Back to the streets
Say NO to U.S. wars!

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

The United National Antiwar Coalition issued the call “Back to the streets! Say NO to U.S. wars!” for Oct. 15-22, and growing protests of people answered. UNAC’s goal is to “unify in collective action against the major perpetrator of war and injustice in the world: the U.S. government, along with its allies and proxies. (unacpeace.org)

The actions target U.S. aggression anywhere and everywhere — against China, Cuba, Iraq, Russia, Somalia or Syria, from Venezuela to Palestine to North Korea — any U.S. action against any country attempting to stay independent of U.S. claws. Continued U.S. sanctions, as well as direct and proxy wars, are assaults on the oppressed and working people inside this country and across the rest of the world. In desperate moves to maintain its slipping capitalist dominance, the U.S. continues to accelerate such attacks.

The result? Today, working and oppressed people in the U.S. face escalating costs of food and energy, growing insecurity in basic survival, the threat of recession and vicious attacks on efforts to unionize.

Imperialism devastating workers worldwide

Yet the imperialist foreign policy — devastating the lives and livelihood of 99% of the people — has been getting little attention during the current run-up to the U.S. elections.

Despite a lack of affordable housing that has workers sleeping in their cars, the Biden administration is delivering a total of $1.6 billion in heavy and technologically advanced weapons to Ukraine, as well as brokering deals for weapons with NATO powers and nongovernmental entities. (“With high-tech weapons to Ukraine, U.S. escalates war,” Workers World, April 25)

Meanwhile, anti-migrant racism runs rampant in the U.S., with right-wing governors recently staging “show busing” of refugees from the South against Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 64, No. 42 October 20, 2022 $1
Hail Indigenous Peoples Day! Support Workers World

Boston’s proclamation last year that the second Monday of October every year would be Indigenous Peoples Day, “in lieu of” Columbus Day, was a victory for Native peoples, since the creation of U.S. settler colonialism, the theft and devastation of their lands and cultures, denial of all rights, the torture and genocide, began and continued in what is now the state of Massachusetts.

Then on Oct. 8, 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed the federal Indigenous Peoples Day and acknowledged the atrocities “European explorers inflicted on Tribal nations and Indigenous communities.” These pronouncements came about due to the strong, unified stand by Indigenous peoples and their allies, notably at Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the courageous, militant fight that shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The movement for recognition of Oct. 12 as Indigenous Peoples Day began in Berkeley, California, following a huge march called by the American Indian Movement in San Francisco on Oct. 10, 1992, protesting the celebration of conquistador mass murderer Christopher Columbus’s arrival 500 years earlier. Since then, 14 states, Washington, D.C., and over 150 cities have added the holiday honoring the genocidal conqueror and recognize Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and cultures on that day.

Workers World has continually supported the righteous struggles of Native peoples on the streets and in our newspaper. WW joins Indigenous communities to demand: Drop “Columbus Day” as a federal holiday! Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in every town, state and town! Down with white supremacy!

Your donations matter!

Workers World relies on our readers’ backing. The WW Partner Program was founded 45 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper. Since the early 1970s, the fund has supported the website workers.org, where WW articles are posted daily and the PDF file of every weekly paper is displayed. Workers.org contains news and an analysis of global and U.S. struggles and is a resource for political activists.

The website posts firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspaper current on U.S. union drives, along with reports on anti-war, anti-racist and other progressive movements.

Unforeseen circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to once a month. But the weekly online newspaper has never skipped during this 1½-year health crisis. While WW’s staff is voluntary, both the printed newspaper and the website require that monthly expenses be paid. Although many online publications require fees to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

But WW needs your help! Join the WW Partner Program! Can you give $50, $100, $200, $300 or more per year? For a contribution of $50 or more, you will receive 12 print issues a year and a weekly email of the online issue. Supporters receive the book, “What road to socialism?” by noticing you. By donating, you help class struggle reach more readers.

Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email address to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org. We appreciate your support.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

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

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

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

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

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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

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International progressive rock star and punk-folk musician Billy Bragg joined Starbucks workers on strike outside the first unionized U.S. Starbucks store Oct. 12. Outside the Elmwood Avenue store in Buffalo, New York, he played classic union songs and sent a strong message to the company. Hundreds of people were drawn to the event—the crowd spilled into the streets and occupied Elmwood Avenue for the afternoon. As Billy set up to play his first song, he told the crowd, “I was thinking what song to play; I’ll start off with, how should I pitch this? Then I saw this banner behind me, and I said, ‘Oh yeah, that’s how I’ll pitch it.’” The banner, from Workers of the New Buffalo branch, which read “Which side are you on? We fight for our class!” became the backdrop for the demonstration.

The timing was perfect. Starbucks workers on Elmwood Avenue walked out on strike the previous Thursday over continued anti-union repression. Starbucks workers there were recently given retaliatory write-ups for rules that are nominally universal but not enforced at other stores in the district—only at union stores. This is coupled with mass firings of union supporters, over 120 across the country, with at least 14 workers fired in Buffalo. Workers have won National Labor Relations Board cases against the company; Starbucks has been forced to rehire the seven union organizers fired in Memphis.

On the same day as the show with Billy Bragg, Starbucks was ordered by an NLRB judge to rehire four more fired workers who had a say in the outcome of the union elections, in Missouri, after the company was found guilty of ramping up its dress code enforcement and sending police to break up picket lines—a tactic also used in Boston and other cities. While these legal victories have been a morale booster for workers facing the brunt of the repression, Starbucks doesn’t seem deterred by the NLRB. Mass mobilizations like the one at the Elmwood store will be needed on a sustained basis to break up union-busting from the top down.

After the show, Bragg shared a message to Starbucks customers: “I live on coffee—no coffee, no gig. But I am drawing the line today. I’m not going into Starbucks anymore because of the way they’ve been treating their workers all across the country. These people here in Buffalo have started a fire of organizing, a fire of unionization. I want to support that. By not buying Starbucks coffee, and I want you to stop buying Starbucks coffee as well … in solidarity with Starbucks workers I draw the line.”

