As striking members of Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) explained while on the picket line, Red Cup Day is “like Starbucks’ Black Friday.” All over the world the promotion draws a larger-than-average number of customers for the red cup giveaway.

But this year SBWU called a “Red Cup Rebellion” by holding one-day simultaneous strikes at over 110 stores on Nov. 17. These Unfair Labor Practice strikes called attention to Starbucks’ union busting, its refusal to negotiate at over 250 unionized stores and the company’s 900+ alleged violations of federal labor law.

Of the seven stores targeted by Boston SBWU for strike actions on #RedCupRebellion Day, six were locked down tight by barista pickets before 5 a.m. The only red cups served at those locations were outside, embossed with union logos.

Starbucks bosses tried to break the strike at the remaining store at 75 Mount Auburn St. in Watertown, Massachusetts, which the workers report is the most profitable store in the region. Using managers from other struck stores exclusively to run the shop, the district manager repeatedly called the cops on the handful of workers — some with years of seniority at the location — who were talking with their regular customers at the door.

As the sun was coming up, with mobile and pickup orders causing a jam in the parking lot, customers lined up at the door. Boston SBWU immediately began organizing flying squadrons to reinforce the Watertown lines. By 10 a.m., supporters and strikers from stores at 874 Commonwealth Ave, Coolidge Corner and Cleveland Circle had formed a picket line spanning the entire property entrance, successfully emptying the parking lot through customer solidarity turnarounds. By 11 a.m. managers threw in the scabby towel and dumped dozens of uncollected orders down the drain after locking the doors.

Strikers celebrated the victory of their militant, collective efforts by spot-composing and belting out a new union holiday classic, “The 12 Days of Red Cup Rebellion.” Union leader Spencer Costigan’s guitar blasted “Solidarity Forever” and “Wonderwall” — the local baristas’ fight song — over Workers World Party’s mobile sound system, making for more strike line singing and dancing in the empty parking lot.

Multiple stores were hit with strikes in the New York City area. Workers at the fancy tourist trap known as the Roastery in Manhattan have been on strike for a month in response to worker issues. Starbucks has yet to agree to meet with the workers and has offered nothing in writing to demonstrate any action on health and safety conditions — specifically mold in the workers’ break area.

Workers World Party extends our condolences and solidarity to those who lost loved ones and to the survivors of this terrible tragedy.

But we cannot contain our anger.

Not one more massacre!

Another horrific massacre targeting the LGBTQ2S+ community began near the midnight hour between Nov. 19 and Nov. 20 — Trans Day of Remembrance 2022. A heavily armed shooter murdered five and injured 18 patrons of Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Two brave customers were able to subdue and disarm the killer, preventing more lives from being lost.

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism. No symphony for apartheid Israel

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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‘From West Philly to Chinatown, corporate greed is going down!’

By Betsy Piette

Philadelphia

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered Nov. 18 to demand billionaire David Adelman stop the predatory development of a new Philadelphia 76ers basketball arena in Chinatown. Organized by the Students for the Preservation of Chinatown, the rally and march linked the struggle of residents from West Philadelphia’s University City Townhomes fighting eviction with organizers from Chinatown, facing yet another effort by sleazy developers to destroy their community through major construction projects.

Protesters gathered in front of the University of Pennsylvania administrative building. Students and UC Townhomes residents have been demonstrating for months to expose UPenn’s historic role in the destruction of neighboring Black communities through the ongoing expansion of University City. They are calling on the Ivy League university—which has avoided paying property taxes—to make reparations to the Townhomes residents from its multibillion-dollar endowment.

David Adelman is the CEO of Campus Apartments, which has been key to the university’s expansion through the construction of multiple high-rise student buildings near the largely affordable complex and an extended-stay hotel. The company has more than $2 billion in assets. The university’s co-owner, Brett Altman, who owns UC Townhomes, both sit on Drexel University’s Real Estate Advisory Council.

In July, it was announced that Adelman would chair 76 DevoCorp, a new company responsible for developing 76 Place at Market East, the proposed new arena in Center City. In October, Adelman became co-owner of the 76ers and the New Jersey Devils.

