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WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
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Iran resists Trump's war

Support Iran's just demands!

Left, Cuban singer-songwriter Silvio Rodríguez, who usually holds a guitar, here cradles the AKM (Kaloshnikov assault rifle) he asked for in order to defend his country, should [U.S. troops] invade. Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces answered Silvio's wish. See workers.org/2026/03/91614

WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

From left, residents Erin, Coleen, Hanif, who explain the demands of the Camp Chloe houseless community as they resist eviction. Philadelphia, March 20, 2026. See workers.org/2026/03/91635

Strait of Hormuz in circle. See page 4.

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March 26, 2026

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, 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. □

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WORKERS WORLD editorial

No kings—no imperialism—no capitalism

Thousands of anti-Trump protests are taking place all over the U.S. on March 28 under the banner of "No Kings." Their message is that people want to live under a "democracy," not the "dictatorship" Trump is moving towards — which protest organizers compare to the president appointing himself king.

While these actions have a progressive bent, the program is limited to defeating the Republican candidates in the mid-term elections in November. Organizers of No Kings — and 50501, Indivisible, "Hands off," etc. — are tied to the Democratic Party and seek to "take back Congress." That would, at best, only slow the drift towards a right-wing dictatorship.

What the global working class needs is for the masses in the belly of the beast to move beyond anti-Trump slogans and become firmly anti-imperialist. It's not enough to say the war against Iran is somehow "bad for the U.S."

The administration launched this brutal war for big business and Big Oil and empire. It's bad for the U.S. working class. It's terrible for the people of West Asia and especially Iran. The movement to push back Trump's agenda has to support and defend the Iranian people and their government against this war.

It's necessary to take a clear position against genocide and all imperialist wars and acts of aggression. It means acting in solidarity with Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela — and Iran and Lebanon — and any other country in Washington's crosshairs. It also means putting our bodies on the line in the fight against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and for migrant rights.

What democracy?

The other problem with the No Kings movement is the framing of the struggle against Trumpism as one to "defend our democracy."

In fact, democratic rights for working-class and oppressed people are extremely restricted under the capitalist mode of production. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of the vast majority of people by a minority class of multimillionaires and billionaires. Workers have more rights if they have a union, but even the best contracts — which are getting harder and harder to win — only mitigate the terms and conditions of exploitation.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

New York City union contingent in No Kings march, Oct. 18, 2025.

State repression at home and military aggression abroad happen regardless of which capitalist party holds a political majority.

The capitalist profit system has to expand economically in order to survive. This is what drove what 20th century Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin called "imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism." This is why imperialist countries launch wars — including the current war against Iran — to colonize or re-colonize the rest of the world for the benefit of the wealthy class. The capitalist beast is particularly vicious when its system is in decline, as is the case today.

Marxist-Leninists — which includes Workers World Party — often refer to capitalist rule as "the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie." This definition applies regardless of whether the state is a capitalist democracy, a fascist state, a military dictatorship, a state under martial law or is ruled by a monarch — actually or metaphorically. The term "dictatorship of the bourgeoisie" means the bourgeoisie — the capitalist class — is the ruling class. Trump may come off as being irrational, but he remains a representative of the ruling class.

The war against Iran, which a majority of people in the U.S. oppose, is a clear example of how undemocratic bourgeois rule really is.

A fascist dictatorship is the purest form of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. The danger of fascism is a built-in feature of capitalist rule.

To really guarantee "No Kings" we have to get rid of capitalism and establish what Marxist-Leninists have referred to as "the dictatorship of the proletariat." That means the majority class — the proletariat, or the working class — runs society for the benefit of all. This is truly "what democracy looks like."

To end the threat posed by Trump and Trumpism once and for all, working class and oppressed people and their allies need to put an end to capitalism altogether. ☐

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Iran resists Trump's war

Support Iran's just demands!

