

Texas march

'Death row? Hell NO!'

By Gloria Rubac
Austin, Texas

It was a perfect weather day at the Texas Capitol in Austin Oct. 22, for hundreds who participated in two marches and a rally against the racist anti-poor death penalty. In three emotional hours, love, solidarity, determination, anger, heartbreak and resilience filled the crisp autumn air as activists held the 23rd Annual Texas March and Rally to Abolish the Death Penalty. A carload of people came from the Rio Grande Valley near the Texas-Mexico border and others from nearby cities.

The Kids Against the Death Penalty led a loud and militant march around the capitol to the governor's mansion and through downtown, totally disturbing the peace.

Austin's progressive singer/songwriter



Families of prisoners on death row outside capitol in Austin, Texas, Oct. 22.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Sara Hickman warmed up the crowd early on with her vocals. Seven-year-old Marilyn Santoyo thrilled everyone with an acapella version of Andra Day's

Grammy-nominated hit, "Rise Up." It is an anthem of protest and empowerment that Marilyn sings outside the death house in Huntsville as an execution is

taking place inside.

The voices of the mothers, brothers, sisters, spouses, cousins and children of people sentenced for execution painted a picture of the pervasive and cruel injustice of the death penalty, as they spoke in front of a state capitol built by incarcerated workers who were not paid.

Two speakers condemned the Texas "law of parties," which sentences people to death even if they did not kill anyone — and in several cases when they were not even present when a killing took place. Lydia Garza represented her son Humberto Garza, convicted under this unfair law. Over a dozen family and friends were wearing their new T-shirts with Garza's photo, which read "Free Humberto 'Beto' Garza, Victim of the Law of Parties."

Terri Been, an event organizer, told how her brother, Jeff Wood, was not even in the store when a cashier was killed. Wood had no idea that his friend had a gun, when he drove him to a convenience store. Wood heard the gunshot, while sitting outside in his pickup. Yet Texas sentenced both men to die.

Been called the names of others convicted under this cruel law: Rudy Medrano, Juan Ramirez and Randy Halprin, who are still fighting, and Bobby Garza, who was executed in 2013.

Voices of those exonerated

Two men, who had been exonerated off death row, gave hope to the crowd. Ron Keine survived New Mexico's death row, when the truth finally set him free. It took a minute to process the fact he gave, that over 190 people condemned to be executed have been exonerated in the U.S.

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WORKERS WORLD

editorial

U.S. hands off Haiti!

As we write this editorial, rumors abound that the U.S. military has already moved to seize an airport in Haiti. The developments of the past few months make such a rumor believable.

Yes, believable, but still criminal. It is hard to imagine an intervention more

harmful to Haiti's people. The difficult social conditions now for the people of Haiti were caused by prior U.S. interventions.

Ever since the enslaved African people of Haiti liberated themselves with a heroic revolution that drove out the French colonialist slaveholders in 1804, the rulers of the U.S. and France have made Haitians suffer

for this "original sin."

The Southern slavocrats who dominated the fledgling U.S. in 1804 were terrified that Haiti's struggle for liberation would spread. They punished Haiti and its people for liberating themselves.

Washington expanded its power, seizing half of Mexico in 1848 and setting the goal of dominating the Western Hemisphere with the Monroe Doctrine

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Free Wendy
Howard!

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TEAR DOWN
THE WALLS

90% of people in
are survivors
domestic

women's prisons
of sexual and
violence.

#JusticeForWendy

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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 a 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 struggles 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 130 cities have dumped 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! Commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day in every city, town and state! Down with white supremacy!

Your donations matter!

Workers World relies on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded 45 years ago to help build this socialist newspaper. Since the early 1990s, 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 been skipped during this 2 ½-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 Supporter 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 can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” by notifying us. By donating, you help class truth reach more readers.

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We appreciate your support. □

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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 neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ 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 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.

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

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Activists disrupt UPenn–Yale football game

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Students and community activists working to tackle climate and housing crises put a temporary halt to a major Ivy League football match Oct. 22, drawing the attention of the sports world.

About 70 students, most from the University of Pennsylvania and others from Drexel and Temple universities, and community activists organized by Fossil Free Penn blitzed the UPenn–Yale football game at Franklin Field at the end of homecoming game halftime. They huddled on the blue and red letter “P,” painted in the center of the field, and refused to leave.

The protesters called time-out to the game and displayed their demands in black lettering on three large orange banners to UPenn officials: “DIVEST”; “Pay PILOTS”; and “Save the U.C. Townhomes.”

The student and community protesters demand the university divest its billions in endowment funds from fossil fuel assets. The fossil fuel industry is directly responsible for the crisis of climate change, as well as disseminating false information and funding political corruption. FFP demands UPenn stop new investments in the fossil fuel industry, remove direct and commingled holdings in the top 200 fossil fuel companies within five years, and reinvest a portion of the extricated funds into clean energy assets.

The “Pay PILOTS” (payments in lieu of taxes) demand refers to the fact that “nonprofit” UPenn is the only Ivy League school that doesn’t contribute to its home city through voluntary payment of property taxes. While the University’s roughly \$20.7 billion endowment and aggressive building projects have led to massive land accumulation, that property is completely tax-free.

Over \$2.5 billion of tax-exempt property in the city is owned by UPenn, according to an Oct. 2, 2019 editorial in The Daily Pennsylvanian, an independent student media organization. Activists



Protest at University of Pennsylvania football game, Oct. 22.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

want UPenn to pay into an Educational Equity Fund governed by the local school district and the City of Philadelphia.

The “Save UC Townhomes” demand concerns a nearby low-income housing complex, whose residents are threatened with eviction. For 40 years UPenn worked with developers to persistently push Black and Brown Philadelphians out of their neighborhood, then known as the Black Bottom. UC Townhomes was initially built to be affordable housing safe space for those who were originally displaced by university developments in the 1970s and ’80s.

Now UPenn remains noticeably silent, as developers threaten the very same harm as the university did half a century earlier. This is what Black displacement, white supremacy and racial injustice look like. After several eviction dates were postponed due to militant protests, UC Townhomes residents are now facing Dec. 27 evictions.

Which side are you on?

In unison with the on-field protest, well-organized activists handed out flyers to sports fans in their seats, as their comrades held up two additional orange

banners over the second-level railings. On one side of the field, a banner read “We demand justice from Penn,” and on the other, “Which side are you on?”

After 35 minutes, under threat of arrests, most of the demonstrators walked off the field and were escorted out of the stadium. The remaining 19 protesters were handcuffed and taken to a police van 30 minutes later, as their comrades who had left the field converged and chanted

slogans until the police vehicle drove away.

The activists then marched to the Police Precinct at 40th and Chestnut, where they blocked the street for hours, rallying, chanting and singing, until all 19 people arrested were eventually released one by one. Each arrestee was charged with “Defiant Trespass.”

FFP members had earlier organized a protest interrupting Penn President Liz Magill’s speech at UPenn’s Aug. 29 convocation for the 2,500 students of the incoming class of 2026. (workers.org/2022/09/66534/) Dissatisfied with UPenn’s lack of response to their demands, FFP held a protest encampment in the middle of UPenn’s campus from Sept. 14 to Oct. 24.

The day after the game disruption, FFP members and allies continued organizing and posting on social media, in support of the 19 arrestees defending themselves from their charges, and put together another protest scheduled for a 4 p.m. Oct. 26 University Council meeting.

FFP has posted a “Why Protest at a Football Game” statement, which concludes: “If the University wants protests to end, the answer is simple: take action. Otherwise, expect resistance.” □



Protest at University of Pennsylvania football game, Oct. 22.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia protest opposes developers plans targeting Chinatown

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Billed as a chance to “network and shmooze with Philadelphia’s top real estate developers and professionals,” the Jewish Federation Real Estate (JFRE) meeting Oct. 21 became, instead, an opportunity to protest gentrifiers’ plans to build a \$1.3 billion, 18,500-seat NBA basketball arena in Chinatown.

Dozens of people, organized by the Philadelphia Folklore Project in solidarity with the Save Chinatown Coalition, turned out with signs, banners, songs and chants. The protest participants — a majority of them Jewish — challenged the predatory development schemes being peddled by Philadelphia 76ers arena proponents and billionaire developers David Adelman and Josh Harris.

Sports arena threatens Chinatown

Chinatowns across the country have been decimated by sports arenas: the Kingdome in Seattle, Busch Memorial Stadium in St. Louis and the Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C. Over 3,000 Chinese residents in Washington’s Chinatown dwindled to just 300 after that arena was built in 1997. Philadelphia’s

Chinatown is the last remaining community of color in Center City Philadelphia and one of the last vital and thriving Chinatowns on the East Coast.

Debbie Wei, of Asian Americans United, wrote in a Aug. 24 Philadelphia Inquirer article: “Chinatowns have existed across the United States for nearly 200 years, created out of necessity by Chinese immigrants who retreated into self-contained districts in search of safety from the beatings, lynchings and massacres that were often their lot in the highly segregated cities of our nation’s past.

“Excluded from most jobs as a threat to white laborers, the Chinese undertook ‘women’s work’ — running laundries and providing food service — to survive. From the fruits of this bitter history, Chinese Americans slowly fashioned a life and a future as part of the diverse American tapestry. Chinatowns became havens of linguistic and cultural security and familiarity.”

Today this city’s Chinatown includes 4,000 residents, scores of small businesses, two elementary schools, a senior citizens’ home, three Christian churches, a Buddhist temple, a community center, affordable housing, an Asian arts organization and a park.

The 76ers’ proposed arena threatens to raise rents, overwhelm Chinatown with traffic during games and drive away elderly and lower-income residents. Residents will not want to live next to an area that resembles the dead zones around arenas and stadiums in other urban centers.

The displacement of Chinatown’s residents mirrors the displacement of the Black Bottom neighborhood in West

Philadelphia, where University City Townhomes residents have been fighting eviction by gentrifiers and developers for 18 months.

The protest at the Kimmel Center, where the developers were meeting, promises to be one of many actions over the next few months. Meanwhile, supporters are urged to sign a “Stop Playing Games With our Community” petition at: bit.ly/3U5rEeD. □



Jonathan Leibovic speaks at a protest against building a basketball arena in Philadelphia’s Chinatown, Oct. 22.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Plympton, Mass.