The planned $3.1 billion, 18,000-seat NBA basketball arena in Chinatown threatens to raise rents and overwhelm the area with traffic during games. The experience of other urban centers shows how facilities drive away elderly and lower-income residents, who don’t want to live in an area that resembles the dead zone around arenas and stadiums.

Philadelphia’s Chinatown, which includes 4,000 residents and scores of small businesses, is the last remaining community of color in Center City Philadelphia and one of the last vital and thriving Chinatowns on the East Coast.

Speaking at the rally, Deborah Wei from Asian Americans United described how many times over several decades residents have fought off efforts by developers to destroy their community through construction projects—a multi-lane expressway (1980), a baseball stadium (2000) and a casino (2009). As she spoke, Wei peeled off T-shirt after T-shirt with the same basic layout as today’s opposing the arena, each with a different developer’s end dream.

Kenny Chin, a UPenn student, and organizer with Save the UC Townhomes, spoke of growing up in South Philadelphia but frequently spending time in Chinatown with friends and family. He said displacement of Chinatown’s residents mirrors the displacement of the Black Bottom neighborhood in West Philadelphia, where UC Townhomes residents have been fighting eviction by gentrifiers and developers for months.

The rally was followed by a march on UPenn’s campus, with a stop at Wharton School of Business, notorious for promoting developers. Demonstrators then marched to Campus Housing at Walnut and 41st Streets. A popular chant along the way was “From West Philly to Chinatown, corporate greed is going down!”

‘We must protect our trans comrades’

By Renée Imperato

The following remarks were presented at the Nov. 19, 2021, Trans Day of Remembrance event held by SAGE Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders— at their New York City headquarters. One year later, to the day, an anti-LGBTQ+ bigot was killed and injured 18 patrons of the Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

My dearest comrades in struggle, as you all know, we have made significant progress in many ways. However, what has become a danger to our community is the increasing prospective anti-trans legislation on the agenda in 17 states, much of it fueled by the bigotry of reactionary politicians and the comments of some so-called “comedians” in the media on Netflix and others.

Oh, sure, we hear them whining about First Amendment rights. Historically, we know, first are the jokes which lead to a climate of violence, which has caused the murder of countless trans people, especially trans people of color. We must protect our trans comrades from these racist, transphobic attacks.

Which leads me to this question, does the free speech of fascist elements have priority over the very right of any oppressed community or people’s right to exist? We must respond to these attacks on our community with a variety of options. Whether it be writing letters, rallies, demonstrations or even the possibility of civil disobedience, we must do all that we must do in the spirit of all those who sacrificed everything for our freedom.
Biggest academic strike in U.S. history
UC system shut down

By Dave Welsh

Portland, Oregon

An unprecedented strike of academic workers at the University of California has forced all campuses of the University of California like a ton of bricks. This is the largest academic strike in U.S. labor history.

The 48,000 striking workers perform the majority of the teaching and research work at UC. Yet the pay and benefits for these workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 2865 and 5810 and Student Researchers United-UAW, are far too low, especially for the high cost of living in California. That's why a clear majority (36,598) voted to authorize an Unfair Labor Practice strike at mass meetings at UC campuses across the state.

“We're fed up,” they said, citing the high percentage of academic workers suffering from “housing and food insecurity,” with many living in cars, or “couch surfing” for months at a time or putting up with long commutes to get to work every day. Unaffordable child care and rents were other key issues (fairUCnow.org)

The UC Regents, who run the university, represent the most powerful business interests in the state, have so far refused to bargain over wages.

“What's Outrageous? Poverty Wages!” is a popular chant. The UC system holds $435 billion in investment assets and some administrators have salaries around $800,000.

Solidarity from other unions has been a big boost for the strikers. Two days into the strike, members of three construction unions stopped work on a new building at UC Berkeley. More construction workers honored UAW picket lines Nov. 18 at the UC San Francisco-Parnassus campus, after the Building Trades Council voted for strike sanction.

At another UCSF facility, Teamster-represented UPS drivers circled the block, honking continuously, and refused to cross the picket line. The Teamsters union’s national leadership has instructed workers that there would be no retaliation for honoring the picket lines. Even nonunion Federal Express drivers drove away without making deliveries.