By Monica Moorehead

March 22 — Since the U.S.-Israeli terrorist militaries massacred over 160 Iranian children, mainly girls, in Minab, along with the assassinations of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and dozens of top Iranian military leaders on Feb. 28, the Islamic Republic Guard Corp has carried out a heroic war on two fronts — military and financial.

What made this response by Iran more than justified was that this attack took place in the midst of negotiations between the U.S. and Iran as Iran was discussing concessions it was willing to make regarding its nuclear energy program.

Subsequently, other attacks have assassinated some of the remaining top-ranking Iranian political and military leaders, most notably Dr. Ali Larijani, the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, along with his family members, on March 16.

Despite these killings, Iran has been able to respond with a constant barrage of devastating missile strikes on strategic military and economic targets not only in the Palestinian territories occupied by the regime in Tel Aviv but also against U.S. military bases located in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. U.S. troops on these bases were forced to transfer to other bases, some in Cyprus and Germany.

Resistance forces in Iraq (a country still partly occupied by imperialist troops) have assisted in Iran's defense. They specifically targeted U.S. military bases on Iraqi soil, forcing the imperialist alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to shut down its operations there.

For decades, these imperialist outposts have occupied the entire West Asia region to protect the profit-hungry interests of Big Oil and to act as a military buffer between Zionist Israel and the oppressed West Asian masses.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Gerald Ford has been damaged and is reported to be in Crete, a Greek island, undergoing repairs. Now the U.S. is sending 2,500 Marines, building up to 5,000, for possible ground actions in Iran in an attempt to control the Strait of Hormuz.

A growing financial war

The arrogant President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held the misguided notion that Iran — a country of 93 million people that achieved an earth shattering Islamic revolutionary blow ejecting a U.S. imperialist puppet monarchy 47 years ago — could be bullied into surrender. Those two war criminals and the entire imperialist ruling class have gotten a rude awakening.

Not only is Iran more than holding its own on the military front — despite suffering severe damage to its overall infrastructure and civilian deaths in the thousands — it is also carrying out a debilitating financial war against global imperialism.

With one of the world's largest oil reserves, Iran controls the narrow and vital Strait of Hormuz, which is a main artery for the transport of 20% of global oil exports and other essential resources like natural gas. Since Feb. 28, Iran has militarily and financially blocked ships from passing through this strait to reach the Persian/Arabian Gulf — if these ships are aiding the imperialist war of aggression against Iran.

Since so much of the world's energy comes from countries located on this Gulf — Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE — the war of aggression by the U.S. and Israel has boomeranged and is wreaking havoc on the global economy. This havoc drives up the costs of oil prices, not only gas at the pump for cars and for other industries, but it leads to higher prices for food and other essentials.

Iran is allowing countries it has friendly relations with to use the Strait, including China, Russia and Pakistan.

The U.S. just announced that 140 million barrels of Iranian oil, that U.S. punitive restrictions have kept from being traded freely on the world market since the 1979 revolution, will temporarily be allowed to enter the world market. This will allow countries to buy this oil without facing U.S. penalties. The U.S. administration took this step to ease the rise in the price of oil on the world market. This is a major concession to Iran, even as the U.S. is waging war on Iran.

At this writing, there are over 400 ships stranded in the Strait. Ships will only be allowed to pass if they each pay $2 million to Iran. And they must pay not in petro-dollars — the main imperialist currency — but in yuan, the Chinese currency.

Iran's demands, not negotiations

While it's reported that both the Israeli and U.S. governments have reached out to Iran to reopen negotiations to end the war, the Iranian government has made it crystal clear that no more negotiations will take place at this time and that the war will end on Iran's terms.