While the union has not officially called for a boycott, many coffee drinkers are deciding that supporting a company that treats its workers in such a vile way isn’t worth it.

The author is a Starbucks worker in Buffalo, New York, a member of the SBWU Organizing Committee at their store, and a member of Workers World Party.
All out for Mumia hearing Oct. 26

By Johanna Fernández
Campaign to Bring Mumia Home

A hearing scheduled for Oct. 19 to determine whether Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal will get a new trial on recently discovered evidence was rescheduled to Oct. 26 in Philadelphia’s Criminal Justice Center. The hearing commentary explains what is at stake for Mumia Abu-Jamal and what is at risk for him as an elder. He should have been released years ago, but the whole process was discriminatory and unjust, Arroyo complained. “And as an invalid who poses no threat to society, the whole Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons member John P. Williams, M.D., pays everyone the same with his reclassification.

Because Cruz only speaks Spanish and cannot read, Williams (who doesn’t understand Spanish) based his decision on a verbal interview with Cruz through a translator. Because of the many hurdles he faced, including being required to complete documents and submit tests available only in English, Cruz’s commutation was denied.

At the end of an interview I had with Bryant Arroyo on Oct. 7, Cruz’s case was held up as an example of “state-sponsored death by regulation” under the Pa. Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons. Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal calls Arroyo “the world’s first jailhouse environmentalist,” but he is also a social justice advocate.

Arroyo raised Cruz’s case for several reasons. “Even if Cruz could read, no DOC forms or documents are in Spanish,” Arroyo explained. “And as an invalid who poses no threat to society, the whole process was discriminatory and unjust for him as an elder. He should have been released years ago.

Pennsylvania leads the world in the number of people serving life without parole (LWOP) sentences, as well as the number of incarcerated elderly people.

Arroyo has a successful case on his record. He was 15 years old when he was arrested and incarcerated person — Bradford “Bub” Gamble. He described how hard it was to win Gamble’s release: “On April 15, 2021, I was retaliated against by SCI Frackville officials and transferred to SCI Coal Township and eventually assigned to a cell just four doors down from Mr. Bradford Gamble’s.

“We routinely crossed paths every time Bub would come out of his cell. One day he asked me at the meeting table, where I was constantly drafting up grievances and working on my civil and criminal case. He revealed his unfortunate medical condition, which was colon cancer. “Soon we were on a full campaign to contact attorneys from the Philadelphia Defenders Association, the Pa. Bar Association, Pennsylvania prison society and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project. The PILP referred me to former executive director Angus Love, who said he ‘wouldn’t take a losing case.’”

The new evidence contained in the boxes is damaging and we need to expose it. It reveals a pattern of misconduct and abuse of authority by the prosecution, including bribery of the state’s two key witnesses, as well as racial exclusion in jury selection — a violation of the landmark Supreme Court decision Batson v. Kentucky. But the state is not required to prove guilty for each or any of the claims in the petition is a new trial. The court’s refusal to hearing on factual issues of the claims. If so, we won’t know for at least a month.

The new evidence includes a handwritten letter penned by Robert Chobert, the prosecution’s star witness. In it, Chobert demands to be paid money promised him by then-Prosecutor Joseph McGill. Other impeachment evidence against McGill, prominently tracking the race of potential jurors for the purposes of excluding Black people from the jury and letters and memoranda which reveal that the DOC’s office sought to monitor, direct and interfere in the investigation of any state officials and state prisoners, void of the bureau- cratic red tape. Title 42 created a highly improbable bar to bringing the criteria for compassionate release.

Existing in name only, and legally bereft of any right to legal representation and rights of constitutional protection, this prisoner who has served the state-sponsored secret death by regulation.

There is absolutely nothing compassionate about the current statute. It should compel every taxpayer resident to call up their state senators to make known their objections and to get Senate Bill 925 passed, which would eliminate the bureaucratic red tape for terminally ill prisoners, 55 years old, who have 25 years or more behind bars. They would become eligible to have a hearing before the Pennsylvania parole board.

Given the fact that Governor Wolf’s DOC budget of $4.57 billion could be greatly reduced if all incarcerated people were released back to their communities, this should make economic sense for all taxpayers.

Puerto Rican, not white!

The DOC’s English-only forms and documents and improper verbal test via interpreter, which I was able to take, were done in the context of the DOC’s troubling policy that classifies Cruz, Arroyo and other Latinx incarcerated people as white. It’s harder to charge racism against white officials if you’re Latinx but mislabeled as white. (See workers.org/2022/08/66312.)

Death by regulation

Senator Lisa Baker and her cronies gutted the former Title 66 Subsection 81, known as Illness of Prisoner Provision for Treatment Statute, and replaced it and renamed it as Compassionate Release. DC, NCIC and the Pa. Justice Network don’t have a problem with the NCIC auto-generated the selection of the NCIC database. And out of all of those, they said that as no coincidence; because now, when you look at the statistics between the Blacks and the whites in the prison system, it almost makes it seem like there’s no longer a racial disparity.

“By 2094, we’ve experienced different inmates throughout the institution experiencing a pattern of racial harassment, calling me racial epi- thesits throughout the day by saying, ‘hey, white boy.’ The Pa. DOC, NCIC and the Pa. Justice Network don’t have a problem stripping you of your Latinx race, but they failed to provide you with the white privile- lease card for the new white race.

“I told my daughter, I have to explain to you that your dad is not who you thought he was. And she was like, ‘What do you mean?’ And I said, ‘I don’t know. I mean, So, she was like, ‘What the f— are you talking about?’ And I said, they changed my race to white, and if you go to Pa. DOC right now and look me up, I’m white. I’m labeled as white.

“This is not only troubling but impos- ing enormous social and moral burdens on racial and ethnic minorities. This is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution and the race and ethnicity do not separate; one doesn’t go without the other.”