On the other coast, 1,600 adjunct faculty at the New School in New York City, members of UAW Local 7902, have been on strike for better compensation since Nov. 16.

Day one of historic UC student workers’ strike, Nov. 14, Berkeley, California.

Starbucks workers strike 110+ stores

Continued from page 1

Workers at four unionized Starbucks locations in Philadelphia participated in the Red Cup Rebellion. The strike affected stores at Broad and Spring Garden, 20th and Market in Center City, 22nd and South in South Philadelphia, and 34th and Walnut in West Philadelphia. Huge, inflatable tumble bobble the Rat made an appearance at one store.

The 34th and Walnut store is in the heart of the University of Pennsylvania campus. Workers there held a spirited picket line in front of the store. Chants included, “Vente, mocha, grande, double, union musters you got to groovel.”

In Buffalo, New York — where the coffee chain origin drive began just over a year ago — four Starbucks stores went on strike. The Elmwood Avenue and Genesee Street stores were shut down the whole day. Management, preyng on new hires who weren’t informed of the strike or the history of Starbucks’ union busting, forced other struck stores to open. But even at those stores, the picket lines remained strong throughout the day. Another Subbby the Rat joined the Elmwood Avenue picket line in the afternoon.

Two of the five unionized stores in Greater Cleveland joined the one-day strike, including the Lee and Mayfield store in Cleveland Heights. Workers and supporters kept up a picket line from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Press and other media reported that Starbucks management had walked out of their first negotiating session and had since refused to meet with the union. “We want to cut into their profit line,” one striker said.

Knowing that no baristas — who voted 100% for the union — were going to cross the line, management closed the store for the day. Would-be customers honked, put thumbs up and wished the strikers good luck.

The original Seattle Starbucks store at 5th and Pike was busy; but once SBWU showed up, the customers cleared out fast. All the Pike Street store workers were striking and picketing, so the store was only kept open by two managers and a district manager.

Worker spokesperson Sara Pappin, a nine-year Starbucks worker, said this was her fifth strike. “We’re tired of Starbucks walking out of bargaining sessions,” she said, “so we’re walking out on them.” Workers chanted, “What’s outrageous? Poverty wages! What’s disappointing? Union busting! What’s appalling? Starbucks stalling!”

Supporters joined the picket line as the loud demonstration attracted a lot of attention and was covered by at least two television stations. Starbucks workers struck at two other Seattle Starbucks stores, as well as at stores in Bellingham, Everett and Tumwater, Washington.

Starbucks organizer Thomas Estling, who works at one of the three stores in Portland, Oregon, that went on strike, spoke highly of his union. “The way we plan is really open and democratic... We can react really quickly. One of our partners was fired, and within a day we had a rally.” He stressed that, unlike some unions controlled by distant representatives, SBWU is truly worker-led. “The reps do very little; we’ve taken over it all.” Estling also praised Starbucks workers in Eugene, Oregon, saying that they’re “very militant. One of their workers got fired and they shut down all seven stores for a week.”

On strike! Alabama coal miners ratchet up pressure

Union coal miners in Brookwood, Alabama, on strike since April 1, 2021, are stepping up plans for resistance. The job for the United Mine Workers (UMWA) locals now is to break through Warrior Met Coal’s threat to starve them out — and to move forward at the bargaining table.

In what may become the longest coal miners’ strike in U.S. history, 1,100 workers walked out 20 months ago, with only 161 crossing the picket line. The miners gave serious wage and benefit concessions to save the company from bankruptcy in previous contracts — and then the company broke its “promise” to restore those cuts. The pressure on the miners has been relentless. Scabs are escorted into Warrior Met by the Brookwood cops, who then harass the picketing workers with blue lights flashing. A state judge essentially barred strikers and supporters from bringing picket lines close to mine entrances.

With intense solidarity, the UMWA workers have fought back. They marched in Brookwood’s holiday parade last year wearing their carbide lamp hats and work overalls. They have traveled to New York City to rally and commit civil disobedience at Blackstone Financial, the global investment backer of Warrior Met. They have picketed, held weekly rallies, given media interviews, rounded up supplies from food banks, connected to a country-wide labor network and more.

