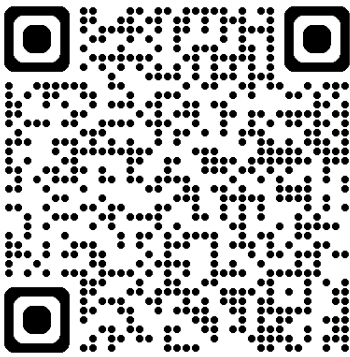




Stop U.S.-Israeli war! Defend Iran's sovereignty!

On Feb. 28, 2026, the U.S. and Israel launched an unprovoked, surprise attack on Iran.

This attack killed the world-respected leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and 50 leading members of the Iranian government. It targeted a children's school in Minab, Iran, 3 times, killing 168. Numerous other civilian targets were hit, including other schools, hospitals, food and water processing plants.

A month ago, on June 17, the U.S. signed a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Iran as a basis for a ceasefire and immediately violated this signed agreement, then resumed bombing of Iran with hundreds of attacks a day.

Iran is determined to resist more than four decades of continuous U.S. attacks, sabotage, assassinations and sanctions.

The entire region is determined to resist endless U.S. and Israeli wars.

This war is escalating. The Strait of Hormuz is again closed. Fuel and food prices are rising everywhere. The billions of dollars wasted on these wars are a desperate attempt to halt the U.S. economic decline. These funds are directly stolen from human needs here in the U.S. and globally.

We call on the U.S. and its well-funded partner in crime, Israel, to:

- End the wars on Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen!
- End sanctions on these and all countries!
- End the blockade!

Join the Call to Action: Plan local actions and protests on **Tuesday, July 28**, the five-month anniversary of



the Feb. 28 attack and 150th day since the U.S. and Israel initiated this horrific, unprovoked war.

Sponsors include United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), Black Alliance for Peace, U.S. Peace Council, Resist U.S.-Led War Movement, International

Action Center, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, SanctionsKill/Americas Without Sanctions, Anti War Action Network, Socialist Action, Bronx Antiwar, Popular Resistance, Workers World Party, the Sovereignty Support Movement for West Asia. □

U.S. empire crumbling – A new world in birth

By Larry Holmes

Larry Holmes is the first secretary of Workers World Party.

Tasks to revive a revolutionary, global movement for SOCIALISM

Dear revolutionaries and militants of the working class,

The biggest significance of the 250th anniversary of the U.S. is that the world dominated by the U.S. Empire is ending. This is like a giant dam breaking, a dam that had at once been a catalyst for change, but

has also stifled it. The impact of this is as enormous as it is unpredictable.

It could be that what the world needs, what revolutionaries have dreamed about and dedicated our lives to, is no longer unthinkable in the foreseeable future. This is the time for revolutionary forces everywhere to ask themselves, "What is our new political orientation for the post-U.S. Empire world that is coming into being?"

What in this new world has changed?

If there was any doubt that U.S. imperialism was in an advanced state of irreversible decline, Iran has put any doubts to rest. It remains to be seen whether

the war is really over, but Iran's victory over the U.S.'s deadly war machine and that of its junior partner in genocide, Israel, is a turning point. We cannot say for certain that a better world is in birth anytime soon. But the possibilities of that today are far greater than what they were just a few years ago.

In this new world, China is at the center of a Global South-led rebellion against the U.S. Empire. And because the U.S. Empire is the center of world finance capitalism, that makes the decline of the U.S. Empire tantamount to the decline of capitalism. We have entered an advanced phase of end-stage capitalism. Most workers are struggling to meet basic needs, and

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Veterans Against Fascism, Philadelphia, July 4, 2026. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

workers.org

Remember Black August Workers World says: ‘Free them all!’

The month of August holds special meaning for the Black Liberation struggle. This August marks the 407th anniversary of the arrival of the first ship of Africans brought in chains to the shores of the British colony of Virginia in 1619. This August marks 250 years of the enslavement underlying the establishment of the U.S. settler-colonial state, with its injustices, brutality and institutionalized crimes against humanity.

The legacy of enslavement continues today in this white-supremacist, capitalist society — and is intensified by the Trump administration.

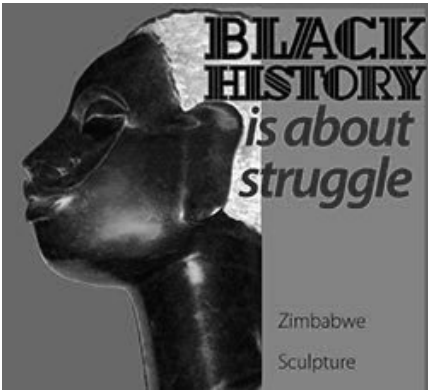
But August is also a time to commemorate the Black Resistance struggle, from the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 to the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831. From the Fugitive Slave Law Convention of 1850 to the Underground Railroad that ran from the late 18th century to 1865. From the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925 to the March on Washington in 1963, the Watts Uprising in 1965 and the National Prison Strike from Aug. 21 to Sept. 9 in 2018.

Freedom fighters who were born in August include Marcus Garvey, Fred Hampton and Russell Maroon Shoatz, while several died in that month, notably W.E.B. Du Bois, Huey P. Newton and Jonathan Jackson. Jackson was killed Aug. 7, 1970, while attempting to free the imprisoned Soledad Brothers, including his brother, Black Panther Party leader George Jackson. On Aug. 21, 1971, prison guards executed George Jackson. His assassination sparked the heroic Attica Prison Rebellion in September 1971.

Joann Little, a Black woman imprisoned in North Carolina, was acquitted in August 1975 due to self-defense for killing a white guard attempting to rape her.

WW continually writes about the Black Liberation Movement and its heroes. Our Tear Down the Walls section supports political prisoners — past and present, at home and abroad.

We say “Free the immigrants!” — the 66,000 jailed



in Immigration Customs and Enforcement detention facilities and those deported to brutal prisons abroad. Our newspaper demands the release of the thousands of Palestinian men, women and children tortured and jailed in Israel’s dungeons, with Washington’s support. Free them all!

Join the WW Supporter Program!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 49 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and, over 30 years ago, support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper’s PDF is posted and archived.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people’s movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné, Arab, Asian and Indigenous people, women, workers, migrants, prisoners, LGTBQIA2S+ communities, low-income, elderly and disabled individuals. **Prisoners receive all print issues for free. The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed issues and workers.org incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 or more a year? Contributing \$50 or a larger amount will entitle you to receive all print issues and five emails per week linking to online articles.

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001.

streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
404.622-7517
atlanta@workers.org
Workers World Party - Atlanta on Facebook

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 5634
Philadelphia, PA 19129
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
206-218-4417
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

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Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editor: Teddie Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary MarxistLeninist 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, LGTBQIA2S+ 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

Seattle union workers on the move

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Seattle workers are fighting back against capitalist exploitation! Hotel workers are locked in struggle in the longest hotel strike in Seattle’s history. Workers in other industries are just getting organized, including nightclub workers at three different clubs via Neumos Workers United. Security workers formed their own union several years ago at the Seattle Art Museum; the entire museum staff of 140 workers voted to unionize on June 17, with 94% in favor.

The 117 hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 8, are striking Embassy Suites, owned by the Hilton monopoly chain. Like many megacorporations, Hilton touts record profits. Yet workers report that in contract negotiations, the bosses have only offered a wage increase of 40 cents an hour — woefully inadequate given today’s inflation. Hilton refuses to provide health care coverage in the months that workers’ hours decrease. The strikers refuse to accept this!

Local 8 demands guaranteed employment for immigrant workers after their work authorizations expire. They want



UNITE HERE Local 8, Seattle, June 2026.

protections from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Immigrant workers report they live in fear as they travel to and from work.

The hotel workers also reported that their local boss, Greg Stinehower, is in the drone business. His company provides drones for police and immigration enforcement. This shows the extent that the bosses are at war with the working class!

Nightclub workers start organizing

Neumos Workers United is the organized labor group for the staff of Neumos, Barboza and The Runaway—top perfor-

mance nightclubs in Seattle. The Neumos workers marched and announced themselves on May Day. The workers have many grievances about working conditions at the clubs, especially concerning their security and security in general.

The nightclub workers finally got management to meet with them on June 3, which the workers consider a victory. They forced top management, headed by co-owner Jason LaJeunesse, to agree that there were serious problems concerning worker security, violations of labor law and low wages. Workers charged Neumos with wage theft, lack of breaks and a

general lack of responsiveness. The workers don’t have a contract yet, but they have forged strong unity, which will move them forward to address compensation and other issues. Neumos Workers United also puts out a 20-page monthly newsletter with updates about the struggle with Neumos, reports on local labor news and artistic expressions created by Neumos workers.

Seattle Art Museum victorious

The several dozen security workers at the Seattle Art Museum formed an independent union in 2022 under the name SAM VSO Union. In 2024 they won a contract that included a wage increase from \$21.68 to \$23.25 an hour and 4% annual raises through 2027. Now all workers at the museum have joined together in forming Seattle Art Museum Workers United, affiliated with the Washington Federation of State Employees/AFSCME Council 28.

This is part of AFSCME’s Cultural Workers United campaign, which aims to organize workers at museums, libraries, zoos and other cultural institutions across the U.S. So far, 50,000 workers at cultural institutions have unionized with AFSCME (Neumos Workers Monthly). □

President’s House: Panels swapped under cover of darkness

By Marta Guttenberg
Philadelphia

Around 5 a.m. on July 15, Attorney Michael Coard and other members of Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC) learned that the panels making up the President’s House and enslavement exhibit near the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia were being pulled down behind tarps under federal guard.

They discovered that the exhibit had been completely replaced with new panels that whitewash and distort the facts that the original panels presented, regarding the horrors of enslavement. All the explanatory video presentation

screens were disabled. Also for the first time, surveillance cameras were installed around the exhibit.

This raid is not the first by the federal government on the exhibit. A prior removal of panels is part of the litigation.

ATAC called an emergency noon press conference the same day at the site with about 30 ATAC supporters and many local press outlets in attendance. Coard called the new revised panels “a complete whitewashing of U.S. history.”

