

# No U.S./French-backed invasion of Niger!

WW STATEMENT

Today, Aug. 6, is the deadline issued by the Economic Community of West African States for the current government of Niger, headed by Abdourahamane Tchiani, to abdicate power or face a possible military intervention by ECOWAS forces. Tchiani came to power through a military coup which has been condemned by imperialist powers, such as the United States and France, which have a vested interest in maintaining a foothold in Niger.

Demonstrations in Niger support the new government, along with targeting the French Embassy, a symbol of brutal French colonialism and exploitation of Nigerien people. (Nigerien refers to the people of Niger; Nigerian refers to the people of Nigeria.)

Niger is a target of imperialism for many reasons. Its natural resources include uranium used in the production of up to one third of France's electricity. Yet Niger remains one of the poorest countries in the world with the majority of its over 27 million people lacking access to electricity. Niger also holds strategic importance to the U.S. military as a hub for its drone operations in Central Africa, used to maintain U.S. influence in the region as well as assist in French military interventions.

In addition to 1,500 French troops, there are over 1,000 U.S. troops stationed in Niger, which the U.S. government now refuses to withdraw, despite the security agreements between the U.S. and Niger being suspended



Thousands of Nigeriens demand the withdrawal of French and other foreign troops, Niamey, Niger, Aug. 3, 2023.

PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY

French colonies — are among the countries that have come out in support of Niger against imperialist threats.

## African opposition to invasion of Niger

The governments of Burkina Faso and Mali issued a joint statement, asserting that any attempt at military intervention to remove Tchiani would be taken as a declaration of war against both their countries. "The transitional governments of Burkina Faso and Mali, One: have expressed their fraternal solidarity of the people of Mali and Burkina Faso with their brothers in Niger who have decided of their own accord to take their destiny in hand and to assume their sovereignty. Two: Denounce the persistence of the regional organizations to apply sanctions that aggravate the suffering of the population and imperil the spirit

of Pan-Africanism. Three: Refuse to apply these illegal, illegitimate and inhumane sanctions against the Nigerien people and authorities. Four: Any military intervention against Niger would be tantamount to a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali," the statement read. (africanews.com, Aug. 1)

Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, who is also the current ECOWAS chair, has authorized the deployment of Nigerian soldiers against Niger; they would make up the bulk of ECOWAS forces. However, the Nigerian Senate

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## Buffalo Citywide pickets hit Starbucks

By Sam Yaser  
Buffalo, New York

As part of the Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) Bus Tour, Starbucks workers and volunteers in Buffalo, New York, demonstrated the power of the Starbucks unionization campaign in the face of corporate resistance.

To bolster their efforts, on July 26, dozens of Starbucks workers traveled to Buffalo to spread information concerning the company's egregious union busting and breaking of labor laws. The Bus Tour displayed working-class power in a united front for fair compensation and protection from Starbucks' actions.

Informational pickets were dispersed around Buffalo. Customers and passersby were asked if they had previously heard of Starbucks' union busting and were given information on Starbucks' unofficial policy toward union workers.

The picket was followed by a press conference at the Elmwood Village Starbucks location, with some of the

speakers being fired workers and the original organizers of that store. Speakers made note of the fact that, although it has been over 500 days since the first Starbucks store voted to unionize, there has yet to be one contract negotiated.

December 9, 2021, marked a huge victory for Starbucks workers and unions all across the country when the Elmwood store voted to unionize — the first location to do so. Over 300 Starbucks locations followed suit. Though the push for unions quickly garnered public support, SBWU experienced a great deal of corporate pushback.

In a vigorous and illegal union-busting campaign, the company has fired union supporters, cut hours of unionized workers, threatened to withhold gender-affirming care, and even gone as far as to temporarily close down unionized locations. According to the National Labor Relations Board, "Starbucks had violated the National Labor Relations Act hundreds of times

to affect workers' organizing efforts." (nlrb.org, March 2)

A genuine desire for decent compensation and security will invariably be opposed by corporation owners and those of the ruling strata. Members of the working class must join together and support this strong drive by organized labor. □



Starbucks workers and community members picket outside the first union store in Buffalo, N.Y., July 26, 2023.



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# Obama, Trump, Biden share blame for Abbott’s border horrors

Reports in recent weeks from a whistleblowing Texas Department of Public Safety trooper have laid bare the state-sponsored, inhumane, anti-migrant policies confronting families seeking asylum at the Texas/Mexico border.