Militant Teamsters blockade breaks Sysco scab operation

By Steve Gillis

For two weeks beginning Oct. 1, Sysco Boston — an outpost in Plympton of the global food and food equipment distributor to thousands of schools, hospitals, military mess halls and assisted-living facilities — took a “slash and burn” approach to contract negotiations out of the playbook of Amazon and Starbucks. With the armed assistance of massive regional police forces from Boston, Plymouth and Brockton, Sysco ran scab-driven trucks through the strike lines of Teamsters Local 653.

Then in the predawn darkness Oct. 17, multiple big rigs driven by members of Teamsters Joint Council 10, headquartered at Local 25’s hall in Boston, caught Sysco’s forces by surprise. With air horns blasting, the union executed a military-style blockade of Sysco’s gates, shutting down its scab operation on live TV morning news.

Cops from the neighboring sheriff’s department of “America’s Hometown” Plymouth, accustomed to beating heads in their infamous county jail, were furious at being caught off guard. They rushed in with their military-supplied equipment and rioted, throwing strikers to the ground and 16 Teamsters into arrest wagons.

In just a few hours, Teamsters International President Sean O’Brien ordered solidarity pickets set up at Sysco operations from Tolleson, Arizona, to Syracuse, New York, with rolling strikes gathering at gates countrywide. Within 48 hours, Sysco caved and coughed up millions of dollars.

On Oct. 20 Local 653 voted nearly unanimously to

ratify a new five-year contract with an unprecedented \$11-an-hour wage increase. The new contract beat back many onerous concessions demanded by Sysco, preserving and improving the Teamsters Local 653 health plan and other benefits and working conditions. This victory catapulted Teamsters negotiations with Sysco nationwide.

That day the Teamsters International issued a press release, stating in part:

“After months of all-out economic warfare between Sysco and Teamsters across the country, the union has achieved a phenomenal victory. This morning, workers at Sysco Boston voted overwhelmingly, 215-2, in favor of a record-breaking agreement, successfully ending the strike with a resounding victory for more than 300 members of Local 653 in Plympton, Massachusetts.

“The new five-year agreement marks the end of this round of coordinated bargaining, following major contract wins for Local 104 members at Sysco Arizona and Local 317 members at Sysco Syracuse. Local 653’s strike lines were supported by Local 104, and more locals promised to honor the line if pickets appeared at their facilities. This national effort, which was acknowledged by the company, was the key to the great results achieved at Sysco Boston.”

Quoted in the statement, Teamsters General President



Teamsters Local 653 celebrates strike win at union hall, Oct. 20, South Easton, Massachusetts.

PHOTO: TEAMSTERS.ORG

O’Brien said, “Corporations will fear the Teamsters. Their ability to hold down our members is over. The Teamsters are ending it. Any company that bullies workers will be met with the full firepower of this union. Our momentum cannot be stopped. We still have open contracts around the country, and we will strike again and again to protect our members.” (teamsters.org)

This reads like a manual for today’s upsurge of young workers taking on giant capitalist monopolies, which have posted record global profits as the global pandemic imposed dangers and hardships on frontline, essential workers.

Steve Gillis is 37-year member and an elected leader of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, now working for the union’s members and retired from driving.

Despite Albany Amazon setback, union surge continues

By Martha Grevatt

“It was a sham election,” said Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls, referring to the union representation election at an Amazon warehouse near Albany, New York. “Workers were subjected to intimidation and retaliation on a daily basis and even the workers who volunteered to be election observers were faced with threats of termination.” (CNBC, Oct. 18)

The lopsided results, 406-206 against the ALU, were announced Oct. 18. However, the “no” votes represent less than half of the total workforce at ALB1; about one-third of the 900+ workers did not cast a ballot.

The union filed 27 Unfair Labor Practice charges against Amazon, in the period leading up to the vote, and has since filed more. ALU supporters report that individuals disguised as Amazon workers, including at least one employed by a union-busting consultant, followed workers around and badgered union supporters. The ALU may appeal the results, based on the illegal



PHOTO: WAMC

Chris Smalls, president of the Amazon Labor Union, leads a rally with Amazon workers from the ALB1 warehouse and supporters from other unions, Schodack, New York, Oct. 18.

union-busting tactics Amazon is now well-known for.

Worker resistance to Amazon is continuing, with recent walkouts in California, Georgia and Illinois and union election petitions filed by the ALU in Kentucky and California.

“We are filled with resolve to continue and expand our campaign for fair treatment for all Amazon workers,” Smalls said. “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t

take.” (New York Times, Oct. 18) The workers want higher pay and better benefits, but most of all they want safe working conditions.

While the Albany vote is a setback, it in no way signals a reversal of the general trend in favor of unions and union organizing.

Consider the union wins at 250+ Starbucks stores in less than a year since the organizing drive began. Consider the first-ever union wins at Apple and REI. And consider the workers who already have unions that are striking and winning, most recently at Sysco in Massachusetts.

A possible national railroad strike — still on the horizon with at least one rail union rejecting the tentative agreement brokered by President Joe Biden — would shut down a big section of the capitalist economy. That frightens the ruling class.

The vote in Albany does not negate the rising tide of worker power and the determination of workers to fight back as giant corporations threaten their health and their lives. □

Workers in France conduct one-day general strike

By Otis Grotewohl

Protesters clashed with the police in numerous cities, as 300,000 workers participated in a partial general strike in France Oct. 18 and courageously took to the streets throughout the country.

Most of the striking workers were from the transportation, education and energy industries. The action was organized by the left-wing General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and General Confederation of Labor-Workers Force (CGT-FO), who were joined by other unions.

Pickers carried signs addressing inflation, climate change and pension “reform,” French President Emmanuel Macron’s proposed reduction of benefits and increase in contributions workers have to pay for their pensions. Workers in France are facing a cost-of-living crisis and soaring inflation; at the same time, energy firms are raking in record profits. This has caused widespread anger and has led to calls for a windfall tax on energy companies.

Several socialist organizations participated in the events. The revolutionary Pole of Communist Revival in France reflected on its website, Initiative Communiste: “The mobilization this Oct. 18, 2022, for this day of strike for wages and the defense of the right to strike at

the call of a broad inter-union united front was important. It was unquestionably stronger than the action last Sept. 29, which was already successful. It benefited from the impetus provided by the heroic mobilization of the refinery workers who, through their powerful strike, have reimposed the general wage increase as the number-one political and trade union issue on the agenda.”

General strike in solidarity with oil workers

The one-day general strike occurred just as oil refinery workers at several depots owned by the corporate oil giants ExxonMobil and TotalEnergies, formerly known as Total Fina, had been on strike for over a month. Many of the striking oil workers, who have been conducting militant blockades, belong to CGT and voted in early October to continue their strike, despite government threats of criminal charges if they refuse orders to go back to work.

The CGT is demanding a 10% wage increase for oil workers, pointing out that the corporations are making windfall profits, while workers struggle to pay bills as prices rise.

The secretary general of the CGT, Philippe Martinez, told the French Marxist publication L’Humanité Oct. 14: “The CGT has been calling for negotiations on wages for several weeks, and neither Total’s management nor the



Strikers march during Oct. 18 general strike, Toulouse, France.

government has seen fit to respond. It took an outbreak of conflict, whose impact the administration minimized at first, claiming that there was no supply problem — and finally it woke up.”

Workers at all but two of the TotalEnergies facilities settled and went back to work Oct. 20 — two days after the general strike.

Despite the capitalist bosses, their government and their media attempting to blame striking workers for transportation delays and rising energy costs, the working and oppressed people of France flexed their muscles through collective action. □

She's not free yet!

Jury drops most charges against Wendy Howard

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, California

The Kern County, California, jury finally reached a verdict Oct. 21 in the trial of Wendy Howard, who faced charges for defending her family against her ex-partner, after more than a decade of sexual and emotional abuse. To the relief of Howard, her family and supporters, she was acquitted of the most serious charges: first and second degree murder; involuntary manslaughter; and one charge of voluntary manslaughter. The jury deadlocked 7 to 5 on the charge of voluntary manslaughter in the heat of passion. Not surprisingly, there were seven men and five women on the jury.

A statement released by the Wendy Howard Defense Committee said, "The good news is that Wendy got to go home with her family yesterday, without being immediately arrested and sent directly to prison for decades. For this, we are truly relieved."

However, the statement noted Howard has not been acquitted of all charges. On Nov. 18, Howard will have to appear in court in front of the Kern County District Attorney, who will decide whether or not to hold another trial on the voluntary manslaughter charge. Howard's court-imposed "gag order" will continue, and she will not

be able to speak out publicly in her own defense.

During the trial, which lasted 10 days, family members and friends gave emotional testimony documenting the physical, sexual and emotional abuse experienced by Howard and her children over more than a decade. Howard took the stand to explain why she was forced to defend her life and the lives of her family against her



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Wendy Howard (center) with her daughters, Bayley Frost (left) and Miranda Frost, Oct. 29, 2020.

abusive ex-partner in June 2019. Her acquittal on the serious murder charges is a vindication of Howard's assertions all along that she acted in self-defense when she shot and killed her abuser.

Prisoners' rights activists and domestic abuse survivors from all over California, including the Bay Area and Los Angeles, traveled to Bakersfield to attend the trial and show community support for Howard.

Howard — who is both a mother and a grandmother — and her family have suffered greatly during the prosecution of this case. According to her defense committee, just having to recount and relive the many instances of abuse have been devastating, especially to Howard's two older daughters, Bayley and Miranda.

The Wendy Howard Defense Committee is demanding the DA drop the remaining deadlocked charge against Howard. After all, Howard was not convicted of any charges on Oct. 21. The jury inarguably recognized her fundamental right to self-defense.

Howard needs support to cover her legal expenses, including any costs incurred during a possible second trial. For more information about the campaign to support Howard and all other victims of domestic abuse, go to facebook.com/defendwendyhoward and gogetfunding.com/justiceforwendy/. □



'Death row? Hell NO!'