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette

Elder and racial abuse in Pennsylvania prisons

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette during visit in 2019.

“All out for Mumia hearing Oct. 26

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette during visit in 2019.

By Bryant Arroyo and Joe Piette during visit in 2019.
The Sister of Ceremony, Tuere Bell, presided over the second half of the memorial. Malik Rahim, one of the original New Orleans Black Panthers who survived a shootout with police at the Desire Housing Project, met Woodfox while both were in the Orleans Parish prison. In his tribute he spoke about the long struggle to free Woodfox and the innumerable people who fought for the Angola 3. Cops, politicians push racist ‘ShotSpotter’ spy tech

Albert Woodfox memorialized, New Orleans style

By Gloria Rubac

On a beautiful, sunny day in New Orleans, Albert Woodfox’s loving family, members of the International Committee to Free the Angola 3, Black Panthers from around the country and supporters from around the world filled the historic Treme Center Oct. 6. They gathered in the hundreds to remember the life of Woodfox who died Aug. 4 from COVID-19. Albert’s spirit was filled with joy. His spirit was unbreakable through the 40-plus years in solitary confinement. Albert’s spirit was filled with love despite the conditions of solitary confinement. Albert’s spirit was filled with love, justice was his belief.

At the memorial held in the ‘heart of the Treme’ neighborhood, where Woodfox grew up, the world filled the historic Treme Center Oct. 6. They gathered in the hundreds to remember the life of Woodfox who died Aug. 4 from COVID-19. Albert’s spirit was filled with joy. His spirit was unbreakable through the 40-plus years in solitary confinement. Albert’s spirit was filled with love despite the conditions of solitary confinement. Albert’s spirit was filled with love, justice was his belief.

The report questioned the ‘operational value’ of the technology and found that it increases the incidence of stop-and-frisk tactics by police officers in some neighborhoods. (tinyurl.com/qj06sn6)

Similar conclusions on the technology’s implementation in Chicago were reached by Vice News, the Associated Press, New York University’s School of Law’s MacArthur Justice Center, Lucy Parsons Labs, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and Organized Communities Against Deportation. The MacArthur Justice Center “found that in Chicago, initial police responses to 88.7% of ShotSpotter alerts found no incidents involving a gun.” (scha.org)

Several African American council members spoke against ShotSpotter; the final vote of the committee was four in favor, two opposed and one abstention. However, only one of the 17 council members voted against the spy technology at the full council meeting Oct. 10. Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb was a co-sponsor of the ordinance to expand police surveillance.

The city budget isn’t impacted. The Cleveland pilot program was funded by the Catherine L. and Edward A. Lorick Foundation, run by the billionaire heirs to the Swagelok company fortune, who are major Republican Party donors. Detroit City Council, which twice postponed the vote, scraped the use of federal COVID-19 relief funds, although it obviously will not preclude one single death from COVID-19. The ShotSpotter company offers help to local officials to sell local officials on the technology, and_ROUTINERS (3rd party)

Cops, politicians push racist ‘ShotSpotter’ spy tech

By Martha Grevatt

Cleveland and Detroit are among the latest cities to adopt or expand the use of gunfire detection technology, known as “ShotSpotter.” Their city councils voted Oct. 6 (Cleveland) and Oct. 11 (Detroit) to authorize its implementation. Cleveland will increase the area of coverage from 3 to 13 square miles, to the tune of $2.7 million; Detroit’s costs will rise from $1.5 million to $7 million.

In 2019 he published “Solitary: Confinement,” a biography telling the story of his youth, his politicization and relentless activism. The book was a finalist. In 2019 he published “Solitary: Confinement,” a biography telling the story of his youth, his politicization and relentless activism. The book was a finalist.

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Continued from page 1

rate, as well as lower workers' wages, and help compa-
nies like Amazon and Starbucks bust unions.

Because of what the bankers are doing, workers stand to lose
their homes either through evic-
tion or foreclosure, lose their
pensions, and, their companies repos-
sessed and be unable to provide
food for their families. The Fed's
war is not limited to workers in
the U.S. It's an attack on workers and
oppressed peoples everywhere.

U.S. imperialism is once again
weave the biggest debt bub-
bling clubs that a crumbling empire
holds over the world. The U.S.
dollar is still, in effect, the cur-
cency of the world by virtue of
U.S. imperialism's economic and
military strength. Ninety percent of all trade in the world is done in
U.S. dollars.

Increasing the interest rates strengthens the dollar against
every other currency, making food and essentials far
more expensive everywhere in the world. Workers
will pay a lot more for a loaf of bread in Italy or for
groceries in Spain. But those who will be hurt the most are the
poorest people, who live where 8% of the people on
the planet live, in the Global South.

What the Federal Reserve is doing could quadru-
ple the cost of food and medi-
cine in most of the countries of
Africa or in places like Pakistan
or Peru. These are areas of the
world where starvation is already a crisis. This will cause
the poorest countries to default on their debt payments to the
IMF, making life and survival much harder.

This is going to ignite social
uprisings, the fall of govern-
ments, and revolutions.

Those of us who live at the center of world imperialism,
here in the U.S., have a special obligation to foster class-based alliances with the poorest peo-
ple in our global class. This goal
must be high on the agenda of
the working-class movement in the U.S. It is not based on pity
or paternalism but on the objective of realizing revolutionary
internationalism.

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This is the reason that so many young workers are
demoralized and filled with hopelessness. Economic insecurity and capitalist climate armageddon have
convinced many that they have no future. We must all
work hard to turn this hopelessness into revolutionary
anti-capitalist rage that fuels the class struggle.

Shouldn't this crisis be the main
issue for the working class?

How to prepare for this capitalist economic crisis
should be the primary discussion among those who con-
side themselves Marxists; to think otherwise would be
counter to revolutionary Marxist theory. To the extent that this cri-
sis has not yet become the main priority of the left is a reflection of the left and the working-class
movement's ideological, polit-
ical and organizational weak-
nesses. Setbacks and losses over
an extended period of time have
tended to weaken the most revo-
 lutionary forces and buttress the
more numerous reformist and social-democratic forces.

