Tech workers held actions in multiple cities Sept. 8, demanding Big Tech drop its Project Nimbus contract with the apartheid police state of Israel. Project Nimbus is a $1.2 billion-dollar contract Amazon and Google have with the Israeli government and military for “cloud computing” that aids in surveillance and persecution of the Palestinian people through artificial intelligence.

Actions were held in Seattle, New York City, San Francisco and Durham, North Carolina.

In Seattle, activists spoke about reasons why workers will not support the Zionist project and oppose the cooperation of Israeli forces with the Seattle Police Department. The Palestinian people face untold horrors of oppression by the Israeli government. People are forcibly removed from their homes, harassed and beaten in the streets and spied on constantly by one of the most advanced cybersecurity divisions in the world.

While chants echoed through the city of Seattle, speeches on why tech workers will not support this were heard. The main theme was dear: Tech workers want to build tech to bring people together not to terrorize people. One speaker made the connection that as Seattle police train with Israeli forces, this technology will not only terrorize those abroad but will eventually be used against activists and agitators locally as well.

San Francisco workers “don’t want their labor being used to surveil”

About 150 people crowded the sidewalk outside Google and Amazon offices on Market Street in San Francisco. Many were young tech employees of these two corporate giants.

“Tech workers don’t want their labor being used to surveil Palestinians, expand illegal Israeli settlements and inflict violence on Palestinians living under military occupation,” said a statement passed out by members of the Palestine Action Network.

“I feel like I am making a living off the oppression of my family in Palestine,” said one Google employee. A former Google worker, Ariel Koren, who had been forced to resign from the company after speaking out, said, “Don’t forget that millions of Jews oppose Israel’s oppression of Palestinians.”

Aisha from the Palestinian Youth Movement said the Project Nimbus surveillance “can be used to decide which children can be allowed to cross the street to go to school … which young person will be sent to administrative detention … or who will be sent to facilities where torture is practiced. Remember that children as young as 13 years old have been sent to prisons where they can languish for years.” The technology uses facial recognition, which has a notoriously high margin of error, and even claims to be able to perform “emotional analysis” of the people it surveils.

Breaking the Silence, a group of Israeli military veterans, who are against the occupation, issued a statement that “data collection over the Palestinian population is an integral part of the occupation.” The Arab Center for Social Media Advancement said mass surveillance is “used to create a feeling among Palestinians that we are being watched all the time, which could make Palestinian population control easier.”

Speakers pointed out that the Nimbus software can be used in other countries against oppressed people, including Black and Brown people right here in the United States. Sharif Zakout, from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, highlighted “the role Israel plays in the worldwide repression of people’s movements.” In the past this has included extensive arms sales to right-wing dictatorships in Latin America (for example, Pinochet in Chile and Somoza in Nicaragua).

The book, “The Unspoken Alliance: Israel’s Secret Relationship with Apartheid South Africa,” by Sasha Polakow-Suransky, documents Israel’s provision of arms, including nuclear capability, to the racist South African government in the 1970s and 1980s, to combat the rising South African freedom movement at that time. Modern software like Nimbus can be reexported by Israel to repressive regimes today.

As workers it is our responsibility to hold our employers accountable for the contracts they sign. We should not be aiding in the harassment and displacement of Palestinian people, and we should not be building tech that is used to oppress. Tech workers should be horrified to see tech used to subjugate oppressed people around the world.

A statement from the workers of Amazon and Google can be found here: tinyurl.com/4sdz8amv. Additional Information: notechforapartheid.com.

Mackenzie Dolan is a tech worker in Seattle.

By Mackenzie Dolan and Dave Welsh
Seattle and San Francisco

**Google, Amazon workers say**

‘No tech for Israeli apartheid’
Activists get reproductive justice, voter access on Michigan ballot

By Martha Grevatt

Michigan’s progressive movement scored a victory, when the Michigan Supreme Court ruled Sept. 8 to allow two reproductive initiatives to appear on the ballot in November.

The Reproductive Freedom for All proposal endorses in the state constitution the right to reproductive choices — including abortion and contraception — and ensures reproductive health care services such as miscarriage management, birth control, prenatal care and in-vitro fertilization. If the measure passes, it will nullify the 1931 law that bans all abortions with exceptions only made to protect the life or health of the pregnant person.

Reproductive justice activists believe the constitutional language is needed, because right-wing forces are involved in two legal challenges to the current stay on enforcing the 1931 law. Unless reproductive rights are codified in Michigan’s constitution, this draconian law could be put in force, essentially criminalizing abortion. That would have ramifications beyond Michigan, where many pregnant people have had to travel from other states, such as neighboring Ohio, where abortion became illegal following the June overturn of Roe v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Until the 5-2 ruling by the Michigan high court, the fate of the Reproductive Freedom for All proposal was in limbo after the State Board of Canvassers tried to keep it off the ballot over a bogus technical issue, potentially disenfranchising more than 700,000 voters who signed the petition.

Now voters in Michigan will join those in four other states in deciding the issue at the polls. California and Vermont have issues on the ballot similar to Michigan’s. Montana and Kentucky have right-wing ballot language banning all or most abortions — but a comparable proposal suffered a decisive defeat in Kansas Aug. 2.

The New York State legislature passed the Equality Amendment Sept. 9, which adds language to that state’s constitution ensuring the right to abortion.

These elections are one of many fronts, where the reproductive justice movement is pushing back against the horrendous June decision by the misogynist U.S. Supreme Court.

Expanding voter access

The Promote the Vote 2022 proposal will be on Michigan’s November ballot, despite Republican efforts to keep it off — based on another technicality. It will improve voter access by making early and absentee voting easier, along with constitutional enshrinement of current practice allowing in-person voting with photo identification or a signed affidavit.

It has been shown that limits on voter access disproportionally impact participation by people of color. As with Reproductive Freedom for All, a grassroots, volunteer-driven campaign collected more than the 425,000 signatures required by state law to place the Promote the Vote proposal on the ballot.

The same forces opposing both initiatives demonstrate that the struggles against white supremacy and sexism — and all oppression and exploitation — are interconnected. If the two proposals pass in November, it will be a double victory against both racist disenfranchisement and patriarchal denial of bodily autonomy.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multiracial 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 immigrants, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future.

No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with ever-greater profits.

Worlds and capitalist classes produce all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in the hands of the working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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Housing activists crash developers’ party

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Residents of the University City Townhomes and their supporters, determined to save their homes from conversion by property developers, have taken their fight directly to the movers and shakers behind gentrification in Philadelphia. Over 100 residents and supporters converged on the University of Pennsylvania’s convocation for the incoming class of 2026, Aug. 29, shouting down President Liz Magill with chants of “Housing is a human right” and “Stop Pennfrication.” Protesters then used the occasion to educate students about UPenn’s racist history in the destruction of a Black Philadelphia neighborhood.