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Alburt Burrell thanked everyone for coming out. After a Louisiana District Attorney broke the law by lying and hiding evidence, Burrell spent 14 years waiting for his freedom. Keine and Burrell both now work with Witness to Innocence, an organization founded to connect exonerated death row survivors with each other. Many have physical and mental challenges that were exacerbated by incarceration and death sentences.

Attorney Merel Pontier gave an update on Clinton Young, who had his death sentence overturned last year and is waiting to see if he will be retried. He was actually able to bond out of the county jail and is working until the court makes a decision.

As Nicie Gutierrez was beginning to speak about her spouse, Ruben Gutierrez, she got a phone call from him. She asked him if he would say a few words as she was at the mic. He hesitated for a brief



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Delia Perez Meye, sister of Luis Castro-Perez and Lydia Garza, mother of Humberto Garza with members of the Garza family.

moment, then he greeted the crowd. They responded to hearing his voice by chanting, "Test the DNA, Free Ruben Now!"

Other death row family members spoke, including Nadine Broxton, who came from Paris, France, to speak about her spouse, Eugene Broxton. He had just received good news from his attorney regarding his case.

Yancy Balderas spoke about Juan Ramirez, her spouse, saying that finally there are people working for his freedom. He has a new web page: FreeJuanBalderas.com. Juan's mother, Victoria Reyes, stood by her daughter-in-law, holding a banner for her son, who has a clear case of innocence.

Rodrick Reed explained that his brother, Rodney Reed, had oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court last week regarding DNA testing on the murder weapon in his case. Texas says he filed for testing too late, but several of the justices indicated that the testing should be allowed. Rodrick's five-year-old son, R.J., said into the mic, "Free my uncle! Free Rodney Reed!"

Delia Perez Meyer said that her brother Louis Perez sends his love to all in the fight. She called all the death row families up to the podium for a photo. The story of her love and constant support for her brother can be seen in the full-length film, "The Road to Livingston."



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Cjai Johnson-Foster, spouse of Kenneth Foster

correcting this injustice. His father, Delma Banks, spent over 30 years on death row; and just when he was going to be given a new trial, his incompetent lawyers urged him to take a plea deal in 2012.

Now his father won't be eligible for parole until he's 65 in 2024. Jefferson is running for U.S. Congress. so "working people will have a bold advocate in the U.S. capital."

Police threaten activist

Saturday's event ended as co-chair Cjai Johnson-Foster sang "Happy Birthday" to her

spouse, Kenneth Foster, who was hours away from execution in 2007 when his sentence was commuted to life. Then the crowd, led by Jefferson, sang "Happy Anniversary" to Yancy and Juan Balderas for their 19th year together.

The one disgusting interruption came when the capitol police threatened to arrest activist Terri Been, because a few young children were using chalk to write anti-death penalty words on a sidewalk. The kids had to take bottles of water to wash their work off before the fascistic police decided not to arrest her.

As things were winding down, people ate birthday and anniversary cake, signed letters to the six women on Texas death row, signed birthday greetings for Foster and signed petitions to end administrative lock-up, or ALU, a secret prison within a prison where Foster is housed at the Coffield Prison Unit.

The energy generated will continue as activists struggle to stop the two November Texas executions and the five already set for 2023.

The writer is a founding member of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement. Mirinda Crissman, co-editor of the Tear Down the Walls prison page, also attended the Oct. 22 event. Both are members of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

State Rep. Jolanda Jones and Rodrick Reed, brother of Rodney Reed



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Members and allies of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement gather at the capitol steps.

Women’s Alliance hosts Canada-wide assembly

By Marie Boti and IWA Canada organizing committee
Montreal, Canada

The following article is an edited report. Go to internationalwomensalliance.org and facebook.com/IWA.grassrootswomenforliberation for more information.

Activists from across Canada met together in Montreal Oct. 14-16 for the International Women’s Alliance (IWA) Canada-wide assembly under the theme “Many Struggles, One Fight / Women: Defenders of Life and Land.”

IWA, founded in 2010, is a global alliance of grassroots-based women’s organizers united in building a democratic, anti-imperialist and progressive women’s movement in the 21st century. IWA has nearly 150 member organizations in the world.

On Day 1 of the IWA assembly, we listened to solidarity speeches delivered by women leaders, including Susana Malmierca Benitez (Consul General of Cuba in Montreal). We heard on video from Azra Talat Sayeed (Vice-Chair of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle) and from Coni Ledesma (IWA Europe).

Tess Tesalona and Rita Acosta, who were present at the original founding of IWA in Montreal in 2010, shared their memories and some pictures, followed by Donna Denina, the international Secretary-General of IWA who presented a PowerPoint of the achievements and activities of IWA over the past 12 years.

Marie Boti of Women of Diverse Origins, the organization hosting the assembly and Vice-Chairperson of IWA, set the stage for the workshops with a presentation about “The Canadian situation, Pathways and obstacles to women’s organizing.”

Palestinian, Haitian, Philippine and peace activists spoke before a cultural set by Sining Laya, a Philippine music group with Migrante Quebec.

Delegates attended afternoon workshops, focused on some of the challenging issues facing women’s communities, including war and militarism, extractivism, forced



IWA protest against war and misogyny, Montreal, Oct. 16.

PHOTO: THELMA CASTRO

migration, organizing in a neoliberal context and violence against women.

Planning for the struggles ahead

Workshop speakers were all seasoned activists with many experiences to share, from Barbara Waldern of Just Peace in Vancouver, to Haitian community advocate Chantal Ismé and Kurdish community advocate Kazhal Hamershid, and Billie Pierre of Nkaka’Pamux Indigenous community in British Columbia.

Other workshop speakers included Rosalinda Hidalgo of the Committee for Human Rights in Latin America; Cynthia Palmeria of Migrante Alberta and Nina Gonzales of the Immigrant Workers’ Centre in Montreal; Merryn Edwards of Women for Rights and Empowerment in Alberta, and Emmanuelle Proulx and Ramatoulaye Diallo of the CSN trade union central in Quebec; Monica Moorehead from Workers World Party in New York; Vicky Zois of the Movement against rape and incest in Montreal, and Maki Cairns of Gabriela BC.

Discussion focused on how women are uniquely impacted by capitalism and imperialism through neoliberal policies, patriarchy, racism and gender oppression. The workshops were effective in understanding the histories of women’s struggles in Canada and all over the world, making connections between these, and

building relationships to advance mutual struggles. The day ended with a beautiful and powerful cultural night of dance, song and spoken word.

On Day 2, delegates reviewed the IWA Basis of Unity and heard about IWA’s global campaigns focused on War and Militarism and on Women over Profit.

Thelma Castro and Marie Boti facilitated the reports from each workshop as delegates discussed and adopted a series of resolutions and an action plan to address these issues which a coordinating committee will help implement.

The day ended on the street, with a rally against war and militarism, as part of the Oct. 15-22 week of action called by the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC). A march to the symbolic Place du 6 décembre, a square not far from the conference location at the Université de Montréal, was held in memory of the 14 women who were gunned down at the Polytechnic Institute of this University in 1989 by a misogynist man, simply for being women.

United in our struggles and stronger with our shared knowledge and connections, we are ready to continue building the International Women’s Alliance across Canada and around the world! Long live international solidarity! □

Nuclear war threat from U.S./NATO, not Russia

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

This October marked the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis — when the U.S. and the Soviet Union were on the brink of a global nuclear war. The current conflict between the U.S. and Russia, brought on by U.S./NATO use of the war in Ukraine to promote a broader war against Russia, contains many similarities.

NATO kicked off its annual “Steadfast Noon” operation on Oct. 17 to test its ability to wage nuclear conflict; the target of this operation was Russia. U.S. nuclear-capable B-52 bombers now flying to Europe from U.S. bases are practicing dropping nuclear weapons on Russian targets. Other planes from European air bases are practicing deploying NATO nuclear weapons against Russia. These “war games” leave Russia little choice except to respond with its own nuclear exercises.

Just as Cuba was not the danger to global peace 60 years ago, Russia is not today. The threat comes from the Biden administration and its NATO allies.

Yet corporate media pundits, with increasing frequency, repeat President Joe Biden’s statements that imply a nuclear threat comes from Russian President Vladimir Putin. At a fundraiser Oct. 6, Biden claimed Putin “talks about potential use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons, because his military is . . . significantly underperforming.” Biden ended his remarks stating: “I don’t think there’s any such thing as the ability to easily use a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with ‘Armageddon.’” (Guardian, Oct. 7)

This statement from a sitting president of the only country in the world that has actually used nuclear, biological and chemical weapons against other countries cannot be taken lightly.

Russia, on the other hand, is not carrying out nuclear war games against the U.S. or any other NATO country. Putin had mentioned nuclear war in his televised address Sept. 21, when he accused the U.S. and NATO of engaging in “nuclear blackmail”; he was referring to statements made by representatives of leading NATO countries about possibly using nuclear weapons against Russia. These statements included those made by the former British

Prime Minister Liz Truss. Putin was simply asserting Russia’s right to defend itself, if the country’s territory was threatened.

Both Russia (then part of the Soviet Union) and the U.S. signed the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, along with France, Britain and China, which also have nuclear arsenals. Israel, a close U.S. ally, has never signed the accord, however, even though it has a nuclear arsenal.

In 2019, then-President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. And Biden has not resurrected this treaty.

Nuclear weapons: ‘just another military tool’

Russia published a doctrine that spells out the “exceptional circumstances” under which they can use nuclear weapons. (from remarks by Scott Ritter, Scheerpost, Oct. 20) Biden, like Trump, follows policies set by his predecessors.

The published U.S. nuclear doctrine includes a policy of nuclear preemption, established by former President George W. Bush. This policy considers nuclear weapons as just another military tool, to be used when needed. In 1969 then-President Richard Nixon openly threatened to use nuclear weapons against Vietnam to end that war.

Nixon used chemical weapons in Vietnam, including the highly carcinogenic Agent Orange. Bush used Depleted Uranium-coated ammunition during his devastating war in Iraq, leaving Fallujah and other areas permanently radioactive with uranium dust. He accidentally admitted it was a “wholly unjustified and brutal invasion,” when he said Iraq instead of Ukraine during a speech in May.