In many left circles, talk of capitalist crisis leading to revolu-
tion is considered proven wrong by
history, and talk of revolution is
considered unrealistic at best.
Unfortunately, these notions make it easy for a section of the
capitalist ruling class, such as the Democratic Party in the U.S., to control the working class and keep it tied to capitalist-class
interests.

The global economic crisis unfolding before us is going to
change all of this. Already, we have seen young radical workers
breathe new life into the working class with organizing drives that are transforming the old tradi-
tional labor movement. Socialism is already more pop-
ular than it's ever been, and this capitalist crisis is going to
explode the ranks of anti-capitalist militants.

Why the whole capitalist economy is sitting
on the biggest debt bubble ... ever

Today, the whole world's capitalist economy is sitting on
the biggest debt bubble in history. Some believe that the
debt bubble could be as big as 10 or even 20 times the size of the capital-
ist world economy! In many ways, it is the debt crisis that capitalists are the most hor-
 rified about. The only thing that scares the capitalist rul-
ging class more is the pros-
pect of the working class
rising up and making socialist
revolution.

How did this happen? As the crisis of capitalist over-
production has increasingly
deprived the rich of their
desired profit margins, the capitalist system began mov-
ing away from prioritizing manufacturing and selling
things as their only source of making profits. Capitalism has become more and more dependent on the manipula-
tion of finance capital to satisfy its greed.

This is why the banks have come to
play the dominant role in the global
capitalist economy, along with finan-
cial markets. Why? Because things that
people can use when you can get richer by lending or investing and trading and buying
stocks, and the innumerable
other ways that finance capital-
ism trades in paper and debts, while
the living standard of the working class plunges.

Fidel Castro once said that, instead of meeting the real needs of society, capital-
ism had turned the world's economy into a
giant Las Vegas casino.

The problem with "casino" capitalism is that, as in any Ponzi scheme, ultimately at the end of the day, there can be only a very few winners, with everyone else left
in very, very big debt.

The creation of unimaginable and mostly hidden debt is a fundamental feature of a system that is dominated by finance capital. Something hap-
pened that made the capitalist debt crisis a million times worse.

The 2008 global financial crash began with the col-
lapse of the mortgage loan business, an integral part of the capitalist financial system. Of course, the mil-
ions of workers who lost their homes were not bailed
out. However, the financial system, minus a few play-
ers like Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns, was. Before
the damage was partially and temporarily contained by some of the most extraordinary measures in the history
of the capitalist system, the entire world financial system
almost completely collapsed.

It would have collapsed, were it not for frantic meet-
ings across the world and agreements, mostly secret,
between panicked central bankers from New York and
Washington, Germany, France, England, Japan and all
the major banks in the world, to put the financial system
on life support.

The whole capitalist system was so shaken by the crash
of 2008 that they decided to do something completely
unprecedented. The major central banks of the world, led by the Federal Reserve Bank, agreed that in order to
prevent such an unimaginable crisis in the future, they
would collectively lower interest rates to reboot financial
markets.

But they went further. Under the label of "quantitative
easing," the banks printed trillions in currency and fun-
ned it into the financial system. The Federal Reserve pumped at least $8 trillion into the financial system,
not into the actual economy but into the big banks to
use as they pleased.

In the early days of the pandemic, with the economy
closing down and financial markets crashing, central
banks led by the Federal Reserve pumped trillions more into
the financial system and into the economy to pre-
vent a worldwide depression.

The problem is all this money, that central banks
printed to prevent the financial system from collaps-
ing, had no relationship to anything of real value; and
therefore, all this currency was virtually worthless.
This is one of the main reasons why there is such a

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Protest against white-supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia, August 2017.
The biggest global capitalist crisis in history

Continued from page 6

gigantic debt crisis. The size of the debt crises is concealed until there’s an economic crisis that is so big that the real value of things can no longer be hidden, and the extent of debt is exposed. This is the reality that is beginning to unravel. The central banks can’t keep the financial system on life support forever; this reality is central to the crisis the system has entered. In the capitalist financial system, currency, stocks and other kinds of paper may have a value attached to it; however, that is misleading. In reality, the paper is either worth much less, or worthless, or actually really reflects hidden debt that will eventually be forced into the light of day. Back in 2008, the thing that the bankers were worried to death about was contagion. The bankers understood that their banks and their financial system are a house of cards. The contagion could start with a country defaulting on a loan payment or a bank somewhere, not even a big bank, collapsing. That is because bankers know that no matter how much they lie, it’s likely that one or two events could have a “domino effect.” Last week, Credit Suisse had to reassure its clients that the bank was solvent. Since then, the Bank of England has had to take measures to reassure financial markets that something in London wasn’t about to go bust.

War and fascism: What capitalism resorts to in crises like this

The war in the Ukraine, which is really a proxy war against Russia led by U.S. imperialism and its allies, has in a number of critical ways exacerbated the world economic crisis. Among other things, this war is about another attempt by the U.S. imperialist empire-in-decline to once again redivide the world in its interest. The main target of U.S. imperialism is China. Some think that the U.S. has entered a post-nuclear epoch, where the use of nuclear weapons that could destroy the world is unthinkable and therefore off the table. When has U.S. imperialism been rational, especially if it is desperate? It reminds us of an important historical lesson: When a world crisis of the magnitude of the one that is developing is upon us, either the working class uses this crisis to further its own class and revolutionary goals, or the imperialists use the crisis to save themselves through either war or fascism. We need not look anywhere else around the world to see evidence of such cases. It is part of the political crisis facing the workers and oppressed peoples right here. The Democratic Party’s abandonment of even the pretense of representing the workers and instead uttering lies about “how great our great democracy is in danger,” makes pro-fascist forces feel more emboldened. Recently Italy, which like most of Europe is in a deep recession, elected the leader of a neofascist party to be prime minister. I’m not saying that now Italy is fascist. Yet this is another reminder of the price the working class pays, when instead of taking advantage of a crisis in its own class interest, it leaves a vacuum for others to fill.