On two occassions, protesters crashed the 2022 annual reception and fundraiser for the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia (BIAP) Political Action Committee, described as an “evening of networking with members of the Philadelphia City Council and the Pennsylvania General Assembly.” The private event, held at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), was attended by dozens of bankers, real estate developers and government officials. With the private entry ticket set at $250 for non-BIAP members, no workers or low-income residents were expected on the guest list.

When building guards tried to stop demonstrators from getting on elevators to reach the party on the 11th floor, many climbed flights of stairs in defiance. BIAP is the most powerful development PAC in Philadelphia. The for-profit developers of “low-income housing” lobby and monopolize state and city money in the name of protecting Black and Brown communities, without seeking input from residents. The Land Bank purchases delinquent properties in low-income communities, then hands them off for pennies to the developers who convert them to middle-income housing. Since this PAC has been active in Philadelphia, the number of available affordable low-income units has drastically declined.

City Controller Rebecca Rhyner was seen fleeing the event as demonstrators entered the room. Councilmember Kendra Brooks, who ran for office on the Working Families Party ticket, hightailed it to an outside patio, in hand, to avoid the protesters who shouted, “Hey Kendra, we have some working families out here.”

Brooks was one of the City Council members who support the University City Townhomes residents’ council—meeting with them earlier in the week seeking support for the city to buy the property. On Sept. 8, Brooks, along with Councilmembers Helen Gym and Jamie Gauthier, whose district includes the townhomes, released a previously prepared statement calling for a one-year extension of the federal contract between Altman Group and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The council members call for the city to commit funds to preserve affordable housing and for state and federal matching funds. UC Townhomes residents are demanding that public officials stand up to greedy developers and purchase the property from Altman. There is precedent for this. Recently University Square Plaza, a residence for elderly and disabled people across the street from UC Townhomes, was preserved with local government funds when the owners’ contract with HUD expired.

Press conference and rally at City Hall
UC Townhomes, called “the People’s Townhomes” by residents, is owned by developer Brett Altman, who was a prior president of the BIAP. Altman has refused to meet directly with residents, who initially expected to be evicted Sept. 7. They only learned from media sources that the date had been extended to Oct. 8.

To mark this partial victory residents and supporters held a press conference and rally of over 300 people outside City Hall earlier in the evening, before marching to the surprise conference.

Several residents voiced their determination to remain in their homes. They are demanding that the City of Philadelphia buy the block where the 70 homes, housing over 400 residents, are located. Resident Shailynn Hadiwala stated: “We stopped the sale of the property to a commercial player. This was a victory. Now we have a plan for the city to purchase and preserve the property.”

Resident Rasheeda Alexander read the residents’ demands which include “stopping outside investors and developers who are buying up our neighborhoods and pushing up prices for Philadelphia families.” They are calling on Altman Group to extend their contract with HUD for two years.

Other speakers included resident Mel Hairston and Workers World Party member Milt Wilson, who both took the blame for the housing crisis directly on the profit-driven system of capitalism. Hairston stated, “Social killers aren’t solely responsible for the destruction in our neighborhoods. There’s a war going on right now. They want to bring the war to the people! We bringing it right back to them.”

“We are taking back what is ours by storm. Right now, we are taking the streets and shutting them down. It is us versus Altman and his developers.”

Behind colorful banners and chanting: “Our city is not for sale, so we ain’t going nowhere,” demonstrators circled City Hall before marching to the surprise conference.

A video of the protests on Sept. 7 is available at tinyurl.com/jbemnymj.

Queen City Workers’ Center fights for tenant’s rights

By Lydian Standeford
Buffalo, New York

For two months, fair housing activists with the Queen City Workers’ Center (QCWC) Political Action Committee, described as a “way to multiply your efforts.”

Even if they think they have the upper hand, the Leslies are given less opportunity to exercise bad faith arguments. By observing the activists not breaking any laws, local police have predictably found excuses to disrupt the protests on various occasions and inconvenience the organizers. Brenner has now faced additional legal persecution for protesting, Tonawanda PD issued her a citation for the use of a bullhorn at a picket, and a Tonawanda judge is trying to fine her more than the legal maximum for the offense.

The activists are working within the legal right to protest and are staying on public property. The Leslies’ complaint that the protesters use too many swear words is not legally punishable. Despite the activists not breaking any laws, local police have predictably found excuses to disrupt the protests on various occasions and inconvenience the organizers.

Brenner has now faced additional legal persecution for protesting, Tonawanda PD issued her a citation for the use of a bullhorn at a picket, and a Tonawanda judge is trying to fine her more than the legal maximum for the offense.

Are the Leslies winning this battle? Even if they think they have the upper hand, they are only extending their own discomfort by not meeting the organizers’ demands. The next time Brenner goes to court, she knows she won’t be alone and any attempt at further abuse by the Leslies will continue to be witnessed by QCWC members. QCWC are making it clear that the battle is only just beginning. Their battle will continue to be a thorn in their side.

Many people who face Brenner’s situation are not available or not able to file complaints due to disability, age or other social factors, and landlords get away with more by assuming that such tenants will be unable to advocate for themselves if they are not. The members of QCWC see Brenner as a friend and a fellow worker not just a client seeking help. This is reflected in the protest chants raised by volunteers, like “Leslies, fork over the cash! You can’t treat our friend like trash!”

Getting involved in a workers’ center is a way to multiply your efforts. Even if your job isn’t unionized or you don’t have a tenant organization, a worker’s center can help offer representation to individual workers and help them organize.
ATTICA REBELLION
Paris Commune of the Black Liberation Movement

By Larry Holmes

The following excerpted article first appeared online Sept. 14, 2016, to mark the 45th anniversary of this historic uprising of incarcerated workers and revolutionaries.

The story of Attica, Sept. 9, 1971, is the story of how prisons can be incubators of revolutionaries — like George Jackson, assassinated 2 ½ weeks earlier at San Quentin Prison.

Attica has been described as the biggest gesture of state violence since the massacre at Kent State; many of its 39 people including 10 prison employees.

Attica was spontaneous, but to the extent that it was led, it was organized by revolutionary, highly political individual who considered themselves Marxists, Maoists, Black liberationists. They organized committees for food and for negotiations. They put together 28 demands in a few hours!

Their demands addressed every aspect of survival in prison: health, food, an end to solitary confinement, legal rights, the right to family visitation, the right to get political material in the mail. Particularly important was the right to family visitation, the right to get political material in the mail. Particularly noteworthy, in relation to yesterday’s national prison strike, is that about one-third of their demands addressed prisoner labor rights.

This is from their statement: “We demand an end to prison labor exploitation, … Prisoners who refuse to work are punished and segregated. This is a class issue.”

Their demands included: Prisoners should be considered workers. The work day should be eight hours. Prisoners should have the right to form a union. Prisoners should be made to conform to New York State labor laws, including wages and workers’ compensation for accidents. Prisoners should have access to vocational training, union pay scales, unions.