And while the U.S. has participated in global conventions to ban chemical warfare, Washington never signed on to the articles prohibiting the use of chemical weapons, which it has used repeatedly in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

As a candidate, Biden had promised to reduce U.S. arms sales. But a report by the Quincy Institute for Responsible



Protesters in Philadelphia participate in United National Antiwar Coalition’s call for antiwar actions, Oct. 15.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Statecraft (Qi), released Oct. 21, found that U.S. arms sales have increased under Biden, with weapons even going to countries the U.S. considers “repressive regimes.”

Qi found that roughly two-thirds of current military conflicts involve one or more parties armed by the U.S. Qi researchers reported: “Current U.S. arms policy and practice too often fuel war rather than deterring it. Roughly two-thirds of current conflicts — 34 out of 46 — involve one or more parties armed by the U.S. In some cases, U.S. arms sales to combatants in these wars are modest, while in others they play a major role in fueling and sustaining the conflict.” (TeleSUR English, Oct. 21)

War has become the lifeblood of 21st century capitalism. Weapons manufacturing provides the highest profits, as long as there are conflicts between countries to be exploited. The working class continues to pay the price, as politicians drain funds from domestic spending programs to finance expanding wars.

Pushed to accept cuts in benefits, wages and slashed pension funds, workers are increasingly fighting back with general strikes in Britain, France and elsewhere. Just imagine how powerful these worker actions could be if they included “No more wars!” as one of their demands. □

War in Ukraine

Workers' struggles open path to combat U.S. war drive

By John Catalinotto

To the joy of the military-industrial complex, both parties in the U.S. Congress plan to lock in up to \$50 billion for additional arms purchases, after the midterm elections, to feed Ukraine's army next year.

Moscow and Kiev have traded charges that the other plans to use nuclear weapons. What can the antiwar movement do to stop a European conflagration, as a worldwide nuclear war threatens?

As Workers World has shown over the last nine years, the governments and military of the U.S. and its NATO military allies have provoked this war at each step of its escalation. These provocations have won the support of the billionaires and bankers—the imperialist ruling class—and especially the arms manufacturers. These are the forces the NATO governments serve.

The New York Times, which is a sophisticated propaganda tool at the service of the imperialist ruling class, published an article Oct. 22 that, while warning Washington, holds an answer for anti-imperialists. Its title: "Europe Tires of High Costs Linked to War." In that article, a 69-year-old woman shopping in Rome, who presented her position as one shared by many friends, said, "All they [Kiev] want are arms, arms, arms. I'm sick and tired of them." She wanted negotiations and peace.

The Times article is intended as a warning for those carrying out U.S. policy, which has been to send tens of billions of dollars of arms to Ukraine, to train Kiev's troops and to provide military intelligence. The Times presents some examples of popular resistance to the pro-NATO policies in Italy, Britain, France and Germany, without clarifying the class nature of the growing opposition, nor what that might mean inside the United States.

It is not the abstraction, Europe, that is growing weary of sacrifice. Like all societies, the European countries are divided by classes, who have opposing interests. The ruling class in the European NATO countries, despite economic competition with the U.S. rulers, have attached their fate to Washington and the Pentagon. These rulers have adopted policies that dump the sacrifices on the working class in Europe.

The Times article hints that the working class in Europe, after its first submission to war propaganda, is growing weary of sacrifices made for the benefit of the arms dealers, NATO and the reactionary Kiev regime. A closer look shows that submission to the war machine is being replaced by class struggle.

British workers strike

In Britain a rightist, super-neoliberal Prime Minister Liz Truss, whose initial plan used the Tory regime to enrich the rich and bleed the workers, was forced to resign after only six weeks in office. She was undone by the collapse of the pound and the fear of an ever more militant workers' struggle.

In an Oct. 13 Workers World article, Betsey Piette wrote: "British railway workers demanding wage increases to keep pace with decades-high inflation have spearheaded a wave of industrial job actions across that country since this summer. Their strikes brought a nearly complete shutdown of the rail network, coupled with a national strike by 115,000 postal workers and industrial actions at the country's largest ports in Liverpool and Felixstowe on Oct. 5."

The British ruling class, in its perpetual post-1945 role as junior partner to U.S. imperialism and wedge into Europe, had been leading the way right behind Washington in arming and training the



Protest in the Bronx, New York City, links fight for workers demands with opposition to U.S./NATO war, Oct. 15.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Kiev army against Russia. But the British workers are unwilling to accept new sacrifices, beyond those the British bosses had already imposed.

French workers' general strike

Some 300,000 workers held a one-day strike action in France on Oct. 18 "addressing inflation, climate change and pension 'reform,'" meaning pension cuts. (Workers World, Oct. 27) The action was also in solidarity with the refinery workers, who have been on strike and who are threatened with being "conscripted" and forced to work. "Workers in France are facing a cost-of-living crisis and soaring inflation; at the same time, energy firms are raking in record profits. This has caused widespread anger and has led to calls for a windfall tax on energy companies."

What is significant, regarding the war in Ukraine, is that the Pole for Communist Revival in France (PRCF) is urging Marxist organizations to build these workers' actions—more are planned over the next month—and to link the working-class struggle to the struggle against the war.

"The PRCF, toward which a promising current of adhesion in the youth is taking shape, will do everything possible, so that the general offensive of the working people, associating the defense of social progress, of national independence and of peace, responds in our country to halt the march to continental war wanted by the EU-NATO forces." (PRCF's ezine, initiativecommuniste.org, Oct. 20)

German people 'left in the cold'

German workers have been protesting the high inflation exacerbated by a cutoff of Russian-supplied gas, since the U.S. demanded that EU countries impose sanctions on Russia. Explosions on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines transporting natural gas from Russia to Germany—explosions that point to U.S. military sabotage—have made a deal impossible in the short term and virtually forced Germany's rulers to stay lined up behind Washington.

With weekly demonstrations protesting the sacrifice of popular interests to a war that impoverishes many and enriches a few, the German coalition regime has offered a package to buy fuel and cap prices paid by people to heat their homes.

An article in the Oct. 24 issue of *junge Welt*, however, argues that despite this package, "the majority of the population is likely to be left behind—or rather, out in the cold. This is especially true since measures such as a gas price cap are not expected to take effect at all until the spring. Prices will double..." Even before this crisis, some 2.4 million people in Germany had insufficient heat in winter.

Working-class struggles have grown in other NATO countries. The main union confederation brought out thousands of

workers to demonstrate in Portugal Oct. 16 to protest the degradation of living conditions. And antiwar protests are scheduled for the coming week.

In the United States there have been more strikes over the last two years than there have been for decades. Even more promising has been the organizing of mostly young workers paid less than living wages at giant monopolies like Amazon and Starbucks.

Challenge for revolutionaries

The task for revolutionaries is far from easy with the decline of the worldwide pro-socialist movement, since the 1991 counterrevolution eliminated the Soviet

Union as a major socialist state and a counterweight to U.S., European and Japanese imperialism. Even in European countries where communist parties once had strong influence in the working class—Italy, France and Spain—this is no longer the case. This has allowed the bankers and billionaires to impose their ideas on the population.

One challenge for revolutionary pro-socialists is to assure that some of the neofascist groupings—so-called "populists"—are denied any leadership of protest movements against the central regimes, which are themselves responsible for the imperialist war.

All pro-socialist forces need to take a clear, decisive position against NATO and the U.S.-led war. This must be done in all the NATO countries, where the main enemies of the working class of each country are the bosses and billionaires at home, along with their agents in Washington, the European Union and NATO.

In the U.S. it was a good start that in the United National Antiwar Coalition actions over the week of Oct. 15-22, many raised slogans tying resistance to the war to solidarity with working-class struggles, from strikes to community actions.

While Washington's strategic planners might consider Russia and China to be the strategic enemies of the U.S.—meaning the U.S. ruling class—the enemies of the workers and oppressed peoples of the United States are exactly that same U.S. ruling class and its agents. □



Boston antiwar rally, one of over 70 nationally coordinated actions, Oct. 15-22.

Boston rally demands U.S./NATO stop war in Ukraine

By Maureen Skehan
Boston

Joining the National "NO to U.S. Wars!" call issued by the United National Antiwar Coalition, a swiftly formed ad-hoc coalition of anti-imperialist forces rallied Oct. 22. The People's Speak-out against U.S. imperialism's dangerous proxy war in Ukraine took place at Park Street station on the Boston Common. This war is aimed at Russia to gain hegemonic control of markets, gas and energy resources in Eastern Europe.

The rally gathered socialists, peace and justice activists, and Cuba, Haiti and Palestine supporters, Veterans for Peace members, prison abolitionists, South Asian activists and labor unionists. Many workers and passersby stopped to listen to the speakers and shared their support

for the antiwar messages, which connected the escalating imperialist wars abroad with the deepening economic crisis, budget cutbacks, layoffs, poverty wages and gentrification in the U.S.

Protesters held signs demanding "Union Contracts, Not Military Contracts!" "Stop the U.S./NATO War with Russia in Ukraine!" "No U.S. Intervention in Haiti, Troops Out Now!" "No Cold War On China!" and "Palestine Will Be Free; Land Back!"

Participating groups included the Committee for Peace and Human Rights, Boston May Day Coalition, Massachusetts Peace Action, July 26 Committee, Workers World Party, Veterans for Peace, International Action Center, Boston Area Assange Defense, Green Rainbow Party and Refuse Fascism New England. □

Say NO to U.S. wars!

Antiwar organizations and activists protested outside the federal courthouse in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina, Oct. 22. Workers World Party, Democratic Socialists of America, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Muslims for Social Justice, Communist Party USA, Code Pink and the North Carolina Green Party demonstrated in response to the United National Antiwar Coalition's national call to action. Speakers from the organizations highlighted the damage done to Black and Brown people inside the United States by the war machine, as well as the destruction brought to every country targeted by U.S. imperialism, either by direct attacks or sanctions.