Is it a revolutionary period?

For the better part of several centuries, revolutions have debated whether or not either a country, a continent or the entire world was in a revolutionary period. It is often not an easy question to answer. When the working-class movement is weak and the revolutionary forces or vanguard forces and organizations are weak, it seems that these facts alone answer the question. However, revolutionary periods are produced by complex and rapid events and crises over a period of time. The capitalist crisis that we are facing is the kind of thing that creates revolutionary periods.

The working class can go through endless years and decades of passivity, politically unconscious, unorganized and dormant, and then all of a sudden over a relatively short amount of time, will wake up, become radicalized, organized and ready to change the world. We would be mistaken not to see this potential in the period that the world is entering. Revolutionary forces building in Madison, Wisconsin, to protest the governor’s plan to essentially make the state a giant anti-union, “right-to-work” state. Workers World Party supported and participated in this brave and massive struggle. The Madison occupation should have started a wave of worker occupations and truly revolutionary forces made sure that this did not happen.

Finally, in the fall of 2011, young people started Occupy Wall Street movement, the Black Lives Matter movement came on the scene. This movement was in reality a working-class movement. However, it was not politically ready to declare itself as such. The inability of the working class to assert itself in a major, militant and sustained way in part laid the basis for the ascension of Trump. We must fight like hell to make sure that the working-class doesn’t miss the opportunity to do that this time.

How to prepare for the struggle that’s coming: A classwide upsurge

How to prepare for the class struggle that the capitalist economic crisis is going to bring is the most important thing facing the entire working-class movement. It must be considered the most serious and consequential task. What alliances are necessary and not be held back should be thinking about this. In lieu of these preparations, the broad political outline of what’s necessary is already clear.

It’s going to take a truly classwide movement, led by the most militant and revolutionary forces. What we mean by “classwide” is that the fight to defend workers must be in this struggle—more than in it, in the leadership of it. Migrant workers must be in it, not alone, like they are so many times, but with the broad support of unions and other progressive forces and movements.

The struggle against racism must be not peripheral to, but at the center of, this struggle. The young workers that are in the vanguard of the driving upswings at Amazon and Starbucks and Target, and many, many other places, must be in the leadership of this struggle, because they are brave, radical and hate capitalism.

This must be the kind of movement that stops marshall from evicting people, that coordinates wider and wider workers’ strikes, that occupies in mass, when ready, and shuts things down with the power of millions.

It must be a movement that goes beyond the usual demands and raises the question of workers’ control. It must be a class-based movement that cannot be stopped by the Democrats.

It must be a movement that is anti-capitalist and impossible for those who are really against it to either tame or control it. It must be anti-imperialist and, therefore, it must be a movement that sees itself, in words and in bold actions, as part of the reawakening of a world-wide working-class upsurge. A development like this would be decisive, and it would help pave the road to socialist revolution.
Northern cities and states with sanctuary policies.

There is no acknowledgement in the election debates that the migrants are seeking refuge from brutal U.S. sanctions on countries like Cuba and Venezuela and U.S. economic policies ravaging Central American countries.

The struggle over control, pricing and access to oil is at the heart of the current conflict in Ukraine — a struggle stretching over decades. In Sept. 25, 1997, WW managing editor Leslie Feinberg wrote, “U.S. imperialism has sent a firm message to potential rivals in Europe and Asia: the vast wealth of the central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union belongs to Wall Street. At least, that’s what the generals would want everyone to believe. Six hundred twenty U.S. paratroopers flew 7,700 miles from Fort Bragg in North Carolina, to drop into Kazakhstan on Sept. 15.

“The message I would leave is that there is no nation on the face of the Earth that we cannot conquer with John Sheehan, commander of the U.S. Atlantic forces. The maneuvers were coordinated by NATO. . . . Thousands demonstrated in Ukraine in August [1997] against NATO maneuvers in that country.”

Now in response to UNAC’s call, actions are taking place across the U.S. and Canada and in Belgium, Germany, Spain, Sweden and elsewhere. Here are some snapshots.

On the East Coast

The Bronx Anti-War Coalition, in partnership with UNAC and the International Action Center, organized a demonstration in the heart of the South Bronx in New York City. The rally on Fordham Plaza centered local community leaders speaking from La Peña del Bronx, TBB New Direction and United We Stand, United We Stronger, who proclaimed, “Where’s the $60 billion+ for the Bronx?”

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They vehemently criticized U.S. spending on the NATO proxy war against Russia at the expense of vital social services, such as housing, health care, schools, addiction treatment and refuge for people fleeing violence and instability caused by U.S. imperialism.

Protesters marched to the nearby U.S. Army Recruiting Center, where activists condemned military recruiters preying on Black and Latinx high school students through the “poverty draft.” Speakers concluded with calls to end the new cold war against China and Russia and motivated active solidarity with anti-imperialist and liberation struggles in Puerto Rico, Palestine, Haiti and Cuba.

Representatives spoke from organizations including Black Alliance for Peace, Amazon Labor Union, A Call to Action on Puerto Rico, Puerto Rican Not For Sale, Cuba Sí Coalition, Bronx Green Party, Haiti Liberté, People’s Power Assembly, Struggle La Lucha, UNAC, Workers Assembly Against Racism and Workers World Party.

In Philadelphia, antiwar forces from the International Action Center and Workers World Party marched in Spiral Q’s annual People Hood puppet pageant, Oct. 15. Carrying three large antiwar banners, they displayed the message: War and military spending drain resources for housing, health care and education from communities. Philadelphia Boriqua activists protested U.S. colonial occupation and destruction of Puerto Rico. Palestine Alliance members hoisted a large “Free Palestine” banner and carried a giant puppet of Handala, Palestinian symbol of resistance.

