Lessons from Lenin for International Workers Day

International Workers Day, also known as May Day, reminds us of an anecdote about the 1917 Russian Revolution regarding the working class. At the time, the Bolshevik Party, trained and led by V.I. Lenin was in the process of seizing power. An anti-Bolshevik intellectual was arguing with a Bolshevik worker and bringing up all the complexities of running a government and of deserting Russia’s allies in the great slaughter of World War I. “I see it this way,” said the Bolshevik worker. “The bosses are on one side. We’re on the other side. If we don’t take power, they will.”

The worker was right. Bosses, that is capitalists, are on one side. Workers are on the other side. When one side wins, the other loses. Lenin taught his party that lesson. Remember that on this upcoming day for the working class.

The capitalists and their paid propagandists insist that the working class doesn’t count, won’t lead revolutions and certainly can’t run society. Those who possess wealth pay people to teach these lies, even as the capitalists run society into the chaos of economic meltdown, climate crisis, pandemic and war.

So who is the working class? Those who show up at a factory or a mine or a power plant and produce the goods or power, which the owner sells at a profit, are workers. Those who drive a train or a bus, or maintain it, or deliver mail or health care or education or entertainment or coffee are workers.

Those who survive only by selling their labor are workers, even in gig industries where it’s hard to name your boss. But it doesn’t end there. Sex workers, incarcerated workers and people with disabilities are in the working class, as are those who raise children or care for relatives without pay. Post globalization, the majority of the world’s population are in the working class, including retired workers.

Right now in France, the bosses are trying to take away years of the workers’ retirement pay. The workers, with most of the people supporting them, are fighting back. And they plan to make International Workers Day a day of class struggle.

Lenin, mentioned before, promoted the internationalism of the working class.

Continued on page 6

Philadelphia

Celebration for Mumia’s birthday

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Mumia Abu-Jamal’s 69th birthday was celebrated in his hometown of Philadelphia on April 23, with a march starting at 52nd and Market streets. Participants came from Philadelphia, New York, Boston and New Jersey. The march through the West Philadelphia community received a positive response from people on the street.

Mumia has been a political prisoner in Pennsylvania for 41 years — 28 on death row. He is a veteran Philadelphia Black Panther, a radical radio journalist, a grandfather and a foremost revolutionary thinker and writer. Mumia is a loving movement elder, who uplifts struggles worldwide with his powerful voice and writings. At age 15 he was a Black Panther newspaper journalist, and later he was an award-winning Philadelphia radio journalist. Mumia had been appealing his conviction. Hearings involving discovery of suppression of important exculpatory evidence, including the racist exclusion of Black jurors in his original trial and key witnesses having been paid to testify for the prosecution, were held before Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Lucretia Clemons to consider the recently released evidence as grounds for a new trial.

However, following in the bloody footsteps of her predecessor, racist hanging-judge Albert Sabo, on March 31 Clemons dismissed Mumia’s appeal petition. His supporters were outraged by the ruling but not surprised. Clemons was previously an attorney with Ballard Spahr, a national firm specializing in business law with a notorious reputation in Philadelphia; and she has been known countrywide as a union buster. That she has not strayed one millimeter from the party line should be considered in this context.

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WW Statement

Justice denied for Jayland Walker

Restore COVID protections in Mass.

Puerto Ricans protest pro-colonial gala

Residents demand ‘right to return’

March to save Philadelphia’s Chinatown

San Francisco solidarity with Palestine

Editorial: Abortion is a right!

What de-dollarization means for workers

Positive news from Texas

Letters from incarcerated siblings

Houston says ‘Free Mumia!’

Make capitalism ungovernable

France: Worker resistance continues
May Day means internationalism—support Workers World!

Although officially commemorated in 80 countries, May Day is not recognized in the U.S., where it originated in 1886 in Chicago during the struggle for the eight-hour workday. Its militant legacy is marked by protests by the global working class against capitalist exploitors. It is a day of solidarity with workers everywhere. The class struggle is alive in France, where workers have militantly protested for weeks against cuts in their pensions, shaking the Macron government to the core. In the U.S., hundreds of strikes have taken place. Workers are rising up in hospitals, schools, universities, factories, mines, stores and coffee shops, and on the freight railroads.