Buffalo, New York

WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE



Raleigh, North Carolina

WW PHOTO: WORKERS WORLD DURHAM BUREAU

Organizations and activists representing the United National Antiwar Coalition gathered in Buffalo, New York, Oct. 21 to protest the U.S.'s imperialist interventions in Ukraine and Haiti. Literature relating to the demonstration was distributed to passersby. Along with Workers World Party, co-sponsors of the event included the Erie County Green Party, Buffalo Democratic Socialists of America, Buffalo Food Not Bombs and the International Action Center.

—Reports by Ryan Lockwood (Buffalo) and Workers World Durham bureau

Referendums in the Donbas to join Russia pass overwhelmingly

By Arjae Red

Four regions that were formerly part of Ukraine — the Peoples' Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk (collectively known as the Donbas region) and the regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — have voted overwhelmingly in a historic referendum to formally join the Russian Federation.

Two of these regions, the Peoples' Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk had voted in favor of independence from Ukraine in 2014. At that time non stop shelling from the Kiev coup government was killing thousands.

The shelling followed a U.S./NATO-backed coup dubbed the “Maidan Revolution,” in which neo-Nazi forces played a key role. Ukrainian armed forces have been routinely violating the Minsk cease-fire agreements, put in place in 2014 and 2015 — despite the fact that the United Nations Security Council adopted the agreement unanimously in Resolution 2202. For years, the Ukrainian government has not recognized the Peoples' Republics and has continued its attacks, killing over 14,000 people.

The latest referendums were aimed at choosing not just independence from Ukraine but joining with Russia. Many inhabitants of the regions are ethnically Russian or are Russian-speaking and have faced persecution by the Kiev regime. There are indications that most of the people in these regions are hoping the vote to join Russia will bring an end to the fighting, at least in their hometowns, and that no other options exist that will accomplish this.

The referendum results of those in favor of joining the Russian Federation are as follows: Donetsk: 99.23%; Lugansk: 98.42%; Zaporozhye: 93.11%; and Kherson: 87.05%.

Voting took place from Sept. 23 to 27 at designated polling places, as well as mobile door-to-door voting to ensure access to those who could not leave their houses, such as elderly or disabled people or people who did not feel safe leaving, due to continued shelling from Ukrainian forces.

Independent journalist Patrick Lancaster interviewed Albina Afenchenko, chairperson of polling station #11 in Donetsk about the voting process. “Every resident in the Donetsk Peoples' Republic has the right to vote. Even people from other districts can vote here, in the Kalininsky district. We all know that it's not safe in frontline villages. People are afraid to live there, so they live here. That's why people can show their passports where their places of residence are indicated.”

Afenchenko explains that voters must submit an application and can be held criminally responsible for voting more than once. Voting was accessible to all residents, regardless of whether they held a Russian, Ukrainian or Donetsk passport.

The U.S. media and its allies have predictably been slamming the referendums as “staged,” claiming that Russian soldiers were intimidating citizens who were in favor of remaining a part of Ukraine from voting. Many people find accusations of election fraud and voter intimidation from the Ukrainian government ironic, since its military continued to bomb civilian areas of voting regions while the vote was taking place.

The U.S. corporate media has characterized the referendums as a sham. But Washington and the U.S. media have never been the authority on free and fair elections. There was no referendum for residents of Mexico to join the U.S. after roughly half the country was annexed through military conquest in 1848. There were no referendums for Indigenous

peoples who were torn away from their lands, which the U.S. government claimed as its own in the process of ongoing genocide spanning from 1492 until today.

Referendum's military significance

Once the referenda are ratified and the regions become accepted as official territory of the Russian Federation, then the Russian armed forces have an obligation to defend this territory the same as they would defend any other part of Russia. At that point, Ukrainian attacks on the people of these regions will be treated as attacks on Russia itself; this could mean a full-blown war. This might deter more Ukrainian attacks, which explains why so many residents looked forward to the vote for many years and are now celebrating.

The danger remains that this could escalate to a potentially nuclear level, if the Ukrainian government and NATO choose to not respect the vote and to continue to shell the regions or attempt to seize them.

As a desperate response to the referenda, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky submitted an expedited application to join NATO. The application was rejected, as Ukraine's bids to join NATO have been in the past. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said, “NATO is not a party to the conflict, but it provides support to Ukraine so it can uphold its right for self-defense.” Stoltenberg's approach was shared by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Rather than hurl their own countries into a war against Russia, the U.S. and NATO continue to designate Ukraine



PHOTO: ALEXANDER KRAVCHENKO / TASS

People at a rally in the Donbas fly flags of the Donetsk People's Republic, Oct. 25, 2017.

an “enhanced opportunity partner”—a springboard from which NATO can funnel weapons against Russia and a human shield NATO can hide behind.

Despite the Biden administration's rhetoric about defending a “free and democratic” Ukraine, the U.S. and NATO have never treated Ukraine as an equal sovereign country but as a pawn. They can use Ukraine's army as a proxy force for NATO wars enforcing U.S. imperialist hegemony, even at the cost of tens of thousands of dead Ukrainians.

This is why the war against Russia continues to churn on, despite massive casualties and no significant sustained gains for Ukrainian armed forces. While U.S. weapons manufacturers make a killing (literally) in profits, Zelensky is in the process of selling off Ukraine's economy to private corporations, slashing labor protections, as well as banning trade unions and the right to collective bargaining in companies with less than 250 employees.

These events show that the only way for Ukraine to be truly free and independent is to break ties with NATO and negotiate for a peaceful resolution with Russia. Until then, the only path available to Ukrainians is to trudge through perpetual war, condemned to fight and die in service of U.S. imperialism. □

Bolsonaro in Brazil

A tough fascist nut to crack

By Sergio Ortiz

Ortiz, an Argentine Marxist-Leninist and a leading member of the Party of Liberation (PL), published this analysis of Brazil's national elections Oct. 8, 2022, on his website. Translation: John Catalinotto.

The Oct. 2 first round of Brazil's elections had a rare mix of positive and worrying aspects, enough to leave a trace of bitterness in the celebrations of the PT [The Workers' Party, or Partido dos Trabalhadores] and its 10-party coalition.

The good part was [Luis Inácio Lula da Silva] Lula's victory, with his goal to return to the Planalto Palace for four years. He obtained 48.37% of the votes (57.3 million votes) against 43.35% (51.1 million votes) of the incumbent Liberal Party president, an advantage of 6.2 million votes.

The bitter taste for the winners arose because they had insufficient votes to win in the first round, needing 50% of the valid votes plus one. And they did not reach that goal, despite the fact that many of the 50 pre-election opinion polls agreed that a runoff would be unnecessary.

This new rejection of the pollsters also entered into the political balance, regarding the reasons for such mistakes. That the people polled are ashamed to say who they vote for. That they change at the last minute. That the studies are made on social strata not proportional to the electorate.

That these companies seek the approval of those who pay for their jobs, etc.

Anyway, the polls in Brazil were a total fiasco, in coincidence with Argentine realities. The crises of the bourgeois democracies of dependent capitalism also have this repeated characteristic of erratic polls.

The Petista disappointment — and that of left-wing and progressive sympathizers in Latin America — had not only to do with the frustrated expectation of seeing the former metallurgist president on Oct. 2, without having to suffer until the second round 28 days later. There were other negatives, such as the growth of Jair Bolsonaro's vote. In numbers he had 1 million more votes than when he was elected president in 2018.

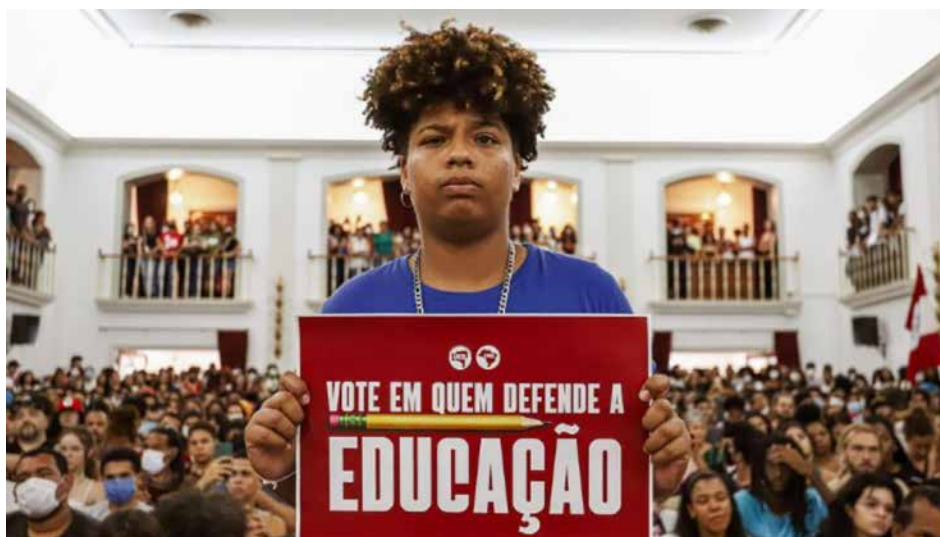
Bolsonaro now won in Brasília (the capital) and the two most important states, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. His candidates won the governorships of most of the 27 states, in some cases in the first round, and in others, such as São Paulo, they are favorites for the runoff. Their caucuses in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate will be the largest, with the worrisome conclusions that this implies for Lula should he win the presidency.

On the offensive ... or at half speed?

Progressive and reformist forces are usually left halfway, when it comes to political confrontation with the conservative blocs. First, they avoid mobilizing popular sectors to play their fundamental role in the streets against the ruling classes. To a great extent, this is done to avoid conflict with the ruling classes, which are the owners of the fundamental levers of a country.

Consistent with this “calm” discourse and assuming that they have already won an election, they avoid hitting their electoral rivals hard, aiming to sponsor a senseless “national unity,” which the enemies of the people would ignore.

Bolsonaro called Lula everything from



The voting is Oct. 28, but the real struggle involves the Brazilian state and the mass movement.

a convict, corrupt and communist to accusing him falsely of wanting to close churches and attack families. All these lies were in line with Bolsonaro's motto of “God, Homeland, Family and Property.”

It was not only words and violent use of social networks and media. Bolsonaristas murdered three PT sympathizers in the weeks prior to the election, opening a serious risk of what those fascists could do in case, at the end of the month, a defeat of the retired military man takes place.