A senior Iranian political and security official told the Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen publication on March 22 that Iran has outlined demands of its own to peace negotiators that the U.S. must agree to if it wants an end to the war:

"guarantees to prevent the recurrence of war, closure of U.S. military bases in the region, payment of compensation to the Islamic Republic, an end to wars across all regional fronts, establishing a new legal framework for the Strait of Hormuz and prosecution and extradition of media figures deemed hostile to Iran, not attacking Hezbollah in Lebanon and Ansarullah in Yemen, removal of U.S. military bases from the region and unconditional surrender of Israel." (The Cradle, March 22)

In his rash response to the principled and firm position of the Iranian government, Trump is now threatening to destroy Iran's power plants in the coming days. This threat sounds more like a sign of desperation than a show of confidence. The U.S. president will have to get Congressional approval for another $200 billion for the Pentagon to extend the war.

According to Press TV on March 22, the Iranian government said that if their electrical generation infrastructure does come under any form of attack, the entire Strait of Hormuz will be on complete lock down, and their military will counterattack with the objective of creating a blackout of the entire West Asian region. ☐

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‘Nuestra América Convoy to Cuba’ brings aid, solidarity

By Lyn Neeley

What began as a Cuba solidarity flotilla has escalated into an international caravan. Some 650 representatives of 33 countries and 120 organizations are bringing humanitarian aid to Cuba as it faces a growing energy crisis.

Planes from the “Nuestra América Convoy to Cuba” arrived from France, Italy, several Latin American countries, Spain and the United States on March 20. They delivered aid to a hospital in Havana. Doctors there said the aid had a double meaning, not only what it provides materially but also the spirit of solidarity in moments as hard as these.

In addition, three ships from the Nuestra América flotilla left Mexico on March 20, with 100 solar panels for homes and schools and 50 tons of medicine, food and technical equipment. They are being escorted by the Mexican Navy and will travel through the national waters of Mexico and Cuba to avoid U.S. obstruction.

The flotilla will follow the same route as the Granma, the ship that carried Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and another 82 revolutionaries to Cuba in 1956 when they began a guerrilla war that led to the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. The main vessel of the Nuestra América Convoy has been renamed Granma 2.0.

The international caravan includes members of political parties from Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay and other countries. Prominent individuals include Colombian Senator Clara López; former Spanish politician Pablo Iglesias; British Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn; U.S. labor leader Chris Smalls; Brazilian humanitarian activist Thiago Ávila; U.S. influencer and left-wing commentator Hasan Piker; and Kneecap, an Irish hip-hop trio.

The convoys intend to converge in Havana to store the aid, which will be distributed with the aid of caravan members.

GRAPHIC: HASAN ABI UPDATES

Cuba confronts new oil blockade

Cuba is suffering from the oil blockade imposed by the U.S. in January and has received no oil from Venezuela since Jan. 3 when the U.S. kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores. The crisis has led to several power outages, food prices are escalating, transportation is suffering, and tens of thousands of surgeries have not been performed.

Cubans have been turning to electric vehicles as fuel has become scarcer. Since 2015 China has sent fleets of electric vehicles to Cuba. After there were escalating fuel shortages imposed by the U.S. blockade in 2021, Cuba increased the imports of Chinese electric scooters, tricycles and cars.

In a remarkable example of international solidarity, China has helped Cuba build 49 new solar parks, more than tripling solar power production to 20% of its total energy generation. China is committed to completing 92 solar parks by 2028. (workers.org/?p=91447)

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío told Trump on March 20 that Cuba has a history of being ready to mobilize to confront and turn back military aggression, and regime change is “absolutely” off the table. (countercurrents.org, March 23)

Fidel Castro said to the closing session of the World Conference in Solidarity with Cuba in 1994, “We understand what it would mean for all the progressive forces, for all the revolutionary forces, for all the lovers of peace and justice in the world, if the United States succeeded in crushing the Cuban Revolution.” (tinyurl.com/3buhpt56)

Cubans are determined to make sure that no such setback occurs. Those people who understand the importance of the Cuban Revolution must act with the same determination. Long live socialist Cuba! ❐

PHOTO: BAJA NEWS

The Granma 2.0 leaves Mexico with humanitarian aid for Cuba, March 20, 2026.

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Who pays the price for Trump's Iran war?