Workers World applauds the successful worker-led union drives at a Staten Island Amazon facility and at around 300 Starbucks stores to date. These wins have spurred even more worker organizing around the country.

WW newspaper is partisan. We side with workers fighting for their rights. Their struggles are featured on our pages and in our biweekly column “On the Picket Line.” Not only does WW write about worker organizing, our staff members join rallies and picket lines.

On this May Day, WW supports all workers: organized and unorganized. We express solidarity with the millions of workers, especially those who are Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrants, women and other gender-oppressed people, LGBTQ2S+, disabled, low-wage earners, and the jobless and the incarcerated.

WW agrees with May Day’s socialist founders: End capitalism! Fight for socialism!

WW needs your support!

If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers’ backing. The program was established 46 years ago to help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build the struggle worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on 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, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

WWP fights for socialism because the working class needs your support!

Workers World
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**Activists demand Restore COVID-19 protections now!**

By Will Hodgkinson

Boston

The Massachusetts Coalition for Health Equity (Masse. CHE) held an online press conference on April 5 to demand the state keep protections against COVID-19 in place to safeguard health care workers, people with disabilities and the general population during the continuing pandemic.

The conference was a response to Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healy’s decision to comply with the Biden administration’s decision to terminate the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11. Ending the PHE, which was initially declared by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in January 2020, will allow hospitals at medical facilities in the U.S. to privatized health care system to strip millions of health care workers and patients of safety measures, including masking, social distancing and surveillance testing.

Doctors and disability justice activists argue having labor-intensive public health efforts in place would help keep the virus under control.

"Why is this so important?" said Dr. Lara Jirmanus, a primary care physician. "COVID-19 poses a threat to all of us, and we need to not be afraid of our own experiences fighting to access vaccinations and other health care resources and to keep their families and children, many of whom have disabilities, safe from COVID-19."

At the end of the conference, Piepzna-Samarasinha evoked the political threat of monolithic advances and the need for solidarity to combat them. "What side are you on?" they asked. "What choices are you willing to make to protect human health?"

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**Puerto Rico: community protests against austerity measures**

The following is a slightly edited version of a press release issued April 18 by The Puerto Rico Is Not For Sale Campaign coalition.

On April 20, the Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign protested the Hispanic Federation’s Annual Gala, at the American Museum of Natural History, and the presence of Luis Miranda and his family for their continual funding of U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign is an international coalition of Puerto Rican organizations and individuals who work to dismantle the PROMESA bill in Puerto Rico. Luis Miranda and the Hispanic Federation lobbied Congress to pass the PROMESA bill, which instituted an undemocratic Fiscal Control Board.

This board has caused the closure of 600 schools throughout Puerto Rico, dismantled public housing and destroyed retirement benefits. It has led to the privatization of public services and the rampant displacement of many workers in those fields. Luis Miranda, through the Hispanic Federation, was able to personally profit and benefit from the consequent destruction of the police industry on the island, onboarding large corporations such as Neoprenus. Under the guise of ‘community,’ the Hispanic Federation lobbying group MiRan, accepted $100,000 for failed anti-unifying efforts against Amazon workers.

Miranda received an additional $100,000 from City Industry to influence Latino legislators for rezoning purposes in Sunset Park, pushing for displacement of longtime Boricua, Latina and Asian communities.

The Hispanic Federation acts as a quid pro quo apparatus for large corporations, such as Banco Popular and its retirement benefits. To donate to, know that these institutions will benefit from the bonds that are paid at the expense of the austerity measures implemented by the Fiscal Control Board. This money is invested under the guise of arts and academics, but what it really does is reinforce the colonial power that the U.S. has on the Puerto Rican people. By accepting their money, Luis Miranda Jr., and the Hispanic Federation as a whole, are explicit in their destructive practices.

