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WORKERS WORLD

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Britain's Trump wins

Workers need anti-racist unity

By Martha Grevatt

Elections held Dec. 12 in England, Scotland, Wales and the occupied north of Ireland were a boost to Trump protégé and Conservative party leader Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Voters elected 365 Conservative Members of Parliament to the House of Commons, giving Conservatives — the Tories — the majority needed to reappoint Johnson Prime Minister. The Labor Party, which had taken more left-wing positions under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, lost 60 seats.

The new MPs were sworn in Dec. 17.

Johnson's primary appeal was a promise to "get Brexit done." Brexit — British exit — is the withdrawal of England, Scotland, Wales and the occupied north of Ireland from the European Union. Brexit, which passed narrowly in 2016, will make it more difficult for immigrants to enter Britain via continental Europe, whether or not they are EU citizens. Since the 2016 vote, hate crimes against immigrants, especially immigrants of color, have increased.

Just days before the election, Johnson promised to "bear down on immigration" by only granting limited stays to "unskilled workers," while welcoming those with "exceptional talents" like "violinists, nuclear physicists, prima ballerinas." This thinly veiled catering to racist stereotypes was rightly tagged "an anti-immigration dog whistle from a prime minister blaming migrants for homegrown problems" by the3million, a support group formed by EU immigrants after the 2016 Brexit vote. (The Independent, Dec. 9)

The prime minister has made more blatantly racist comments, even employing racist slurs against Black people. The pro-Tory vote, like the pro-Brexit vote three years ago, is a racist vote. Whatever the various reasons for working-class voters to hate the EU, overlooking racism is itself a racist act.

London protesters face down police after the Dec. 12 election. Some were arrested.

As Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes stated after the first Brexit vote: "You cannot separate the vote to leave the EU from the racist, anti-immigrant campaign that was central to it." (Workers World, July 4, 2016) That clearly distinguished Brexit from legitimate leftist opposition to the EU, whose rules mandate austerity and could, in fact, be used to block Corbyn's progressive economic programs.

Johnson's biggest gains were in traditional Labor strongholds in England's north and "Midlands." These primarily white working-class communities have

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Fight for socialism enters new decade

WORKERS WORLD *editorial*

We are coming to the end of another year, another decade. What are the significant events to consider?

The U.S. war on Afghanistan, begun in 2001, continued, while the bankruptcy of U.S. imperialism was recently revealed by the Washington Post in "The Afghanistan Papers." This review of internal U.S. government documents shows how those exercising state power, across three presidential administrations, intentionally and systematically lied about the purpose, price and likelihood of "winning" that war.

At the cost of trillions in money and thousands in lives, the U.S. has hung on in hope of claiming Afghanistan's mineral deposits worth trillions to U.S. corporations.

We could list crime after crime committed in this decade by the U.S. in desperate search of expanding capitalist profits.

But the decade has another narrative to offer — the story of a growing mass struggle against capitalism.

2011: The **Occupy Wall Street** movement began on Sept. 7 in Zuccotti Park, New York City, where protesters issued a challenge to intertwined state and corporate power. Before police violence closed the encampment, the Occupy movement had spread throughout the U.S. and internationally. With the slogan "We are the 99%," the movement denounced the wealthy 1% and corporate control over government.

2012: The 26,000 teachers in the **Chicago Teachers Union** won a contract redefining the struggle for the rights of education workers, and the right to education, in the U.S. Remaking itself into a member-driven, social-justice union, the CTU challenged the privatizing charter school movement and corporate control of public schools. The CTU strategy spread nationally into educator organizations and union halls. Beginning in 2016 #RedforEd teacher strikes swept from West Virginia to Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado to the West Coast — and back to Chicago in 2019 — using rank-and-file

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Breaking News!

Delbert Africa, one of two remaining imprisoned MOVE 9 members, received notice Dec. 17 of parole approval after 41 years imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. News of his pending release was welcomed by supporters who vow to continue the fight to bring Delbert Africa and Chuck Africa home. Look for updates on workers.org.

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‘December in Chicago’

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

This slightly edited version is taken from a Dec. 8 audio commentary on prisonradio.org.

It was an early morning in December 1969 when a joint FBI/Chicago police crew raided an apartment building, ostensibly for weapons charges.

In fact, they came to kill Fred Hampton, chairman of the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party, and the man chosen by the party’s central committee to become the new chief of staff of the national organization. Hampton, barely 21, would be shot to death in his bed. In his sleep. Also killed was Mark Clark, a captain from Peoria, Illinois, who was security for the apartment.

The killing of Fred made him a martyr for Blacks in Chicago and for Panthers across the nation. This year marks 50 years since his assassination.