The first week in November, the miners made plans to block the road where scabs cross the picket line hiding behind local police escorts. Four members of the UMWA Auxiliary — three women who were former coal miners and current professiona Haeden Wright — volunteered to be arrested.

When news of the plan filtered out of the small Brookwood community, miners and supporters were threatened with fines of up to $200,000. The blockade was put on hold for the moment. Instead, on Nov. 8, a convoy of buses unloaded miners, auxiliary members and supporters near the mine heads, accompanied by UMWA President Cecil Roberts and Secretary-Treasurer Brian Sanson.

To a soundtrack of union classics — from “Union Maid” to “Solidarity Forever” — the marchers made their way to the entrance of Number 4 Mine, chanting and waving yellow-and-black UMWA signs. Solidarity was strong as a busload of UMWA Local 2300 miners joined the crowd after a long drive down from western Pennsylvania.

Brookwood cop cars tried to herd the march and then formed a menacing ring around the protest. The strike has been smeared as “violent” in local media. But Kris Mallory, special assistant to the UMWA president, told labor reporter Kim Kelly: “They’re painting this picture of us as, ‘These are people here to do violence.’ We’re just here to try to get a collective bargaining agreement.”

Mallory stressed that the union is planning to hold a new action weekly until they win their contract. UMWA, active in Alabama mines since 1890, has a long history of successful resistance.

UMWA Auxiliary, which organizes material support and movement solidarity, needs steady donations to help mine workers and their families stay strong during this showdown battle in class warfare. Send support to: Solidarity Santa: SolidaritySanta@umwa2021strikefund.org or UMWA2021strikefund. put in the comments.
The Brown Berets of South East Tejas held a banner drop over one of Houston’s busiest freeways during 5 p.m. traffic on Nov. 18. The action was in solidarity with Indigenous activists who arrived in Washington, D.C., this week, taking their demand for the release of political prisoner Leonard Peltier to the White House. They had walked for 15 weeks and were met by supporters who rallied all along their route.

Since Houston was not on the route, the Brown Berets held their own solidarity action. On each side of a giant banner reading “Free Leonard Peltier” were two huge signs that said “Honk if You Agree!” For over an hour, the beeping of horns rang out as five prison reform activists raged about the atrocities they saw in the car of their car window against the people of Houston — just like the millions of people around the world — support freedom for this wrongfully imprisoned Native leader.

Just the tip of the iceberg

Beating of Black man in Georgia jail goes viral

By Monica Moorehead

As we go to print, three of the prison guards who were involved in the violent confrontation on Nov. 18 that resulted in the death of a Black man on Sept. 3 have been arrested on charges of “Battery of an Inmate, and Violating the Oath of Office” according to a Nov. 22 statement from the Camden County Sheriff’s Office. The same three were also fired.

The savage beating of a 41-year-old Black man in Georgia prompted police to arrest guards — four of them white — who were captured on video tape Sept. 3. However, the videotape did not go viral on social media until Nov. 14.

The attack took place in a Camden County Jail in Woodbine, Georgia, located near the Florida border. Hobbs was incarcerated in the jail on a charge of battery dating back to July when he attacked one of the guards, resulting in the guard having a bruised eye and a broken hand. There is no doubt that the jailers will attempt to paint Hobbs as the aggressor to justify beating him. It is highly unlikely that these guards will be charged, much less convicted for their criminal assault on Sept. 3.

Hobbs is now in a Guilford County Jail in North Carolina, for alleged violation of probation related to a fraud conviction in 2014.

What happened to Jarrett Hobbs is no isolated incident. Incarcerated workers are at the mercy of guards every minute of every day. Many of the beatings, rapes and other physical and psychological assaults are videotaped, but rarely do they go viral — similar to police killings and assaults.

All too often these beatings lead to permanent injuries physical, emotional and psychological character. In notorious Rikers Island in New York City, where many detainees are held for months and even years due to high bail, a reported 26 people died in 2021 alone due to beatings and suicides.

Prisons in the U.S. are not only concentration camps but death camps for oppressed and poor workers. They must be abolished!
A hair's breadth from escalation?

