile since 2017. This action was carried out shortly before Yoon’s inauguration, in order to send a message to the new South Korean regime.

Biden and Yoon used “denucleariza tion” as an excuse to threaten the sover eign North Korea. The DPRK not only does not have a right to exist but has also a right to self-defense, up to and including the production and use of nuclear weapons. Biden and Yoon eagerly highlighted “Quad” and whether it is the fact that their governments have terror ized the people of North Korea ever since US imperialism forcibly tore the country in two. This effort to overthrow the socialist revolution that started in 1945.

Biden’s hypocrisy unmasked

When asked if he would be willing to meet with Kim Jong Un, Biden hypocrit ically commented, “It would depend on whether we were successful in defending our new South Korean ally.” Then it was simply a question of whether it was “serious.” (The Hill, May 21) As the current commander-in-chief of the imper ialist military that tried to slaughter the population of Yugoslavia from 1992 to 1995, Biden has no right to demand sincerity or seriousness from the leader ship of North Korea.

Biden took advantage of the current COVID-19 crisis which the DPRK is fac ing by claiming, “We’ve offered vaccines, not only to North Korea but to China as well, and we’re prepared to do that immediately,” But, he said, “We’ve got no response.” (BBC, May 21)

Yet it is the sanctions and trade embargo imposed by the U.S. that is to blame for any COVID-19 related problems the DPRK is now facing. The people of socialist Korea have had no other choice but to practice self-reliance, recog nized as Judeo-church thinking, following the Soviet Union’s collapse in the 1990s.

In Washington, along with its puppets in South Korea and its imperialist allies in Japan, have done everything they could to cut off North Korea’s access to food and medicine. The U.S. has no interest in supplying vaccines to the DPRK or China, and the workers of those countries know that.

Washington’s aim: Build an anti-China alliance

Following his visit to South Korea, Biden is scheduled to go to Japan. There he is expected to meet with leaders of Japan, Australia and India. Those coun tries and the U.S. are members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, an Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad.

The Quad’s goal is to weaken China, which has compelled the Chinese Communist Party to conduct special military drills around the South China Sea. Washington seeks to build a wedge between China and Russia, but Western imperialist theory and aggression have pushed the two countries closer together. In recent years, NATO’s proxy war against Russia in Ukraine is the most recent example of how the U.S. is unilaterally strengthening the ties between these two countries.

Revolutionaries and anti-imperialists in the U.S. must demand: “U.S. Hands Off People’s Korea and China!”

In remembrance of the Gwangju Uprising, fight for a united Korea

By Jesse Edwards

On May 18, 1980, the citizens of Gwangju, South Korea, started a protest in response to General Chun Du-hwan’s expansion of martial law. Soon, the pro test became a major uprising as over 300,000 seized their entire city, demand ing not only an end to martial law but for an expansion of democracy and human rights and a minimum wage. South Korea had been in major turmoil after the assassination of President Park Chung-hee the previous spring, which ended his 18-year dictatorship that had allowed the ruling elite to squeeze immense wealth out of the working class.

Gwangju’s struggle started to end this exploitation and the brutal dictatorial ship that had ruled the South since the U.S. Army divided the peninsula in 1945. Chun ordered the military to blockade the city as the media smeared and rede ned the people. After notifying the U.S. of his regime’s intentions, Chun sent para troopers into the city and massacred over 2,000 people.

In the name of anti-communism, Chun thus consolidated his power as president. Until 1988, he ruled a fascist state that would continue to seek out, capture and torture activists and dissenters.

The Gwangju massacre recalled the massacre of tens of thousands during the Jeju Uprising that began in 1948, when the Workers’ Party of South Korea led an insurgency against the U.S.-puppet government and the United States Army Military Government in Korea, which ruled Jeju island. Some sources believe that up to 100,000 Koreans were mur dered at the behest of the U.S. This mas sacre ignited a civil war that over time led to the slaughter of over 2.5 million Koreans to satisfy the strategic needs of U.S. imperialism.