There was broad support along the winding route — from the historic Paul Robeson House to Clark Park — for the antiwar contingent and other anti-imperialist groups.

... and on the West Coast

In Portland, Oregon, an impresive group of protesters rallied at the Art Museum and marched through the city to hear from additional powerful speakers at a second rally. Daniel Shea, president of Portland Veterans for Peace, emphasized: “Endless imperialist wars are taking us to the brink of Armageddon via a possible nuclear war!” He lamented that “the U.S./NATO proxy war with Russia has put Ukrainian lives on the line, like pawns in an international game of chess for power and imperial full-spectrum dominance.”

Sam, from People Organizing for Philippine Solidarity (POPS), said, “When U.S. imperialists call someone a terrorist, we need to ask Who is the real terrorist? People who take up arms for peace and justice? Or those who profit from endless wars?”

Ken Flounders, Judy Greenspan, Lyn Neeley, Portland Veterans for Peace, emphasized: “They are a small fraction of 1% of the world population; “And the rest of us, the billions of masses, have so much to gain by overthrowing U.S. imperialism.”

Speaking from POPS, Dana pointed out that the Biden administration is pouring tens of billions of dollars in arms sales to Ukraine and the U.S./NATO proxy war with Russia, provoking armed conflict with China and arming countless wars globally. She highlighted how war profits are a small fraction of 1% of the world population; “And the rest of us, the billions of masses, have so much to gain by overthrowing U.S./NATO wars — from the war of police assassinations of Black and Latinx youth at home to the U.S./NATO-provoked war in Ukraine.

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Continued from page 1

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Contributing to this article were Sara Founders, Judy Greenspan, Lyn Neeley, Ritchie Merino, Betsey Piette and Brenda Ryan.
University owes Black community reparations

Betsey Piete Philadelphia

For weeks, students at the University of Pennsylvania have joined residents facing eviction from the University City Townhomes to demand the Ivy League university use some of its $20.7 billion endowment to save the property owner, Altman Group, is ending a decades-long HUD contract. Altman plans to demolish the homes in West Philadelphia, once known as the Black Bottom community, that played an historic role in gentrifying the Black community.

Nearly 70 families face eviction at the end of 2022, as the university use some of its $20.7 billion endowment to save the property owner, Altman Group, is ending a decades-long HUD contract. Altman plans to demolish the homes in West Philadelphia, once known as the Black Bottom community, that played an historic role in gentrifying the Black community.

The Penn & Slavery Project found historic tax records of about 1,300 human skulls, which he used to promote scientific racism. In 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and scientific racism. In 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 1999, the Morton Collection of Inhumane experiments on Black prisoners was reportedly sold to the University of Pennsylvania for $62 million. The students say UPenn has the money to help save the property owner, Altman Group, is ending a decades-long HUD contract. Altman plans to demolish the homes in West Philadelphia.

The Morton Collection

From the 1830s through the 1840s, Philadelphia-based University of Pennsylvania researchers carried out a series of inhuman experiments on about 300 African Americans. The billion-dollar Ivy League school continues to pay $62 million in PILOTs this year.

In 2019 the Penn & Slavery Project research found that the collection included enslaved people’s remains, further documenting the university’s connection to enslavement and scientific racism. In 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Pennsylvania researchers carried out a series of inhuman experiments on about 300 African Americans.

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Over the weekend of Oct. 7-9 during demonstrations calling for reproductive justice, chants included “vote them out” and “Roe, Roe, Roe your vote.” These chants were led by Women’s March organizers trying to channel the militant energy of young activists into working to elect Democratic Party candidates. Understandably, millions of women, gender-oppressed people and allies will take part in the Nov. 8 election with the goal of defeating right-wing, misogynist and fascist politicians. In some states there are referenda on whether or not to enshrine abortion rights in state law. Many people, newly registered, will be voting for the first time.

But is a purely electoral strategy enough to protect the right to access — recently overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court? Or to protect the right to be safe from racist killer cops; the rights to a living wage, education, housing and health care; the right to be represented by a union; or the right to vote? Will electing Democrats guarantee any of your rights currently under siege?

No. We take a Marxian view of the capitalist state, which the so-called “two-party system” is designed to uphold. Our view corresponds to that of the great revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin, who explained in “The Right of War and Revolution” that “To decide once and for all the whole question of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament (or in our case Congress and state governments) — this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutions, but also in the most democratic republics.”

‘Nothing but disguised hypocrisy’
We would find common ground with Malcolm X, who, in the historic speech “The Ballot or the Bullet,” said Black people are victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy.” Speaking in Cleveland less than a year before his tragic assassination, he explained, “They have got a con game going on, a political con game, and you and I are in the middle.” Later in the speech he added, “This same government that you go abroad to fight for and die for is the government that is in a conspiracy to deprive you of your voting rights, deprive you of your economic opportunities, deprive you of decent housing, deprive you of decent education.”

At that time the Democratic Party was controlled by a few representatives and the White House — President Lyndon Johnson of Texas as “a Southern cracker.” The party was home to white supremacist, segregationist Southern “Dixiecrats.”

At that moment the Civil Rights Act was subject to a filibuster by members of both parties. Lenin was writing in 1917, and Malcolm X was speaking in 1964, but their words ring today. It’s not hard to dispel the myth that the Democratic Party is the party of working class and oppressed people. At the national level, it’s often Democratic-led city governments and courts that act to strengthen the repressive state apparatus — draining city budgets by spending money on jails and new equipment for the police, while declining to act against violent cops. At the federal level, Democratic elected officials uphold the role of U.S. imperialism in the world, risking over trillions of dollars to the Pentagon and most recently funding the war in Ukraine. The most pro-union position of Joe Biden, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Biden’s appointees to the National Labor Relations Board have failed to block the Bethlehem Steel layoffs, the firing of Starbucks and other big corporations.