How many cops were sent to death row in Illinois for this most premeditated of murders in Chicago? I think you know the answer — zero.

Fred Hampton

Fred’s wife, Akua Njeri, worked for Black Freedom movements for years.

His son, sleeping in her belly while his father was assassinated by the State, became an outspoken freedom fighter for the Black Nation.

And Fred Hampton, though gone, is not forgotten. He remains a martyred symbol of resistance.

From Imprisoned Nation,
This is Mumia Abu-Jamal

Invest in a socialist future!

The end of the year is traditionally when people show their appreciation for what matters most to them.

How can you show your gratitude for what Workers World gives you 51 weeks a year?

Not only can you renew your membership in the Workers World Supporter Program or join the program, but you can also show your appreciation by remembering Workers World in your will. That will ensure the paper will continue well into the future to bring readers news and Marxist analysis that never appears in the corporate media.

You can promote Workers World’s global agenda for justice, equality and revolutionary socialism — with the ultimate goal of breaking capitalism’s chains.

Right now, you can renew your membership in the Workers World Supporter Program or join the program and help WW tell working-class truth year round. Members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends for a donation of a minimum of $75 or $100 or $300 (only $25 a month).

To renew or join, write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate online at workers.org/donate/; it’s easy to set up monthly deductions. To find out how to put Workers World in your will, write to the program.

Help build Workers World — for today and for the future! ☐

No publication Dec. 26

To conform to postal regulations related to our yearly publication schedule, Workers World/Mundo Obrero will not publish an issue dated Dec. 26, 2019. Weekly publication will resume Jan. 2.

WORKERS WORLD

Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2+ 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, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. ☐

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

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

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

Charlotte
charlotte@workers.org

Cleveland
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Dallas
dallas@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9 970
durham@workers.org

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

Knoxville, Tenn.
knoxville@workers.org

Minneapolis
minneapolis@workers.org

Pensacola, Fla.
pensacola@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

San Diego
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
dc@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

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Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: Ben Carroll, John Steffin

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder, Scott Williams

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Teresa Gutierrez, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obero: Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

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Torture exposed in Cobb County Detention Center

By Arielle Robinson
Marietta, Ga.

Formerly incarcerated people from the Cobb County Adult Detention Center and loved ones of those currently incarcerated spoke out about the horrid conditions at a town hall meeting at Life Church here on Dec. 9. Seven people have died in the jail since last December.

Since Sept. 23, the CCDC has been on lockdown, which was a common topic during the meeting. Inmates are not able to use phones to communicate with loved ones and lawyers. The inmates report not seeing the sun for days at a time.

Officially, CCDC officials claim the center is on lockdown for nearly three months because deputies were assaulted by three inmates.

At the town hall, a woman named Priscilla, who is close to inmates at the CCDC, said a white deputy called a Black inmate the N-word. The inmate defended himself, telling the guard that he cannot call him racial slurs. According to Priscilla, the officer responded by saying he "hated everyone." She said the same deputy turned to a group of Latinx inmates and called them the S-word and then turned to a group of white inmates and called them “crackers.”

A physical altercation then ensued, which led to the lockdown.

A man who said he had been released from CCDC the night before the town hall said the lockdown is scheduled to end Jan. 1. He also pointed out that inmates have spent nearly 24 hours a day in their cells since the lockdown, and it is maddening for them. The man said that many are in CCDC waiting to be charged with something and plan to plead guilty when they see a judge just to be able to get out.

A lawyer in Cobb County said that since the lockdown, she has had to contact the loved ones of inmates to tell them directly to pay their loved one's bail because the inmates can not contact them on the jail phone.

The father of an inmate, 33-year-old Bradley Emory, who died in the jail in March, noted that his son showed signs of being suicidal, though the jail took very little action to ensure his son did not commit suicide.

Emory's death was ruled a suicide, but his father did not know that for a very long time. The father said the jail refused to tell him what was going on with his son after it was obvious his son was in trouble.

A lawyer for the family of 36-year-old Kevil Wingo observed that CCDC did not give Wingo the care he needed after he had a medical emergency in his cell, leading to his death.

A woman reported that her 25-year-old son was in CCDC for violating probation and is very depressed. She said the reason for the violation was because he could not afford to pay CCDC fees.

A man spoke about how officials in CCDC willfully neglect prisoners who have medical emergencies. He added that even after an inmate indicated he needed to use the bathroom, guards did nothing and let him go to the bathroom on himself.

Some are calling for the resignation of Cobb County Sheriff Neil Warren. Since he started as sheriff in 2004, 41 people have died in CCDC custody. That number averages 2.7 deaths each year. The seven deaths this year alone far exceed that number. ❐

Voices from criminal injustice system

‘I am Troy Davis’

By Gloria Rubac
New York

A sold-out crowd at Rattlesticks Theater in the West Village on Dec. 8 heard readings from the book “I Am Troy Davis,” which features the stories of dozens of people whose lives have been cruelly affected by the state and its racist criminal injustice system.