In a call for unity, newly elected ROK President Yoon Seok-youl has visited Gwangju. He was the first of his far-right party (whose ties reach back to Park Chung-hee) to appear on the May 18 Memorial Day. Yoon’s narrow election victory came on a platform of anti-femi nism, 120-hour work weeks and a hard line stance against the DPRK.

Working-class organizations world wide must reject Yoon’s anti-labor, misogynist and pro-war style of unity. Rather, we must support our comrades in the South in their struggle for Korean reunification and the end to U.S. occupa tion. In the U.S., we must educate the people by countering anti-North pro paganda and support the fight for a free, unified Korea and the end of U.S. impe lirialism worldwide! 

Finding $40 billion for weapons to expand the U.S.-NATO-fueled war in Ukraine was no problem for the Joe Biden administration or for the U.S. Senate that voted 93-0 last month to fund for mass executions in the name of the pocket money that the military industry last week. The bill to release these funds for weapons was treated as so urgent, it was rushed to South Korea where Biden is on tour, so he could sign it.

Getting these same politicians to expand funding to combat the resurging COVID-19 crisis appears to be nearly impossible, even as the virus-related death toll in the U.S. has surpassed 1 mil lion people.

Federal funds for uninsured COVID-19 patients have dried up as hospital costs rise. And the virus is far from contained. The program that provided vaccine treat ment for uninsured people ended in March, and Congress repeatedly turned down Biden’s requests for $20 billion more. That leaves the U.S. facing yet another new virus cases can be denied or hidden by corporate-controlled companies — Abbott, Gerber and Reckitt — producing nearly 100% of the formula consumed by babies in the U.S., supplying only recently if one tests positive for COVID-19 but has no access to health care, where does that leave them?

In addition to Biden’s woes, there is the baby formula shortage crisis. Baby formula has been in short supply around the country for several months, and the problem is only getting worse. That a vital necessity for raising a healthy baby, but how can it be when babies in the U.S., the supply shortage is basically monopoly driven. It is in the interest of capitalists starv ing babies, even as they demand more be birthed.

The Women, Infants and Children pro gram helps pay for formula for low-in come children. But what help is it if the shelves are empty?

This is not dissimilar to the problem of vaccine production, which is also con trolled by just three major pharmaceuti cal corporations in the U.S. Abbott Nutrition, which makes Similac, controls 47% of formula production in the U.S. It is a subsidiary of Abbott Labs, a $200 billion company. Domestic baby formula represents less than 3% of their revenue — clearly not a priority.

Abbott Nutrition’s factory in Michigan was described as “a mess,” with old and dirty equipment. Workers complained about conditions to the Food and Drug Administration multiple times in October 2021. The FDA inspected the facility in January 2022. Recalls began in mid-February, and the plant was then closed, but only after several babies became sick and two died from consuming the tainted formula.

Without Abbott’s production, supplies dwindled; and for weeks now, caregivers have found shelves empty of formula. Finally on May 18, Biden invoked the Defense Production Act that would allow for additional imports of formula from abroad. But this is just a drop in the bucket and does not address the essen tial problem.

Baby formula, like COVID-19 vac cines, is life-sustaining. To limit access to these vital necessities, whether through charging exorbitant prices to consumers or denying access to less expensive for eign imports, exposes the crisis of capi talist production that always puts profits ahead of human needs. The answer to a planned economy — socialism, which prioritizes human needs — can prevent this kind of crisis from occurring.
Sanctions — wrecking ball in a global economy

By Sara Flounders

U.S. government strategists are using sanctions as a wrecking ball to demolish the globalized economy. It is a desperate attempt to save their global hegemony from a unipolar world. The policy of consciously demolishing supply chains of essential products amounts to a wrecking ball to demolish the globalized economy. It is a desperate struggle to preserve their global hegemony and a unipolar world. The policy of consciously demolishing supply chains of essential products amounts to a wrecking ball to demolish the globalized economy.

The growing integration of the Eurasian bloc of countries, including China and South Asia through Central Asia and Russia to much of Europe, promises a huge economic advantage to the countries involved. The U.S. provokes conflict to retain hegemony.