Workers World Party played an important role at Attica. The Party had a tremendous reputation with prisoners, through both Youth Against War and Fascism and the Prisoners’ Solidarity Committee, and was known in all state prisons. We did in fact go to Attica, as the Attica negotiating committee asked that a delegation of 20 comrades go. We had a committee of 15, representing prisoners in each of the 12 units.

We went to Attica as workers, and we found that prisoners wanted to see us as workers. We wanted to see them as workers. We asked the Governor to meet with us, and he invited us to his office.

U.S. president did applicable, but Nelson Rockefeller, the oil billionaire, then the governor, gave the orders to crush the uprising. He had a reputation as an Eastern liberal, but he was actually a running-class monster with presidential aspirations, so he ordered in more than 1,000 troops, guards and state troopers from four to five states around, to shoot indiscriminately. The state killed more than 30 prisoners and 10 hostages. The bourgeois propaganda was that the prisoners had killed the hostages, with the media giving all sorts of lying details. But it later came out that all who died, died of bullet wounds — and the prisoners had no guns. Surviving prisoners were tortured, without their wounds being treated.

The ruling class made their point: “There is a price to pay” if there is rebellion.

Organize prisoners, NOT cops and guards! But the uprising opened up the question of prisoners’ rights and liberation. From then on, the cutoff, isolated prisoners became a much bigger issue in our movement, as well as the issue of prison- ers as workers.

This brings us to yesterday’s strike, on Sept. 9. The prison population works within the walls of the prison. Prison workers were on strike on Sept. 9, 1971. Now it is six to seven times that, and there is the prison-industrial complex. More than 1 million of those prisoners work within the prisons. They do construction and clearing land; they do clothing manufacture; or they work for McDonalds, ATT or Brown & Root. Many, many corporations are using prison labor.

The prisoners are a detachment of the working class, a new social class with slave-like conditions for pennies a day. For yesterday’s strike, unionization and minimum wages were among the many demands, as well as abolition of prison labor.

It is noteworthy that foremost among the forces helping the prisoners are anarchists, members of the International antibiotics. Workers of the World, organized in revolutionary, as revolutionaries Marxists we have many differences as anarchists, but we should give credit where credit is due.

The I.W.W. writings on why they are motivated should be read by unionists. These make clear that while they are sup- porting prisoners to have workers’ rights, their ultimate objective is to abolish prison slave labor. This is a good reminder to labor unionists that our ultimate objective should be to end slave labor.

This is a reminder to the labor movement of the necessity to adopt revolu- tionary methods in the labor struggle. Revolutionaries aid in the organization of the working class, so that workers can better their conditions.

However, revolutionaries never forget that our ultimate goal is not merely improving the conditions under which workers labor is exploited but rather the abolition of exploitation, the abolition of all wage slavery and capitalism.

The strike raises larger issues. For instance, in 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a case brought by a North Carolina prisoners’ union that the prison- ers do not have rights as workers in a civil action, that it was not so. But when has the claim of “no rights” ever stopped us from organizing workers? We are not waiting for legalism; we are part of the working class. We fight for workers organizing in the “right-to-work” states in the South, for undocumented workers who don’t have bourgeois rights as workers.

One problem for unionists is that they have cops and prison guards in these unions. That makes it harder for the union to take on the prison slave labor conditions. They should get rid of the prison guards and organize the prisoners!

The working class is changing. Now a big section is temporary and unorgan- ized. The Black Lives Matter movement is part of the working class in motion and is demanding a stop to killing Black and brown workers. Red also demands jobs and employment.

Our Party has to take the lead in activating the white section of the working-class organizing. If you have a Marxist view of the working class, our class is far from disappearing — it is expanding! End prison slave labor!
The longest strike in the U.S. is going on right now in Brookwood, Alabama, where United Mine Workers are still on the picket line after 17-plus months. In April 2021, 1,100 workers walked out of the Warrior Met mines. They had given serious wage and benefit concessions to save the company from bankruptcy—and then the company broke its “promise” to restore those cuts. As Haeden Wright, president of UMWA Auxiliary Locals 2368 and 2245, said in a Oct. 31, 2021, Twitter broadcast, the struggle is over “higher compensation, better benefits, better holidays—on every front of the contract. We’ve been making them millions of dollars!”

Now—in a union-busting move similar to those being mounted by Amazon and Starbucks—Warrior Met sent out a list of 40 workers who will be rehired, even if the company signs a new contract with the UMWA. This is truly a “blacklist.”

In 1912, miners in Kansas City, as most of those listed are African American, leaders of the strike—or both.

UMW International President Cecil Roberts issued a Sept. 2 statement denouncing Warrior Met’s racism: “I would note that the list includes the majority of leaders in every UMWA local union that is on strike. It also includes a disproportionate number of African-American members. … Warrior Met now wants to wipe out the union’s local leadership and attack our union’s diversity.”

“The Wall Street, ‘greed is good’ mentality of Warrior Met upper management has deluded them into believing this action will intimidate the miners and scab vigilantes. It is the first step in a discriminatory process of dehydration, prosecution and ‘production lost’ because of the strike. This is a company that made $146 million in profits from January to March alone and its stock is up 46.6 million in 2021. (investors.warriormetcoal.com, Aug. 3)

Roberts analyzed the ruling in an Aug. 3 statement: “What is the purpose of a strike if not to impact the operations of the employer, including production? Is it now the policy of the federal government that unions are required to pay a company’s losses as a consequence of their members exercising their constitutional rights?”

Roberts further affirmed: “I want to be clear: Warrior Met Coal instigated this strike and has brutally extended it through its sustained unwillingness to reach a fair and reasonable agreement at the bargaining table.

“We have no intention of paying its costs for doing so. The right to strike in America must be preserved. We will fight this at every level, in every court. We will spend every penny of our resources, rather than give in to something like this from the NLRB, Warrior Met or any other entity.”

The Alabama miners remain defiant. They are receiving constant and ongoing moral support from other miners and unions. Most recently the National Association of Letter Carriers voted at its Aug. 10 convention to send $25,000 to the UMWA strike fund, saying, “This ruling from the NLRB is unjust and must be overturned, and the labor movement. NALC stands with the members of UMWA and their efforts to fight this ruling.” (nalc.org, Aug. 10)
Global South countries strive for vaccine independence

By Lyn Neeley

A radical cooperative of 15 countries in the Global South is trying to create the next generation of messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and drugs. They are integrating medical technology, skills and knowledge, manufacturing practices, intellectual property and training, from their respective universities and pharmaceutical companies. The cooperative is an mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub, centralized at Africa’s South African biotechnology company. The first goal is to expand global access to new medicines by creating self-reliant, vaccine- and drug-making capabilities in the Global South. The second step is to transfer or share skills and technology throughout established centers in Africa, South America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Once the transfer hub develops a new next-generation mRNA technology, it can quickly make vaccines to fight impending COVID-19 variants and other diseases claiming the lives of millions — such as tuberculosis, malaria, influenza, Zika and measles.

Clinical trials for some of these vaccines are predicted to start at the end of 2022. Countries seeking technology could be approved soon.