“The Puerto Rico Is Not for Sale Campaign will continue to denounce those whose opportunism continues to harm the people of Puerto Rico and demand the independence of the archipelago,” said Lorraine Liriano, campaign spokesperson.
Letters from incarcerated siblings

Dear Workers World staff,

Hoping this note finds you well. Would you please sign me up to receive a subscription to free Mumia, explained the current legal issues facing Abu-Jamal.

I am not afraid to stand up and am always in the line of fire for fighting alongside activists to prove my innocence in Stites’s murder. In a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court ruling that said Reed had waited too long to request for the making of the request for DNA testing. The court majority ruled that the two-year period to file civil rights claims in federal court starts counting down only after state court proceedings are finished.

When I saw Ivan in the visiting room a few weeks ago, I told his visitor, loudly enough so that Ivan could hear me through the phones being used, that we were all pulling for him and hoping for a stay. He gave the biggest smile and mouthed “thank you.” The man I was visiting said that Ivan now had good attorneys and was hopeful. But hope is so often squashed down here that I try not to get hopeful very often.

Testing would include things from the crime scene never previously tested, such as the belt used to strangle Stites. Stites’s name was heard for several days saying “he’d kill her if he ever found out she was seeing an n-word. This cop had served to you for years for sexually assaulting a woman he stopped for a traffic violation — while in uniform! While in prison he admitted to another prisoner, who was in a white-supremacist gang, that he killed Stites.

The murder weapon was never tested. Don’t they always test the murder weapon? Well, not if a cop is involved, it seems.

Execution of Cantu canceled

For 22 years, Ivan Cantu has maintained his innocence. On April 19, just one day after his attorney filed an appeal citing newly discovered evidence, state district court Judge Benjamin Smith withdrew the execution warrant and had set Cantu’s last day of life for April 26.

We missed you, too, comrade! Glad to read your newspaper, and I was wondering what it would take to get that subscription restarted? Please let me know, and I will consider this letter. Many years ago I enjoyed reading your newspaper, and I was wondering what it would take to get that subscription restarted? Please let me know, I miss you! Thank you.

Respectfully,
B.A.
Indiana State Prison

We missed you, too, comrades! Glad to have you back on our subscriber list. — TK

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Dear friends,


By Gloria Rubac

Houston

A multinational crowd of activists gathered at the SHAPE Community Center on April 23 to celebrate Mumia Abu-Jamal’s 67th birthday. After a militant talk and presentation by Nation Minister Abdul Hakim Muhammad, who condemned the rich, white elite for the ills of the vast majority in this country, a film was shown in which Dr. Johanna Fernandez, a leader of the movement for Mumia, explained the current legal issues facing Abu-Jamal.

Next a local treasure of creativity, Sister Momma Houston activists say: ‘Free Mumia Now!’

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Dear WW:

Feeling the weight of jail upon my shoulders. Really means nothing compared to the disappointment that’s deep within my heart from living the so-called American Dream. And so many are locked up in that dream even on parole, wondering what the next hour will bring in wicked Amerikka.

This is what leads me to contacting you, to try and receive the newspaper to read what’s going on around the world.

Thank you.

J.T.
Fort Worth, TX

Beautifully said, J.T. We hope that the coverage within these pages of the revolutionary fight-back that goes on every day around the world can help lift your spirits. Strength and solidarity. — TK

Dear friends,


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Dear Workers World staff,}

Hoping this note finds you well. Would you please sign me up to receive a subscription to Workers World?

I admit that I don’t agree with everything — even or most of — the progressive agenda. But I have always gotten along well with members of socialist workers organizations. And I have the highest regard for your paper and integrity. Sincerely yours, 

Gene G.

Dear Friends,

This poem by Horace Thomas is from the Black Panther Party Alumni Association, Workers World Party, the Abolition Movement, Party for Socialism and Freedom and the Black Panther Party.

It is a black woman’s experience of being in jail. She describes the meaning of her prison experience to her young girl. She also talks about growing up in jail and being able to help her daughter.

Dear friends,


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Next a local treasure of creativity, Sister Momma Sonia, read two poems written by Julia Wright about the events of the Brown Berets, who had the room singing along with the chorus of “Ella’s Song” by Sweet Honey and the Rock.