The growing integration of EU trade and investment with Russia and China challenges both the domination of U.S. corporate power in Europe and U.S. global hegemony. It is in the interest of corporate power that Washington provokes a conflict where they can portray the greatest cost. Ukraine is a country where its capitalist rivals in the EU will carry the heaviest burden.

The immediate threat to U.S. hegemony is that the EU trade with Russia is $260 billion a year — 10 times its trade with the U.S. The EU is the largest investor in Russia. Breaking this growing economic integration of the EU with Russia and at an even greater level with China serves the long-term strategic interests of U.S. corporate domination, in place since World War II. A desperate attempt to break U.S. imperialism’s slipping economic position has driven NATO’s massive involvement in Ukraine.

When the economic repercussions of the present war in Ukraine are reported, the greatest amount of coverage is allocated to European countries and the sanctions’ impact on their industries relating to their reliance on Russian gas, oil, coal and fertilizers. The business/industrial class, the oligarchs in Germany and throughout the EU, were hit hard by the U.S. demand to impose sanctions on Russian gas and oil. Their trade deals, corporate investments and energy supplies with Russia are unraveling.

The U.S. Executive Order 14024, passed Feb. 21 before Russia’s intervention in Ukraine, prohibited new investment, trade in goods and services and financing. This was just the beginning of a constant drumbeat of the most expansive, unprecedented economic measures. The U.S. demanded that every country in Europe pass their own legally binding economic sanctions of similar prohibitions.

The inflationary impact and supply chain chaos affecting German industries has been reported widely. British news services report that millions of British families will have to choose between eating and heating. Each European country is dealing with the highest inflation in decades, including in formerly stable Nordic economies.

Why is Russia targeted?

The power of the Russian economy is much smaller than the power of the U.S., the world’s largest economy, and the combined economic power of the EU, Japan, South Korea and Australia. The Russian economy today is smaller than Canada’s or South Korea’s.

Russia’s defense budget is one-twelfth of U.S. military spending, and its military strength shrank when it was expendited against the budget of the entire NATO military alliance.

While Russia is neither a military nor an economic threat, it has enormous natural resources that are presently out of U.S. control. That makes Russia a target.

President Joe Biden confidently promised that U.S. and EU sanctions would have a “catastrophic impact” on Russia’s economy. U.S. analysts intended and predicted Russian bank and stock market collapses, hyperinflation, soaring prices, supply chain disruptions, empty shelves and massive unemployment.

This was calculated to weaken President Putin and disintegrate the Russian state.

Graphic descriptions of the impact on the poorest Russians and middle class abounded in all the Western media.

U.S., Canadian and European media, along with Japan’s, South Korea’s and Australia’s, were unanimous in predicting complete collapse. Politicians, economists and bankers said that there was nothing the Russian government could do. Russia would be hostage to the seizure of all their assets held in Western banks. It was predicted from the imposed cutoffs of all future trade credits.

Proud declarations were made that the major economies of the West would operate in lockstep.

The sanctions on Russia, however, will all lead to an increase in Russian independence, self-sufficiency and sovereignty. Russia is self-sufficient in grains, meats, other proteins and in energy. Its trade with China, Brazil and Iran ensure their industry will not collapse for lack of spare parts.

The enthusiasm with which U.S. politicians and the corporate media have been described their ability to impose such massive pain to millions recalls the 1990s, when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright assured the world that the deaths of a half million Iraqi children from sanctions was “worth it” to achieve U.S. strategic aims.

With shortighted arrogance, the U.S. cut Russia from the SWIFT banking system of payments and trade. Visa and Mastercard shut down overnight.

This did not, however, create the predicted chaos. The Central Bank of Russia and other banking and credit institutions were able to switch to the Chinese CIPS network that includes 3,000 banking institutions in 167 countries. CIPS is also able to seamlessly process credit card transactions.

While Russia was able to transition its economy, the U.S. has no immediate solution to provide essential supplies of gas and oil to Europe or grains and fertilizers to numerous countries. They have no long-term low-price solution. Despite all the predictions of collapse, even The Economist, May 7, announced that “Russia’s economy is back on its feet.”