The PT did not even hit hard on the health catastrophe experienced by Brazil with the coronavirus, which killed 687,000 people. The beast said it was a gripezinha (little flu) and did not buy vaccines in time. This flank was not sufficiently hit, and General Eduardo Pazuello, former Minister of Health and co-responsible for that crisis, won a deputy seat for Rio de Janeiro.

Only in the final stretch of the campaign, and in one of the three televised debates of the candidates, did Lula criticize Bolsonaro's policy during the pandemic, but it was not part of a general offensive.

The PT campaign command and its allies also avoided deepening the political denunciation of Bolsonaro's embodiment of fascism and his political and military core (in addition to relying on the armed forces, he incorporated more than 6,000 military personnel in government functions).

The opposition's timidity left, for many voters, the taint of corruption on Lula, rather than on Bolsonaro. During the two governments of Lula and Dilma Rousseff, there were cases of corruption via bribes from Odebrecht [a Brazilian conglomerate], but neither Lula nor Rousseff were corrupt. The former spent 19 months in prison between 2018 and 2019; but his convictions were overturned in 2021 because the trials had been rigged by Judge Sergio Moro, who was awarded by Bolsonaro with the Ministry of Justice and now with a senatorial seat.

The current president has many accusations of corruption, both with his three sons, two of them legislators, and throughout his passage through nine different right-wing parties between 1989 and 2022 (data from Gustavo Veiga in Tearing Down Walls) and as president from 2019 until today. And yet many voters still believe Lula is the dishonest one!

And that is not explained only by social networks. What's basic is the passivity of progressive-reformist movements, which out of “political correctness” avoid attacking the enemy. Meanwhile, this right wing plays hard, on the offensive, and that's why it regains ground — as Bolsonaro has

in recent months.

This is what Bolsonaro's friend [former Argentine President] Mauricio Macri did, who had lost by 15 points in the first round of August 2019 and redoubled his attacks on the Frente de Todos and gained 8 points that October. Macri lost, but was left standing to seek his revenge, something that is currently maturing in Argentina. And isn't it what Bolsonaro could do, even if he loses Oct. 30?

You may win, but you may not govern?

Everything should indicate that Lula will be elected president on Oct. 30. The discredited polls put him ahead again by 10 points. The candidates who came in third and fourth place, Senator Simone Tebet of the center-right MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] and Ciro Gomes of the Labor [Democratic Workers Party], have called on their followers to vote for Lula.

Among the few hopes for the neo-Nazi are two: the evangelical churches, which are part of his electoral strength; and the Auxílio Brasil plan, which provides social aid of US\$120 to 20 million very poor families. Obviously this state bonus increased his votes in the first round and could improve them in the runoff, but not so much to discount the difference of the 6 million votes in the first round and the 7% that Tebet and Gomes could bring to Lula.

Should Bolsonaro be defeated, we can expect anything. As his political center is Donald Trump, anything includes an attempt to take over the Capitol, as did the U.S. neo-Nazis who denounced Joe Biden's victory as a fraud. Something like that cannot be ruled out; although as a disciple of the tycoon, the South American fascist can also evaluate that it would be more convenient for him to unite his forces and wait.

Bolsonaro will have half or more of the governors of the country, a majority of 273 deputies (among his own and allies) against 128 of the PT and allies, a majority in the Senate counting his own and allies, etc.

If instead of imitating the first incendiary Trump, he chose to copy the second Trump, the one who waited for Biden's attrition to position himself as Republican leader for November's midterm elections, Bolsonaro can be even more dangerous. This is what Macrismo did in Argentina,

whether Macri or someone else is the candidate in 2023. And this happens just with the emergence of right-wing governments in other countries, such as Meloni in Italy and Truss in Britain.

If Bolsonaro were to adopt this tactic, he will be betting on not letting the PT govern.

Lula pivots to the center-right

By choosing Gerardo Aleklím, a right-wing politician, as his vice-presidential candidate, Lula copied himself and [Argentina's] Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. Himself, because he previously put as his vice-president José Alencar (Liberal Party) and encouraged Rousseff to do the same with Michel Temer (MDB), who ended up staging the parliamentary coup d'état in 2016 and opened the way to Bolsonarism two years later. And Cristina Fernandez, who did something similar with Alberto Fernandez as a gesture to the electorate and to the real power of dependent capitalism.

Lula's developmentalism combined social policies, which lifted 30 to 40 million people out of poverty, with economic policies favorable to the monopolistic industrialists of São Paulo (FIESP) and bankers like Henrique Meirelles, owner of private banks and head of the Central Bank during most of Lula's government, later Finance Minister of the pro-coup Temer.

From that very politically limited progressive government, today Lula comes with a more center-right proposal. Proof? We have already indicated that his campaign preaching was less than light in the face of an enemy that was hitting below the belt. He did not make important program-

matic proposals to fight poverty, for example, to tax the richest and bankers more.

On the contrary, he had meetings with Brazil's business leaders, seeking to reassure them that with his new government, they have nothing to fear. On the other hand, he has met with envoys of the Biden administration; and Sept. 21 he met with Douglas Koneff, the chargé d'affaires in charge of the U.S. embassy in Brazil.

It is well-known that Lula would not inherit

the drowning country that the Frente de Todos inherited [in Argentina]. It is said that its Central Bank has reserves of \$360 billion. Its annual inflation will be less than 10%. The GDP has been growing, albeit modestly, but with the same tremendous inequality as always: a lot of poverty and 33 million citizens who do not eat well, with Indigenous peoples subjugated and the Amazon forest cleared.

Brazil, like Argentina, needs a popular, democratic and anti-imperialist solution. Here there was neoliberalism with Macri, and there neo-Nazism with Bolsonaro. It is obvious that Fernandez de Kirchner is not the same as the CEO of the PRO [Macri], nor is Lula the same as Bolsonaro, but the drama is that the limits and cowardice of those fronts, which were once progressive and retain a modest part of it, opened the doors to the return of the vicious right wing, one with a business face and the other with a military face. □

Should Bolsonaro be defeated, we can expect anything. As his political center is Donald Trump, anything includes an attempt to take over the Capitol, as did the U.S. neo-Nazis who denounced Joe Biden's victory as a fraud.

Defend the right of prisoners to vote!

With the midterm elections less than two weeks away, there have been at least 20 cases of people arrested and charged with voter fraud — really, voting while Black in the state of Florida. The allegations stem from the 2020 elections. All those arrested had been previously incarcerated for murder or sex offenses and are currently on parole.

Florida’s governor is the notorious Ron DeSantis, an ultra right-wing bigot, who is openly racist, anti-trans, anti-communist and anti-worker. And Florida has the highest number of former “felons” per capita of any state.

A state constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 2018, restored voting rights to many former prisoners, but others were left out, leaving many uncertain or misinformed about their eligibility to vote. The amendment excludes people convicted of murder or felony sex offenses and requires them to apply separately to have their voting rights reinstated. But how many former prisoners are even aware of these distinctions of who can and cannot vote once they are released?

A roundup of some of those arrested in Florida was videotaped this past August by The Tampa Bay Times and then shared



PHOTO: ACLU FLORIDA

with the New York Times. An African American, Tony Patterson, asked cops on one of these videos why he was being arrested for two counts of felony for voting “illegally” in the 2020 elections, when he was told then that his right to vote had been reinstated. Patterson said, “What is wrong with this state, man? You all put me in jail for something I didn’t know nothing about. Why would you all let me vote, if I wasn’t able to vote?” (New York Times, Oct. 19)

Robert Lee Wood, who is Jamaican and one of the 20 arrested, had his voter fraud charges dismissed by a Miami-Dade County judge. When Wood was

arrested during a 6 a.m. raid, his lawyer, Larry Davis, explained how his client was treated: “The house was surrounded with police that had automatic weapons. They wouldn’t even let him get dressed, and they took him to jail.” (New York Times, Oct. 21)

The dismissals of these charges may be a legal setback for DeSantis, but they won’t deter these racist attacks on the most oppressed. They are the norm, not the exception. Former prisoners, just like prisoners behind the walls, are criminalized, marginalized and demonized, especially if they are people of color. They not only find it almost impossible to find a decent

job but also affordable housing, education, health care, respect and dignity.

The arrests are meant to terrorize individuals and to terrorize any person of color who attempts to exercise their democratic right to vote — especially but not exclusively in the Deep South. This right was violently stolen after the overthrow of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period and not restored until the signing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. Right-wing maneuvers in the state legislatures and the courts have eroded various amendments in this historic law, which was won by the blood, sweat and tears of African Americans.

Denying any current prisoner or former prisoner the right to vote continues the historic disenfranchisement of African Americans.

While voting in a Democrat does not fundamentally mean better conditions for the masses, defending those who have been denied the right to vote can lead to class solidarity around many other struggles and issues. Class unity will ultimately help defeat the capitalist class and their reactionary mouthpieces like DeSantis — who work overtime to keep the multinational working class divided and confused on who their real class enemy is. □

U.S. hands off Haiti!

Continued from page 1

as its guide. U.S. military operations marched throughout Central America, while seizing Cuba and Puerto Rico from Spain (and from their people) in 1898.

With U.S.-owned property at stake, in 1915 the imperialist United States sent its military to occupy Haiti. The troops stayed there until 1934 and left Haitians with a despot in power, “Papa Doc” Duvalier, who ruled through the hated and feared “Tonton Macoutes” militia gang. In 1986 a popular revolt finally expelled Duvalier’s son, “Baby Doc.”

In 1990 Haitians overwhelmingly elected Bertrand Aristide president. Aristide’s popular democratic government had just begun to improve life for the Haitian workers and farmers, when officers in Haiti’s army and the Macoutes overthrew him in 1991 with U.S. backing.

When the ensuing regimes failed to stabilize Haiti, the U.S. intervened again in 1994, its troops replaced by United Nations forces in 1995. Aristide was allowed to return under U.S. tutelage. Although his party, Fanmi Lavalas, won seats in parliament, Aristide was kept out of office until he won another election for president in 2000.

When Aristide was unwilling and unable to serve Washington and Wall Street’s interests, a U.S. Special Forces unit — who were allegedly bodyguards for Aristide — seized the Haitian president Feb. 29, 2004, and flew him into forced exile in the Central African Republic.