For the first time that this writer has witnessed, federal officials appeared to try to prevent the press conference at the site. After discussion with Coard (and perhaps because a bank of press cameras

was assembled), the feds allowed the press conference to continue.

The Trump administration had long targeted the President’s House and slavery exhibit for its honest depiction of slavery and the roles of nine enslaved workers at the very first White House. Litigation between the city of Philadelphia and amicus groups, of which ATAC is one, and the federal government is ongoing.

ATAC remains determined to present the truth at the site where it happened. They promise to continue the struggle in the courts and on the street. □



WW PHOTO: MARTA GUTTENBERG

Federal police confront Michael Coard and others protesting Trump’s whitewashing of the President’s House exhibit. Philadelphia, July 15, 2026.

ADA’s 36th birthday: Celebrate but keep fighting

By Edward Yudelovich

As this July 26 approaches, marking the 36th anniversary of the passage of the landmark Civil Rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA, the spectre of the loss of all or most of the hard-fought gains of the U.S. disability justice and rights movement looms throughout the land.

On July 24, 2025, Bigot in Chief Donald J. Trump, in an ableist, racist executive order proclaimed: "Endemic vagrancy, disorderly behavior, sudden confrontations, and violent attacks have made our cities unsafe. ... the overwhelming majority of these individuals are addicted to drugs, have a mental health condition, or both." The administration’s solution: Involuntary institutionalization. "Shifting

homeless individuals into long-term, institutional settings for humane treatment through the appropriate use of civil commitment will restore public order."

Trump’s order contradicted Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, one of the first U.S. disability civil rights laws. It states: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 705 of this title, shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Both this provision and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 have long been interpreted to require that states provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate. In short: Institutionalization should be a last resort.

In 1999, a case testing these protections made it to the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, two women with mental disabilities sued Georgia, arguing that the state had failed its obligation to provide services that would allow them to return to their communities and that it had continued to institutionalize the women instead, thus violating their civil rights.

The court agreed that states have a legal responsibility to provide support that

integrates disabled people into their communities, and for nearly three decades, courts across the country have embraced that interpretation.

By 2023, 8.4 million Americans were receiving home- and community-based services through Medicaid.

On Jan. 23, 2026, Texas and eight other states — Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana and South Dakota — renewed their attack in litigation against the integration mandates. The states claim that a rule about the integration mandate published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is unlawful, unconstitutional and should be blocked.

On June 18, 2026, Principal Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel, Lanora Pettit, advocated in a memo that states do not have to provide in-home or community-based care to people with disabilities who need support.

In response, on June 23, ADAPT, the great disability justice and rights group, issued a memo entitled “Disability Freedom is Under Attack! The Latonya Reeves Freedom Act” (H.R. 9401 and S. 4865) to update the civil rights law. It would prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities needing long-term services and support.

The late Latonya Reeves was a Black disabled woman originally from Tennessee who was institutionalized as a child. To avoid going back into an institution, Latonya moved to Colorado where—with the assistance of the Reverend Wade Blank—she was able to secure freedom through the Atlantis Community in Denver. Reeves then helped other disabled individuals to leave Tennessee. She was a fierce activist with ADAPT, dedicating decades of her life to the fight for Disability Freedom.

Fifty years ago this April, in San Francisco, a group of around 100 people with many kinds of disabilities staged a month-long sit-in in a federal building as part of a national protest. The protesters demanded that the federal government honor their civil rights and sign and implement Section 504. This protest was supported by local community groups, labor unions and the Black Panther Party, who provided food and other supplies.

This world-famous protest won the “Battle for 504” and forced the Democratic Jimmy Carter administration to sign and implement the 504 regulations.

Disability Justice means “Dare to Struggle, and Dare to Win!”

Edward Yudelovich is a WWP Disability Justice and Rights Caucus activist with neurodivergent and auditory disabilities.



Thousands protest ICE murder of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

July 12 — Angry? Yes, people in Houston are absolutely furious!
Sad? Broken hearts are everywhere! Every time one of Salgado’s sons speaks, on TV or in person, people’s tears are flowing.

Action? Over 2,000 people packed two blocks and a major intersection the day after the news got out.
Solidarity? The family of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo is receiving a huge outpouring of love from around the Houston area. A GoFundMe appeal to raise \$250.00 is now way over \$25,000!

Swearing? Absolutely! “F-ck ICE” can be heard at every single rally, and rallies are being held every day, sometimes twice a day. And signs reading “F-ck ICE” are everywhere, in English and Spanish. My Workers World sign reading “Chinga La Migra y Trump Tambien” was so popular that people begged me for it!

But, none of this should be happening.
Salgado was murdered by racist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents before sunrise on July 7, as he was on his way to work with three coworkers. All of a sudden, two black cars started following Salgado’s work van. Within a minute, ICE agents fired shots into the van’s windows, and Salgado fell to the street bleeding. Agents took his wallet and all of his personal possessions, and he was pronounced dead at the hospital as a John Doe.

ICE is now detaining the three men who were in Salgado’s work van, and ICE is encouraging them to self-deport. Their attorneys say that if they self-deport, then they cannot testify in what will surely be a massive lawsuit against ICE for murdering Salgado.
This latest ICE murder happened exactly six months to the day that ICE agent Jonathon Ross shot and killed Renee Good in Minneapolis.

Rallies and speeches against ICE

The day after the murder, thousands of people gathered near the murder site in Houston. The cops didn’t dare ask anyone for permits. Rallies were held in Spanish and English.

A militant march took place and while thousands were marching, those who could not march spoke at a vigil held by Alianza Latino Internacional. A memorial with photos and candles was set up immediately and has grown each day, with balloons, flowers and messages being added.
Right now, as I write, there is live music and a novena taking place at the memorial site. (A novena is a day of prayers that is repeated for nine successive days.) People are informally gathered and are praying and singing. Many are bringing food and drinks. One car just dropped off a huge platter of tacos de fajitas!

Speakers at the many rallies include some of Houston’s leading immigrant rights activists and leaders: Cesar Espinosa with FIEL (Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en Lucha), Teodoro Aguiluz with CRECEN (Central American Refugee Center) and Martina Grifaldo with Alianza Latino Internacional.
As Aguiluz said in Spanish at a City Hall rally: “Lorenzo may no longer be with us, but his story has multiplied in the hearts of thousands. His name now represents the dignity, hard work and resilience of so many immigrant families.”

Also, U.S. Congress members Sylvia Garcia, Al Green and Christian Menefee were at many of the rallies and press conferences. Green announced he would once again file a bill to impeach Trump.
Yesterday, the AFL-CIO held a vigil at the Service Employees Union hall in Houston; it was packed, with a hundred or so people who could not get inside.
Also, LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) has raised almost \$500,000 for his family.
As I write this, there was another rally at City Hall today. Yesterday, people rallied in the rain for hours at City Hall and then marched to oppose the horrific murder of this much-beloved man.
Who was Lorenzo Salgado? He was a 52-year-old worker, a family man with three sons and a spouse he



Houston protest, July 12, 2026. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

had been with since they were teenagers in Mexico. He owned a small business and had built houses in the Houston area for 35 years. He went to work before the sun rose and came home as it set.
After dinner, he liked to sit on his front porch with his dog that he loved. He sent all three sons to college. He loved the Mexican soccer team. His spouse wants his belongings returned, so she

can wash his lunch box one more time.
Does this sound like a dangerous man who should have been shot down? Obviously not!

Get involved in the struggle!

On July 14, people are encouraged to sign up to speak at the public comments section of the City Council meeting and also gather outside to demonstrate.
On July 16, at the Old Galveston County Courthouse, a candlelight vigil will be held to remember Salgado, co-sponsored by Galveston LULAC Council 151 and Galveston Island Democrats.

ICE has terrorized Houston for many years, but now it is so bad that people have stopped going to work, are not sending their kids to school, are skipping doctor visits and monitoring sites that report where ICE is located around the city. Just today, ICE agents are about 10 blocks from my home.
ICE is funded by the federal government, and last year a \$170 billion spending bill for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security was passed to arrest, detain and deport immigrants. How criminal is it that people in Houston and around the country need homes, jobs, healthcare, groceries, gas and childcare — but people’s needs are not a priority.
People must demand that the government spend trillions of dollars on workers’ needs and immediately stop funding terrorists like ICE. Stop all deportations!
Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, ipresente! □

Citizens Bank ends funding for ICE prison companies

By Betsey Piette

Following months of intense public pressure, Citizens Bank announced on July 17 that it would end its financing of immigration detention centers operated by CoreCivic and GEO Group. While the bank claims its decision was due to the federal government’s plans to purchase many of those companies’ facilities, it is more likely that the withdrawal of millions of dollars by protesting groups over the past few months was the key factor.
After demonstrating at the bank’s annual shareholders’ meeting in April in Providence, Rhode Island, American Federation of Teachers-Rhode Island Federation of Teachers (AFT-RIFT) Local 6516, which represents 2,000 working graduate and undergraduate students at Brown University, pulled out \$500,000 in deposits from the bank.

At an April press conference announcing their decision, Michael Ziegler, president of Local 6516, said: “For us, ICE is a workplace safety issue. We are not going to have it be the case that our members’ dues are going to be used to help finance the camps that are going to detain them.” Hundreds of the union’s members are immigrant workers.
The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, a coalition of 60 religious groups, also withdrew \$3 million in protest in April. In June, local governments and school districts in Montclair and Jersey City, New Jersey, pulled out a combined \$300 million following protests supporting a work stoppage by immigrants imprisoned at Delaney Hall, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center run by GEO Group in Jersey City.
Headquartered in Providence, Citizens Bank, with \$233.8 billion in assets as of June 30, 2026, is one of the oldest and largest financial institutions in the U.S. CoreCivic, with over \$2 billion in ICE contracts, became a Citizen’s client in 2011, borrowing \$500 million from the bank in 2024.