As far as abortion rights go, it’s worth remembering that former President Jimmy Carter signed the Hyde Amendment, which denied coverage for abortions to low-income pregnant people on Medicaid. Reproductive rights activists say: It’s time to repeal the Hyde Amendment — but how long must we wait for some Democratic officials in Washington to accept the challenge?

Voting will not fundamentally alter the balance of power under the capitalist state of exploitation. Every gain that working and oppressed people have made has been through class struggle. That has been and will remain true, regardless of who is elected to office.

Want change? Organize and fight for it!”

Ukraine

Wage a class war against imperialist war
By John Catalinotto

The latest U.S.-NATO-Kiev aggressions in the Ukraine war theater — bombing the bridge to Crimea and the Nord Stream gas pipelines — have escalated the fighting, threatening a continental or even worldwide conflagration.

The world’s richest bosses, bankers and billionaires, and their agents in Washington, London, Berlin and Brussels, have imposed the war in Ukraine on the world’s workers.

Since the U.S.-incited Maidan coup in 2014, which established a reactionary democratic Russian regime in Kiev to enable NATO’s expansion toward Russia’s borders, the imperialists created an existential threat to Moscow, risking war nearly every year. (See articles at workers.org/tag/nato,russia,ukraine/)

The war’s victims include the working class in Ukraine and Russia, who are paying in blood; the peoples of the Global South, who are denied normal sources of food; and the workers in Western Europe, who face enormous hikes in fuel and food costs and potential loss of jobs as their industry closes.

U.S. workers face higher prices for food and housing, plus the diversion of government funds from social programs to profits for the military-industrial complex.

Given the inexcusable costs of war and the repression it brings, workers and others organizing for a socialist world must find an opening to organize against the war. In doing so, they must dismantle a serious obstacle.

War propaganda

The U.S. and NATO answered the direct Russian challenge with a massive propaganda campaign, with the aim of isolating the U.S. and its allies. One move was to propagate lies, distortions, exaggerations and absurdist, repeated a thousand times over, to shape the discourse.

The billion-dollar war machine dominates ideology and imposes its war propaganda on the world. A major goal of this propaganda was to demonize Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president. This started long before the war and tripled after Russia’s intervention.

Putin’s demonization followed the pattern of earlier attempts to demonize Angela Merkel — only a few, Saddam Hussein of Iraq (twice), Moammar Gadhafi of Libya and Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia were all demonized before and during the time the imperialist military bombed and/or invaded their countries, destroying and tearing them apart. U.S. presidents actually did to those countries what Putin is accused of doing in Ukraine.

In much of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the populations treated the imperialist war propaganda as the usual U.S. hypocrisy they had experienced many times before. And during United Nations’ votes to condemn Russia — introduced with the heaviest U.S. pressure — even the governments of dozens of these countries refused to go along, abstaining.

The Big Lie in Europe

In Europe, the corporate media’s Big Lie was that Putin threatened to reestablish a capitalist Russian Empire, with the old borders of the socialist Soviet Union, and even threatened neutral countries in Western Europe. The lie had an impact.

Up until this year, the antiwar movements in Finland and Sweden could mobilize quickly and militantly against joining NATO. Under the avalanche of propaganda, the rulers of those countries were able to apply for NATO membership with only token opposition.

Taking advantage of the initial confusion in the anti-war movement, the German regime doubled its military outlay, shipped weapons to Ukraine and switched from relying on relatively cheap Russian gas to higher-priced fuel — much of it fracked natural gas from the U.S. The German working class paid the price. London — of course — and Rome and Paris increased military outlays and sent weapons to the Kiev regime.

The politicians representing the German, French, Italian and British ruling classes, along with other capitalist politicians in Europe, have decided at this point to protect the class interests of the European bankers and billionaires by accepting the leadership of U.S. imperialism, as they have in nearly every crisis since 1945. The apparent goal of the European ruling class is to hang on to their roles as junior partners in the U.S.-led imperialist gang that exploits the world’s producers.

When some in the German regime appeared to question the wisdom of rejecting long-standing agreements to buy Russian gas in favor of U.S. gas, carrying Russian gas to Germany and closed the question. As a recent Workers World article showed, only the U.S. military had the motive and means to do this — and they did. U.S. and British ships near those pipelines at the time. (workers.org/2022/10/66955/)

The challenge for those who oppose imperialist wars is to find a way to break the ideological hold of the ruling class and its media on the working class. An important step is to join the defense of working-class interests to the battle against the war.

Class struggle breaks out

While antiwar demonstrations have taken place in many countries, the central country for an outbreak of class struggle has been France (see related article in this issue). Refinery workers, angry that fuel bosses are growing richer while they can’t afford monthly necessit- ies to buy food, struck. When delivering weapons to arm Ukraine, has attempted to cut workers’ pensions and conscript refinery workers to force them to work — breaking their strike. So far this has not spread the strike.

It is outstanding that organizations in France not only helped build the Oct. 18 union protests but joined the working-class struggle with the struggle against imperialist war in Ukraine. A demonstration of 140,000 people in Paris Oct. 16, demanding lower prices and more environmental protection, showed the potential for such a movement.

The antiwar movement in Portugal has called for demonstrations Oct. 26 in Lisbon and Oct. 27 in Porto. In many protests around the U.S. on Oct. 16-17 against U.S.-NATO aggression, slogans highlighted the class interests of the workers and how the war hurts them. At a rally in a neighborhood plaza in New York City’s poor- est borough, speakers proclaimed: “Where’s the $60 billion for the Bronx?”