This approach has the potential of preventing the next pandemic: “Until you can vaccinate the whole world in six months instead of six years, we’re going to continue with challenges like we are having right now with the variants,” says Barney Graham, a researcher who conducted foundational work on mRNA vaccines at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, and is one of the hub’s advisers. (tinyurl.com/btd4q57)

Surmounting patent laws

At this research stage, the hub’s work is “legal.” But the biggest hurdle in its success will be international patent laws. The hub receives help from the World Health Organization, and it is one of the hub’s advisers.


By Julia Wright

The first goal is to expand global access to new medicines by creating self-reliant, vaccine- and drug-making capabilities in the Global South. The second step is to transfer or share skills and technology throughout established centers in Africa, South America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The Global South vaccination efforts are precisely what the world needs right now. They are not only a moral imperative, but also a strategic one, as they will ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against COVID-19. In this sense, the Global South countries are truly the heroes of the global vaccination effort.

Global South countries have been at the forefront of the vaccine race, demonstrating their commitment to self-reliance and public health. They have shown that it is possible to develop and manufacture vaccines in the Global South, and that these vaccines can be effective against the COVID-19 virus.

Furthermore, the Global South approach is not only beneficial for the Global South, but also for the rest of the world. By ensuring that vaccines are manufactured in the Global South, the costs of vaccines can be reduced, making them more affordable for everyone, especially in low-income countries.

In conclusion, the Global South countries are playing a crucial role in the global vaccination effort. Their success is not only contributing to global health, but also to global equity and justice. It is time for the world to recognize the Global South’s contribution and support their efforts in the fight against COVID-19.
How royalty reinforces imperialism

By Sara Flounders

As Britain’s Queen Elizabeth was near death, a professor of Nigerian heritage at Carnegie Mellon University, Uju Anya, tweeted her view: “I heard the chief monarch of a thing, tapping ground with my feet, May her pain be excruciating.” This tweet brought down a torrent of condemnation.

A personal attack by Jeff Bezos, the world’s wealthiest person, confirmed the state this multibillionaire has in defending his class and its enshrined property rights.

Uju Anya tweeted her response: “If anyone expects me to express anything but disdain for the monarch who supervises a government that sponsored the genocide that massacred and displaced half my family and the consequences of which those alive today are still trying to overcome, you can keep wishing upon a star.”

This exchange reflects a global divide in how the British Queen is remembered. It raises the larger question: Why is the death of Queen Elizabeth treated with such overwhelming reverential attention, not only in England but in the U.S. corporate media?

Even though the United States was founded on a struggle for independence from the British monarchy, upholding “the royals” is of fundamental economic importance to U.S. imperialism. Royalty reinforces privilege, the right of class rule and the right of inheritance.

Queen Elizabeth was the official figurehead of one of the world’s wealthiest families. The British monarchy’s real estate holdings were valued at roughly $28 billion in 2021, according to Forbes and other sources; its total wealth was estimated at roughly $88 billion in 2017 by the brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance.

The queen reportedly successfully lobbied the British government in the 1970s to change a draft law in order to conceal her private wealth from the public, claiming it would be embarrassing.

From British Empire to British Commonwealth

Of greater importance to world imperialism is that Queen Elizabeth was, and now King Charles III is, the titular Head of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Formerly called the British Commonwealth, this neo-colonial political institution ropes in 2.2 billion people, one-third of the world’s population in 65 countries. Overwhelmingly the Commonwealth members are former British colonies; most are now politically independent.

More than 95% of the members of the Commonwealth are former colonized countries and people of color. Yet by right of inheritance, the head of this institution belongs to a fabulously wealthy white family. Today it is named “Head of the Commonwealth of Nations.”

Legalizing piracy

The Commonwealth is supposedly a network based on a “shared history” — a history of abuse and piracy. It maintains, even after independence, the brutal roots of the British Empire and its distorted trade relations, through British banks and corporations.

Being a member of the Commonwealth of Nations means accepting and making a commitment to “democratic values.” What this really means is accepting the existing capitalist property relations and corporate ownership, including private corporate ownership of patents, and capitalist laws of inheritance. Many of the codes and courts that were set up under British colonial rule were left in place at the time of nominal independence.

Guaranteeing existing “ownership” — rather than demanding Britain pay reparations to the former colonies or return the lands, resources and industries the colonizers had confiscated — was in the past each country was forced to sign. Most countries of the British Empire were left impoverished and underdeveloped by British colonialism. Today’s Commonwealth status in fact, through promising a protective network and continued trade for their products, forced countries to be part of an economic network based on past colonial theft and expropriation.

Zimbabwe chooses land reform

Zimbabwe, 20 years after independence through a land reform act, finally distributed land to subsistence farmers from the estates of wealthy white corporate farmers who had expropriated the land. The whole weight of the Commonwealth came down on the people. Zimbabwe was expelled and all Zimbawe’s ties with all African members of the Commonwealth countries and Britain were ordered cut.

The U.S. of course backed up Britain in these harsh sanctions that created hyperinflation and economic chaos. These brutal measures were intended to be an example to other African countries, where the masses were demanding land reform and distribution of expropriated land.

This kind of policy is the basis of Wall Street’s sup- port today for an institution that enforces unequal capi- talist property relations.

A waning empire

Never once in 70 years did Queen Elizabeth or her fam- ily or her predecessors speak out against or even apologize for any of the crimes of British imperialism. Yet Britain and the British Empire have paid and still pay the price for their crimes.

This is the clearest sign that the power of British and U.S. banks to dictate to countries of the Global South is weakening. Each country knew, from bitter experience in times of crisis, that their concerns and needs would be overlooked by the British banks and the royal family, whose generational wealth had been provided by their stolen labor and resources.

Columbus community protests another police killing

By Martha Grevatt

The Columbus, Ohio, area has one of the highest rates of police shootings in the country. Since 2018 there have been 62 shootings, 19 of them fatal, in Franklin County. A large majority of those killed have been Black.

The most recent racist police murder took place Aug. 30, when Columbus police fatally shot 20-year-old Donovan Lewis in his bed — recalling the similar killing of Breonna Taylor by Louisville, Kentucky, police in 2020, as she slept in her bedroom.

Police arrived at Lewis’ home after midnight to serve a warrant on him for several charges. When Lewis did not heed orders to exit the home, officer Ricky Anderson entered his bedroom and immediately shot Lewis in the abdomen — as he was getting out of bed with his hands up. While Lewis was groaning in pain, officers handcuffed him.

Columbus community and other family members were among those who took to the streets in protest of the evening of Sept. 2. Speaking through tears, Lewis’ mother, Rebecca Duran, said, “He loved to sing. He loved sports. He wanted to be a lawyer. He loved people unconditionally.”

“He was so sweet and so kind, even when someone disregarded him and there was a sit- uation,” added Donovan’s father, Daryl Lewis. “He was so forgiving; he would forget about it and still come to you and show you love.”

After rallying on the steps of Columbus Division of Police, protesters marched through downtown Columbus, stopping briefly to listen to music Lewis had composed.