An article in the July 3 Houston Chronicle disclosed previously unreported incidents witnessed by the trooper in Eagle Pass, Texas. There, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state troopers to set “traps” of razor wire-wrapped barrels in parts of the river with low visibility; to push small children and women nursing babies back into the Rio Grande, resulting in their deaths; and to refuse water to asylum seekers despite the oppressive heat.

The consequences of these terrorist directives include drownings of adults and children; a miscarriage by a pregnant woman caught in the wire; serious lacerations suffered by children and adults from the barbed wire; and children, among others, passing out from heat exhaustion, but then pushed back into the river by Texas National Guard soldiers.

The DPS trooper wrote that the placement of wire along the river “forced people to cross in areas that are deeper and not as safe for people carrying kids and bags.” (HoustonChronicle.com, July 10)

Workers World totally agrees with a Texas comrade who wrote to us: “Despicable Texas Gov. Greg Abbott should be deported to hell!” But we recognize that Abbott is able to get away with the atrocities he’s pursuing at the Texas border because of decades of xenophobic policies by both Democratic and Republican administrations that set the stage for this brutal treatment of migrants, immigrants, and asylum seekers.

Under pressure from 800,000 young undocumented



Migrants trying to enter the U.S. from Mexico are confronted by large razor-wired buoys used as a border barrier along the banks of the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass, Texas, July 11, 2023.

children from their parents, with no tracking process or records, so many of the families could not be reunited.

Presidential candidate Joe Biden secured broad backing from immigrant groups during his 2020 campaign with promises to undo the criminalization and punitive nature of immigrant detention. Biden has instead expanded detentions and deportations and embraced Trump-era anti-immigrant policies, including “Remain in Mexico” and deportations of migrants previously protected from Title 42 expulsions. Haitians and other immigrants of African descent have been particularly targeted by racist policies and politicians.

Biden has also continued deadly imperialist, economic sanctions against many Latin American and Caribbean countries. These sanctions have been the driving force behind the migration of hundreds of thousands of people.

Obama, Trump, and now Biden share the blame for Abbott’s horrors by failing to create a secure, humane policy for migrants seeking to enter the U.S. without retaliation.

Workers World is in solidarity with all immigrants and migrants forced to attempt unsafe border crossings, driven by economic oppression caused by decades of U.S. neoliberal policies in their countries and U.S.-backed political repression. □

immigrants known as Dreamers, President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, yet failed to make it permanent. In March 2014, at a rally in Los Angeles, a coalition of immigrant groups denounced Obama, calling him “the deporter-in-chief” because of the record number of deportation — 2 million during his two terms.

The Trump administration’s “zero tolerance” immigration policy separated over 5,000

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## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

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

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

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

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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# People’s Summit against APEC

By Jordan Wilkie  
Seattle

A delegation from Workers World Party branches in Seattle, Portland, Oregon and New York City attended the People’s Summit Against APEC on July 29 and 30, put on by Pacific Northwest-People Over Profit. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a neoliberal, free-trade conference where “government and big business collude to prioritize corporate profits at the expense of the global working class and poor.” (International League of Peoples’ Struggle)

The People’s Summit had over 350 people in attendance and was sponsored by nearly two dozen groups. Organizers included Anakbayan USA, BAYAN Seattle, Oregon People Organizing for Philippines Solidarity, International Women’s Alliance and more. One of the major themes that emerged from the conference was the need for a united front amongst those fighting injustices created by capitalism and imperialism.



People's Summit delegation, July 29.

PHOTOS: PNP-POP

ILPS and WWP hosted a workshop that drew around 150 people and focused on Lenin’s definition of imperialism, how the working class will lead a revolution and how to cultivate international working-class solidarity. The presentation encouraged audience members to engage in discussions regarding how neoliberalism infiltrates our daily lives.

On the second day, the Summit mobilized people for a rally in Cal Anderson Park and then marched to the Seattle Convention Center Summit building to confront



Workers World delegation opposes APEC summit.

the members of APEC. At the Convention Center, demonstrations and speeches focused on themes of international solidarity, people’s power and the role of U.S. imperialism as the root cause of oppression of workers worldwide.

No to APEC! People over profits! □

## Banner drop targets APEC

By Jim McMahan  
Seattle

Seattle demonstrators at the University of Washington continued actions that began with a

People’s Summit Against APEC, July 29-30, with a banner drop Aug. 3 against the imperialist-dominated Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum. The giant banner drop was part of a

mass leafleting, rally and teach-in by the Pacific Northwest People Over Profits Coalition. The coalition is made up of organizations, individuals and alliances working to confront APEC.