While this embryonic international movement has a long way to go, the most conscious revolutionary activists should keep the struggle alive in the United States. V.I. Lenin taught during World War I and which the French comrades reminded us of: The main enemy is the ruling class of your own country, and the goal is to turn the imperialist war (against the workers) into a war against the ruling class and for socialism.
French workers resist increasing exploitation

By G. Dunkel

France is in turmoil: Gasoline shortages affect more than 60% of households; inflation is increasing; oil company profits are off the charts. The pay of oil company executives has jumped 52%, but the bosses bitterly resist raising production worker salaries. There have been a series of rail strikes, but on hand, that the European Union–NATO has done everything it could since 2014 to torpedo the Minsk Agreements, allegedly guaranteed by Russia and the United States to prevent any further aggression from the Euro-Atlantic powers. France could easily return to an independent foreign and military policy, the defense of wages, of workers’ living conditions and social gains—in particular, guaranteed stable pensions. The EU wants to cut these benefits, even those that it has already agreed on. The Thatcher-2 that is Cruella Truss, at a cost of $27.5 billion to $28.6 billion. (France24, March 3)

The sanctions are an imperialist tool, a weapon of war intended against the EU and NATO have been directed against the “boomerang” effects of sanctions against Russia, for more weapons delivered to Ukraine and for senseless expenditures for more and more military hardware. It is essential, as demand for war capital increases, with a bonus, the powerful rise of German militarization with its historical interventionism on the Steppes of Russia. Washington designated a long time ago the so-called “Svoboda” party, an old Russian nationalist party, left ascendants of history, like the one carried by French, Russian, Belgian and German “socialists,” which supports Russian “interventionism and the real interests of their own people, calling, under the guise of false patriotism, for the mass killings that became World War I.

For example, Germany is short of natural gas, which it uses for its chemical industry and heating. France is in turmoil: Gasoline shortages affect more than 60% of households; inflation is increasing; oil company profits are off the charts. The pay of oil company executives has jumped 52%, but the bosses bitterly resist raising production worker salaries. There have been a series of rail strikes, but on hand, that the European Union–NATO has done everything it could since 2014 to torpedo the Minsk Agreements, allegedly guaranteed by Russia and the United States to prevent any further aggression from the Euro-Atlantic powers. France could easily return to an independent foreign and military policy, the defense of wages, of workers’ living conditions and social gains—in particular, guaranteed stable pensions. The EU wants to cut these benefits, even those that it has already agreed on. The Thatcher-2 that is Cruella Truss, at a cost of $27.5 billion to $28.6 billion. (France24, March 3)
Un huracán, dos sistemas

La división de clases bajo el capitalismo se revela de forma más brutal cada vez que un supuesto "desastre natural" se transforma de repente en un desastre económico para la clase trabajadora.

Estas crisis exponen el hecho de que el propósito principal del estado capitalista no es ayudar a la gente necesitada. Basta con considerar el número de muertes en el condado de Lee, que incluye a Fort Myers, donde muchos habrán evitado la catástrofe si la evacuación se hubiera organizado de manera adecuada. Los responsables de la madre del mal momento recae en el gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, y en los funcionarios del condado de Lee.

En todo caso después de que se emitieran las órdenes de evacuación obligatoria, el sheriff del condado de Lee, Carmine Marceno, se negó a evacuar a la carcel del condado con 457 camadas, dejando a los presos en peligro. En todo caso, cientos de miles de personas de color—absolutamente invisibles en la expresión "que se sientan con consideración"—en el "*Ejercicio Defensivo*" que supuestamente se emitieran las órdenes de evacuación.

La ciudad de Nueva York tiene una ley de "derecho al refugio" que garantiza el derecho a la seguridad para todas las personas sin hogar, hombres, mujeres, niños y familias, desde que la Coalición para los Sin Techo ganó el juicio de 2018).

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En su lugar, pregúntense: ¿Cuál es el punto ideológico que estos derechistas están tratando de hacer a su base a través de la intimidación política?

La división de clases bajo el capitalismo se revela de forma más brutal cada vez que un supuesto "desastre natural" se transforma de repente en un desastre económico para la clase trabajadora.

Ataque al derecho a la vivienda

DeSantis no reconoce que el 66% de los hogares que viven en el condado de Lee, más del 70% de los hogares eran personas de color—absolutamente víctimas de la "violencia letal sistémica." En cuanto a la "supresión de la expresión"—el personalismo impulsó leyes para hacer ilegal cualquier discusión sobre la esclavitud, el racismo, la identidad de género y la sexualidad en las escuelas públicas del estado (AlabamaWeb.com). Estos protocasistas están apuntando a las ciudades donde el "derecho al refugio" y el "santuario" han sido ganados por la lucha de los pueblos. Estos programas son sólo un atisbo de lo que el socialismo podría ofrecer a los trabajadores y oprimidos en nuestra vida cotidiana.

Los gobernantes y otros están maquiando para socavar la esperanza de que el socialismo "pase a la historia" y que los movimientos de la revolución, la "ruptura" en países antipatriarcales abortados —o ya en camino— al socialismo.

Conveniamente se omite el hecho de las movilizaciones y acciones estudiantiles que matan—bloqueos económicos, sanciones e intervenciones militares—contra cualquier nueva violencia. El año pasado, muchas personas de color se enfrentaron a la violencia del estado, la mafia, las fuerzas de seguridad y la techos y los pueblos ocupados, incluso en este hemisferio. Las estrategias de Abbott y DeSantis son manifestaciones frías y calmosas de esos grandes ataques capitalistas contra la posibilidad del socialismo. Sí, en Estados Unidos no estamos ni cerca del socialismo. La clase capitalista tiene el control de los gobiernos nacionales y estatales. Pero la creciente generación joven está ocupada en la unión a través de las líneas de nacionalidad, sexualidad, género, habilidades y lenguaje. Estamos ampliando las posibilidades de futuro.

Nuestra esperanza está en la conciencia que el trabajo en los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos de todo el mundo, que están atrapados en las garras de las fuerzas de la producción y la explotación capitalista y que, por lo tanto, se verían ayudados al huracán digital en Cuba que ha permitido al país reducir el consumo de combustibles fósiles en 53.000 toneladas. Cuando el huracán, la lucha, sea un atisbo de lo que el socialismo podría ofrecer a los trabajadores y oprimidos en nuestra vida cotidiana. Pero que también hay un desafío en el sentido de que esos movimientos que han sido ganados por la lucha por el socialismo, empezando ahora.