Protest organizers J.U.S.T.—Justice, Unity and Social Transformation — announced plans for more actions to demand justice for Lewis.

Since the September rally and march, Ohio State University students held a protest Sept. 6, and on Sept. 8 Lewis’ family and the family attorney held a press conference on the steps of Columbus City Hall.

A large crowd attended Lewis’ open casket funeral Sept. 10, where the Rev. Jeremiah Posey Sr. said Lewis “was just a young man, and he deserves justice.”

Monarchy is a survival of the tyranny

By James Connolly

Irish Freedom Fighter, Marxist and labor leader James Connolly wrote these words in 1910. Connolly, along with James Larkin, was a leader of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union during the 1914 Dublin Lockout. The British govern- ment executed Connolly by firing squad in 1916 for his leadership role in that year’s heroic Easter Rising.

What is monarchy? From whence does it derive its sanction? What has been its gift to humanity? Monarchy is a survival of the tyranny imposed by the hand of greed and treachery upon the human race in the darkest and most ignorant days of our his- tory. It derives its only sanction from the sword of the marauder and the helplessness of the producer, and its gifts to humanity are unknown, save as they can be measured in the per- nicious examples of triumphant and shameless iniquities.

Every class in society save royalty, and especially British royalty, has through some of its members contributed something to the eleva- tion of the race. But neither in science, nor in art, nor in literature, nor in exploration, nor in mechanical invention, nor in humanizing of laws, nor in any sphere of human activity has a representative of British royalty helped forward the moral, intellectual or material improvement of mankind.

But that royal family has opposed every forward move, fought every reform, persecuted every patriot and infringed against every good cause. Slandering every friend of the peo- ple, it has befriended every oppressor. Ignorantized today by misguided clerics, it has been notorious in his- tory for the revolting nature of its crimes. Murder, treachery, adultery, incest, theft, piracy — every crime known to man has been committed by some one or other of the race of monarchs from whom King George is proud to trace his descent.
Pakistan: Climate catastrophe caused by Global North

By Tania Siddiqi

Following months of intense humidity and a catastrophic heat wave—temperatures reaching upwards of 124°F—Pakistan is once again bearing the brunt of the Global North-induced climate crisis.

According to the United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the government of Pakistan, due to monsoon rains and melting glaciers, one-third of the country is under water; 33 million people are displaced; 1.1 million homes have been completely destroyed or damaged; 3.6 million acres of crops and orchards have been washed away; and 1 million livestock have been killed. (Women’s Democratic Front, Sept. 9, 2022)

Organizations that are delivering direct relief are reporting more detailed accounts of this disaster. According to the Women’s Democratic Front, there is a much higher scale of devastation and losses. The scale of this disaster is unfathomable.

The WDF has noted: “[W]omen and children from the working class, mainly peasant, tenant and landless families in peripheries, are the most and worst affected ones. Most male workers have left for Gulf countries and urban centers within Pakistan, due to poverty and joblessness caused by prolonged imperialist war, financial imperialism and debt servicing for decades.”

“High male labor migration has resulted in the feminization of agriculture and natural resource management. Their crops, farms and tools, fisheries, livestock, poultry, homes and belongings have been washed away. They even can’t find dry land for funerals and the burial of their loved ones, who continue to die due to disaster and diseases.”

Climate catastrophe, colonialism and capitalism

Since 1959, Pakistan has been responsible for only 0.4% of the world’s historic CO₂ emissions. The U.S. is responsible for 21.5%.

The events happening in Pakistan are not unprecedented. Rather, they are a continuation of colonialism’s legacy in the region. During its 200 years of domination in the subcontinent, the British Empire was responsible for the deaths of 35 million people; and the cost of colonial theft in India by the British equals up to $3 trillion. The British Bengal from 1943, which killed 3 million, was the result of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill’s colonial policy.

Shortly after gaining independence from Britain, Pakistan became a tool to further U.S. imperialism. The WDF explains: “We are suffering for the last 40 years from an imperialist war [waged by the U.S.] in our region. Pakistan is a front line and a battlefield for this war.

All our youth continued to be used as gun fodder/cheap labor in this war. Despite repeated floods in 2010, 2011 and 2014, there has been a heavy increase in military expenditure at the cost of water infrastructure, better water and natural resource management and public welfare. The war has also caused environmental degradation. The enforced migration of Afghans to Pakistan caused increased pressure on natural resources and food security.”

Now, another Cold War has started — this time between the U.S. and China. The WDF states: “The growth and profiteering-based capitalist development model of the international financial institutions (IFIs) has ruined the natural flow of river water. Big dams, barrages and canals in irrigated feudal heartlands are killing the reason for continued floods in the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, Pakhtunkhwa and Seriaki Waseb. All the big flood infrastructure projects were financed by IFIs, and do not consider the potential environmental impacts.”

Floods in Pakistan has caused an estimated $10 billion in damages. The U.S. has pledged a pathetic $30 million in “humanitarian assistance.”

Smash U.S. imperialism

The ongoing catastrophe in the Pakistan crisis is a political issue; as Marxist-Leninists, we must contextualize it as such. WDF explains: “Transforming structures of exploitation and oppression at home is our own battle, and we will fight that battle. However, we think that the left in the Global North needs to struggle against imperialism within the imperialist Global North to not only decarbonize but also destroy and decolonize the Global South and the world. We believe that this is the battle the Western left must fight to express solidarity with us.”

There’s nothing natural about the disaster in Pakistan, and there’s no such thing as a coincidental revolution. The only way to defeat U.S. imperialism is through international solidarity. Decarbonize, Decolonize and Démilitarize! Solidarity with the masses of Pakistan! Build a workers world!

War propaganda threatens nuclear meltdown

By G. Dunkel

The United States and its imperialist allies in the European Union have a big political problem. The embargo/buyout that they so swiftly and gleefully placed on Russia’s energy exports, mainly oil and gas, had the unintended consequence of generating much higher profits to Russia in selling to markets outside U.S.-EU control, as well as sharply increasing energy costs in western Europe.

Goldman Sachs, the prediction that the energy costs for EU households this coming winter will increase by $2 trillion, or about 15% of EU’s GDP (Bloomberg, Sept. 6).

Since the U.S. has its own domestic supplies of both gas and oil, this surge in energy costs is less of a threat to its economy. For Russia, it is usually the tool most used to build political support on a domestic front for troops on the front line. While the EU and the United States don’t officially have “boots on the ground” in the current proxy war, they are both funneling huge amounts of military assistance to Ukraine.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken promised a fresh $2 billion to Ukraine Sept. 5 to support a new offensive. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, on a Sept. 10 visit to Kiev, “promised Ukraine further military assistance.” (Deutsche Welle)

Nuclear ‘threat’ propaganda for Ukraine’s army

In the first flush of war propaganda, excluding Russian and Belarusian participation in athletic or cultural venues was widely accepted. Blue-and-yellow ribbons — Ukraine’s flag colors — were everywhere.