Troy Davis, an African-American man accused of killing a cop, was executed in Georgia on Sept. 21, 2011, despite seven of nine witnesses recanting their trial testimony and a mountain of uncovered evidence proving his innocence.

The book was written by Davis’ sister, Martina Davis Correia, and Jen Marlow. Correia, who died after a long battle with cancer, fought with every fiber of her body over several decades to prove her brother’s innocence and to stop his execution.

Her son, De’Jaun Davis, was close to his Uncle Troy, visiting him often from the time he was a small child. De’Jaun, now a graduate of Morehouse College, continues to speak out against the death penalty and racist injustice.

Stories from “I Am Troy Davis” were read by people who have lived the racism and the unjustifiable force of the state in their lives.

Reading the part of Correia was Airickca Gordon-Taylor., a cousin of Emmett Till, killed by the Klan in Mississippi in 1955. The teenage De’Jaun was read by the first woman exonerated from death row in the U.S., Sabrina Butler-Smith.

Other readers included Cephus “Uncle Bobby X” Johnson, the uncle of Oscar Grant, killed by transit police in Oakland, Calif.; Aisha Salaam-Malone, sister of Yusef Salaam, one of the exonerated Central Park 5; Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, killed by police in Staten Island; Black Prison movement leader Shujaa Graham and former Black Panther Lawrence Hayes, both exonerated from death row; and two sisters of men on death row, Delia Perez Meyer, sister of Texas prisoner Louis Castro Perez, and Yvette Allen, sister of federal prisoner Billie Allen.

Some sponsors of the event were Amnesty International USA, the Mamie Till Mobley Foundation, Witness to Innocence, the Jordan Davis Foundation, Sankofa, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and The Peoples Forum.

“We need to dismantle this unjust system.” A quote from Troy Davis before his execution.

Perez Meyer told Workers World of her connection to Troy Davis’ sister: “We couldn’t give up; our brothers are innocent. In both cases, we fought the fact of prosecutorial misconduct, the withholding of evidence and racism. Troy lost his battle in the Supreme Court as Martina stood there. The system is stacked against us at the state and the federal level. The only difference in our cases is that [my brother] Louis has finally been afforded the blessing of a great lawyer and representation by The Innocence Project.”

De’Jaun Davis closed the extremely emotional event saying, “Thank you to each and every one of you for paying respect to our family. We went through the tragedy of Troy being executed. But today people are more cognizant of wrongful convictions. Back then, people would say, ‘A black man is innocent? Yeah.’

“Racism is still in the courtrooms, but we do have victories. We must continue to work together, through blood, sweat and tears, through ups and downs. We can make a way where it may seem there is no way. Remember to involve others and each one teach one.”

The event ended by chanting the words of former political prisoner Assata Shakur: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains!” ❐

Boston

Historic 1974 March Against Racism commemorated

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Boston

Dec. 14 — Today marked the 45th anniversary of the 1974 March Against Racism in Boston, when 25,000 people came out to say, “No to Racism” from around the country. Workers World Party held a forum here this afternoon to commemorate this important anniversary.

The Dec. 20, 1974, edition of WW newspaper featured a front page article by Andy Stapp, which began, “The most massive and militant demonstration against racism held anywhere in the United States for a decade took place today in the city of Boston.

“The march was called by the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism (ECNMAR), an organization set up to counter the racist and fascist groups which have been instigating lynch mob attacks on Black people here under the code slogan of ‘fighting busing.’ ”

Larry Holmes, First Secretary of WWP, was the keynote speaker. He was a national organizer of the March Against Racism and a Vietnam War veteran, who organized GIs to resist the war from the inside. The racists and fascists had created a climate of fear in the city after a federal court ordered desegregation of the Boston Public Schools.

Holmes told the meeting, “The movement was paralyzed. We decided to intervene and have a march. We were a small party; the march changed the party. We were coming to the defense of the Black community. We understood how racism is used to divide — this was the way to assert unity. Some say, ‘Don’t mention racism.’ We don’t agree. We need this unity to defeat capitalism.”

Frank Neisser, a leader of WWP in Boston and a march organizer, described the racist terror gripping Boston and recounted how Boston City Hall was taken over by the fascist, racist group ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights). They had their initials displayed in the windows of City Hall.

In just seven weeks ECNMAR distributed almost half a million flyers across the city. Tenant groups, unions, church groups and community organizations were met with, won over and organized into action. This was despite the real danger of being hurt or even killed while organizing.