During the day of Nov. 15, the world came close to a rapid escalation of the U.S.- Russian war. Russia launched a direct hit on a Polish cemetery that hit Poland. His foreign minister demanded a NATO summit with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky immediately charged Russia with attack. On the contrary, the NATO members would be required to aid Poland against Russia. Methadone Maintenance had just held a meeting with President Xi Jinping. The Biden administration, including some of the top generals, soon made it clear that there was no evidence that it was a Russian missile. One member of Zelenky's cabinet charged as true would be grave. NATO members would be required to aid Poland against Russia.

Methadone Maintenance demanded better health care delivery for people in that community. Dr. Shakur has dared to expose the U.S. capitalist system's harm to oppressed communities and dared to oppose that. After havingstood for 35 years, Dr. Shakur faces many imprisoned people face—life-threatening medical neglect. This was already severe when Family and Friends of Mutulu Shakur released a 2019 legal medical report on his case: "We know that Mutulu is suffering from extensive painful bone lesions, caused by a rapidly growing bone marrow cancer... In 2014, he suffered a stroke... He has high blood pressure, high cholesterol and bone and vision problems from glaucoma. "We fear for his survival and his life. Dr. Shakur's legal team has filed a compassionate release petition because now his very survival depends on his release. He meets the conditions for compassionate release under federal law. He is a recognized advocate for human and civil rights, who poses no danger of committing any crimes against anyone. As evidenced by widespread support for his parole, he will be welcomed back into a community that will also provide for his financial and medical support." (mutulushakur.com, December 14, 2019)

Workers World understands that the only treatment for Dr. Shakur's life-threatening illnesses — as in the case of other prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal — is immediate release. As with many political prisoners who aim to build a better world, Dr. Shakur has dared to expose the U.S. capitalist system's harm to oppressed communities and dared to oppose that. Dr. Shakur began receiving stem cell-irritation treatment in October 2020, the same month he was up for parole. He was given notice in January 2021 that he was denied parole and will not have another hearing until 2022. This was his ninth parole denial. (mutulushakur.com, February 24)

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On anniversary of historic victory

The challenges Haiti faces today

By G. Dunkel

November 18 is the 297th anniversary of the Battle of Vertières, which sealed the victory of the Haitian Revolution, a glorious victory for the oppressed of the world. The enslaving class of Haiti was crushed, and it was made clear that the enslavement of human beings for the profit of a few was destined to end. Haitian army members—half of whom were born in Africa—in four frontal assaults drove the French army, considered the best in Europe, from Vertières. Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the leader of the Haitian army, magnanimously gave the French army 10 days to leave.

In the over 200 years since the Haitian victory, the world’s imperialists have not ceased attacking Haiti for this “original sin.” After the attacks have grown more intense in the past year since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, the United States and its junior partner Canada have openly intervened in Haiti’s internal affairs, charging prominent politicians with supporting armed groups—which the U.S. and Canada invariably call “gangs”—and offering big rewards for the capture of the “gang” leaders responsible for the kidnapping of U.S. citizens.

Canada, in coordination with the U.S., has responded to the request of acting Prime Minister Ariel Henry for foreign intervention by soliciting CARICOM (Caribbean Community) for its support. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minis-
ter of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, told a local news site “such a move by any country could be seen by the Haitian people as propping up a government that the majority of Haitian see as illegiti-
mate.” (tinyurl.com/g24a4j5t)

Spread of cholera, deportations, hunger

United Nations troops, part of a “peacekeeping” mission occupying Haiti, introduced cholera into Haiti Oct. 15, 2010. Nationally, a total of 820,000 cases of cholera, including 9,792 deaths, were reported between October 2010 and February 2019, when the Haitian public health system brought it totally under control.

The first new cases of cholera were reported Oct. 2 in Cité Soleil/Port-au-Prince, an area where the government and Haiti’s health system has great dif-
ficulty operating because it is broken up into competing neighborhoods, each controlled by different armed groups. So far eight of Haiti’s 10 departments have reported cases.

The acute hunger that 1.8 million Haitians face, according to the U.N.’s Food Program, makes cholera more deadly.

Given the economic devastation that earth-
quakes and hurricanes and a general lack of development have caused in Haiti, it is no wonder that the number of inter-
dictions—immigrants on a boat stopped by the U.S. Coast Guard—has climbed to 139 this year, as compared to 54 in 2021.