The Black Panther Party Alumni Association, Workers World Party, the Abolition Movement, Party for Socialism and Freedom and the Black Panther Party were all represented at the event. After candles were lit and people sang “Happy Birthday,” everyone enjoyed cake and camaraderie.
March to save Chinatown

By Joe Piette Philadelphia

A show of force and unity will take place in Philadelphia April 29 with the march: “Resist — No Chinatown in the Heart of Our City.” Marching from Chinatown to the much-criticized proposed site of a new basketball arena and then on to City Hall, Chinatown residents and allies will be telling the City Council and the mayor that the people are united in opposing the blatant land grab by billionaire developers.

In the words of the Save Chinatown Coalition: “The event will be a demonstration of joy, creativity and the power of connecting across communities. It will be a demonstration of fierce resistance to those who seek to tear apart communities and disrupt and distort the Heart of our City in their boundless drive for profits.”

The main organizations protesting against the construction of a new $1.3 billion Philadelphia 76ers arena on the southern edge of Chinatown include Save Chinatown Coalition, Chinatown Coalition to Oppose the Arena, No Arena Solidarity (NACS), Students for the Preservation of Chinatown, RICE (Restaurant Industry for Chinatown’s Existence), PICER Interfaith and No Arena Art Hive.

Chinatown legacy of struggle to exist

Chinatowns across the country have been culturally destroyed or physically demolished by the imposition of sports stadiums, arenas or casinos, like in Seattle and St. Louis. The Capital One arena was built next to Washington, D.C.’s Chinatown. All the Chinese-owned businesses and residents were displaced or replaced by large chain businesses like Capital One, with Chinese signs translat- ing their names. Even those businesses are struggling to survive, because no one wants to live next to the arena.

Chinatown’s Philadelphia was estab- lished in 1871 by workers who had fled anti-Chinese sentiment in the Western states and relocated East to form small “bachelor societies” in many cities. After World War II, liberalized immigration policies toward the Chinese transformed Chinatown into a family-oriented community. Churches, businesses, social and cultural organizations were established to improve neighborhood life, preserve Chinese culture and provide services to growing numbers of immigrants.

Residents have orga- nized against past attempts to displace Chinatown, including the Interstate 676 Vine Street Expressway (which opened in 1991) and the Pennsylvania Convention Center (opened in 1993), and other projects that were successfully stopped, such as a proposed baseball stadium in 2000 and a casino in 2010.

Philadelphia’s Chinatown was estab- lished by immigrants, and a disruption of a private gathering of developers and their political supporters in October 2022.

The legislature has gained support from state and federal leaders in Pennsylvania and Drexel University, who have denounced the historic role their schools played in the racist dis- placement of Chinatown and Black and Brown communities. UC Townhomes residents and supporters shut down the March 2022 UPenn student convention. Students led protests disrupting campus events, including the fall 2022 homecoming foot- ball game.

At the April 21 press conference, People’s Townhomes resident Mel Hairston stressed that the struggle is far from over.

“After the beginning of this fight we are asking, now we are demanding. There can be no development of this property without the people who have been residing here for decades. We have the first right to return. We are also demanding the University of Penn and Drexel University on notice that they own a right to a community for all they have taken from us.”

Stop for-profit developments that displace communities of color

Chinatown, like other communities of color, are under attack across the U.S. by predatory developers. The current attempt to displace Chinatown is led by Josh Harris and David Blitzer, two New York finance billionaires who own the local NBA team. Another arena developer is David Samson, billionaire owner of Campus Apartments, who has been trying to displace Black and Brown low-income residents at UC Townhomes for two years. The April 29 march and rally starts at 10th and Vine streets, marching from Chinatown to City Hall to show the Philadelphia City Council that their city is not for sale! In the words of the Save Chinatown Coalition: “Our communities are united. We don’t need or want corporately-designed billionaire-driven predatory development in Philadelphia. Our neighborhoods need investment that is driven by the needs of the people who call it home. We need investment that builds community and connections — instead of tearing them apart.”