Ed Childs, UNITE HERE Local 26 retired chief shop steward, described the battle to take Boylston Street — a main shopping area with high-end stores — during the march. Several politicians, including the mayor, were trying to prevent anti-racist marchers from going there, even though racist marches had gone down this street with no obstacles. Despite a police attack and some arrests, the marchers prevailed. Childs noted that after the anti-racist march, the marches called by ROAR and other right-wing groups became notably smaller and weaker.

The forum was chaired by Maureen Skehan, a WWP leader, and Robert Traynam, a leader of Steelworkers Union Local 8751, representing the Boston School Bus Drivers. The militant USW 8751 grew out of the struggle against racism and for equal, quality education during this period. Traynam, recently retired, drove Black children to school while having his bus pummeled with racist insults, rocks, bottles and sometimes gunfire by mobs of incensed racists. All the while, he tried to protect the children from harm, telling them to hide under their seats.

Holmes summed up Dec. 14, 1974, when he remarked, “We had to liberate Boston from the grip and fear of racism. The demonstration had to be defiant and march down Boylston Street. We came to push them back and we succeeded.”

workers world

Fight against racism focuses on Boston

- People in 28 cities are mobilizing to send buses and cars to Boston on December 14
- The National March Against Racism has gathered wide support across the country
- The Boston Emergency Committee gears for a mass action that can help turn the tide against racism there
- Trade unionists see Saturday's march as an important step in building Black-white unity

See centerfold for full story

EDITORIAL

The critical importance of Boston march

Workers World newspaper's front page on 1974 Boston March Against Racism.

Revolutionary music closed the meeting performed by Kristin Turgeon, WWP youth leader, and Steve Kirschbaum, vice president and a founder of USW Local 8751. ❐

On the picket line

By Sue Davis

New Illinois labor law seeks to counter Janus decision

The Dec. 2 Labor Tribune reported that a bill to uphold rights of public sector unions, which are threatened by the Supreme Court's 2018 Janus decision, was passed by the Illinois Legislature on Nov. 13. Ill. Gov. Pritzker promises to sign it. Written with support of several public sector unions, led by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the law includes measures to protect unions' ability to communicate directly with workers and protect workers' privacy: At least once a month, employers must provide new employees' contact information to the union and not give it to outside third parties which might be anti-union. Employers are prohibited from discouraging employees from becoming union members; all inquiries about union membership must be referred to bargaining reps; and union reps have the right to meet with new employees during working hours.

Ed Caumiant, regional director of AFSCME, told the Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council in late November that passage of the bill is a major victory for labor. It doesn't reverse Janus, but aims to "mitigate its effects." For example, the law allows members to leave unions, but only within specified annual 30-day periods. While unions' enemies had hoped the SCOTUS decision would incite millions of workers to leave unions, the article concluded: "Instead, the vast majority of union members have resisted the temptation to freeload and continued as honorable, dues-paying members." Many unions are behind similar laws in their states.

4,000 RNs in Calif. approve contract

The 4,000 registered nurses at eight Tenet hospitals across California voted overwhelmingly during the week of Nov. 18 to approve a new master contract, reported California Nurses Association /National Nurses United. "This new agreement is a win for the nurses and our patients, for our families and for the communities we serve," said Ginny Gary, an RN at Los Alamitos Medical Center. "As nurses we are dedicated to providing optimal care for our patients, and we fought hard for a contract that supports that goal," said Heather Baker, an RN at Twin Cities Community Hospital.

The 3 ½-year agreement promotes the recruitment and retention of RNs and addresses issues raised at actions over the past year, including those at a one-day September strike. Nurses will receive rest periods of at least eight hours between shifts and adequate rest and meal breaks. The contract stipulates "standby/on-call" scheduling not be a substitute for regular scheduling and nurse-patient ratio must be maintained. Average wage increases include 13.5 percent for the first year and a half, 3 percent increases thereafter, with step increases for eligible RNs and increases in standby/on-call pay. The hospitals must post "on-call" schedules 13 days in advance and may not change them without consent of affected RNs. (nationalnursesunited.org, Nov. 22) CNA raises the bar for all nurses!

Support workers at Seattle's Edgewater Hotel

Housekeepers and other workers at The Edgewater Hotel in Seattle, represented by UNITE HERE Local 8, voted to authorize a strike by 93 percent after the luxury waterfront hotel demanded a drastic wage cut. Although the hotel's revenue has grown by 70 percent recently, it wants workers to accept wages $2 an hour below those at other posh downtown hotels. Besides, the workers' wages have not kept up with Seattle's high cost of living since 2010. The hotel even refuses to guarantee the workers' jobs if it is sold.