Since September 2021, the U.S. has deported over 20,000 Haitians. Curre-
tly the Department of Homeland Security has extended the Temporary Protective Status for Haitians until 2024. Bureaucratic restrictions make it difficult to get it, but it is a grudging recognition of the pop-
ular pressure to relieve the suffering of Haitians and Central Americans.

The Dominican Republic (DR) shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti and occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island. It is more prosperous than Haiti, and Haitian immigrants and their descendants supply much of the manual labor in its sugar and tourism/hospitality industries.

On Aug. 1 to Oct. 30, the DR deported around 50,000 Haitian immi-
grants, Dominicans of Haitian descent and Black Dominicans to Haiti. On Nov. 14, a coalition of progressive orga-
nizations and parties in the DR, includ-
ing the Socialist Workers Movement, issued a statement and began a cam-
paign “to vigorously reject the struc-
turally racist policies, more and more authoritarian and which violate human rights, of the Dominican Government, particularly their mass deportations.” (blackagendareport.com)

This article was published in the Nov. 17 issue of Avante, the newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party, giving a roundup of struggles in Europe by the workers, whose living standards have been reduced as they are forced to pay the costs of the pandemic and the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine. Translation: John Catalinotto.

In European countries—from Belgium to Greece to France, Spain and Britain—workers are demonstrating in protest against rising prices, demanding fair wages increases and guaranteed rights.

In Belgium, from Antwerp to Liège, from Charleroi to Ghent, from Mons to Genk, the Belgian working class sent a clear message on Nov. 9 with a general strike to demand a wage increase and the freezing of energy prices.

Many sectors were affected by this day of strike action to defend workers’ pur-
chasing power: metallurgy, distribution, chemicals, transport, logistics, educa-
tion and day-care centers: Hundreds of members of the Belgian Labor Party and student movements were with the pick-
ets, showing solidarity with the union members and supporting the workers’ demands.

In France, on Nov. 10 a national day of strikes and protests took place, called by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and other union coalitions, demanding wage increases in view of the loss of purchasing power of work-
ers and pensioners. It was the third mobilization in less than a month, after the struggles of Oct. 18 and 27, in a context of galloping inflation, now more than 6%. The strike and demonstrations in Paris and in cities across the country affected sectors such as public transport, education, health and the post office.

The CGT is demanding, among other measures, an increase in the national minimum wage to 2,000 euros per month and the indexing of wages to inflation. And it rejects the change in the pension system that the government intends to implement, which includes increasing the retirement age.

In Spain, on Nov. 13 more than 600,000 people demonstrated in the capital in defense of the public health service and against the measures of “destruction” of the sector carried out by the right-wing government of Madrid. The demonstrators took to the streets to demand a public, universal and quality health service. They protested against the elimination of primary health care, against the long waiting times and against the precarious labor status of health professionals.

Thousands of doctors participated in the day of struggle to warn that they need more resources and to point out that the situation is at its limit, after “years of putting up with excessive pressure.”

In Greece, a 24-hour strike and demonstrations took place on Nov. 9 in Athens and other cities to demand price control measures and wage increases. The actions were called by the most representative union confederations in the country, the General Confederation of Greek Workers and the All Workers Militant Front.

In the capital, thousands of people filled the streets of the city center and, waving placards and banners, denounced the policies of the right-wing govern-
ment and the European Union that “generate poverty, hunger and inequal-
ity” and “leave people frozen while they warm up the profits of big business.”

In Britain, most London Underground stations closed on Nov. 10 due to the strike of its nearly 10,000 workers—the sixth strike in the sector in 2022. The most recent 24-hour strike was called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union following the failure of negotiations with the TFL [Transport for London] company, which is responsible for running the British capital’s train and bus service.

The union is demanding that the employer back down on plans to cut 700 jobs and change the pension scheme. And it is ready to continue the struggle until a fair solution to its demands is found. 

100 Years Later

Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

Contents:
From Marx’s view of social evolution to
Lenin’s “Imperialism” • Social gains in the early years of
Soviet power • “Whose state? Our state”—meaning all
nationalities • External and internal problems, strengths
and setbacks • To the 0.001 percent: You are cheering
too soon

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Mientras escribimos este editorial, abundan los rumores de que el ejército estadounidense ya se ha movilizado para tomar un aeropuerto en Haití. Los acontecimientos de los últimos meses hacen que tal rumor sea creíble.