APEC meets regularly to make corporate deals against the interests of the working masses of the Asia Pacific region. The protests also challenge APEC’s support for the privatization of health care, which allows health care costs to skyrocket beyond the means of workers. General funds for medical care are being diverted for military health care.

The U.S.-dominated, closed-door meeting will run through Aug. 20 and resume in San Francisco this fall, where more counter-protests are planned. □



PHOTO: PNW-POP

## Defending the right to housing through art

A new art exhibit, “Mobile Home,” opened at Cleveland’s Waterloo Arts gallery on Aug. 4. The show focuses on the ongoing struggle of the United Residents of Euclid Beach to stop their eviction from the trailer park where they lease the space their mobile homes occupy. The six artists featured, working in paint, photography, fiber and mixed media, are trailer park residents or supporters of UREB.

Since opening in 1973, the Euclid Beach Mobile Home Park has made affordable and accessible homeownership possible for over 100 residents. Now the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, which purchased the property in 2021, wants to evict all of the tenants and expand the public park space which abuts the trailer park. This is seen as a move against lower-income residents and a form of gentrification in the North Collinwood community.

However, signs supporting UREB are on display in storefronts and homes all over North Collinwood, especially on Waterloo Road where the gallery is located. The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless has been helping UREB organize against the evictions, now scheduled for September 2024.

The opening featured a spoken word performance by the Muamin Collective.

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

## Wars against Black history

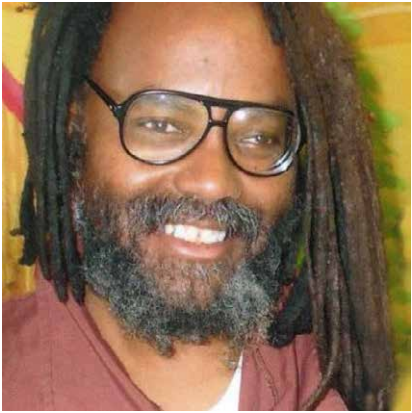
By Mumia Abu-Jamal

*This slightly edited July 21, 2023 commentary was recorded on prisonradio.org.*

And now we see, perhaps for the first time in modern days, states like Florida waging war against Black history by passing laws against what teachers can teach, and, perhaps more importantly, what they cannot.

In the land that brags about First Amendment laws of free speech, teachers are threatened to be silent about any Black history after 1875, or the time of Reconstruction. It’s as if, for Black people, history stopped at Reconstruction and nothing happened in their lives.

To add more insult to injury, these same lawmakers have argued that slavery was maybe good for Black people. It is not enough to observe that legislators make damn poor historians, but it also reveals their titanic stupidity. For hidden history has a way of seeping through like a break in a dike until it unleashes a flood.



For it reveals what white supremacy fears most: the twentieth century’s history of Black resistance to white terrorism, that very force which overturned Reconstruction. Their solution: to lie to their own children. To outlaw history is a grave thing indeed.

Frantz Fanon, who lived his last day supporting the Algerian anti-colonial revolution, condemns the colonialists for assaulting Algerian history. In his classic work, “The Wretched of the Earth,” he wrote, “colonialism is not satisfied with snaring the people in the net, or of draining their colonized brain of any form or substance with a kind of perverted logic. It turns its attention to the past of the colonized and distorts it, disfigures it, and destroys it.”

That colonial policy, conducted against the colonized people of Algeria a half-century ago, is being employed against Black people in America today. We need freedom schools, liberation schools, as occurred during the 1960s, to teach the truth to children today.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal. □



Muamin Collective, Aug. 4, 2023





Protesta contra la llamada ‘Madres por la Libertad’ en Filadelfia, 2 de julio de 2023. La pancarta: ‘La censura de libros es fascista. Dejen leer a los niños.’

# McCarthyismo rastrero

Dieciocho estados liderados principalmente por republicanos han aprobado leyes o promulgado políticas que restringen lo que los educadores pueden decir sobre raza, historia y racismo desde 2021. Cada día llega otro informe que implica la prohibición de libros, o una nueva legislación que censura el acceso al conocimiento y a la historia.

En todo Estados Unidos, los libros que contienen referencias raciales inclusivas y LGBTQ2S+ están siendo retirados de los estantes de las bibliotecas escolares. A los profesores de secundaria se les pide que retiren de sus aulas las banderas del Orgullo y otras muestras de apoyo a los jóvenes trans o se les despiden. Por presentar lecciones antirracistas o hacer comentarios en clase, los profesores universitarios son reprendidos, muchos también se enfrentan al despido.