No wonder the workers began picketing the hotel Dec. 12 and 14, chanting "One job should be enough." Reina Martinez, a housekeeper there since 1989, reports, "I feel the effects of the heavy work. And not only me — all of my co-workers suffer. We need job security." To support the workers, sign the pledge at tinyurl.com/r2hetk9/.

Sign petition to 'End U.S. wage theft in El Salvador'

The LD garment factory in El Salvador sewed clothes for prominent U.S. brands including Levi's, Ralph Lauren, Walmart and PVH (owner of Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger) until March 7, 2018. The 824 workers lost their jobs when the factory closed without warning. Under Salvadoran law, the workers are due severance based on length of employment. But the brands refused to pay up, stated their intermediary, Global Brands Group. After finally distributing a miserly $600,000 over a year ago — about 4.5 times less than the $2.3 million that the workers are owed by law — Global says the brands won't pay more.

Sign the petition at tinyurl.com/rtuh6tc posted by the International Labor Rights Forum (laborrights@ilrf.org) and demand "End U.S. wage theft in El Salvador!" □

Nike: 'Do the right thing'

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Ore.

Dec. 9 protest. PHOTO: WESLEY LAPOINTE

A protest erupted at Nike's international headquarters here on Dec. 9 when over 400 workers demanded better treatment for women by male supervisors and a name change to the newly renovated Alberto Salazar building.

Salazar, head coach for the prestigious Nike Oregon Project, trains Olympic-bound runners. In September, Salazar was banned from coaching for four years for illegally doping and trafficking testosterone. In October, the Nike project was shut down. Nike CEO Mark Parker had been in close communication with Salazar to see if topical testosterone would trigger a positive drug test.

Former Nike athlete Mary Cain, once called the "fastest girl in the world," says Salazar was banned because of the doping scandal, but that he should have been banned because of his treatment of women.

In 2018 women in the company led an internal uprising over repeated harassment by male supervisors who made vulgar, degrading comments to women workers. Former Project members, including Cain and Amanda Begley, have now come forward to expose the toxic culture created by the all-male coaching team.

In 2013, 16-year-old Cain was signed by Nike and began training with Salazar. "I joined Nike because I wanted to become the best female athlete ever," said Cain in a 2019 New York Times Op-ed video series about women athletes. "Instead I was emotionally and physically abused in a system designed by Alberto and endorsed by Nike." Cain was ordered to take birth control pills and diuretics to keep her weight to 114 pounds: "They were convinced that in order to get better I had to get thinner."

Elite women athletes and dancers who reduce their body fat below 22 percent run the risk of compromising their health, with problems such as amenorrhea (abnormal loss of a menstrual cycle) and RED-S syndrome — energy depletion that affects metabolic rate, bone health, immunity, protein synthesis and cardiovascular health.

Cain experienced amenorrhea and broke bones during her Nike training. Tests on Begley revealed her body fat was only 11 to 12 percent. Cain and Begley said Salazar weighed them publicly and shamed them as being "too fat" if they gained weight.

In 2015, Cain began having suicidal thoughts and started cutting herself. Salazar and the staff psychologist, who was not certified, ignored her when she spoke of the problems. Cain then decided to quit the team and stop trying to make the Olympics.

Dream crazy

When Alysia Montaño, one of the top three female runners in the world, announced she was going to have a baby, Nike paused her contract and stopped paying her health insurance. This was in addition to her losing her sponsors during that time.

"Getting pregnant is the kiss of death for a female athlete," said Phoebe Wright, a runner sponsored by Nike from 2010 through 2016.

Nike company flyers distributed at the Dec. 9 protest warned Nike workers they would be fired if they spoke to the media. It is typical policy for sponsors to make athletes sign confidentiality clauses to prevent them from fighting for change.

Other company flyers at the protest thanked the protesters for "walking with Nike" to celebrate what women bring to sports and to champion equality. Flyers also claimed that company management was committed to face-to-face time with workers to share ideas.

"Nike tells us to dream crazy; we say how about you stop treating our pregnancies like injuries," said Montaño. "Then they tell us to believe in something; we say how about maternity leave? How about when you tell my daughter she can achieve anything, you back it up." □

'Silent plight' carolers show solidarity with county jail inmates

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Question: Where are holiday carolers unwelcome this time of year?

Answer: In the Cuyahoga County "Justice Center," when they represent the Coalition to Stop the Inhumanity at the Cuyahoga County Jail, and they have changed the words "Silent night, holy night" to "Silent plight, violated rights."

On Dec. 16, coalition members and supporters entered the center, which houses both the jail and Cuyahoga County Courts. They had rewritten four carols and one Hanukkah song to draw attention to a range of issues including: deplorable conditions in the jail, the need for bail reform, cruel judges' harsh sentencing and housing juveniles in the adult jail. Before they could finish singing their second number, they were escorted out by Cleveland police.