Celebration for Mumia’s birthday

Continued from page 1

As journalist Linn Washington Jr. has warned so many times: “The fact that state and federal judges have consistently upheld Abu-Jamal’s conviction is cited as solid con- firmation of his guilt. Brushed aside is the fact that judges have upheld Abu-Jamal’s conviction by skirting estab- lished legal procedure. A hearing was reached April 19 between the city and site owner IBD Associates, for the development of 70 new units of affordable housing on property.”

While claiming credit for the settle- ment, following their tenacious two- year struggle, members of Save the UC Townhomes Coalition challenged provi- sions of the agreement, which was made without their input.

IBID agreed to provide $3.5 million to the city for the tenants’ relocation and housing costs — about $50,000 per house- hold. A separate, much smaller fund, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, will be provided by a coalition, including the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University and Children’s Hospital, which residents have targeted for their involvement in gentrifying an historic Black neighborhood.

The court-ordered settlement defines “affordability” as targeting those with incomes of 60% to 80% of area median income, making it open to tenants with higher incomes than the exist- ing residents of UC Townhomes. The agreement was reached April 19 between the city and site owner IBD Associates, for the development of 70 new units of affordable housing on property.

Residents are demanding that afford- ability be defined as 30% of AMI, which would be more in line with the property was being subsidized by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Speakers pointed out that over a quarter of the city’s existing subsidized housing units face expiring affordability provi- sions within the next few years.

Residents of the People’s Townhomes and their wide array of supporters have put the issue of affordable housing in the spotlight, with bold actions includ- ing numerous marches blocking major intersections near the site, a 31-day encampment on the site in July 2022, a press conference outside City Hall and a disruption of a private gather- ing of developers and their political supporters in October 2022.

Their struggle has gained support from state and federal leaders in Pennsylvania and Drexel University, who have denounced the historic role their schools played in the racist dis- placement of Chinatown and Black and Brown communities. UC Townhomes residents and supporters shut down the March 2022 UPenn student convention. Students led protests disrupting campus events, including the fall 2022 homecoming foot- ball game.

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The highlight of the celebratory event was definitely the location. The Philadelphia City Cou- ncil had been cut off from the outside world, in San Francisco. Clarence Thomas was described by the board of directors as being “the most influential African American man in the history of the United States.”

Thomas noted that Mumia is both a CWA-NABET jour- nalist and a political prisoner who has demonstrated his courage and his commitment to the people he represents, including the fall 2022 homecoming football game.

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Abortion is health care! Health care is a right!

Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk could be described as a xenophobic, white-supremacist, science-hating, male chauvinist pig. Even that characterization might be too generous!

His 2022 appointment as U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Texas led to the approval by the Food and Drug Administration — in place since 2000 — of the abortifacient drug mifepristone up to seven weeks of pregnancy. One hour after Kacsmaryk’s reactionary decision, Judge Thomas Owen Rice of the Eastern District of Washington issued a contradictory ruling, that abortion’s decision to be legal should be left as is in the 17 states and D.C., which sued in his court to keep current access to the drug.

**Biden puts right at risk**

President Joe Biden asked the U.S. Supreme Court — yes, that ultraconservative-dominated Supreme Court of the United States that overturned Roe v. Wade and gave states the green light to ban abortions — to resolve the conflict between the two simultaneous rulings.

In making that request to SCOTUS, Biden put the right to abortion at risk. But even in this misogynistic body, a majority voted to stay Kacsmaryk’s ruling. For now mifepristone remains accessible.

This is not a sign of fair-mindedness by the justices on the high court. Not by a long shot! But they feel the pressure of the mass movement for reproductive justice — the same movement that won the right to have a legal abortion 50 years ago, also from a conservative court.

The fight is far from over. The Supreme Court left the issue of access to mifepristone to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers the state of Mississippi, and Texas and is based in New Orleans. This court ruled April 12 to let stand the FDA’s 2000 strict limitations on access, nullifying the removal of restrictions the FDA approved in 2019 and later years, as the drug’s safety was proven.

The Fifth Circuit is the most conservative appellate court in the U.S. If it decides in accordance with its prior decision, only certified doctors will be able to administer mifepristone — only up to seven weeks of pregnancy and only in their offices. It won’t be available by mail or from a pharmacist.