There followed a succession of U.S. puppet governments, propped up by a U.N. intervention force, which after 2010 managed to introduce cholera while augmenting Haiti’s police. Meanwhile a succession of destructive hurricanes and



Haitians say down with U.N. intervention.

floods and a devastating earthquake in 2010 further destabilized Haitian society.

Despite Washington’s role in creating turmoil in Haiti, the U.S. has refused permanent political asylum to Haiti’s people, who fled that turmoil.

Workers World supports self-determination for Haiti. It is up to the people of Haiti to determine who runs their country and how they run it. U.S. military intervention may try to protect U.S.-owned property, but it has never brought Haiti

prosperity or even stability. U.S. domination is the opposite of self-determination.

The U.S. ruling class — along with the French ruling class — owes Haiti reparations for over two centuries of crimes. And they should be made to pay those reparations.

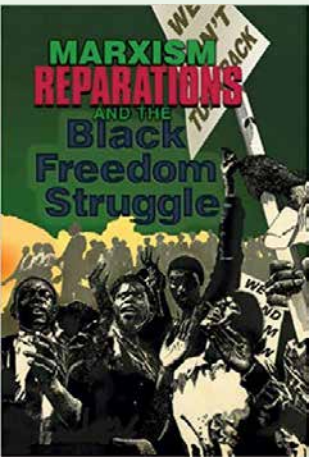
Workers World joins the many Haitian popular organizations who are saying Washington needs to keep its hands off Haiti and get its troops out NOW! □

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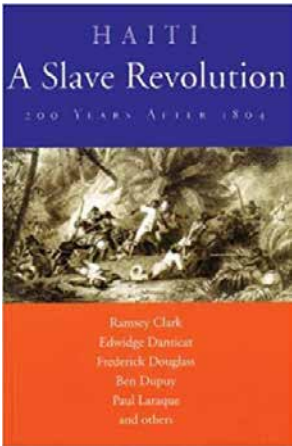


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WW COMMENTARY

Organize and ‘Say Yes!’ to LGBTQ2S+ lives

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Ultra-right wingers are once again trying to gain political power in the U.S. on the backs of queer and oppressed people. In March—to bolster a run for president—neofascist Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the infamous “Don’t Say Gay” bill to prohibit discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools. (“Protest at the Piers,” Workers World, June 16)

Now 33 right-wing Republicans have introduced a Congressional measure Oct. 18 to prohibit any federal money from being used to teach children under 10 about LGBTQ2S+ issues. The forbidden “sexually oriented material” includes “any topic involving gender identity, gender dysphoria, transgenderism, sexual orientation or related subjects.”

Note that prohibited sexual topics are those which deviate from narrow heterosexual, male-dominated, conservative Christian beliefs about what kind of gender and what kind of sexuality is “moral” or “normal.” Note that proposed law flies in the face of both scientific and historical evidence about the broad and natural range of human sexuality and gender.

And this bill conveniently ignores the sexual abuses committed by heterosexual lawmakers and preachers—from former President Donald Trump to Southern Baptist ministers. Not to mention the

fact that child sexual abuse and rape is typically committed by male relatives or friends within the traditional heterosexual family structure. Or that the most frequent cause of death for pregnant women is overwhelmingly violence at the hands of their (almost always) male current or former partners.

The queer-baiting tactic is familiar and old: Point at LGBTQ2S+ people as the danger to children; rack up votes—and ignore firearms, poverty, racism, ableism and environmental hazards as the serious threats to children.

Those of us in LGBTQ2S+ communities have lived through vicious targeting before—many, many times. When we dare to live openly in our gender and sexuality, we are condemned as “unnatural” and punished—as this writer was in 1976, when the state of North

Carolina took away my children because I openly claimed my life as a lesbian.

Modern-day witch hunt

Many have heard of the infamous anti-gay 1977 “Save Our Children” campaign, fronted by ex-Miss America competitor Anita Bryant and financed by Florida orange growers and big business.

But Florida also had the 1956 Johns Committee, dedicated to rooting out queer people, communists and civil rights activists. This legislative inquisition questioned hundreds of people and investigated a

“homosexual menace” at Florida State University, where as a result faculty and staff were fired and students fled the campus in fear. Those targeted had been active in organizing support for the Black Civil Rights Movement.

In 1964, the committee published its infamous purple-covered pamphlet “to prepare ... children to meet the temptations of homosexuality, lurking today in the vicinity of nearly every institution of learning.” (Leslie Feinberg, “Civil rights activists were gay-baited, red-baited,” Lavender & Red 55, workers.org)

The bill recently introduced by Republicans is one moment out of thousands and thousands of horrific instances in the last century of baiting and torture of LGBTQ2S+ people—where we have lost our jobs, our homes, our friends, our families, our children and sometimes our lives.

The national “Don’t Say Gay” bill is far-reaching in its impact on any institution that receives federal money—universities, public schools, hospitals, medical clinics, public radio programming and more.

In a parallel to the 1980s attacks on explicit public information about HIV/AIDS, “sexually oriented material” is defined as anything about LGBTQ2S+ people.

A new twist is parents would be given the right to sue in “bounty lawsuits” for any acknowledgments of LGBTQ2S+ people—for instance, against a pediatric hospital that put a Pride flag on a medical pamphlet about counseling.

The chances of the bill passing in a Democratic-majority Congress are



Rally protests ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill, St. Petersburg, Florida, March 2022.

PHOTO: MARTHA ASENCIO-RHINE

nonexistent at the moment, but the fear the bill raises is real.

Mass mobilization has beaten back such attacks in the past, including the horrifying 1978 Briggs Initiative, officially California Proposition 6, which sought to ban lesbians and gay men from working in the state’s public schools. The rationale? Once again, the outrageously false claim that we pose a danger to children.

Instead, under the slogan “We Are Everywhere,” LGBTQ+ people went door to door and everywhere in their communities to come out and affirm our daily, ordinary and extraordinary worth. The amendment was roundly defeated at the polls.

Now LGBTQ2S+ people have made a world where we are visible all the time, in all places, in all roles and have won laws and public acceptance for our lives.

Now the challenge is to continue to organize on a mass level to defeat this new neofascist scapegoating “Save the Children” campaign.

We can win a chance for all people, including children, to have access to the facts and glory of our LGBTQ2S+ lives—and to the knowledge that queer life is one path among many that can be taken toward the future. □

MUNDO OBRERO

¿Por qué Biden libra una auténtica guerra de chips contra China?

Continúa de página 12

tener entonces poco efecto. La única consecuencia es que las empresas de chips estadounidenses se pierden el gran mercado chino.

En el pasado Estados Unidos ya había presionado a otros países para que dejaran de suministrar productos de alta tecnología a China. En el caso de los chips, se trató principalmente de Corea del Sur, Japón, Taiwán y los Países Bajos. Con la nueva medida las empresas extranjeras que trabajen con tecnología estadounidense deberán actuar de acuerdo con las restricciones de Estados Unidos. Tienen que solicitar el permiso de Estados Unidos caso por caso.

Por supuesto, esos países no están ansiosos por hacerlo, ya que China es un cliente muy importante, si no el más importante. Samsung, por ejemplo, es el mayor fabricante de chips de memoria del mundo. En parte como consecuencia de la nueva medida, esta empresa surcoreana prevé un 32% menos de ingresos. Queda por ver si estos países buscarán y encontrarán posibles vacíos legales, y en qué medida.

En especial Washington quiere incluir a Taiwán en su estrategia de aislamiento. Taiwán representa el 92% de los chips de gama alta del mundo. Para China las importaciones de Taiwán son de una importancia vital económica y tecnológicamente.

La reciente visita provocativa de Nancy Pelosi y otros políticos estadounidenses a Taiwán forma parte a todas luces de esta guerra de chips. A mediados de septiembre el Senado estadounidense aprobó un proyecto de ley que prevé 6,5 mil millones de dólares en ayuda militar directa a la isla. Washington está aumentando la presión contra China en varios frentes.

¿Posibilidades de éxito?

Los chips son el principal motor de la electrónica. China representa ahora un 12% de la producción mundial, lo que es absolutamente insuficiente para las necesidades propias. Solo una sexta parte de lo que necesita en chips se produce en el país. Además, por el momento no es capaz de producir chips de última generación.

En otras palabras, el país depende en gran medida de las importaciones de chips. Anualmente representa alrededor de 400 mil millones de dólares. Si ese suministro se ve en peligro, no significaría solo una pérdida económica muy grande, sino que también perjudicaría gravemente

el avance tecnológico. En este sentido, los chips representan el talón de Aquiles de la industria china.

Para superar esta dependencia y ponerse al día tecnológicamente China está invirtiendo más que cualquier otro país en esta industria estratégica. El país ya ha hecho grandes progresos en varios ámbitos. Por ejemplo, ha producido con éxito un chip de 7 nanómetros (2), lo que sitúa a China solo una o dos “generaciones” por detrás de los líderes del sector en Taiwán y Corea del Sur.

A pesar de estos avances, por el momento China sigue dependiendo de las importaciones de otros países (3). No tiene por qué seguir siendo así. Analysis Mason, una empresa consultora de primera línea, afirmó en un informe reciente que

China podría ser autosuficiente en chips en un plazo de tres a cuatro años.

En cualquier caso, la estrategia restrictiva de Estados Unidos motivará al gobierno chino a destinar aún más recursos y a realizar avances. Asia Times (3 de octubre) pone el ejemplo del bloqueo en

Hasta el siglo pasado el poder de ataque militar se basaba en las armas de fuego, los buques de guerra, los aviones de combate o los misiles (nucleares). En la era digital los chips son la columna vertebral de las capacidades económicas y militares.

2015 del suministro de procesadores Xeon Phi de gama alta de Intel a los fabricantes de superordenadores chinos. Un año después los investigadores chinos desarrollaron esos procesadores por sí mismos.

En el pasado Estados Unidos consiguió a menudo llamar al orden a países y ponerlos firmes, pero es muy dudoso que esto funcione con China. A finales de esta década sabremos si el intento de Estados Unidos de neutralizar la industria china de los chips ha tenido éxito o ha fracasado.