Michael Ziegler, president of AFT-RIFT Local 6516, speaking outside Citizens Bank shareholders’ meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, April 23, 2026. PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER SHEA

The GEO Group, which became a Citizens Bank client in 2018, has a \$550 million line of credit with the bank. The company currently has contracts to run facilities that hold over 26,000 ICE detainees. In the first quarter of 2026, GEO’s profits were \$705.2 million, a 17% increase over last year. (workers.org/2026/06/92997)
While Citizens claims that “it is against bank regulations to deny banking services to individuals and to lawful businesses based on political or religious considerations” — a practice known as debanking — regulations never kept them from denying loans to people in Black and Brown communities — a practice known as redlining. The National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Reveal have both found that Black and Brown loan applicants are much more likely to be denied than white applicants by Citizens.
The De-ICE Citizens Bank coalition, in a statement issued July 17, called the bank’s decision “an important victory for the people who refused to let a major bank finance human suffering brought on by ICE detention activities.” (The Rhode Island Current, July 17) □

Yet another ICE killing

By Luis Lopez
Biddeford, Maine

July 13 — This morning, on a hot sunny day, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was in the area of Pool Street in Biddeford, Maine.
At around 7:30 a.m., their agents approached a 26-year-old Colombian man, Joan Sebastian Guerrero, who had authorization to work in the U.S. He had been given a Social Security number. Guerrero is the father of a three-year old daughter.
Video footage from a house camera shows him going to the door of his car when he dropped to the sidewalk after being hit by bullets. He died on the sidewalk. ICE shot him dead! He was not even the person ICE was looking for, but in typical “blame the victim” fashion, the Department of Homeland Security vaguely claims the ICE thug was “fearing for public safety.” (CNN, July 14)
Protests erupted immediately in Biddeford, throughout Maine and elsewhere. ICE agents killed Guerrero less than a week after they killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo in Houston.
We workers don’t have borders. We speak more than one language. We flee nations that the U.S. and Europe attack and control to escape poverty and repression.
It was Marx and Lenin who defined the state as a body of armed men. Trump and the billionaire class created this militia, ICE, to crush and deport workers.
We will not let them kill us. We will organize resistance. The people united will never be defeated! □



Biddeford, Maine, July 13, 2026. PHOTO: LUIS LOPEZ

Terror in Misssissippi

By Benny Schaft

On July 6, the body of 18-year-old Nolan Xavier Wells was found in the water off Horn Island, on the northwest end of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Wells had been celebrating the Fourth of July with friends before he went missing and was later found dead.

The case has raised serious questions, chief among them why Mississippi authorities were so quick to rule his death an accidental drowning while doing so little to actually investigate it. That refusal to dig deeper is exactly why his family has now hired attorney Ben Crump and paid to have an independent autopsy performed outside the state, flying his body to Washington, D.C., so a doctor with no ties to Mississippi law enforcement can examine him.

Black communities across Mississippi, who know this pattern all too well, have been vocal in their criticism. Nolan’s death joins a string of deaths of Black comrades in Mississippi, most recently one-year-old Kohen Wiley, murdered by police after they accused his mother, Velleiya Wiley, of stealing diapers she had already paid for. Officers responded by firing into her car and killing her son.

Of course, many will say people are jumping to conclusions — that Black comrades are “making it about race” again. But all you have to do is know the history of Mississippi, which reads like a horror novel in the scale of murder committed against the Black proletariat, from chattel slavery to the modern prison industrial complex. Landowners openly threatened the sharecroppers they were exploiting. Any organizing, any resistance, and you’d be sent to Mississippi .

Advertised lynchings a Mississippi tradition

The Equal Justice Initiative has documented the lynchings of over 581 Black men, women and children in the state alone, not counting the many more simply murdered outright. Terror like this isn't just an aberration in Mississippi; it's woven into the fabric of the state.

Take John Hartfield, murdered in 1919 for being accused of assaulting a white woman and for being in a relationship with one. He was shot three times. But he was kept alive and conscious overnight so a mob could lynch him the next day, since advertising lynchings in advance was itself a Mississippi tradition. Hartfield was



Nolan Wells

beaten, hanged, shot well over a thousand times, then burned. Roosevelt Towns and Robert McDaniels were tortured with a blowtorch until they “confessed” to a murder they likely didn't commit, then shot dead in their chains and burned too.

These crimes went unpunished, and the killing didn't stop. It continued with Reverend George W. Lee and Lamar Smith, murdered in 1955 for registering Black voters, and with Emmett Till, whose murder the state tried to bury.



Lynching of John Hartfield, Mississippi, 1919.

It continued in 1964 with James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, three Freedom summer volunteers murdered by Klansmen with local law

enforcement's direct involvement. And it continued with Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers, assassinated by Byron De La Beckwith of the White Citizens' Council, which functioned as a Southern Gestapo running sabotage, informants and killings statewide.

Then there's the killing the state carries out through its courts instead of its mobs: legal lynching. Willie McGee is the clearest case, executed in Mississippi's traveling electric chair in 1951 for the alleged rape of a white woman, in a trial so rigged it became known as a legal lynching.

That's the same state machinery that opened fire on students at Jackson State University in 1970, killing two young Black men and wounding a dozen more for protesting. And it's the machinery keeping Mississippi prisons running on the slave labor of incarcerated people today, good for capital and exactly why the ruling class deals with Mississippi so gently, if at all. The state has always been a hub of profit, from “King Cotton” to the prison system it pioneered.

Which brings us back to Nolan Wells. The state's refusal to investigate his death follows the same script used with Trey Reed, who last year was found hanging from a tree at Delta State, and Raheem Carter, who was found dead and brutalized near Taylorville in 2022. Across Mississippi and the South, Black people are being lynched, and the denial that follows is policy, not incident. That pattern has deepened since the gutting of the Voting Rights Act in April, emboldening reactionaries to treat this as open season on Black communities.

Fighting back

So what do we do? We organize and show solidarity with Black comrades carrying the brunt of this violence. We follow Black leadership rather than pushing Black voices to the margins, still one of the movement's most persistent failures. We educate ourselves on the material conditions Black Mississippians live under, including the deep SNAP (food stamp) cuts that hit the state hard last year.

Freedom Summer in 1964 is the model: Black and white organizers working together, guided by revolutionaries like Fannie Lou Hamer to understand the material conditions oppressed people were living under, not just the symbolism of the moment.

Only by doing this work can we stand with our Black comrades in the struggle for Black liberation. □

How the ‘Imperial Six’ support imperialism and vice versa

Part 5: Oracle

By Zev Rosen

On March 11, Al Jazeera reported that Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had declared six key U.S. and Israeli corporations to be fair targets for resistance in the region: Google, IBM, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Oracle and Palantir. These “Imperial Six” corporations uphold the U.S. economy of violence and destruction. Exposing them in solidarity with Iran and all nations targeted by imperialism will help to bring the war home and move the world toward justice.

Workers World has been publishing deep dives into the Imperial Six. Last time, the paper examined NVIDIA, the most valuable company on earth and the company at the heart of the imperialist boom in generative artificial intelligence. Part Five looks at a company behind both the imperial infrastructure of violence and a string of takeovers of bourgeois media corporations: Oracle.

Oracle makes database technology that manages vast amounts of data for customers. Just as with IBM, Oracle has been a project of U.S. imperialism since before the company even existed. In 1977, co-founder Larry Ellison was a contractor for the CIA, which had helped overthrow the Socialist Party government of Chile four years earlier and whose proxy government of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in Iran would be overthrown two years later.

The name “Oracle” came from the code name for the CIA project Ellison was working on, and the agency would become the first customer of Ellison’s new company. Oracle remains very much a project of the CIA and the rest of the imperialist U.S. government. In 2020, it received part of a CIA cloud computing grant potentially worth billions of dollars, and this June Oracle pocketed a \$400 million grant to handle human resources

throughout the U.S. government.

Oracle is a core part of U.S. imperialism around the world, particularly in the Zionist entity Israel. The Zionist military has been a major Oracle customer since at least 2001, and the total revenue from contracts detailed by the Who Profits Research Center reached over \$100 million. (whoprofits.org)

Oracle software supports the Zionist police, the population and immigration authority and the “civil administration,” which targets Palestinian construction for demolition. Oracle joined with fellow Imperial Six member NVIDIA, as well as OpenAI and Cisco Systems, to support the massive Stargate data center project in the United Arab Emirates, a U.S. client state currently carrying out a genocide in Sudan. It's no surprise, then, that Ellison is the single largest donor to the Friends of the IDF (the so-called Israel Defense Forces).

Oracle’s Ellison manufacturing consent

To manufacture support for imperialism, Ellison has used Oracle profits to purchase huge swaths of U.S. media. After pressuring the U.S. government to demand that the Chinese company ByteDance sell TikTok in order to suppress coverage of the Gaza genocide, Oracle took a 15% stake in the new TikTok USDS Joint Venture LLC, worth about \$2 billion.

In August 2025, Skydance Media, which began as a vanity project for Ellison’s son, David Ellison, paid \$8 billion to purchase Paramount, a giant firm whose television channels include CBS, MTV, BET and Nickelodeon. And in February 2026, the new Paramount Skydance purchased the massive Warner Bros. Discovery



Oracle’s technology contributed to the massive destruction and genocide in Gaza.

conglomerate for \$110 billion, with \$40 billion personally guaranteed by Larry Ellison.

Sitting atop Paramount and Warner Bros., the Ellisons now control an astonishing amount of U.S. media, from CBS and CNN to HBO, the Cartoon Network and DC Comics, plus films including Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Godzilla, Titanic and The Matrix.

This obscene influence was purchased with Oracle profits and serves the Ellisons’ interests of furthering U.S. imperialism at home, in Palestine and around the world.

Down with Oracle and the rest of the Imperial Six! Down with imperialism! Victory to Iran and to oppressed peoples everywhere! □

VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

By Joe Piette, Michael Kramer and John Catalinotto

Antiwar veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and active duty personnel burst out in their broadest show of resistance in decades this July 4th weekend, as if provoked into action by the current administration’s orgy of militarism and white supremacy during the 250-year celebrations.

Even before the weekend started, USAF Major Jason Watson, an active-duty service member with more than 20 years of military career behind him, mounted the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on July 1 holding a sign that read, “Impeach Convict Remove,” referring to the current president.