Reactionary justices, politicians and religious groups are making a concerted, coordinated effort to roll back the calendar. They want to go back to the 19th century, when a woman had no legal rights and was literally the property of her spouse.

They can and must be defeated — but the life-and-death battle for reproductive justice will only be won by the movement staying in the streets.

**Lessons from Lenin for International Workers Day**

Continued from page 1

All the world’s capitalists want to see the French government crush this rebellion. And all workers in the world gain if the rebellion succeeds. The working class is international.

Unite all the struggles!

Then there is the question of war. The U.S.-based capitalist class runs the country, controls the army, police, courts and propaganda machines. This class is waging a proxy war, using NATO, in Ukraine against Russia. This class threatens war with China over Taiwan. This ruling class, the enemy of all workers, is waging economic war through sanctions against any countries and nations that demand sovereignty and independence.

As Lenin said before and during the great slaughter of World War I: “The enemy is at home.” Nowhere is that more significant than in the U.S. itself.

International Workers Day must be a day of battling U.S. and NATO aggression. The enemy of workers in the U.S. is the U.S. ruling class.

Then there is the question of uniting the struggles at home. There have been hints of an upsurge of strikes led by protesters—train workers and their union which organized this strike called “Revolutionary Union Action.”

Meanwhile all workers, even in the U.S. and Europe and Japan, have been hurt by inflation and frozen wages, while what social gains won from 1945-90 are being whittled down by global racist attacks by white supremacists and the police — that’s a working-class struggle. The struggle of all to restore the right and access to abortion — that’s a working-class struggle. The battle for decent housing, that’s a working-class struggle.

International Workers Day reminds the world of all that. And Lenin reminds us that each battle must be taken as far as it can go.

Workers’ resistance puts French bosses in turmoi

By G. Dunkel

April 23 — After French President Emmanuel Macron succeeded in pushing a new pension system into law April 15, by avoiding any vote except from the nine former officeholders on the Constitutional Council, he and his cabinet members have been taking short trips throughout France to listen to the people. The people have answered: “Quit!”

Since 70% of the population and over 90% of the active workers in France oppose this new pension scheme, which demands they work two years longer, the government’s war has ranged from negative to actively hostile. Union electrical workers often respond to an official’s visit by turning off the supply of electricity to their venue, or at least turning it down. The progressive left party France Unbowed (its candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon lost a close third in the 2022 presidential election) has encouraged people to plug in empty pots to drown out the speeches of Macron’s ministers.

The negative popular reaction to Macron’s “charisma offensive” resulted in the administration showing its teeth. During Macron’s visit to Strasbourg, a city east of Paris on the German border, three people were arrested for giving him “the finger.” (Huffington Post, April 23)

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On April 20, a video on twitter shows thousands of high school students at the call of their student unions, who marched through Paris chanting “Macron quit!” Another tweet, this one by Unite CGT (General Confederation of Labor), reports a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France. The CGT union which organized this strike called for a strike at a large electric generating plant at Gardanne, in southern France.
Decline of U.S. dollar dominance what it means for workers

By Betsey Piette

The U.S. sells more than $175 billion in military weapons every year; yet for decades, its greatest weapon has been the U.S. dollar. Imperialist wars and U.S. dollar hegemony go hand in hand. To prevent them from developing alternative currencies to the dollar, the U.S. military occupied Iraq in 2003 and attacked Libya in 2011, murderous both countries’ leaders. The dominance of the dollar also impacted Venezuela’s ability to benefit from the sale of its vast oil resources, driving its economy into poverty. Through its control of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the U.S. has set political conditions for countries to receive monetary support. Most often this has involved adoptingorthogonal policies and opening their markets for Western corporations to super exploit their workers. An example of how these global financiers operate can be seen in the 2001 film “Life and Debt,” which documents how high-interest loans from the IMF destroyed Argentina’s economy.

The U.S. dollar became the dominant global reserve currency after then-President Richard Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in 1971. Since then the U.S. has used that position to force countries to do its bidding, more freely freezing or even confiscating a country’s assets, as it has done with Iran and Venezuela.