Notas:

(1) Los semiconductores son componentes electrónicos basados en material semiconductor. Ejemplos de semiconductores son un diodo y un transistor. Se podría decir que los semiconductores son como los bloques de construcción de los chips. Los chips son circuitos integrados de pequeño tamaño. Forman parte de un ordenador u otros dispositivos electrónicos. En los medios de comunicación no se suele distinguir entre semiconductores y chips.

(2) Al parecer, la empresa en cuestión, SMCI, está trabajando ahora en chips de 5 nanómetros aún más avanzados.

(3) Por ejemplo, China no puede fabricar dispositivos semiconductores avanzados sin equipos de litografía EUV de ASML (Países Bajos) y herramientas de automatización del diseño electrónico (EDA) de Synopsis y Cadence (Estados Unidos) o Siemens (Alemania).



25 de octubre de 1977: Miembros del Partido Young Lords toman la Estatua de la Libertad, desalojan a los turistas y enarbolan la bandera de Puerto Rico, exigiendo la independencia del territorio estadounidense y la liberación de los presos políticos puertorriqueños.

‘Un juego de estafa política’

Durante el fin de semana del 7 al 9 de octubre, las manifestaciones en favor de la justicia reproductiva, se corearon cánticos como “votenlos a fuera” y “Roe, Roe, Roe tu voto.” Estos cánticos fueron dirigidos por los organizadores de la Marcha de las Mujeres que intentaban canalizar la energía militante de los jóvenes activistas para trabajar en la elección de los candidatos del Partido Demócrata.

Como es lógico, millones de mujeres, personas con problemas de género y aliados participarán en las elecciones del 8 de noviembre con el objetivo de derrotar a los políticos de derechas, misóginos y fascistas. En algunos estados hay referendos sobre la consagración o no del derecho al aborto en la legislación estatal. Muchas personas, recién registradas, votarán por primera vez.

Pero, ¿es suficiente una estrategia puramente electoral para restablecer y asegurar el derecho al acceso al aborto, recientemente anulado por el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos? ¿O para proteger el derecho a estar a salvo de los policías asesinos racistas; los derechos a un trabajo, a la educación, a la vivienda y a la atención sanitaria; el derecho a ser representado por un sindicato; o incluso el derecho básico a votar? ¿Garantizará la elección de los demócratas alguno de nuestros derechos actualmente asediados?

No.

Tenemos una visión marxista del Estado capitalista, que el llamado “sistema bipartidista” está diseñado para mantener. Nuestro punto de vista corresponde al del gran líder revolucionario V.I. Lenin, que explicó en “El Estado y la Revolución” que “Decidir una vez cada pocos años qué miembros de la clase dominante han de reprimir y aplastar al pueblo a través del parlamento [o en nuestro caso el Congreso y los gobiernos estatales] — ésta es la verdadera esencia del parlamentarismo burgués, no sólo en las monarquías parlamentarias-constitucionales, sino también en las repúblicas más democráticas.”

‘Un juego de estafa política’

Encontraríamos un terreno común con Malcolm X, quien, en el histórico discurso “La papeleta o la bala”, dijo que los afroamericanos eran “las víctimas de la

democracia, nada más que una hipocresía disfrazada”.

En un discurso pronunciado en Cleveland menos de un año antes de su trágico asesinato, explicó: “Tienen un juego de estafa, un juego de estafa política, y tú y yo estamos en medio”. Más adelante en el discurso añadió: “El mismo gobierno por el que vas al extranjero a luchar y morir es el que está en una conspiración para privarte de tu derecho al voto, privarte de tus oportunidades económicas, privarte de una vivienda decente, privarte de una educación decente.”

En aquella época el Partido Demócrata controlaba el Senado, la Cámara de Representantes y la Casa Blanca — Malcolm X se refirió al presidente Lyndon Johnson de Texas como “un cracker del sur”. El partido albergaba a los “Dixiecrats” sureños blancos-supremacistas y segregacionistas. En ese momento, la Ley de Derechos Civiles era objeto de un filibusterismo por parte de miembros de ambos partidos.

Lenin escribió en 1917 y Malcolm X hablaba en 1964, pero sus palabras siguen siendo válidas hoy.

No es difícil disipar el mito de que el Partido Demócrata es el partido de la clase trabajadora y de los oprimidos. A nivel local, a menudo son los gobiernos municipales y los tribunales dirigidos por los demócratas los que actúan para fortalecer el aparato represivo del Estado —

drenando los presupuestos municipales al gastar dinero en cárceles y nuevos equipos para la policía, mientras se niegan a actuar contra los policías violentos.

A nivel federal, los funcionarios electos demócratas defienden el papel del imperialismo estadounidense como policía del mundo, entregando billones de dólares al Pentágono y, más recientemente, financiando la guerra en Ucrania. El presidente “más pro-sindical” Joe Biden, el secretario de trabajo Marty Walsh y los nombrados por Biden para la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales no han logrado bloquear la flagrante destrucción de sindicatos por parte de Amazon, Starbucks y otras grandes corporaciones.

En cuanto al derecho al aborto, vale la pena recordar que el ex presidente Jimmy Carter firmó la Enmienda Hyde, que negaba la cobertura de los abortos a las personas embarazadas de bajos ingresos con Medicaid. Los activistas de los derechos reproductivos dicen: “Es hora de derogar la Enmienda Hyde”, pero ¿cuánto hay que esperar para que algunos funcionarios demócratas de Washington acepten el reto?

Votar no altera fundamentalmente el equilibrio de poder bajo el sistema de explotación capitalista. Todas las ganancias que los trabajadores y los oprimidos han conseguido han sido a través de la lucha de clases. Eso ha sido y seguirá siendo cierto, independientemente de quién sea elegido el 8 de noviembre.

¿Quieres un cambio? Organízate y lucha por él. □



Marcha por la justicia reproductiva, Atlanta, 2 de octubre de 2021.

¿Por qué Biden libra una auténtica guerra de chips contra China?

Por Marc Vandepitte, Jan Jonckheere

Fuente: dewereldmorgen.be, 13 de octubre. Publicado por rebellion.org el 17 de octubre. Traducido del neerlandés para Rebelión por Sven Magnus.

La clave del futuro

La tecnología es la clave del futuro. Por un lado, es la base del poder militar y, por otro, de la productividad económica y la posición competitiva en el mercado mundial.

Hasta hace poco Estados Unidos mantenía una posición dominante e inextinguible en ambos ámbitos. La Casa Blanca quiere mantener ese monopolio a toda costa, pero el ascenso de China amenaza con ponerle fin.

Según el asesor presidencial de seguridad de Estados Unidos Jake Sullivan, “nos enfrentamos a un competidor que está decidido a superar el liderazgo tecnológico de Estados Unidos y está dispuesto a dedicar recursos casi ilimitados a ese objetivo”. (whitehouse.gov, 16 de septiembre)

Por lo tanto, Estados Unidos ha identificado a la República Popular China como su principal enemigo y trata de frustrar el ascenso económico y tecnológico de este gigante asiático.

Guerra por los chips

Sobre todo los semiconductores y en particular los chips (1) están en la mira. Es lógico, porque en el futuro, la supremacía geopolítica probablemente dependerá cada vez más de los chips informáticos. (Financial Times, 25 de febrero de 2021) Los chips son circuitos integrados que en

la práctica forman el sistema nervioso de todos los dispositivos electrónicos.

Hasta el siglo pasado el poder de ataque militar se basaba en las armas de fuego, los buques de guerra, los aviones de combate o los misiles (nucleares). En la era digital los chips son la columna vertebral de las capacidades económicas y militares.

Según James Mulvenon, un experto en ciberseguridad china, “el Pentágono ha decidido que los chips son la colina en la que está dispuesto a morir. La industria de los chips es la última en la que Estados Unidos es líder y es la industria sobre la que se construye todo lo demás”. (Economist, 16 de mayo de 2019)

A principios de octubre de 2022 la Casa Blanca pasó de las palabras a los hechos. El gobierno de Biden introdujo amplios controles de exportación que obstaculizarán gravemente los intentos de las empresas chinas de obtener o fabricar chips informáticos avanzados.

Bajo el gobierno Trump las empresas estadounidenses ya no podían vender chips a Huawei. Biden ha ampliado ahora esas restricciones comerciales a más de 40 empresas chinas, incluidos varios fabricantes de chips. La nueva medida prohíbe a cualquier empresa estadounidense o no estadounidense suministrar a esas empresas chinas hardware o software cuya cadena de suministro incluya tecnología estadounidense.

Las restricciones a la exportación no solo se dirigen a las aplicaciones militares, sino que intentan bloquear por todos los medios el desarrollo del poder tecnológico de China. La estrategia consiste en aislar a China del resto del mundo en las cadenas de suministro de chips para negarle

la oportunidad de desarrollar su propia industria de chips en el ámbito nacional.

Paul Triolo, experto en China y en tecnología, califica esta nueva medida de “punto de inflexión importante” en las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y China. “Estados Unidos ha declarado esencialmente la guerra a la capacidad de China para promover el uso de la informática de alto rendimiento con fines económicos y de seguridad”. (FT, 7 de octubre)

Al mismo tiempo, Estados Unidos está haciendo todo lo posible para aumentar su ventaja tecnológica. Por ejemplo, el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de la Casa Blanca acaba de publicar un documento de 47 páginas titulado “Estrategia nacional para la fabricación avanzada” (“National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing”) que contiene 11 objetivos estratégicos para aumentar la competitividad de Estados Unidos en materia de chips.

Al margen de la geopolítica, la industria de los chips también es un gran negocio. La capitalización bursátil de las mayores empresas de chips que cotizan en bolsa supera ya los 4 billones de dólares [billón = millón de millones]. (Economist, 23 de enero 2021) China gasta más en las importaciones de chips de ordenador que en las de petróleo. (Financial Times, 18 de julio, 2018)

En busca de aliados

Aunque a Biden le gusta decir que le encanta colaborar con los aliados, esta guerra por los chips solo emana de Estados Unidos. Los expertos admiten que si otros países siguen abasteciendo a China, las restricciones pueden

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