The coalition was formed a year ago in response to a record number of preventable deaths inside the jail, along with documented reports of overcrowding, lockdowns, bad food and medical care, mistreatment by guards and other abuses. One of the group's main demands is for bail reform; a high number of people held for nonviolent offenses would be out on the street if they could afford bail.

The county administration has made some improvements due to public pressure and negative media publicity, but serious rights violations are ongoing. □

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Singing rewritten carols outside Cleveland "Justice Center" after being kicked out for showing solidarity with county jail inmates. Cleveland, Dec. 16.

Trump's order on 'anti-Semitism' aimed at Palestinian movement

By Kathy Durkin

President Donald Trump's executive order issued Dec.11 would deny federal funds from schools that allow "anti-Semitism" on their campuses, including some anti-Israel activities. It is intended to squelch defense of — or even discussion about — Palestinian rights, and is the result of intense reactionary efforts to do so.

That same day, the New York Times published an op-ed by Jared Kusher, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, describing anti-Semitism as "targeting the state of Israel" and "claiming its existence is a racist endeavor." He emphasized: "Anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism," a view vehemently denounced by the growing global movement which opposes Israeli oppression of Palestinians, occupation of their lands, illegal settlements, evictions of families, blockade of Gaza and racism toward African migrants.

Trump's dictate violates free speech rights by targetting campus groups that criticize Israel's anti-Palestinian policies and oppose Washington's political and financial support for Israel — to the tune of billions of dollars a year. It is specifically intended to suppress the burgeoning pro-Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, which has won campus victories throughout the U.S., as enumerated by National Students for Justice in Palestine.

The BDS campaign is "a Palestinian-led [global] movement for freedom, justice and equality, [which] upholds the principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the BDS call urges action to pressure Israel to comply with international law." (bdsmovement.net)

Jewish Voice for Peace said Trump's order creates a "climate of fear," with college administrations "incentivized" to silence student activism and teaching about Palestine, "while white supremacist organizing, which has been increasing under Trump, will go unchecked."

Israel: oppressor nation, apartheid state

On July 19, 2018, Israel passed an even more discriminatory law than the 65 existing laws oppressing Palestinians. JVP responded that day: "The Nation-State law establishes that racist and discriminatory practices against Palestinians and non-Jews are legal, [that] only Jewish people have the right to self-determination, demotes Arabic from an official language ... [and] places national value on the development of 'Jewish settlement.'"

JVP Deputy Director Rabbi Alissa Wise added: "The Nation-State bill cements Israel as an apartheid state — from the West Bank to Gaza to Jerusalem to Haifa. Palestinians, no matter where they live, are controlled by an Israeli government and military that robs them of basic rights and freedoms."

In March, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defined Israel as "the national state, not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people." (npr.org, March 11)

Trump: pro-Zionist anti-Semite

Trump is aligned with the Israeli government, unsurprisingly, since U.S. imperialism has always supported the Zionist state. He moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018, recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights (part of Syria) and declared legal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which violate international law and flout U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Although the bigot-in-chief feigns concern about anti-Semitism, he resorts to anti-Jewish tropes himself. He even uses anti-Jewish stereotypes when appealing to Jewish audiences for support. His election campaign ran ads with anti-Semitic overtones.

In an affront to Jewish people, but in recognition of Trump's evangelical Christian base, the White House featured two anti-Semitic ministers at a "Hanukkah" celebration following the executive-order-signing ceremony. Trump praised Pastor Robert Jeffress, who spoke there. Right-Wing Watch reported Jeffress said in 2011 that Jewish people, Muslims and gay people "are destined for Hell." (Dec. 13)

Rev. John C. Hagee, who founded Christians United for Israel, shockingly said, "The Holocaust was part of God's plan to return the Jews to Israel"! (NY Times, Dec. 13) He and Jeffress prayed at the U.S. Embassy's opening in Jerusalem.

And who can forget Trump's calling neo-Nazis "very fine people" after they marched in Charlottesville, Va., chanting, "Jews will not replace us," while carrying bats and torches and sporting swastikas.

Many progressive people call Trump a white nationalist, with good reason.

Super-rich promote bigotry

Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, xenophobia and all bigotry are promulgated by the capitalist class which seeks to divide the multinational, multigendered working class and prevent its many sectors from uniting. Conservative politicians, white evangelicals and far-right groups spread this ideology, disseminated through social media and popular culture.

Individuals who assault Jewish people, often white male bigots, are also usually hostile to Muslims, people of African descent, Latinx immigrants, women and LGBTQ2+ people. Even if that isn't the case, as in the recent attack at a Jewish-owned market in Jersey City, N.J., it shows the impact of anti-Semitism, as well as anger at police repression.