On July 4 in Philadelphia, the Veterans Against Fascism coalition organized hundreds of veterans and active-duty personnel who marched at an “Independence from Billionaires” parade. Participants called it the largest protest specifically of veterans they had experienced since those during the war against Vietnam. And one where they heard mounting dissatisfaction from active-duty personnel.

The third important action is scheduled to take place July 7, in New York City. Organizers in Veterans For Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Center on Conscience and War will hand out leaflets to the thousands of sailors in New York for Fleet Week. They are inviting sailors who want more information on applying



Veterans’ banners raise the big issues in Philly, July 4, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

for conscientious objector status or breaking enlistment contracts to come to the People’s Forum in midtown Manhattan for presentations, films, discussions and legal advice from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

liberation, were at the July 4 protest. Both have been active in antiwar veterans’ movements in the U.S. Piette wrote the following news report:

Philly: Veterans and active-duty personnel march against war

Chanting “No more rich man’s wars,” hundreds of veterans and active-duty personnel marched at an “Independence from Billionaires” parade in Philadelphia on the 4th of July.

Coming from as far away as California, Maine and Florida, the veterans and active-duty personnel contingent made up the majority of the large “Peoples Parade” during a mile-long march that was led by an “Independence from Billionaires” blue and red banner.

Critical of mass deportation, forced displacement, climate crisis and international wars, local and national groups organized the event as counter-programming to the official 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The Veterans Against Fascism contingent featured dozens of black and white signs and banners targeting U.S. forever wars. The signs attacked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) kidnappings and fascism

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Women play leading role exposing militarism of 250-year celebration. Philadelphia, July 4, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Veterans’ healthcare under siege

By Renée Imperato
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Veterans healthcare is under siege. Over 40,000 positions have already been cut by Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins. Per the Veterans for Peace “Save Our VA” spring 2026 report, “All 139 VHA facilities reported shortages, with 94% facing severe medical officer vacancies and 79% facing nurse shortages.”

To be clear, the objective of the Trump cabal is to administratively murder at least two million veterans. To those who believe this is a severe statement, remember that when Trump’s nephew pleaded for help with medical costs for

his severely disabled son, Trump told him that to end his son’s pain and suffering, he should let his son die. So imagine the lack of concern Trump has for the veterans he has spit on in sabotaging veterans’ healthcare, Medicaid and Medicare.

After Trump cut VA payments for home healthcare aide services in March, elderly and infirm veterans across New Mexico and rural Texas have been left without the support they need to conduct their daily lives. And veterans medical centers are being dismantled on every level as revealed by a whistleblower in an April townhall meeting about the Albuquerque, New Mexico VA.

The result of these shortages is

exemplified by veterans dying in the emergency room (ER) of the Albuquerque VA waiting for care. In one instance, a lack of supplies caused a veteran to die just an hour after major open heart surgery. In other words, the ER now lacks the specialized post-operative resources needed to keep post-surgical veterans alive.

The Albuquerque VA has had a complete exodus of anesthesiologists, leaving operating rooms dark for 13 hours every single night for months.

ER patients presenting with nighttime surgical needs are routinely turned away.

The Hematology and Oncology (cancer care) clinics have lost ALL of their primary hematologists and oncologists, completely dissolving those departments; life threatening cancers are being managed without physician oversight. And 100% of the facility’s Pulmonary and Critical Care (ICU) physicians have resigned in protest.

Primary care and sleep medicine starvation

Unsafe conditions and the impact on morale have driven a mass exodus of primary care doctors and nurse practitioners from the Albuquerque Veterans Hospital.

Thousands of veterans have now gone over two years without seeing a doctor consistently. In that time, developing dangers such as cancer and other tumors may grow without diagnosis or treatment.

Using rigid registered nurse (RN) checklists, the VA’s internal system triggers immediate blanket cancellations of specialty consults in Addiction and Recovery Care (CARA). Because these cancellations happen administratively before an internal specialist can evaluate a veteran’s file, veterans are systematically blocked from both internal care and private community options.

This barrier causes severe, dangerous delays, while piling on a heavy workload on overstretched primary care providers. These fascists in the Trump administration and the Heritage Foundation are plotting two conspiracies simultaneously. They send people to fight to steal or destroy Iranian wealth, technology and lives, while deviously decapitating and disemboweling the veterans’ medical system they will desperately need after coming home.

More cuts are expected this August. Veterans, veterans service organizations and their allies are preparing to fight to restore services cut and stop any further cuts. □

The “Decapitation” of Station 501: The Exodus List

The entire medical brain trust has resigned, stepped down, or been constructively discharged over acute ethical and safety concerns. Investigate the Exodus List:

• Chief of the Emergency Room	• Chief of Psychiatry
• Chief of Anesthesia	• Chief of Pulmonary Medicine
• Chief of Ambulatory Care	• Chief of Gynecology (GYN)
• Chief of Critical Care / ICU	• Deputy Chief of Behavioral Health
• Chief of Radiology	• Deputy Chief of the Emergency Room
• Chief of Geriatrics and Extended Care	• Former Chief of Staff

Staff eliminations at Albuquerque, New Mexico VA in 2026.

BRING ANTI-FASCIST ACTION TO PHILLY

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as the military veterans and family members took the streets despite temperatures of over 100 degrees.

Current military members who oppose U.S. support for genocide in Palestine walked side-by-side with veterans of U.S. wars against Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam.

A short rally took place near Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago. Representatives from Vets for Peace, About Face, Military Families Speak Out and the Fayetteville Resistance Coalition raised the necessity of military personnel active and no-longer-active to speak out against unjust wars and attacks against democratic rights. Speakers emphasized the right of active-duty military members to refuse illegal or immoral orders.

Workers World asked Piette and Kramer for their personal reactions

Piette: First of all, the vibe reminded me of Dewey Canyon III, the veterans' week-long protest on the Mall in Washington in April 1971. Not as massive or confrontational, but participants just seeing each other together at this event seemed to give everyone more confidence — it seemed like there was a lot of potential for future actions.

I talked with an active-duty National Guard member who wore a Philadelphia Eagles hat. He was standing with about a dozen other active-duty service members among the banners. He said people don't say anything while in uniform but are talking off-duty.

He raised that the genocide in Gaza changed him. He no longer wants to be in a military that supports genocide, and he is taking steps to separate. He was glad to be among other military members who share his ideas.

A Marine who quit the service after 13 years was wearing a keffiyeh. She said she flew in from California just to join this march. She was tired of being the enemy wherever she was sent. It was a slow learning process, one thing on top of another, and eventually it made no sense



Whether marching or rallying, veterans (and active duty personnel) got their messages across clearly. Philadelphia, July 4, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

for her to stay in the military.

While taking photos, I had quick conversations with the people holding up the white on black banners. One veteran told me that he felt the population of every country he was sent to by the Army — Iraq and Afghanistan — hated him. He felt he was on the wrong side. I told him that since Vietnam, I assume the U.S. is always on the wrong side. He agreed.

And that was a general response I got from talking to a few other vets. The forever wars have tired them out, and they no longer believe the lies they were told about why they are sent to these places.

Kramer: A couple of things impressed me about the march and rally. One was that it was younger than most of the veterans activities I've gone to lately. Those had participation mainly from Vietnam veterans, fewer from

veterans from wars in the Gulf region or Afghanistan who are 25 to 35 years younger. There was also a greater proportion of men in the Vietnam era.

Many of the organizers of the Philadelphia march were women. The modern U.S. military itself is about 20% women and has been over 15% since 2010. This was reflected in the makeup of the marchers. And the march was notable for its discipline, Kramer reported.

Local media ignored it

Although the VAF contingent was a big part of the protest, Philly corporate media gave it no publicity, at least in the next two days. Perhaps this indicates that there is hesitation in the establishment about encouraging such an essential area of resistance. For people in the antiwar movement, it was a jolt in a positive direction. □

Air Force major demands Trump be impeached, is arrested

By Michael Kramer

U.S. Air Force Major Jason Watson has been arrested by Capitol Police and is under investigation by the military after holding a press conference on July 1 on the U.S. Capitol steps denouncing the Trump administration and calling for the impeachment, conviction and removal from office of President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance.

The press conference was attended by U.S. Rep. Al Green, an 11-term Democrat from Texas who is an African American. Green will be leaving Congress at the end of 2026 as his congressional district was recently eliminated when the Texas state Legislature gerrymandered the congressional districts, a move that reduces the likely number of Democratic and also non-white representatives, a racist maneuver.

Major Watson is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and has been on active duty for over 17 years. For full impact and symbolism, he wore his Class A blue uniform with all his awards and decorations at the press conference. He was most recently stationed at the NATO Joint Force Training Center in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Watson attacked the Trump administration for both its foreign and domestic policies. In addition to illegal wars, he described the prison-like immigrant detention centers, the suing of media organizations and colleges, the role of mega-donors, the trading of pardons for donations, the weaponizing of the Department of Justice and the attempt to reverse birthright citizenship.

After the press conference, he walked away from the gathering and stood alone on the steps of the Capitol holding a sign that read "Impeach-Convict-Remove."



Air Force Major Jason Watson at U.S. Capitol, July 1, 2026, before he was arrested by Capitol Police.

Watson was then arrested for demonstrating without a member of Congress present. He was held overnight at the D.C. Central Cell Block.

After a court appearance where charges were dropped, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations took Watson into custody. He is currently at a Level I confinement facility at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, located in Southwest Washington, D.C., and he is under a gag order.

That the Air Force is preventing Watson from speaking is reason enough to reproduce some of his July 1

statement here: "When the President of the United States orders military action against foreign countries ... as was done with Venezuela, Cuba and Iran — that is an unconstitutional usurpation of Congress's authority and a violation of the War Powers Clause. ...

"When the President of the United States directs the Department of Homeland Security to deny hundreds of people due process before illegally detaining them and sending them to a foreign prison notorious for human rights abuses, that is a violation of our Fifth and Eighth Amendment rights. Most people sent to CECOT [a high-security prison in El Salvador, where the U.S. sends migrants] never committed any violent crimes in their lives but are being defamed as violent criminals as a pretext for the torture they suffer in El Salvador, paid for with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Watson stressed, "For this, the President and Vice President must be impeached, convicted and removed."