Sanctions fail

Forgotten in all the congratulatory declarations was that throughout the developing economies of the world, there was no agreement on these U.S.-imposed measures.

Taking the case of China, the measure against Russia, to U.S. demands to comply with sanctions on Russia has given other nations the confidence that they can survive U.S. demands and still have access to development funds, essential technology and smart investment in Russia.

There is the refusal of not only China, but also India, South Africa, Brazil — the BRICS countries — along with almost all the countries of Africa and Latin America and most of the countries in the Middle East to stop trade with Russia against their own interests.

Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador declared: “We are not going to take any sort of economic reprisal, because we want to have good relations with all the governments in the world.”

Brazil’s Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, now the leading candidate in Brazil’s October 2022 election, has proposed creating a pan-Latin American currency, in order to “be freed of the dollar. ... We are going to create a currency in Latin America, because we can’t keep depending on the dollar.”

Similar statements were made by the other countries of Central and Latin America and the Caribbean. Several African countries, including Nigeria and South Africa, have made note that sanctions were not passed by the United Nations Security Council and were therefore not binding.

The open defiance by so many countries and major trading blocs is a stunning confirmation of the weakening hold of U.S. economic power.
Respuesta a la masacre de Buffalo

¡Destruyan la supremacía blanca!

Por Nigel Bouvat

En la noche del 14 de mayo, un fascista que llevaba un rifle entró en un supermercado en el barrio predominantemente negro de Masten Park, en el lado este de Búfalo, y abrió fuego. Mientras que la mayoría de las declaraciones oficiales han aludido más o menos vagamente a “motivaciones raciales”, las intenciones del tirador se esbozaron de forma bastante explícita en un manifesto, en el que escribió su adhesión a la ideología de “gran sustitución” de los blancos.

Esta pancarta en Bufalo responde a “Aquí está tu reparación!” escrita en el rifle de asalto utilizado por Payton Gendron en la masacre del 14 de mayo. El “gran reemplazo” es una idea de la ideología fascista según la cual los blancos están siendo sistemáticamente superados por los grupos minoritarios. Es una idea que encuentra expresión en la política de extrema derecha en todas las partes, desde el canto de “los judíos no nos reemplazarán” gritado por los neonazis en Charlottesville en 2017 hasta el programa nocturno de Tucker Carlson en Fox News. Es una expresión de la ideología fascista, convertida en acción en el genocidio que masacrará a nueve feligreses negros mientras las autoridades tomaron como “sospechosas” las imágenes de alimentos a toda una comunidad de familias estadounidenses negras mientras los arrestan por “crímenes” como los policías asesinan a hombres negros mientras los arrestan en las calles de la ciudad. Es siempre el canto de la ideología fascista.

En memoria de los que hemos perdido, muertos al fascismo.

Derechos para las personas transgénero, ¡ahora!

Los derechos de las personas transgénero de vivir con seguridad y dignidad nunca han sido respetados por el sistema capitalista, pero actualmente se enfrentan a un nuevo desafío y desplazamiento por parte de las fuerzas reaccionarias que controlan el gobierno de EE.UU. Es responsabilidad de la clase trabajadora luchar por que sean respetados por el sistema capitalista, pero actualmente se enfrentan a un nuevo desafío y desplazamiento por parte de las fuerzas reaccionarias que controlan el gobierno de EE.UU.

1. EMPLEO: Garantizar un salario justo para todos, sin discriminación en el trabajo.
2. VIVIENDA: Garantizar vivienda digna y segura para todos, sin discriminación.
3. ATENCIÓN SANITARIA: Garantizar atención sanitaria gratuita y universal.
4. DEBERES PARENTALES: Proteger la vida y la dignidad de todos los niños, sin discriminación.
5. NIÑOS: Garantizar los derechos de los niños y niñas, sin discriminación.
6. EDUCACIÓN: Garantizar la educación gratuita y universal.
7. CRÍMENES DE ODIO: Prohibir la discriminación y la violencia basadas en la orientación sexual.
8. INMIGRACIÓN: Garantizar el derecho de todos a vivir en paz, sin discriminación.
9. 1/1