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Since this revised commentary was first written, the Pentagon's top boss, Pete Hegseth, has asked President Donald Trump to ask Congress to approve $200 billion for the war against Iran.

March 24 – The people of Iran and West Asia are, obviously, suffering the most from the latest war the U.S. and Israel launched in the region. Thousands of people there have been killed and injured. There is heavy destruction of infrastructure, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, especially in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, working-class and oppressed people inside the U.S. are being negatively impacted by the war in a multitude of ways. For one, the average price of gasoline has skyrocketed, from below $3 a gallon before the U.S. war against Iran began to almost $4 a gallon as of March 24. In fact, multiple items cost more — food, home heating oil, fertilizers and much more. Household debt is up.

The war is costing anywhere from $1 billion to $2 billion per day. On March 12, the conservative American Enterprise Institute estimated the costs at between $11.2 billion and $14.5 billion as of that date. (politico.com, March 12) NPR put the price tag at $16.5 billion for the first 12 days. (npr.org, March 14)

The Iran Cost Ticker website said the cost of the war was over $30 billion and increasing by over $11,000 per second, based on the low estimate of $1 billion per day. (Iran-cost-ticker.com, March 24)

President Donald Trump reportedly wants Congress to authorize $200 billion just for this war on top of the $1.5 trillion Pentagon budget.

What could that money be spent on instead?

Just $1 billion could cover child care costs for over 72,000 parents with infants. Or that same $1 billion could pay the tuition for 90,000 students attending public colleges and universities. A little under half of that $1 billion would allow the Cleveland Municipal School District to update 40 of its older buildings, installing air conditioning, repairing heating systems or replacing old roofs.

Think what $200 billion could do if it were used to help the U.S. population. That's about double what the federal government has been spending annually on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps). But with the passage of Trump's "Big Ugly Bill," some people will lose SNAP benefits due to new work requirements and the shifting of 25% of funding costs to state governments. One quarter — $50 billion — could reverse those cuts! Or $30 billion would be enough to extend enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act for one year.

Or federal workers who have been permanently laid off — a disproportionate number of them Black women — could get their jobs back.

When the estimate for what Trump would ask from Congress was just $50 billion, a coalition of 250 organizations called on Congress to vote against any more spending on the war, saying: "The $50 billion that the administration reportedly seeks for a new Pentagon supplemental would be enough to restore food assistance for four million Americans that was taken away in the tax and budget reconciliation bill, establish universal pre-K education, and pay for the annual construction of more than 100,000 units of housing, among other possible priorities." (democracynow.com, March 13)

In other words, money that could be spent on health care, food, housing and education is instead being dumped into a genocidal war against Iran.

Mississippi for a Just World protests the U.S. war against Iran, March 5, 2026. PHOTO: MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Trump could end these destructive spending priorities right now. But Congress could also put a stop to endless war spending. If a majority of either house of Congress votes "no" when the warmongers have their hands out, it will defund the war. It's the members' responsibility to stop funding the illegal aggressive war; if the Democrats don't make a last-ditch fight, their party is also guilty of war crimes.

Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans will end this brutal and costly war. It will take an independent working-class movement to accomplish that task.

Money for jobs, housing, education and health care — not for war! ☐

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Guerra en Asia Occidental: ¿Quién es el culpable?

16 de marzo - Cuesta creer que todavía haya analistas y periodistas estadounidenses que tengan la arrogancia de culpar a los líderes de la República Islámica de Irán de extender la guerra regional que lanzaron Estados Unidos e Israel. Quizás solo teman que el régimen de MAGA les quite el acceso al Pentágono, si es que no lo ha hecho ya.

Dado que este debate sobre la culpa probablemente se repetirá a diario, conviene que Workers World establezca un marco de referencia para nuestros lectores. Como marxistas-leninistas, a la hora de evaluar quién es la parte culpable de iniciar la violencia, tenemos en cuenta quién es el explotador, quién es el explotado, quién es el opresor y quién es el oprimido.