There has been a rise in hate crimes since Trump moved into the White House. His blatant promotion of racism, xenophobia, anti-Muslim hostility, and misogyny have emboldened the far right. The way to stop anti-Semitism is to build a strong multinational movement that opposes all forms of bigotry.

Durkin's grandparents fled anti-Jewish pogroms in 1907 in Eastern Poland, then annexed by tsarist Russia.

'Afghanistan Papers' release stirs protest from U.S. war veterans

By Michael Kramer

On Dec. 9, 2019, the Washington Post released an investigative report entitled "The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War." The report was based on a review of hundreds of written and audio interviews conducted by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). Those interviewed included military officers, government officials and private contractors, though most of them were not identified. The interviews were released only after a three-year legal battle in federal courts.

Like the Pentagon Papers, which were a Defense Department-funded, top-secret history of the Vietnam War leaked to the public in 1971, "The Afghanistan Papers" provide clear evidence that successive U.S. administrations — G.W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump's — have consistently lied to the U.S. people since the day the war began Oct. 7, 2001.

Within days of "The Afghanistan Papers" release, anti-war military veterans from two organizations that have worked closely with each other over the years, Veterans For Peace and About Face: Veterans Against the War, issued the following statement written by Afghanistan War veterans.

Veterans demand accountability for Afghanistan Papers

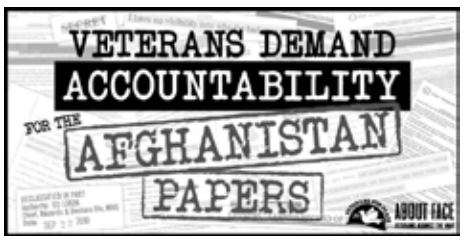
The release of the Afghanistan Papers this week has laid out in clear detail the failed policy and the catastrophic level of malfeasance that reach the highest levels of the U.S. government. Every level of government bears responsibility for misleading the American public and for creating the conditions in which an unchecked military operates without accountability.

The Afghanistan Papers are filled with over 300 people detailing the systematic failure of the military to take any responsibility and blaming the "corruption" of the Afghanistan government, all the while revealing the massive corruption and lies that the U.S. is perpetuating. While military commanders bemoaned Afghan leaders enriching themselves off [U.S.] tax dollars, those selfsame commanders were climbing government ranks, earning promotions for promoting endless war.

Soldiers, contractors and veterans were routinely marginalized or persecuted in order to maintain the status quo in Afghanistan, up to and including the prosecution of Edward Snowden and Chelsea Manning for their efforts. The integrity of those heroes were questioned, while the lies were glorified as truth by a complicit media and government agencies.

Last year the U.S. war on Afghanistan killed more civilians than [in] any previous year. Every single lie detailed in the #AfghanistanPapers and every single year this went on meant overwhelming consequences for families and individuals in Afghanistan, many who are already living in devastating poverty. The U.S. military has destroyed countless villages and continues to create an atmosphere of fear and hatred with covert drone operations that kill thousands of innocent people.

Furthermore, three days after these documents were released, proving three different administrations lied to the public and spent years covering up mismanagement, abuse and massive waste, Congress voted to pass the largest National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in history, funneling $733 billion to an already bloated military budget.



As veterans who have served in these wars and past wars, we are exasperated by leaders [who] lie to us and lack the moral courage to do anything about it, even when there is proof. We demand accountability in real and tangible ways. We are tired of seeing headlines that only result in a congressional member's outraged tweet, statements on the campaign trail and slick TV spots, while nothing changes.

We demand real accountability:

- Immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops;
- The military IMMEDIATELY release all 300 names of those quoted in the Afghanistan Papers;
- Congressional hearings that include perjury trials for all those officials who knowingly lied in official congressional testimony, including closed door session of the Armed Forces Committee;
- A special congressional committee to investigate fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement for the war in Afghanistan;
- A congressional tribunal allowing Afghanistan veterans to testify about their experience;
- Repeal of the AUMF (Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists)—which includes any subsequent AUMF to have a sunset clause;
- Recognition of Moral Injury as a legitimate diagnosis; and
- Reparations to each Afghanistan family who has lost a family member. ☐

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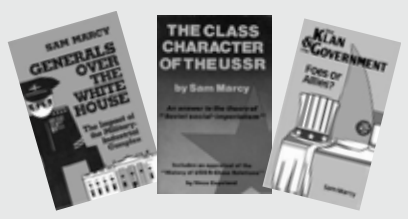


WW COMMENTARY

Capitalist growth and social change

By Deirdre Griswold

Growth.