Sí, creíble, pero aún así criminal. Es difícil imaginar una intervención más perjudicial para el pueblo de Haití. Las difíciles condiciones sociales actuales del pueblo de Haití fueron causadas por anteriores intervenciones de Estados Unidos.

Desde que el pueblo africano esclavizado de Haití se liberó con una heroica revolución que expulsó a los esclavistas colonizadores franceses en 1804, los gobernantes de Estados Unidos y Francia han hecho sufrir a los haitianos por este “pecado original”.

Los esclavocráticos sureños, que dominaban los incipientes EE.UU. en 1804, estaban aterrorizados de que la lucha por la liberación de Haití se extendiera. Castigaron a Haití y a su pueblo por liberarse.

Washington expandió su poder, apoderándose de la isla del México en 1848 y fijando el objetivo de dominar el hemisferio occidental con la Doctrina Monroe como guía. Las operaciones militares de Estados Unidos marcharon por toda América Central, al tiempo que arrebataban Cuba y Puerto Rico de España (y de sus pueblos) en 1898.

Con los bienes de propiedad estadounidense en juego, en 1915 el imperialista Estados Unidos envió a sus militares a ocupar Haití. Las tropas permanecieron allí hasta 1934 y dejaron a los haitianos con un díspota en el poder, “Papa Doc” Duvalier, que gobernaba en el que se denominaba el “baño de sangre”, el abismo fascista de la derecha política que ha causado de muerte de medio de período para construir su base. Las contiendas que perdieron fueron muy reñidas; los negadores de las elecciones de 2020 siguen siendo mayoría entre los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes. Sería un error catastrófico subestimar este peligro.

Los referendos son un punto positivo

Los votantes progresistas hicieron oír su voz a través de referendos sobre una serie de cuestiones. En los cinco estados que en el acceso al aborto estaba en la papeleta de votación -con propuestas a favor de la justicia reproductiva que ganaron en Michigan, Vermont y California, y propuestas en contra del aborto que fueron derrotadas en Kentucky y Montana-, la derecha se vio retrasada.

Entre las iniciativas exitosas a favor de los trabajadores y los que se aprobaron figuran el aumento del salario mínimo estatal en Nebraska, el fin del salario mínimo más bajo para los trabajadores que trabajan en Washington, D.C., la consagración de los derechos de negociación colectiva en Illinois y la provisión de almuerzos escolares gratuitos en Colorado, al mismo tiempo que se aumenta el salario de los trabajadores de los comedores escolares.

Tennessee, Vermont, Oregon y Alabama -este último con varias luces de trabajo en las cárceles- votaron para prohibir el trabajo infantil en las cárceles, una forma de esclavitud. Otras medidas aprobadas ampliaron la lucha de los oprimidos y reprogramaron la posesión de marisqueras.

¿No hay progreso sin lucha

Independientemente de cómo se desarrolle la relación entre los gobiernos estadounidenses, es claramente evidente que la lucha de clases -en el barrio, en el lugar de trabajo, en las calles- puede desestabilizar aún más la sociedad haitiana.

A pesar del papel de Washington en la creación de la agitación en Haití, Estados Unidos ha negado el asilo político permanente al pueblo haitiano, que ha vivido bajo una dictadura -donde ambos partidos representan el mismo sistema. Las contiendas que perdieron fueron muy reñidas; los negadores de las elecciones de 2020 siguen siendo mayoría entre los republicanos de la Cámara de Representantes. Sería un error catastrófico subestimar este peligro. Los bienes de propiedad estadounidense de la era digital ha convertido la crisis de sobreproducción capitalista en una característica permanente del capitalismo." (workers.org/2022/10/67999/)

Mundialmente, el sistema capitalista sigue en el poder, y cómo lo dirige. La intervención militar debería ser condenada. Y en Haití, Estados Unidos envió a sus militares a invadir, dominar, controlar. La intervención militar debería ser condenada. Y en Haití, Estados Unidos envió a sus militares a invadir, dominar, controlar.

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