En febrero de 2023, el estado de Florida desechó un prometedor plan de estudios piloto de Colocación Avanzada en Historia

Afroamericana, alegando que carecía de “valor educativo”. La legislación “Stop WOKE” en Florida, Texas y varios otros estados representa un esfuerzo por purgar la historia de Estados Unidos de cualquier referencia a la violencia contra los negros, marrones, indígenas y asiáticos por parte de los supremacistas blancos.

La campaña “antiwoke” del gobernador de Florida, Ron DeSantis, revisaría cómo se enseña la historia, incluyendo la omisión o minimización de las contribuciones de líderes históricos de los Derechos Civiles como Rosa Parks. DeSantis está siendo criticado por sugerir que la esclavitud benefició a las personas cautivas en Estados Unidos al “enseñarles nuevas habilidades”.

Para los activistas, woke es sinónimo de concienciación. Los llamamientos a “permanecer despiertos” resonaron a lo largo de toda la historia del Movimiento por los Derechos Civiles de Estados Unidos, y reverberan en el reciente movimiento

Black Lives Matter (Las vidas de los negros importan). No se trata de que algunos estudiantes blancos aleguen incomodidad por aprender sobre la historia brutalmente racista de sus antepasados: se trata de intentar borrar totalmente esa historia con libros de texto que glorifican la supremacía blanca.

Una vez más, la derecha se reúne en torno a una amenaza inventada, en un paralelismo moderno con el periodo McCarthy de la década de 1950.

## El Temor rojo

El senador de Wisconsin Joseph McCarthy era una figura política menor hasta febrero de 1950, cuando afirmó falsamente poseer una lista de 205 miembros comunistas empleados en el Departamento de Estado de Estados Unidos. Durante los cuatro años siguientes, la paranoia sobre la amenaza de los comunistas -el “Temor rojo”- alcanzó su punto álgido.

McCarthy propagó la idea de que los comunistas podían estar al acecho en cualquier parte, utilizando sus trabajos como profesores, organizadores sindicales, artistas, actores, periodistas, etc., para promover la dominación comunista mundial. Cientos de personas fueron encarceladas y decenas de miles perdieron su trabajo. El macartismo llegó a significar hacer acusaciones públicas de deslealtad o subversión sin pruebas y emplear métodos cuestionables de investigación y acusación para suprimir la oposición.

El movimiento de acusación roja asociado a McCarthy comenzó en realidad en la década de 1930 en respuesta a las huelgas masivas de los trabajadores de la industria automovilística y de otros sectores. Fue un esfuerzo concertado para debilitar a los sindicatos, purgando a los líderes afiliados a partidos comunistas o socialistas.

En 1946, más de 4,6 millones de trabajadores se declararon en huelga, más que en ningún otro año de la historia de Estados Unidos. En 1947, el Congreso anuló el veto del Presidente Harry S. Truman a la Ley Taft-Hartley, que exi-

gía a todos los funcionarios sindicales por encima del rango de delegado que firmaran un juramento de que no eran comunistas.

No se pueden ignorar los paralelismos entre la persecución anticomunista durante el periodo de McCarthy y la cruzada anti-despertar (antiwoke) de hoy en día. Pero en lugar de causar alarma, deberían verse como una llamada a organizarse.

## La respuesta: unidad multinacional de la clase obrera

La extrema derecha de la clase dominante se alarmó especialmente por la efusión de millones de personas en todo el mundo en 2020 en el movimiento Black Lives Matter tras el asesinato policial de George Floyd, cuando jóvenes trabajadores blancos salieron a las calles en protestas militantes codo con codo con sus compañeros negros y marrones.

Aunque las acciones callejeras han disminuido temporalmente, su energía ayudó a alimentar el creciente movimiento de jóvenes trabajadores -multinacionales y multigénero- para organizar sindicatos en lugares de trabajo desde Starbucks a Amazon y más allá. Sólo la amenaza de huelga de 340.000 trabajadores de UPS obligó a la empresa a satisfacer muchas de sus reivindicaciones.

De California a Nueva York, las luchas para conseguir reparaciones para los descendientes de las personas esclavizadas en Estados Unidos están cobrando impulso.

El capitalismo es un sistema moribundo, sostenido por el gasto masivo en guerras a expensas de todos los programas sociales. Los jóvenes de todas las nacionalidades, sexos e identidades de género se sienten cada vez más alienados y temen por su futuro debido al daño tan evidente que el capitalismo ha causado al medio ambiente.

Lo que se interpone en el camino de un movimiento anticapitalista verdaderamente amplio son las mismas herramientas que el capitalismo ha utilizado históricamente para dividir a la clase trabajadora mundial: racismo, homofobia, xenofobia, sexismo, transfobia, capacitismo y edadismo.