Using the excuse of the U.S./NATO war against Russia in Ukraine, the U.S. government imposed sanctions on Russian banks and gold reserves on March 26 of that year, for that resulted in a global backlash as countries looked for viable alternative currencies to the dollar.

Along with the economic sanctions imposed on Russia, Washington has used the excuse of the war to promote the export of U.S. shale gas and oil as an alternative to Russian energy.

An initial sign of growing opposition from countries in the Global South was the result of the United Nations vote condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The website SanctionsKill.org identifies over 40 countries currently subject to deadly U.S. economic sanctions.

Sanctions fuel challenge to dollar hegemony

In April 2022, China announced a Global Security Initiative for the purpose of opposing the use of sanctions on the international stage. This followed the establishment of the New Development Bank by BRICS, a financial alliance that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The conflict resulting from the war in Ukraine has led to the driving force behind the BRICS expansion, with Argentina, the UAE, Mexico, Algeria and Saudi Arabia all showing interest in the initiative.

The pace of challenge to the hegemony of the dollar then picked up in late March of this year, following their March 30-31 meeting in Indonesia. They also agreed to support cross-border trade and investment in the ASEAN region.

Rise of the Global South

While the rise of the Global South is receiving increasing attention from world media, it is not a new phenomenon. In 2004, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez established the Bolivarian Alliance of the Peoples of our America — ALBA — which now includes Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and the Caribbean island nations of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and Santa Lucia.

In 2005, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was formally established. It now includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, and Iran.

Both organizations share a common decision to build a world free of the economic strangulation and neocolonial aggression of the U.S. and its allies. Along with BRICS, they offer viable alternatives to reliance on the U.S.-dominated World Bank and IMF.

Impact on global working class

There is clearly a global move away from dependence on the U.S. dollar, which will benefit the BRICS countries and others. But what does the diminishing hegemony of the U.S. dollar mean for the working class?

Lessening U.S. hegemony means that countries in the Global South may have the chance to develop their economies without dependence on the U.S. dollar, the IMF and the World Bank, and the inherent debt cycle that which dependence entails. But that does not mean an end to U.S. imperialism or capitalism as we know it. It is a setback for U.S. imperialism but not a defeat.

The end of U.S. hegemony creates conditions for the global working class to break with imperialism and for the working class to rise up and carry out its historic role.

However, defeating U.S. imperialism and capitalism will take serious, revolutionary international intervention by the global working class.

Global class struggle is at a crossroads. On this May Day, let’s dedicate our efforts to promoting workers’ power through revolution!”

We know from the letters Workers World gets from our readers on the inside just how many of our comrades inside are just waiting for the chance to be able to reciprocate a little solidarity sent their way. If you’re a union worker, don’t you want them on your side when you fight your next battle against the boss?

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Workers World, black&S toolkit, and rank-and-file unionists to make prisoners demands your demands. There is no better place to start than by demanding the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Free Mumia! Free them all!

The writer is co-chair of the PSC, along with Miranda Crisaman.
El Pentágono tiene una fuga

La noticia principal en los medios capitalistas es la detención de un miembro de 21 años de la Guardia Nacional Aérea en Massachusetts por la filtración de unos 100 documentos clasificados. Supuestamente fueron compartidos en un chat para jugadores en la plataforma de medios sociales Discord y posteriormente compartidos por ruso en Telegram. El aviador de primera clase Jack Teixeira ha sido acusado de violar la Ley de Espionaje y se enfrenta a 10 años de prisión por un cargo, pero podrían seguirle más cargos.

Teixeira no se asemeja en nada a Daniel Ellsberg, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden o Julian Assange, que asumieron grandes riesgos personales para denunciar los crímenes de guerra del imperialismo estadounidense. Ha mostrado tendencias supremacistas blancas y antisemitas. Si las acusaciones son ciertas, es posible que Teixeira sólo estuviera mostrando a sus compañeros de juego lo que creía que podía hacer: sacar informes clasificados de “inteligencia”, colocarlos en la encimera de la cocina y fotografiarlos para publicarlos en Discord.