But the fervor has faded. The impact of articles and videos — praising the heroism of the Ukrainian people, their victories, the “incompetence” of Russia, the “arrogance” — has diminished as the war grinds on month after month. The U.S. has made much of the United Nations’ condemnation of Russia’s “special military operation,” presenting this as worldwide condemnation and ignoring the fact that both India and China (each with over 1.4 billion people) were among the 35 nations which abstained on that vote.

Now it appears that the EU and the U.S. have picked the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station (ZNPS) as the new propaganda issue to use against Russia, playing on global fears of another Chernobyl, which was also located in Ukraine.

On April 26, 1986, while Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union, there was a catastrophic nuclear accident at the No. 4 reactor in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant near the city of Pripyat. As workers attempted to carry out a poorly designed experiment, two people died in an explosion that spread a huge amount of radioactivity throughout Europe; many more died over the years that followed due to radiation poisoning.

ZNPS is now the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. Built by the Soviet Union near the city of Enerhodar, it sits on the southern shore of the Kahkovka Reservoir on the Dniper River.

This is an area of Ukraine that has been under Russian control since early 2022. Much of the ZNPS Ukrainian staff remained after the Russians took over. The plant was producing power for both the Ukrainian and the Russian grid until recently.

Enerhodar, where the families of the staff live, has recently been cut from the grid. There is no power for water, sewerage, cooking or heating, which puts a lot of pressure on the staff families. The degradation of living conditions in Enerhodar is going to force the families of the ZNPS staff members to leave, which will lead the staff members to leave with them.

ZNPS has been the target of some heavy international (even atomic energy) publishing, an agency of the U.N., to demand the plant and surrounding infrastructure be removed. (bighink.com/hard-science, Sept. 9)

Tom Hartfield, experimental physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, said Zelensky is exaggerating. He points out that the design of ZNPS, and the physics this design relies on, make a catastrophe highly unlikely. The plant’s safety systems would have to be suddenly destroyed, while the reactor vessels were damaged beyond repair.

The verdict? Nuclear catastrophe is scientifically unlikely. Elimination of fighting in the area would be safer but is not always urgent.

The threat of nuclear catastrophe is being exaggerated to frighten people in the U.S. and EU countries to back a war being waged to reap profits for U.S. weapons companies and to strengthen U.S. power globally. (Lolita Baldour, “Allies push for U.S. weapons,” AP, Sept. 9)
U.S. firms get rich, Ukrainian youth die

By Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein

Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein is a Venezuelan international relations expert, who was previously Director of the International Relations of the Presidency of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, his country’s ambassador to Nicaragua and an advisor for international politics for TeleSUR. This article, published Sept. 7, was translated from Spanish by United World International and edited by WW.

Although it is not widely known, few social scientists have theorized as much and as well about war as Vladimir I. Lenin. In his 1915 book "The War and Revolution," Lenin wrote: "The end of the conflict will take place in the military arena "as a continuation of politics by other means." That's because leadership and strategic command in the conflict, which is the need to kill in order to survive. Incidentally, because the decision to give one's life, for something in barbarity that it entails. In the warlike conflict, the best soldiers of an army and the officers who command them participate in the conflict. No matter how much the technique objectively intervenes decisively to forge victories, only those who have participated in a war know the barbarity that it entails. In the warlike conflict, the best and the worst of the human being is unleashed; the best because the decision to give one's life, for something in which one believes, exceeds any analysis about the subjectivity that could motivate such action. Incidentally, this does not apply to mercenaries and hired killers, who only fight for the money and emoluments they might get. But war also unleashes the worst of the human condition, which is the need to kill in order to survive. It's also possible to see that what separates a common politician from a leader is basically the latter's ability to successively manage the elements related to defense and security, first of all to ensure the direct interests of political parties, and it is essential to have the genius and ability to conduct foreign policy and international relations. The rest can be done by anyone, especially if they are well advised. I had the chance to meet Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, the greatest military genius of the 20th century in Latin America, and I know what I'm talking about.

Direction of the war in Ukraine

This long discourse is aimed at analyzing the direction of the war in Ukraine and its decisive element, which means leadership and strategic command in the conflict, and which takes place not only in the military arena.

On the one hand, the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has given clear signs of his ability to manage the war against Ukraine, which is the main objective of the conflict.

The same cannot be said of those who manage the war from the other side of the trench. When the head of European "diplomacy," Joseph Borrell, affirms that the end of the war in Ukraine is "in sight," Fidel Castro, who knows nothing about the war, forced the Ukrainian armed forces to carry out a military operation that from the beginning had no chance of success and that cost the lives of 20,000 youths. These young Ukrainians believed that they were sacrificing themselves for the Homeland, when in reality they were dying for the commercial interests of the large transnational corporations and weapons manufacturers from the United States that are making huge profits from this war.

These young Ukrainians believed that they were sacrificing themselves for the Homeland, when in reality they were dying for the commercial interests of the large transnational energy and weapons manufacturers from the United States that are making huge profits from this war.

The truth is given in the opinions of experts, none of them friends of Putin or Russia. Let's read what some of them have to say. When the war was just beginning, in a long interview, Jacques Baud, colonel of the Swiss army, expert in military intelligence and deputy in NATO and the U.N., was asked how to evaluate the Russian offensive.

Baud answered: "Attacking another State goes against the principles of international law. But the background to such a decision must also be considered. First of all, it must be made clear that Putin is neither crazy nor out of touch with reality. He is a methodical and systematic person; that is, very Russian. I think he was aware of the consequences of his operation in Ukraine. He [Putin] assessed, obviously rightly so, that whether he carried out a 'small' operation to protect the population of Donbas or a 'massive' operation in favor of the population was the job of soldiers; he realized that oppression is not political interests not even related to the traditional rhetoric and trappings of the West. When looking at the map of military operations, the recent and much vaunted Ukrainian "counteroffensive" in the south, it is hard to believe that such an action was planned by professional soldiers. This action involves a penetration into a sector of the Russian defense, leaving Ukrainian flanks open while advancing in depth, to the point of making it impossible for logistics to fulfill its mission of guaranteeing the combat supplies necessary for success.

This is especially dangerous because Borrell's view of the facts leads to deeply mistaken decisions that result from mistakes made by leaders of soldiers. The logic of their objectives intervenes decisively to forge victories, even when there are shortcomings or insufficiencies of the material elements that comprise its objective side.

In modern warfare, although technological weapons play an increasingly relevant role, the main and conclusive tool continues to be that of the humans who participate in the conflict. No matter how much the technique has been developed, the objective of the war is still to occupy territory. And occupation is only possible when the soldiers of an army and the officers who command them take it by the effective use of geographical space.