Major Watson's statement shows that he believes in the Constitution, the oath of office, democracy and more. His full statement, which can be found at freespeechforpeople.org, says so. He has put his pension at risk, as well as facing possible incarceration while he now navigates the intricacies of the military criminal justice system.

Many people, including this writer, agree that we cannot let Watson disappear into the system and will support his right to speak out — in or out of uniform.

Kramer is a member of Veterans For Peace Chapter 021 (Northern New Jersey) and served in the Israeli military (1972-75).

U.S. empire crumbling –

Continued from page 1

many are falling short of this. And everything's about to get much worse.

The magnitude of the capitalist economic crisis that is spitting fire everywhere is like a colossal volcano boiling to a full eruption. The nearly entirely debt-based capitalist economy has created the biggest debt bubble in history. That bubble is about to burst, and it is going to bring down the global capitalist economy.

The capitalist establishment is not in good shape either. The Trump regime is still dangerous, but it is imploding politically. It doesn't matter if the Democratic Party gains more power in the midterm elections; it can't fix any of the ruling class's problems.

In every part of the world, from every class and political perspective, one question resonates louder and louder: What will replace the world order that is collapsing? Some characterize what is taking place as a transition to a multipolar world. This is true, but it is just that — a transition, i.e., it's transitory. Will the transition favor capitalism, or will events pave the way for a genuine rebirth of the worldwide struggle for socialism?

China's strategic role in the global struggle

Some of the heavy lifting that has made a new world possible has already been done. With all of its contradictions, China's direction is creating the conditions for the development of socialism for its nearly 1.5 billion people.

Moreover, China's intervention in the world, especially initiatives like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Belt and Road projects are making it more difficult for U.S. imperialism and its fading world structures to dominate and bully everyone. Towards this end, China has called for a new global governance initiative.

There are limitations to this. The economic development relations between China, the Global South and the rest of the world are not based on agreements between countries to move in an anti-capitalist or socialist direction. These relationships and projects flow out of a desire to prevent U.S. imperialism from controlling or undermining sovereign development.

In this early period of the new world situation, there's a lot going on. So-called "middle powers" in every part of the world are maneuvering to fill part of the void left by a crumbling empire, and this has little to do with socialism.

Even in decline, U.S. imperialism is still a desperate, dangerous, dying monster capable of unleashing war and terror both militarily and economically on the world. The danger of new and wider wars has not abated. The empire is trying to recolonize the entire Western Hemisphere. Cuba is squarely in its crosshairs.

The state of Israel is plummeting towards extinction, but it is likely to strike out violently before it dies. The U.S. rupture with Israel is significant, but it's too early to determine how that will develop.

The European imperialist powers are unraveling even faster than the U.S. Astonishingly, some in the European ruling class want to go to war against Russia. War is irrational, nihilistic and suicidal, but these adjectives describe the capitalist ruling class.

Where does all of this leave the working-class movement, especially its most radical sections?

Many if not most of us may think that it's premature to project such a bold idea as a new, global movement

for socialism, because the working class and its organizations are not prepared for this. That sentiment is understandable, but on the basis of world events, this needs to be rethought.

Don't we have the right, moreover the obligation, in the light of unprecedented world changes, to ask ourselves how this affects our priorities going forward?



Nov. 4, 2023 Washington, DC protest

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

We've taken no poll, but the guess would be that the outlook, priorities and aspirations of most of the working-class movement and the left is still profoundly out of sync with world events. The focus, rightly so, has been on defending the most oppressed against fascist repression, and this is essential and must continue. And of course, we must intensify the organization of workers and communities to defend themselves against the system and fight for their immediate needs.

But this does not necessitate the conclusion that bigger goals are not relevant at the moment, so we must not bite off more than we can chew. And yes, workers are going to prioritize the fight for what they need right now. But workers, more than ever before, also understand the need to fight for a future free of want, to fight for the things that they need to preserve life. And they don't want this just for themselves. They want it for the world, and they are willing to fight for it.

Socialism vs. capitalism, anti-imperialism and what's happening beyond the borders of the U.S. is not just of concern to a relatively small number of people. The masses are thinking about these things



Chinese students in Dongying, Shandong Province.

and what their relations are to all of this is. And that thinking is not static; it is dynamic and evolving like everything in existence is.

There are many reasons that people voted for the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) candidates in the recent New York City elections. But the most revealing thing about these elections is that the main reason was not local issues, but support for Palestine and repulsion against Zionist genocide. Those of us

who believe that workers are only moved by things that affect them directly should take heed; that was never true and is certainly not true now.

Karl Marx enlightened the working class with his scientific theory of historical materialism, which shows us that the constantly evolving productive forces of the world change everything. They change the relationship of workers to each other. They change the working class, make the workers more international in their outlook and consciousness. This doesn't diminish the historical significance of geography, language or culture, but it diminishes the separation that workers feel from each other, because they live and work a mile away or ten thousand miles away.

The need for a worldwide movement for socialism may seem like an old and tried idea, but now it is a new idea based on new developments and conditions. This will and must also affect the consciousness of revolutionaries whose outlooks are also evolving.

Helping to build a global revolutionary movement for socialism won't be easy. It will take all of our energy to help develop the alliances, the united fronts, the strategies, the struggles and

the kinds of organizations that such a movement will require. However, serious revolutionaries have to consider this huge task, because as revolutionaries, we are obliged to understand and dedicate ourselves to what is in both the short-term as well as the long-term interests of the workers and oppressed of the world.

Will the capitalist crisis ignite the class struggle?

The next very big question is whether the deepening capitalist economic crisis will awaken the masses of workers and propel them into a massive class struggle rebellion against capitalism. China and governments of the Global South have opened the main front against U.S. imperialism. Will the working class be able to overcome its weaknesses and the weaknesses of its organizations, of the labor unions for example, and open up a second front?

In this regard, we revisit the revolutionary Marxist position that the working class is a revolutionary class capable of depositing capitalism into the trash can of history. In spite of the weaknesses, we adhere to this Marxist position, fully aware that events will test our views. Our views are not based on wishful thinking, false optimism or nostalgia for earlier periods. They are based on the revolutionary theory of change.

We understand that powerful social forces, like the working class, can be relatively dormant for a long time. Then conditions change the working class, infuse it with new militant forces and energy, and the simmering anger that is smoldering just under the surface of the working class reaches the point of ignition, explodes into mass, militant class struggle and in doing so changes the class struggle equation in favor of the workers and against the capitalist class.

We also understand that this process does not happen without revolutionary, militant leadership and that spontaneity is inevitable but in and of itself cannot sustain and grow the class struggle. That requires the right leadership and organization. Doing everything that we can to help this process will be decisive.

Why the struggle for socialism must be global

Why do we propose a revolutionary, global struggle for socialism, as distinct from a purely national struggle for socialism? Because, while the priority of the working class is to deal with its immediate enemy class at

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A new world in birth

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home, especially now it is politically, strategically and practically impossible to fight capitalism in the exclusive and limited context of a given nation state.

Today, “Workers and oppressed people of the world unite!” is not merely rhetoric mostly applicable to sometime in the future. Conditions demand this strategy not later but right now. The reality of the present is that nearly 90% of the world, the Global South, is rising up against U.S. imperialism and winning, while the ruling class in the imperialist centers, particularly the U.S., is doing everything it can to detach the workers located in these centers from the entire world and have workers across the globe fighting each other instead of the class enemy.

It should be acknowledged that the struggle of the Global South has different takes, different forms, ranging from the armed resistance of the Palestinians and Iran to the economic blocs that include capitalist governments.

But this contradiction does not alter the fact that imperialism has staked its survival on dividing the workers of the world — precisely because events are pushing the workers of the world closer together everyday.

Moreover, the Global South is not only defined by geography. The migrant workers from the Global South, especially the most recent migrant workers who have been forced to leave where they were born and come to the U.S. or Europe, are a conscious extension of the Global South.

Part of the purpose of the war on migrant workers is to prevent migrant workers from rising to the leadership of the workers’ struggle. To understand this is to understand why Trump and the billionaires behind him want to turn the U.S. into a racist, misogynist, transphobic, white nationalist fortress.

Workers everywhere are strategic units in the class struggle. But it is a mistake to be only focused on the workers in one’s own country to the exclusion of the overwhelming majority of the workers all over the planet. To do this plays into the hands of a tiny class of global billionaires. At critical junctures, the success or failure of the capitalists’ divide-and-conquer strategy determines success or failure for the working-class struggle.

Why the struggle for world socialism has to be part of the global resistance to empire

The world struggle is centered in the Global South where nearly 90% of the world’s population lives. And the character of that struggle is to finally break free of U.S. hegemony and the vestiges that are not yet dead of colonialism and neocolonialism. The working class everywhere is strategic in the global class struggle, but this is not the time to forget that the mass of the workers on the planet are not physically centered in the U.S. and Europe. Moreover, the more recent migrant workers who live in the big imperialist countries are not separate from, but rather extensions of the populations of the Global South.

The most militant labor and anti-racist forces in the U.S. South consider this region to be part of the Global South for historical reasons. Working-class internationalism is not just a nice idea to talk about on May Day, though May Day is very important. Internationalism must be integral to our strategy, our organizing and our demands every single day and in every single struggle.

Socialist consciousness that does not openly and boldly declare that it is global only distorts history, denies the present and the future and serves the

interest of capitalism and imperialism.

The most important task of a revolutionary, global movement for socialism is to fight and smash the attempts to divide the working class. It must stand with, work with and support every resistance struggle, from Latin America and the Caribbean to Africa to



Nov. 4, 2023 Washington, DC protest

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

West Asia and all of Asia. It must be in concrete solidarity with global resistance, but even more, it must be a part of the resistance.