MO FOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Vigilia por las niñas asesinadas por cohetes estadounidenses en una escuela femenina de Minab, Irán, celebrada en la ciudad de Nueva York el 8 de marzo de 2026. Los culpables: Estados Unidos e Israel.

Así, cuando la población esclavizada de Haití a finales del siglo XVIII se levantó y cometió actos violentos contra la nobleza francesa que la había esclavizado, sabemos que fueron los esclavistas los agresores, y el pueblo esclavizado el que se defendía y se liberaba —independientemente de quién atacara primero— . Y con la victoria del pueblo esclavizado en 1804, la calificamos de victoria para la humanidad.

En Asia Occidental, el imperialismo estadounidense, la principal fuerza opresora del mundo, cuenta con docenas de bases militares terroristas y células de la CIA que controlan a sus Estados clientes, que son monárquicos. Israel, aliado de Estados Unidos, es un Estado colonizador que no solo explota la mano de obra, sino que se apropia de las tierras y los recursos de la población palestina, matándola y expulsándola. La empresa conjunta de Estados Unidos e Israel en la región se basa en el saqueo, la ocupación y la expoliación conjuntos.

Irán cuenta con 5.000 años de civilización a sus espaldas. Desde el siglo XIX hasta 1979, Irán formó parte del mundo colonial, a pesar de su independencia nominal. Soberano desde 1979, Irán ha estado apoyando a otros pueblos del Sur Global que luchan por la liberación en Palestina, Yemen y Líbano.

Como representante de los oprimidos, Irán tiene derecho a defenderse, incluido el derecho a atacar primero.

Pero Irán no atacó primero. Irán estaba negociando. Los primeros momentos de la guerra no dejaron lugar a dudas en todo el mundo sobre quién la inició y quiénes eran los criminales de guerra.

Mientras supuestamente mantenía negociaciones con Irán, el Pentágono ordenó el despliegue de dos flotas de combate con portaaviones en los mares frente a Irán para complementar las docenas de bases aéreas estadounidenses en la región. En la mañana del 28 de febrero, los terroristas estadounidenses e israelíes atacaron Irán por sorpresa.

Aviones de combate o cohetes israelíes alcanzaron una reunión de funcionarios iraníes, asesinando al líder supremo de Irán, el ayatolá Alí Jamenei, a miembros de su familia y a 40 líderes políticos y militares. Al mismo tiempo, cohetes estadounidenses alcanzaron una escuela primaria de niñas en la ciudad de Minab, en el Golfo Pérsico, matando a 18 maestras y a 168 niñas de entre 6 y 11 años.

Así pues, a las pocas horas del ataque por sorpresa, los iraníes sabían que los criminales de guerra estadounidenses e israelíes pretendían decapitar su Gobierno y asesinar a sus hijos. El mundo entero se enteró rápidamente de ello.

El Gobierno iraní se negó a rendirse, tal y como aparentemente esperaba la Casa Blanca de MAGA. En cambio, los iraníes reconstruyeron rápidamente su estructura gubernamental, movilizaron a la población contra la invasión aérea y desplegaron una impresionante resistencia tanto contra Israel como contra todos los activos estadounidenses en Asia Occidental.

Según el derecho internacional, el Gobierno iraní tenía todo el derecho a defenderse.

Si las vidas de los soldados y marineros estadounidenses están en peligro, es el ataque estadounidense-israelí el que las pone en peligro.

Si los precios del petróleo y del gas se disparan, son los cohetes y las bombas estadounidenses-israelíes los que obligaron a Irán a cerrar el estrecho de Ormuz.

Si la economía mundial imperialista se hunde en una depresión, la culpa es de los criminales de guerra de Washington y Tel Aviv. Y de cualquiera que apoye su «guerra de elección».

Los imperialistas son los culpables. Son los enemigos del Sur Global y de toda la clase trabajadora. Los criminales del movimiento MAGA que dirigen el Estado estadounidense en este momento lo han dejado claro. ☐

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