According to those who have participated in a war know the barbarity that it entails. In the warlike conflict, the best and the worst of the human being is unleashed; the best because the decision to give one's life, for something in which one believes, exceeds any analysis about the subjectivity that could motivate such action. Incidentally, this does not apply to mercenaries and hired killers, who only fight for the money and emoluments they might get. But war also unleashes the worst of the human condition, which is the need to kill in order to survive. It's also possible to see that what separates a common politician from a leader is basically the latter's ability to successively manage the elements related to defense and security, first of all to ensure the direct interests of political parties, and it is essential to have the genius and ability to conduct foreign policy and international relations. The rest can be done by anyone, especially if they are well advised.

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Perestroika: A Marxist Critique

By Sam Marcý

Articles from 1985 to 1990 which examined critically both the words of Gorbachev and the negative developments within the Soviet Union during that period, as they occurred. Anyone who wants to understand the role of the USSR in the history of the 20th century would benefit from reading Marcý.

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100 Years Later: Some Lessons of the Great Bolshevik Revolution

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NY Times – ‘Learn to live with COVID deaths’

On Labor Day, hail workers in motion!

As Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) has repeatedly noted in response to the Times articles, had China taken the same approach to the pandemic as the U.S. did, 4.5 million more Chinese people would be dead. By the end of 2022, population 1.4 billion, over one million people have died since the initial outbreak in early 2020. The country continues to see spikes in COVID-19 deaths in 2022 from omicron variants. Currently there are 450 COVID-19 cases per day in the U.S., roughly 160,000 deaths per year from omicron variants. The United States did, “has been a drag on China’s economy, travel and everyday life,” as lockdowns led to “shortages of food and other daily necessities in some cases.”

A major difference between socialist China and capitalist U.S. was laid bare by the failure of the U.S.profit-driven health care system to meet the demands of the COVID-19 crisis. This is still being experienced in 2022, as thousands of health care workers are first in the line of fire in massive strikes across the country.

There is no denying that China, as a workers’ state, has policies designed to benefit one, the working class. And China has provided vaccine assistance to other workers around the globe. Times writers frequently attack China’s COVID-19 policy for being “political” yet view the U.S. as a major political voice for the U.S. and global capitalist ruling class.

Just how many lives will be lost from these “business as usual” policies?

NY Times columnist Austin Ramzy writing from Hong Kong.

He, and other Times writers busy attacking China for not losing the coronavirus battle, are blind to the reality of the world’s largest economy. The Times clearly shares the capitalist-class viewpoint that the world’s priority should be to get back to business as usual, to keep making profits regardless of the virus’s toll on the global working class. Their message: Live with the virus, ignore its presence and don’t bother as gathering statistics on COVID-19 infection rates and deaths.

Pity the poor Times commentators assigned to write these excessive articles attacking China for COVID-19 policies that avoided the mass deaths experienced in the U.S. and much of the West. Month after month, they churn out diatribes that are apparently not fact-checked by their editors. Most of their articles have been ripped off by the Times’ own website, “Tracking Coronavirus Vaccinations Around the World.”

Writing for the Times on Sept. 7, Vivian Wang states that China’s “zero-COVID” policy “goes too far.” Wang suggests that China join the rest of the world and learn to live with the coronavirus. But just what would that look like for China?

FAIR shares NY Times graphic showing U.S. (blue line) near 15,000 deaths per day, with China’s (orange line) remains at the bottom. China’s “zero-COVID” policy has saved hundreds of thousands of lives including the U.S., where shortages of food and basic necessities like toilet paper were indeed a daily crisis. At least in China, most people survived the inconveniences — unlike millions in Europe and the U.S. who died.

Ramzy also apparently didn’t bother to research China’s GDP, which grew 2.2% in 2020 and 8.1% in 2021. According to FAIR, Goldman Sachs projects that China’s GDP growth for 2022 will be 5.0%, compared to the U.S. at 1.3%.

Vaccine controversey

Ramzy blamed China for “failing to vaccinate older people,” citing thousands of deaths this year in Hong Kong from the omicron surge. He fails to mention that Hong Kong’s health care system is modeled on the Western approach and totally separate from China’s vaccination policies.

He, and other Times writers busy attacking China for refusing to approve Western mRNA vaccines, neglect to acknowledge that the vaccine programs developed by major U.S. pharma-aceutical companies are proving to be far from adequate in stopping the resurgence of new variants. What started out as “breakthrough” cases among vaccinated individuals in the U.S., who contracted COVID-19 in the summer of 2021, is becoming the norm. Not so with China’s vaccines.

Times articles attacking China started early in the pandemic. Some of the first suggesting that Chinese labs may have been responsible for manufacturing the virus were later proven false by the World Health Organization and other international scientists.

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Just how many lives will be lost from these “business as usual” policies?

NY Times – ‘Learn to live with COVID deaths’

The impact of COVID-19 in China & the U.S.

What an anachronism it is that, in this modern age of exploring the moon and the depths of the largest oceans, the mass media in the United States should be mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth of Britain. Adulation of the British monarch is the uncritical, fawning press in the United States.

 Forgotten, it is, the revolution’s war of 1776, in which thousands died to secure the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain. But the ruling class in the United States, now arguably a 21st-century British Empire, is more in common with the monarchy in Britain than it does with the millions of people, all over the world, who still suffer under British colonial rule in one form or another.

At its height in 1921, the British Empire ruled over a quarter of all the land on Earth. Plundering its colonies made the British ruling class one of the richest in the world. It also inspired rebellions against the colonizers, which were crushed without mercy.

Two world wars between competing blocs of imperialist rivals cost dearly. Millions died in these struggles for world domination. The Anglo-U.S.-bloc won both times, and by 1952, when Elizabeth took over the throne, the British Empire ruled over some 70 countries.

The U.S. ruling class prides itself over its revolutionary origins in the overthrow of British rule and makes the Fourth of July an occasion for self-congratulation. This has had no impact on the alliance between the ruling classes of U.S. and Britain. They are class allies with the shared objective to reap superprofits from the labor of the workers in both countries and around the world.

Capitalism is an economic system based on exploitation of the working class. The system is untold wealth for a few, even as millions struggle to survive. This is inherently unsustainable, regardless of whether it is managed by a president or a monarch. [1]

On Labor Day, hail workers in motion!

Workers World/Mundo Obrero newspaper cheers on the Amazon and Starbucks workers who are leading struggles to unionize their workplaces. These mainly young people of many nation-alities and genders are in the forefront of the class struggles. The U.S. labor movement’s bold actions have sparked an upsurge of worker-led union drives in other companies and industries. Their bravery in defying vicious corporate union busting is inspiring workers around the country.

This newspaper has closely followed and featured reports on the organizing drives of Amazon and Starbucks workers and recent unionization campaigns at Trader Joe’s, Chipotle, REI, Apple and other companies.

On this Labor Day, WW expresses solidarity with these workers, all those celebrat-ing union pride on this day, and the unorganized and low-wage earners who are fighting for workplace rights and a union. We laud the workers, especially young people, women, other gender-op-pressed and LGBTQ2S+ people, black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Arab and immi-grants, who are fighting for all workers.