La clase trabajadora se está uniendo cada vez más, impulsada por la creciente organización laboral dirigida por trabajadores que a menudo son personas de color y de género no binario. La amenaza de la unidad multinacional de la clase trabajadora es lo que más teme hoy la clase dominante, igual que temía al comunismo hace 70 años. □

## Guerras contra la Historia Negra

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

Y ahora vemos, tal vez por primera vez en la historia moderna, a estados como Florida donde libran una guerra contra la Historia Negra al aprobar leyes contra cualquier materia que el magisterio pueda enseñar y lo que es más importante, lo que no pueda enseñar.

En el país que se jacta de la libertad de expresión garantizada por la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución, las y los maestros ahora son amenazados con despido si no guardan silencio sobre la Historia Negra después del fin de la época de la Reconstrucción en 1895. Es como si, para los Negros, la historia se detuviera en la Reconstrucción y no haya pasado nada más en sus vidas.

Para añadir un insulto más a la herida, algunos legisladores argumentan que tal vez la esclavitud era favorable para la gente negra.

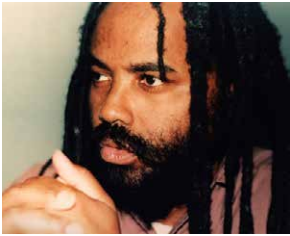
No es suficiente declarar que estos legisladores son malísimos historiadores. También averiguamos su titánica estupidez. Porque la historia oculta tiene una forma de filtrarse como una ruptura en un dique hasta que desata una inundación. Revela lo que más temen los defensores de la supremacía blanca: la historia en el siglo XX de la resistencia negra al terrorismo blanco que derrocó la Reconstrucción.

¿Su solución? Mentir a sus propios hijos.

Suprimir la historia es algo muy grave.

Frantz Fanon, quien vivió sus últimos días apoyando la revolución anticolonial argelina, condenó a los colonialistas por desdeñar la historia de Argelia. En su obra clásica, Los Condenados de la Tierra, escribió: “El colonialismo no se contenta con atrapar a la gente en la red ni con vaciar su cerebro colonizado de cualquier forma o sustancia. Con una especie de lógica perversa, vuelve su atención al pasado de los colonizados y lo distorsiona, lo desfigura y lo destruye”.

Esa política colonial llevada a cabo contra el pueblo colonizado de Argelia se está utilizando ahora contra el pueblo negro en Estados Unidos. Nos hacen falta escuelas de libertad, escuelas de liberación, como las que se construyeron en la década de 1960 para enseñarles la verdad a los niños y niñas hoy en día.



21 de julio de 2023  
—(c)’23 maj  
Audio grabado por Prison Radio  
<https://prisonradio.org/commentary/wars-against-black-history/>  
Circulación por Fatirah Litestar01@aol.com  
Traducción Amigxs de Mumia en México. □

## No U.S./French-backed invasion of Niger!

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voted not to approve this deployment.

The refusal of other neighboring countries to participate in the U.S. and French-backed ECOWAS invasion, as well as the hesitancy of the people within the countries whose leaders advocated for invasion to actually carry it out, shows major fractures in the imperialist grip over West Africa after hundreds of years of colonialism.

Niger was one of the last remaining governments friendly to the U.S. empire in the Sahel region. Put into power by a series of earlier coups, the governments

of Mali and Burkina Faso cut ties with French colonialism and expelled French troops. Since then, ECOWAS has established its own military presence to attempt to prevent anti-colonial coups from taking place within ECOWAS member states, without U.S. or French troops intervening directly.

Some of the new African governments are working with the Wagner Group—mercenary forces based in Russia—to control and repress local Islamic State-affiliated groups. These ISIS-like armed groups have been a security concern for countries in the region since NATO aggression destroyed

Libya in 2011 and destabilized the region. U.S. and French imperialism have used these groups’ existence as a pretext for military intervention.

**Workers World Party affirms the right of Niger’s people to take the fate of their country into their own hands. We oppose any U.S. or French-backed military invasions, sanctions, or meddling in African politics. We support the expulsion of all U.S. and French troops and the dismantling of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).**

**We support the right of African**

**nations to make economic and security relationships on their own terms with other countries, including with Russia and China, rather than being forced into a position of subjugation as a neo-colony of imperialist powers like the U.S. or France.**

**We oppose any U.S., French or NATO plans to launch yet another major proxy war. Such a war would spread havoc in the region in its attempt to maintain economic dominance over and perpetual super-exploitation of the African people. □**