The “No Kings” protests have been very important to the anti-Trump forces. But the refusal of the organizers to include the demand for an end to genocide in Gaza, or even any mention of Palestine, was harmful to the struggle and an example of the anti-Trump bourgeois forces’ goal of excluding the rest of the world from the struggle. The collapse of support for Zionism and the skyrocketing support for Palestine illustrates how pathetically out of step the bourgeois anti-Trump forces are.

Why social democracy is on the rise — and how do we view it?

While fighting for reforms under capitalism is inevitable, necessary and a huge part of the class struggle, none of that changes the fact that capitalism cannot be reformed. It must be done away with. If anything has been learned over the past half century of neoliberalism and imperialist globalization, it is this reality.

Social democracy is on the rise in the U.S., not just in New York City, but in every part of the country. This is, among other things, a reflection of how workers, especially young workers, hate capitalism. It is good that workers in large numbers are voting for socialism.



June 2020 protest, Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

There is a sense that the recent electoral victories of candidates backed by the DSA in New York City, Denver and elsewhere have really shaken the ruling class — the leaders of both the capitalist political parties, but more so the Democratic Party and pro-Zionist

backers of Israel. All of this is very welcome.

Our problem with social democracy, of which there are different variants, is that everything — including organizing the workers, waging militant class struggle, calling for an end to capitalism, really fighting the imperialist forces that control the Democratic Party — is unimportant to them. Keeping alive the myth that capitalism can be reformed and that the Democratic Party can be pushed to the left is central to their goals.

To be clear, we’re not talking about the people who voted for DSA candidates or even many members of DSA who want the organization to be more anti-imperialist. We are referring to the forces that control the organization and its resources.

There will be — and there needs to be — a political struggle on the left between the politics of social democracy and the politics of revolutionary socialism and class-struggle internationalism and anti-imperialism. This struggle will be integral to the development of the working-class, socialist forces, and we should prepare for

it. This should not be interpreted as taking a position that revolutionaries under no circumstances should work with DSA forces. But it does underscore the need for revolutionary forces to strengthen their ranks and sharpen their positions and their strategies.

The main lesson seven months after Zohran Mamdani became mayor of New York City is that, under capitalism, the mayor of any city, especially the finance capital of the world, no matter how well intentioned, is virtually powerless to accomplish anything for the poorest workers apart from things that are small, symbolic or very temporary and subject to reversing.

Though Mamdani remains popular right now, it is almost inevitable that, sooner or later, this reality will lead to dismay and demoralization among his supporters. The job of the mayor of New York City is to serve the interest of finance capital, period. This is not a criticism; it is a statement of objective fact.

The superrich who run everything are not going to concede anything of lasting importance to Mamdani. The deeper problem is that since Mamdani took office, the tendency of those who supported him, including labor unions, has been to sit back and wait for him to deliver on the promises he made. This is a very bad lesson for the working-class movement.

Mamdani’s election should have been a signal to organize mass struggles, workers’ strikes, citywide tenants’ strikes, fight-back community assemblies, occupations, etc., as a way of forcing the ruling class to concede to the demands of the workers. In the absence of this, we are reminded that elections and elected officials — minus the workers struggle — result in a letdown and that the capitalist system relies on the electoral struggle to undermine the organizing of workers to engage in class struggle.

And, unless the imperialist ruling class abandons the Democratic Party, which they are not likely to do, the social democrats will either be completely co-opted by the bourgeoisie or, in a few cases, pushed out of the party. The Democratic Party cannot be reformed any more than the capitalist system can be.

Please consider this part one of an argument for: A revolutionary, global movement for socialism.

Holmes’ talk can be viewed at youtu.be/vcz6qXJJ2U.

Save America Act would undermine voting rights

#47 has already done more to interfere with elections and voting rights than many of his predecessors. His hypocritical claim at a staged media event on July 16 that it was China’s and Venezuela’s interference in the 2020 election that caused him to lose goes beyond the pale.

Trump insisted he had proof of this alleged interference. Yet he offered only highly questionable “evidence” in the form of newly unclassified reports, most with heavily redacted pages. His long-debunked allegations that the 2020 election was stolen are so unbelievable that his speech was boycotted even by major corporate media outlets including ABC, NBC and CNN.

This was the president who unleashed his MAGA supporters on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a bloody insurrection aimed at stopping Congress from approving Joe Biden’s election.

This is the president whose hand-selected Supreme Court of the United States judges recently overturned historic voter rights legislation that Black activists and their anti-racist white supporters fought for and died for over the decades.

This is the president whose MAGA supporters’ interference in multiple states has resulted in redistricting measures intended to disenfranchise millions of Black and Brown voters.

This is the president who refused to sign a major sweeping bill designed to address the U.S. housing crisis



March for voting rights in the 1960s.

in protest of Congress’s failure to pass his election security legislation.

But apparently these attacks on basic democratic rights are not enough for Trump. He has been pushing Congress to pass his Save America Act without success. And just what is in Trump’s Act?

The current version of this legislation would require voters to provide proof of citizenship at the time of registration. And they must produce voter IDs to vote in federal elections. One accepted document would be a U.S. passport — which fewer than half of voters in the U.S. possess. Registrants who use a driver’s license would have to pair it with a birth certificate — a concern for married women and trans people who have changed

their legal names. Currently, 21.3 million people — 9% of eligible voters — lack access to any of the required identification. (Brennan Center for Justice, June 2024)

Trump’s Act would ban mail-in ballots — something he uses himself to vote. This is a major concern for people with disabilities and those living abroad, including members of the military. It is also a factor affecting many voters, including MAGA supporters, who live in rural areas lacking easy access to polling places. It also runs counter to a recent SCOTUS ruling that states could count ballots that arrive after election day.

Trump also wants to include provisions unrelated to voting, including restrictions on trans women’s participation in sports and gender-affirming care for trans youth.

Millions of incarcerated people saddled with felony convictions are currently denied the right to vote. Trump’s Act will make voting more difficult for everyone, including formerly incarcerated people.

Trump’s rush to push passage of the Act is evidence that he fears that popular anger at his mishandling of the economy and widespread opposition to his renewed war on Iran will cost his party the midterms. Lacking any plan to address these crucial concerns, Trump wants to “fix” the elections in his favor — that’s the real interference that workers and oppressed people should be worried about. □

Capitalism fouls things up!

July 20 — As of this writing, some 900 wild fires are raging in Canada and Minnesota. Much of the U.S. was recently blanketed by smoke, with the air quality index (AQI) reaching numbers in the range of 500 to 700 or more in some states, including Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. Anything over 300 is considered “hazardous,” meaning everyone — including those not belonging to “sensitive groups” such as children, older adults and people with lung disease — should stay indoors with the windows closed.

The AQI has since dropped but could go back up again. This is a very serious situation. Every year at least 24,100 people die in the U.S. from polluted air and smoke caused by wildfires. (science.org, Feb. 4)

That figure will probably be higher this year due to the recent air quality nightmare. An uptick in deaths is predicted for major Midwestern cities such as Chicago and Detroit.

This is a working-class issue. Bosses are not giving work-

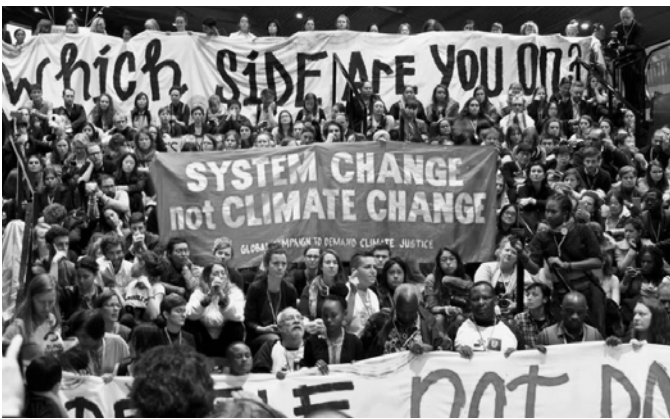
ers time off despite it being unsafe to work, especially outdoors. Even indoors, when the weather is hot in workplaces that are not air conditioned (like factories), doors and windows are open, allowing foul air inside.

When workers aren’t working, they aren’t producing profits. As usual, safety on and off the job takes a back seat to profits.

This is nothing new. Asbestos companies knew over 100 years ago that their product was linked to mesothelioma and lung cancer, but kept the public in the dark about the danger. Sherwin-Williams pushed lead-based paint after the risks of lead poisoning were known because of the profits their paint generated.

Climate change is driving the increase in wildfires. Contributing factors include drier forests, higher temperatures and increased numbers of insects that damage timbers, making them more flammable.

The burning of fossil fuels is the biggest contributor to climate change. Scientists have identified the



environmental hazards associated with burning coal and oil, but the practices continue, because to do otherwise would cut into the profits of the big energy companies.

The capitalist drive for profit is ultimately what created this latest air pollution crisis. The same drive forces workers into life-threatening working conditions. These are two more reasons to abolish the profit system once and for all.

System change, not climate change! □

Stop U.S. aggression on Iran!

By Lyn Neeley

We live in the center of the empire, so it is important that we fight against the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran and West Asia. Our job is to defend Iranian sovereignty from the U.S., which has carried out a decades-long campaign of sanctions, sabotage, assassinations and propaganda designed to undermine the Islamic Republic and stifle any possibility of self-determination for the Iranian people.

Our task is to attack the aggressive U.S. imperialist war on Iran and oppose calls for regime change. Our task is to assist revolutionary and sovereign governments, defend their revolutions, not echo critiques that advance U.S. and Israeli interests nor lecture people defending themselves under siege.

U.S. sanctions were imposed on Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when the Iranian people overthrew a U.S.-backed monarch and chose an independent path outside Washington’s control. For decades, Iran has been subjected to financial isolation, banking blockades, oil and trade restrictions and collective punishment deliberately targeting civilians.

Sanctions are economic warfare. They produce currency collapse, inflation, medicine shortages, infrastructure strain and long-term social instability.

No country can “reform” or freely determine its future while it is under sustained attack by external enemies determined to subjugate it. What Western media call



WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEEHAN GILLIS

Rally in Boston against U.S.-Israel war on Iran, Feb. 28, 2026.