Since Workers World’s first issue in 1990, the newspaper has featured cover-age of workers’ struggles. Our newspa-per is partisan, siding with workers and oppressed people fighting for their rights against capitalist bosses. The struggles of our class are covered in our pages and in our biweekly column “On the Picket Line.” Not only does WW write about worker organizing, but our writers and staff members join picket lines and rallies!

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 newspaper is displayed. Weekly reads from circumstances during the pandemic caused us to reduce the number of printed issues to once a month. But the weekly online newspa-per has never been more critical to $2.95-year health crisis. And while WW’s staff is volunteer, both the printed newspaper and the website entail monthly expenses. Although many online publi-cations require fees to read their articles, WW does not. Our articles are free to all readers.

Workers.org contains news and anal-ysis of global and U.S. events and struggles and is a resource for political activists. The website has firsthand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles by worker-organizers keep the newspa-per current on key U.S. union drives.

For a donation of $75 to $100 to workers.org, we will send you two or three free subscriptions, respectively, to give to friends. Supporters can receive the book, “What road to socialism?” (Notify us of your request.) Order at workers.org/books.

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We’re grateful for your support.
Ucrania: ¿una guerra en minifaldas?

Por Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

El autor es Consultor y analista internacional venezolano, ha publicado artículos en Revistas especializadas de Puerto Rico, Chile, Bolivia, Perú, Brasil, Venezuela, México, Argentina y España así como en diversos periódicos e innumerables páginas de Internet. Fue Director de Relaciones Internacionales de la Presidencia de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

7 de septiembre. Aunque sea insuficientemente conocido, tal vez haya pocos científicos sociales que hayan teorizado tanto y tan bien sobre la guerra como Vladimir I. Lenin. Al estudiar la primera guerra mundial dijo: “que el proletariado lucha y luchará siempre inde- fectiblemente contra la guerra, pero sin olvidar ni por un momento que solo podrá acabarse con las guerras cuando se acabe totalmente con la división de la socie-

dad en clases...”. El líder soviético también enseñaba: “que: “La guerra vence quien dispone de más reservas, de más fuerzas de guerra, de mayor apoyo en el seno del pueblo”.

De la misma manera, uno de los más brillantes estrater- egas militares contemporáneos, el general vietnamita Vo Nguyen Giap, escuchaba que las técnicas en las batallas estaban estrechamente vinculadas con “la pro-
ducción, la comunicación, el transporte, las actividades culturales, sanitarias y otras”. Así, el general Giap co-
sideraba que la victoria multilateral […] es el resultado de la lucha heroica de todos los combatientes en todas las ramas, servicios y regiones que dedicaron sus prodi-
giosos esfuerzos, desafiaron bombas y balas y superaron ennumera-
simulaciones dificultades”.

Es necesario comprender entonces, que el fenómeno de la guerra es muy complejo, sobre todo porque el fac-
tor subjetivo interviene de manera decisiva para forjar victorias cuando hay carencias o insuficiencias de los ele-
mentos materiales que configuran su aspecto objetivo. En la modernidad, aunque los instrumentos téc-
nológicos juegan un papel cada vez más relevante, la herrami-
tera principal y concluyente sigue siendo la del com-
ponente humano que participa en el conflicto. Por

mucho que se haya desarrollado la técnica, el objetivo de la guerra sigue siendo el de ocupar territorio y eso solo es posible cuando los soldados de un ejército y los oficiales que los comandan, toman posición efectiva del espacio geográfico.

Sólo el que haya participado en una guerra conoce la barbaridad que ella entraña, en el conflicto bélico se desata lo mejor y lo peor del ser humano, lo mejor por-
que la decisión de entregar la vida por algo en lo que se cree, rebasa cualquier análisis acerca de la subjetivi-
tad que pudiera motivar tal actuación. Por cierto, esto no es válido para merencarnos y acusar a suldo que solo combaten por el dinero y los emolumentos que pudie-
ran obtener. Pero la guerra desata también lo peor de la condición humana que es la necesidad de matar para sobrevivir.

Un político común o un estadista

Es sabido que lo que distancia a un político común de un estadista es básicamente su capacidad para mane-

jar exitosamente los elementos atinentes a la defensa y la seguridad, en primer lugar, ser capaz de dirigir a las fuerzas armadas; así mismo es básico poseer el genio y habilidad para conducir la política exterior y las relacio-

nes internacionales. Lo otro, lo puede hacer cualquiera, sobre todo si está bien asesorado. Tuve la posibilidad de conducir la política exterior y las relacio-
fuerzas armadas; así mismo es básico poseer el genio y

la seguridad, en primer lugar, ser capaz de dirigir a las

defensa y las regiones que dedicaron sus prodigiosos esfuerzos, desafiaron bombas y balas y superaron innumerables dificultades”.

Mientras ello ocurre, el general estadounidense expuso que creía que la reduc-
tión de los suministros occidentales a Kiev tendría un “efecto desastrosos” para el ejército ucraniano. Finalmente, el general retirado y exsubsecretario del Consejo de Seguridad y Defensa Nacional de Ucrania, Serhiy Krivoshy mostró su consternación por las pérdi-

des “enormes” de las Fuerzas Armadas de Ucrania que según él se contaban por “decenas de miles, e incluso podría llegar a cientos de miles”. Al continuarse sobre las causas de esta situación y la negativa de hablar del asunto por las autoridades y los medios de comunicación occidentales, Krivoshy manifestó: “Los cuentos de que ahora no es el momento correcto para hablar de ello serían aún más que un intento de nublar la memoria, borrar la historia. ¿Pero cómo se puede borrar la sangre de los muertos, que ya van por cientos de miles? ¿Quién responderá por ello?”. Mientras ello ocurre, el Washington Post en un reporte del martes 6 de septiembre se vio obligado a decir que los militares ucranianos que participaron del intento de contraofensiva en la región Khreron en el sur del país, “se quejan de grandes pérdidas, falta de municiones y retraso tecnológico con respecto al ejército ruso.” El diario de la capital imperial citó a un soldado que dijo que casi todos sus compañeros de batalla “resultaron heridos, muchos de gravedad”. Lo achacó a la necesidad de ahorrar munición, pero también afirmó que cuando dispararan “era difícil acertar con los sistemas de guida de las armas antíguas”.

El Post concluye afirmando que “muchos comba-
tientes de las Fuerzas Armadas de Ucrania dudan si el intento valió la pena [ante] tales pérdidas”. Unos días antes que esto aconteciera en el campo de batalla, Zelensky junto a su esposa posaron para la revista Vogue, cuyo último titular fue: “Todas las tra-

dencias en minifalda para este otoño e invierno 2022”. Tratar la guerra como si fuera un hecho balan-
y de la farándula y suponer que la muerte de tantos jóvenes quedará impune por la irresponsabilidad política de los líderes de las potencias, formará parte de las próximas crónicas que habrán de escribirse cuando concluya esta historia. Pero no creo que sean minifaldas las que van a usar los soldados ucranianos que combaten cuando se aproxima el tiempo de invierno boreal.

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