La Ley de Espionaje fue aprobada por el Congreso en 1917, poco después de que Estados Unidos entrara en la Primera Guerra Mundial. Sólo se ha utilizado ocasionalmente para acusar a individuos, principalmente a los acusados de espionaje para la antigua Unión Soviética. El caso más famoso, y el único en el que se impuso la pena de muerte, fue contra Ethel y Julius Rosenberg. Estos dos miembros del Partido Comunista de Estados Unidos fueron acusados falsamente de pasar a la URSS la fórmula de la bomba atómica. Teixeira no se asemeja en nada a Daniel Ellsberg, Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden o Julian Assange, que asumieron grandes riesgos personales para denunciar los crímenes de guerra del imperialismo estadounidense. Ha mostrado tendencias supremacistas blancas y antisemitas. Si las acusaciones son ciertas, es posible que Teixeira sólo estuviera mostrando a sus compañeros de juego lo que creía que podía hacer: sacar informes clasificados de “inteligencia”, colocarlos en la encimera de la cocina y fotografiarlos para publicarlos en Discord.

Teixeira fue acusado de violar la Ley de Espionaje en 1917 cuando supuestamente se lleva a cabo en nombre de un “enemigo”. Pero en este caso el “enemigo” es un grupo de chat de jugadores online, Theg Shaker Central. El New York Times, portavoz de las grandes empresas, fue el primero en investigar estas filtraciones. El periódico entregó sus conclusiones al gobierno federal. ¿Por qué? ¿De quién son los intereses?

Las principales preguntas que se hacen los medios de comunicación parecen centrarse en cómo “alguien tan joven y emocionalmente inseguro, y con opiniones tan más filosas de su pensamiento, las filtraciones pueden ser interesantes si revelan una creciente división entre facciones rivales de la clase dominante, división que los trabajadores pueden utilizar en su lucha contra el capital. ¿Existe una ruptura de la unidad de la clase en el apoyo a Ucrania en la guerra de Estados Unidos y la OTAN contra Rusia? Se dice que algunos de los documentos filtrados pintan un cuadro pesimista de las perspectivas de una victoria de Ucrania. Pero, al parecer, el gobierno ucraniano ve en ello un argumento para obtener ayuda militar adicional de los miembros de la OTAN.

Los medios de comunicación consideran que las filtraciones son “embarazarosas”, porque algunos documentos muestran que Estados Unidos espía a sus “amigos”—buenos amigos, entre ellos Israel, Corea del Sur y el presidente ucraniano Volodymyr Zelensky—, probablemente para asegurarse de que estos amigos no obediencen quién es su jefe. Hay muchas partes en movimiento en este último y muy publicitado acontecimiento, y el movimiento anti-guerra no debería apresurarse a sacar conclusiones. El movimiento no puede ser arrastrado a tomar partido por una u otra facción de la clase dominante. Todo el sistema capitalista es enemigo de la paz y de la justicia social y económica.

El mundo no fue mejor. Antacaron los símbolos, mas no desaparecieron los problemas. Por el contrario, las brechas sociales, las exclusiones de grandes conglomerados humanos, y las distorsiones que se produjeron en el nuevo siglo, son diametralmente opuestos a los del Estado capitalista, el cual no sería mejor si se fuera.”

Fotografía: Presidente Fred Hampton, líder del Partido Pantera Negra de Chicago, asesinado en 1969 en una redada policíaca instigada por COINTELPRO. Durante de más de un siglo el FBI ha sido dedicado al espionaje y a cosas mucho peores contra los revolucionarios negros y otros progresistas. El espionaje por se —denominado efusivamente “recopilación de inteligencia” cuando lo realiza el Estado capitalista— no es un delito para el gobierno estadounidense, que mantiene un enorme aparato de espionaje y a cosas mucho peores contra los revolucionarios negros y otros progresistas de la plataforma de medios sociales. El espionaje por se —denominado efusivamente “recopilación de inteligencia” cuando lo realiza el Estado capitalista— no es un delito para el gobierno estadounidense, que mantiene un enorme aparato de espionaje y a cosas mucho peores contra los revolucionarios negros y otros progresistas...