“protests” are in fact imperialist-backed armed riots, coordinated arson, sabotage and acts of terrorism against civilians and public infrastructure.

Tech mogul Elon Musk enabled Starlink as a communications backbone for U.S.-Israeli-backed riot networks which facilitate coordination with foreign handlers and evasion of security measures. To provide infrastructure for armed U.S.-Israeli-backed groups inside a sovereign country means to participate in attempted regime

change. It is not “free speech.”

The real protests involve millions of Iranians fighting against U.S. imperialism and Zionism, defending their sovereignty and rejecting foreign domination.

The U.S. is increasing its attacks on Iran, because Iran refuses to kneel before the U.S., and because it has been a longtime ally of the Palestinian people. We see that the U.S. is attacking nations around the world whose people are confronting U.S. imperialism. Why are there so many U.S. bases in the Middle East with 50,000 or more U.S. military personnel?

This is not a situation where “two truths can exist at the same time.” That liberal canard blurs political lines. There are only two sides when it comes to imperialist war.

If there were any doubts that U.S. imperialism was in an advanced state of irreversible decline, Iran has put those doubts to rest. In early July, between 41 million and 43 million people across Iran and Iraq attended the funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, who was assassinated on Feb. 28 by Israel.

What was Ayatollah Khamenei’s crime? Leading and developing a strong, anti-imperialist country that has ushered in a turning point for the deadly U.S. war machine.

Sanctions kill. Support Iran!

Reject regime change.

Expose the lies. Anything less is siding with the empire. □

U.S. imperialist goals provoked war in Ukraine

By John Catalinotto

WW COMMENTARY

Can a nuclear war start in Ukraine? Considering the catastrophe that the U.S.-NATO war against Russia in Ukraine poses, one may ask: Why so little attention in the U.S. media?

There's a reason: The media are overwhelmed by coverage of the live and dangerous U.S. war on Iran. The direct and full use of the Pentagon's destructive force and the live threat to U.S. troops fills newspaper headlines and social media debate. There is also an argument among the U.S. rulers over the MAGA regime's handling of the war on Iran.

Within the movement in the U.S. that arose after absorbing the horror of the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide against Palestinians, the Ukraine war is less studied, understood and debated. This is understandable, as the Ukraine war developed over decades, but the corporate media falsely presents it as starting with the Russian intervention in February 2022.



An outline of the history of the conflict in Ukraine, at least one starting in 2013, can begin to redress this situation. The linked articles supply additional details.

The last 12 years

In the year 2013, and for decades earlier, U.S. foreign policy toward Ukraine included support for all anti-Soviet and anti-Russian elements, like the historical pro-Nazi Banderists. The imperialists' objective was to overthrow any Ukrainian government that had normal relations with Russia.

During the Barack Obama administration, the Democratic Party's neocon in the state department, Victoria Nuland, was the undersecretary in Ukraine aiding all the anti-Russia forces. She boasted that Washington had spent \$5 billion in this effort, which

succeeded in early 2014. Nuland chastised European Union (EU) leaders who were less than zealous against Russia. She was caught on tape once saying, "F – k the EU." (workers.org/2013/12/12050)

Republican Senator John McCain, another neocon militarist, also campaigned in Ukraine against any government friendly toward Russia, or even neutral. (workers.org/2014/02/12905)

The first pro-West regime in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, outlawed the official use of the Russian language, the first language of millions of people in the eastern provinces of the Donbass region. In May 2014 in Odessa, fascists set fire to a union center and murdered dozens of labor unionists.

The ethnic Russians of Crimea voted almost unanimously to become part of Russia. Two eastern Donbass provinces seceded and declared themselves independent states.

The regime in Kiev, with NATO aid, waged war on Donbass to repress provinces that are majority ethnic and linguistic Russians. In the ensuing eight years, some 14,000 people were killed on both sides, including over 3,000 civilians, mainly in the Donbass.

NATO expansion provokes war

Ever since world imperialism succeeded in overturning the socialist society in the former Soviet Union, the U.S. ruling class's long-term goal has been to reduce all the former Soviet republics, including Russia, to mere colonies. U.S. and NATO allies used the Kiev regime in an attempt to weaken Russia and seize Ukraine's land and resources. In effect, Ukrainian youths were and are cannon fodder of war of the imperialist West (NATO) against Russia.

Meanwhile. NATO kept expanding toward the Russian border. In late 2021, the Russian government warned that Moscow considers the expansion of NATO eastward and the inclusion of Ukraine in NATO as an existential threat to Russia that will require decisive countermeasures.

The Joe Biden administration refused to take steps to address Russian concerns. On the contrary, it continued to provoke Russia. This led to the Russian intervention at the end of February 2022.

The U.S. government used the Russian intervention to expand military assistance to Kiev, to break EU countries from economic ties with Russia and to absorb Baltic

states, plus Finland and Sweden, into NATO. These attempts to isolate, sanction and break Russia's economy, however, failed to break Russia or force Russia to submit. (workers.org/2022/04/63335)

NATO expansion has led to an extended war in Ukraine and has exposed the regimes controlling the major EU countries as warmongers overseeing the biggest military expansion of those countries since World War II. Accompanying the military growth are cuts to social benefits won over decades by the West European working class.

The U.S. and EU corporate media and government propaganda falsely blames the crisis in Ukraine on Russia and President Vladimir Putin. These lies are as false and dangerous as the anti-Iran, anti-Hezbollah and anti-Palestinian propaganda is.

It is in the interest of European (and U.S.) workers to dismantle NATO and for the EU countries to normalize relations with Russia. □



China Celebrating a different form of modernization

By Sara Flounders

The 105th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the 90th anniversary of the victory of China's Long March on July 1 were barely noted in the U.S. media. However, there were big celebrations in hundreds of Chinese cities. The focus was on reinforcing the "socialist direction of China in building Socialist Modernization in all aspects."

The anniversary was celebrated as a confident assertion of the way forward. Events were organized to focus on the strong vitality of Marxism and socialist planning and as a preparation for and warning of future global upheavals.

President Xi Jinping's major address on July 1 underscored the importance of meeting the goal to fully realize socialist modernization by the middle of the 21st century. President Xi cautioned: "We must be prepared to withstand major tests involving high winds and rough waves, or even stormy seas."

The CPC has grown from a small group of just over 50 founding members — meeting secretly in 1921 in Shanghai, China — into the world's largest governing party, a workers' party with 101 million members that has tremendous global influence.

In 1921, China was fragmented and impoverished. It was reeling from the collapse of the feudal Qing Dynasty, carved apart by foreign imperialist exploitation into zones of colonial control and weakened by the British and U.S.-imposed Opium Wars to enforce the sale of opium. China was confronted with the chaos

of contending factions of oppressive warlordism.

China was overwhelmingly a peasant country in 1921, 85% to 90% rural, with millions of landless, impoverished and illiterate peasants living in undeveloped areas and relying on subsistence farming. From its founding the CPC declared that its goal was to overthrow imperialist domination and establish a dictatorship of the proletariat — the organization of society by workers and peasants.

Achievements of socialist China

Today China's urban residents comprise 83.7% of the country's total population. (geofactbook.com, Nov. 20, 2025)

China's cities are modern, well-planned and green. China has one of the highest rates of homeownership in the world, with 90% of Chinese households owning their homes; 87% of urban dwellers are homeowners and 96% of rural residents own their homes. (cnn.com, May 20)

China has established the world's largest education, social security and health-care systems. These systems are freely accessible to all.

Modernization in China means it has the world's most advanced mass transit and high speed rail lines and advanced energy systems based on solar, wind and water energy and electric vehicles.

All major financial institutions, industries, natural resources, communications networks and rail lines are owned collectively. The enormous profits they generate are used for development, benefitting the whole population.

In the 105 years of its stormy existence through revolutionary upheavals, wars, invasions and then determined rebuilding, the Communist Party of China has gone through very different stages of national and party development.

A different form of modernization

China's rapid modernizing development is taking place in a wholly different way than how modern industrial development unfolded in the imperialist countries. China is not exploiting other countries in order to develop China.

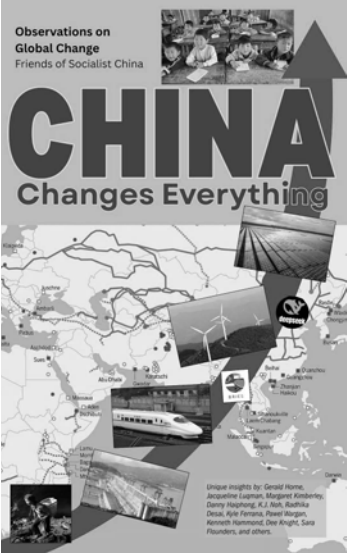
In discussing how to modernize, many China commentators highlight that Chinese modernization is historically very unique and radically new. It is being achieved without

colonialism, without enslavement, without wars of conquest. It is modernization through peaceful development with a focus of common prosperity for all.

The advanced capitalist countries in Western Europe, North America and Japan relied heavily on global plunder, pillage and conquest. From its early beginnings to global imperialist domination today, capitalism has required unleashing chaos, destruction and economic disruption all over the world. The process of modernization and industrialization required the extraction of wealth from the colonies, the genocide of Indigenous peoples and the exploitation of the labor of enslaved people.

Today the People's Republic of China is a global resource. It is a lifeline for former colonies to assert their sovereignty and national development.

Through the Belt and Road Projects, China today offers unique opportunities to 150 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to develop massive infrastructure projects. They include ports, railways, highways, power stations, aviation and telecommunications. This is having a profound influence on the course of world history.



Order a discounted copy of "China Changes Everything" at tinyurl.com/3kekcp2n

After 105 years, the Communist Party of China can point to lifting 800 million people out of absolute poverty and to the greatest improvement in human wellbeing in history. Its foreign policy is oriented towards peace, cooperation and development.

The 105 years of building the Communist Party of China is worthy of celebration! □



Guerras para los ricos, ¡No más!

MO FOTO: JOE PIETTE

EE.UU.: militares en servicio activo y veteranos desafían las mentiras del 4 de julio

Por Joe Piette, Michael Kramer y John Catalinotto

Traducido por Fausto Giudice.

6 de julio de 2026 — Veteranos antibelicistas de las Fuerzas Armadas de EE.UU. y personal en activo estallaron en su muestra de resistencia más amplia en décadas este fin de semana del 4 de julio, como si fueran provocados a la acción por la orgía de militarismo y supremacía blanca de la administración actual durante las celebraciones del 250 aniversario.

Incluso antes de que comenzara el fin de semana, el mayor de la USAF Jason Watson, miembro en activo con más de 20 años de carrera militar, subió los escalones del Capitolio de EE.UU. en Washington, D.C., el 1 de julio, sosteniendo un cartel que decía: “Impeach Convict Remove” (Destitución, condena, destitución), en referencia al presidente actual.

El 4 de julio en Filadelfia, la coalición Veterans Against Fascism organizó a cientos de veteranos y personal en activo que desfilaron en un desfile “Independence from Billionaires” (Independencia de los multimillonarios). Los participantes afirmaron que era la protesta específica de veteranos más grande que habían experimentado desde las de la guerra contra Vietnam. Y una en la que escucharon un creciente descontento entre el personal en activo.

La tercera acción importante está programada para el 7 de julio en Nueva York. Organizadores de Veterans For Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation y Center on Conscience and War repartirán folletos a los miles de marineros en Nueva York por la Fleet Week. Invitan a los marineros que deseen más información sobre cómo solicitar el estatus de objetor de conciencia o romper contratos de alistamiento a acudir al People’s Forum en el centro de Manhattan para presentaciones, películas, debates y asesoramiento legal de 11 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Las preguntas planteadas por los veteranos activistas de larga trayectoria en estas protestas son: ¿qué tan extendido está el descontento? ¿A qué llevará? ¿Cuándo surgirá la resistencia abierta? La participación en Filadelfia indica una creciente agitación entre las filas. ¿Qué pueden hacer los civiles antibelicistas para apoyar a los resistentes dentro del ejército?

Los corresponsales de Mundo Obrero/Workers World, Joe Piette, veterano de la guerra de Vietnam, y

Michael Kramer, que estuvo en el ejército israelí antes de convertirse en activista pro liberación palestina, estuvieron en la protesta del 4 de julio. Ambos han sido activos en movimientos de veteranos antibelicistas en EE.UU. Piette escribió el siguiente informe:

Procedentes de lugares tan lejanos como California, Maine y Florida, los veteranos y el personal en activo constituían la mayoría del gran “People’s Parade” durante una marcha de una milla encabezada por una pancarta azul y roja con la leyenda “Independence from Billionaires”.

Críticos con las deportaciones masivas, el desplazamiento forzado, la crisis climática y las guerras internacionales, grupos locales y nacionales organizaron el evento como contraprogramación al 250 aniversario oficial de la firma de la Declaración de Independencia.

El contingente de Veterans Against Fascism presentaba docenas de carteles y pancartas blancas y negras dirigidas a las guerras perpetuas de EE.UU. Los carteles atacaban los secuestros del ICE (Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas) y el fascismo, mientras los veteranos militares y sus familias tomaban las calles a pesar de las temperaturas superiores a los 100 grados Fahrenheit (38 °C).

Un breve mitin tuvo lugar cerca del Independence Hall, donde se firmó la Declaración de Independencia hace 250 años. Representantes de Veterans For Peace, About Face, Military Families Speak Out y la Fayetteville Resistance Coalition subrayaron la necesidad de que el personal militar, activo o no, hable contra las guerras injustas y los ataques a los derechos democráticos. Los oradores enfatizaron el derecho del personal militar en activo a negarse a obedecer órdenes ilegales o inmorales.

Mundo Obrero/WW preguntó a Piette y Kramer su reacción personal

Piette: Primero, el ambiente me recordó a Dewey Canyon III, la protesta de una semana de veteranos en el Mall de Washington en abril de 1971. No tan masiva ni confrontacional, pero el simple hecho de verse juntos en este evento parecía dar a todos más confianza; parecía que había mucho potencial para futuras acciones.

Hablé con un miembro de la Guardia Nacional en activo que llevaba una gorra de los Philadelphia Eagles. Estaba con una docena de otros militares en activo entre las pancartas. Dijo que la gente no dice nada cuando está uniformada, pero habla fuera de servicio.

Señaló que el genocidio en Gaza lo había cambiado. Ya no quiere estar en un ejército que apoya el genocidio, y está tomando medidas para separarse. Estaba contento de estar entre otros militares que comparten sus ideas.

Una marine que dejó el ejército después de 13 años llevaba una kufiya. Dijo que voló desde California solo para unirse a esta marcha. Estaba cansada de ser la enemiga dondequiera que la enviaran. Fue un proceso de aprendizaje lento, una cosa tras otra, y finalmente ya no tenía sentido para ella permanecer en el ejército.

Mientras tomaba fotos, tuve breves conversaciones con las personas que sostenían las pancartas blancas sobre fondo negro. Un veterano me dijo que sentía que la población de cada país al que el Ejército lo envió — Irak y Afganistán — lo odiaba. Sentía que estaba en el lado equivocado. Le dije que desde Vietnam, supongo que EE.UU. siempre está en el lado equivocado. Estuvo de acuerdo.

Y esa fue la respuesta general que obtuve al hablar con otros veteranos. Las guerras perpetuas los han agotado y ya no creen en las mentiras que les contaron sobre por qué los enviaban a esos lugares.

Kramer: Dos o tres cosas me impresionaron de la marcha y el mitin. Una era que era más joven que la mayoría de las actividades de veteranos a las que he ido últimamente. Esas tenían participación principalmente de veteranos de Vietnam, menos de veteranos de las guerras del Golfo o Afganistán, que son de 25 a 35 años más jóvenes. También había una mayor proporción de hombres en la era de Vietnam.

Muchas de las organizadoras de la marcha de Filadelfia eran mujeres. El ejército estadounidense moderno tiene aproximadamente un 20% de mujeres y ha superado el 15% desde 2010. Esto se reflejó en la composición de los manifestantes. Y la marcha fue notable por su disciplina, informó Kramer.

Los medios locales lo ignoraron

Aunque el contingente del VAF fue una gran parte de la protesta, los medios corporativos de Filadelfia no le dieron publicidad, al menos en los dos días siguientes. Quizás esto indica que hay dudas en el establishment sobre alentar un área tan esencial de la resistencia. Para la gente del movimiento antibelicista, fue un sacudón en una dirección positiva. □

¡Dejen de aterrorizar a los migrantes! ¡Abolan el ICE!

Por la redacción, publicado el 14 de julio de 2026

editorial

No ha habido tregua en la campaña de terror racista que lleva a cabo el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) contra los migrantes y las comunidades de color. La última atrocidad que ha acaparado los titulares es el asesinato, el 7 de julio en Houston, de Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, un inmigrante mexicano y padre de tres hijos que llevaba 35 años viviendo en EE. UU.

Salgado Araujo ni siquiera era la persona a la que buscaban los matones del ICE, pero un agente del ICE disparó varias veces contra su coche. Salgado Araujo falleció en el hospital varias horas después del tiroteo. Se le oía gritar: «Me están matando», mientras el ICE permitía que se desangrara en la calle sin recibir atención médica alguna. Salgado Araujo, propietario de una empresa de construcción, se dirigía a una obra con tres empleados cuando agentes del ICE en vehículos camuflados le dieron el alto por una supuesta infracción de tráfico.

Ahora, como es habitual, los terroristas del ICE culpan a la víctima, alegando que

ellos. Los tres ocupantes del coche, junto con miembros de la familia de Salgado Araujo, han desmentido de forma independiente esta absurda afirmación, para la que no se ha presentado ninguna prueba.

No solo la comunidad de Houston está llevando a cabo protestas diarias para exigir justicia para Salgado Araujo, sino que el Gobierno mexicano está exigiendo que su asesinato se lleve ante las Naciones Unidas.

No se trata de que los agentes del ICE sean «solo unas pocas manzanas podridas». El asesinato de Salgado Araujo se ajusta plenamente a la verdadera misión del ICE fascista —que es la misión de todo el aparato estatal capitalista —, a saber, la represión de la clase obrera y de los pueblos oprimidos.

El difunto presidente de Mundo Obrero, Sam Marcy, explicó el carácter de clase del Estado: «Sea cual sea su forma, su esencia viene determinada por la clase que es

Salgado Araujo «utilizó su vehículo como arma» contra



Aurora, Colorado, 9 de junio de 2026.

dominante económicamente y, por consiguiente, también políticamente. En la sociedad contemporánea, esto significa el dominio de la burguesía imperialista sobre el proletariado y las nacionalidades oprimidas». («Una defensa marxista de la Rebelión de Los Ángeles», 1993)

El ICE está mostrando su verdadera naturaleza, no solo con el asesinato de Salgado Araujo, sino también con sus agresivas redadas de más de 2.000 personas al día —una cifra que probablemente podría aumentar—. Un ejemplo es la detención de dos estudiantes de secundaria de Detroit en Búfalo, Nueva York. Las

hermanas gemelas Alexka y Angely Jerez Medina, de 18 años, se encontraban en Búfalo para realizar un trabajo de verano hasta que fueron detenidas por el ICE el 24 de junio y recluidas en un centro de detención de El Paso, Texas.

Los activistas de Búfalo han protestado contra la detención y al menos nueve cargos electos de Míchigan han exigido la puesta en libertad de las estudiantes, al igual que su pastor y los profesores del instituto Western International High School.

La campaña de terror del ICE ha provocado que los inmigrantes tengan miedo de ir al trabajo, al colegio o a asistir a servicios religiosos.

El ICE —al igual que la policía, las prisiones, los tribunales y todo el aparato estatal capitalista — no puede reformarse. Tampoco consiste la solución en sustituir al ICE por una versión «más amable y respetuosa», quizá un poco menos xenófoba, de sí mismo. ¡El ICE debe desaparecer!

Mundo Obrero se une a los miles de manifestantes de Houston y de todo el país para decir: «¡Abolición del ICE!» □