Every day, the price of stocks on Wall Street go up and down depending on the growth of the economy. Growth of mineral extraction, growth of agriculture, growth of manufacturing and especially growth of sales and growth of capital. When growth slows down, when markets dry up, a crisis is sure to follow.

The health of the capitalist economy depends on growth. The cry everywhere is "More growth!" Wall Street breaks out the champagne when growth goes up. It goes into a panic when growth stagnates.

Economic growth alongside greater misery

The one thing that doesn't seem to bother the markets is whether this growth leads to a better standard of living for working people — those who produce everything that is consumed.

And the fact is that for many years, while economic growth in the U.S. has continued to expand at around 2 percent per year (not counting years of recession), the standard of living of the working class has actually been declining.

The wages of U.S. workers fell from 64 percent of the gross domestic product in 1980 to 58 percent in 2016. And according to Pew Research, the actual purchasing power of wage earners in this country has barely budged since 1964 — more than half a century ago! In addition, within the category of "wage earners," the only real gains have gone to the top 10 percent.

In other words, the workers who produce everything have been receiving less and less in return. At the same time, the parasitic class of owners has been upgrading from millionaires to billionaires.

It is a lie to equate economic growth in a capitalist country with better conditions for the mass of the people. The statistics show that the economy can expand every year, even as the working class falls deeper into misery.

Despite all the glowing propaganda, capitalist economic growth doesn't translate into a better standard of living for the workers. That takes conscious and organized struggle by the working class.

Growth versus the environment

And there is another huge downside to unplanned, profit-driven economic growth under capitalism: It has put the environment under greater and greater stress. Unless positive action is taken, the problems contributing to global warming and degradation of the land and water are bound to become more drastic the more capitalist economies grow.

The more trees that are cut down; the more land that is cleared for monoculture; the more coal, oil and gas that are extracted from below ground and burned to produce energy; the more plastic and other nonbiodegradable goods that are manufactured; the more military bases, tanks, planes and ships that are commissioned to lay waste to whole areas of the world in order to exploit them more effectively — the more the planet warms, and our ecosystems become overwhelmed.

But all these activities create huge profits for the tiny class of bosses and bankers, whose vast fortunes buy them governments and laws to further their exploitation of the working class and of nature.

Advertising stimulates growth — and competition

One of the big factors contributing to capitalist economic growth is advertising. Advertising has ballooned into such a huge industry because it creates an artificial need where none existed before. It is aimed at making people feel that their happiness, sense of well-being and even self-worth depend on buying products they otherwise wouldn't have taken an interest in or need for a comfortable life.

WW PHOTO: JIMMY RAYNOR

Atlanta climate crisis protest, Sept. 27.

Advertising is essential to capitalist growth. It has become a relentless and ever-present feature of modern life under capitalism. Besides promoting sales and profits, it very consciously breaks down solidarity and self-esteem, stimulating competitiveness and acquisition based on who can afford the latest gadget, the fastest car, the coolest styles.

If you are not a consumer, the ads tell us, you are nothing.

Imperialist growth alongside extreme poverty

At the same time, in much of the world, needed economic growth that normally would accompany technological development has been stunted and deformed by colonialism and imperialism. In the so-called developing countries, there is a crying need for infrastructure projects to provide clean water, sewage treatment, renewable energy, comfortable housing, efficient transportation, affordable medical facilities and a nourishing diet.

But instead, the imperialists suck out the raw materials and wealth of the countries they have conquered and made into their neocolonies. And in place of having access to clean water and fresh food grown locally, the people are more and more reduced to dependency on imported, manufactured food and beverages.

Most often, the economic growth that is made available to oppressed countries is confined to those areas that facilitate the extraction and transportation of raw materials. Modern pipelines and freight trains coexist alongside rutted roads and dirt-floor shacks. Electricity powers huge mines and factories, but the workers go home to a single lightbulb and a hand-pumped well, if even that.

Socialist planning the only answer

For those who understand that economic growth under capitalism is ruining the world, there is but one answer. Not despair, or running away from the great concentrations of workers in the cities in order to hopefully find a simpler life.

There is nowhere to run. Capitalism's despoiling of the environment is reaching into what have been the most pristine and unspoiled areas of the Earth: the vast polar wildernesses; the deepest oceans; the rain forests from the Amazon to Indonesia; the Australian outback; the mountain peaks from Everest to Kilimanjaro.

Socialism is the only alternative to capitalism. Surveys show that socialism has become extremely popular among millennials. Socialism means a planned economy, run not for private profit but for the common good. Getting there is a huge job and requires wresting power away from the small class of exploiters who today run the show.

Only the multinational working class can do this. It is the working class, when conscious of its strength and united against the bosses, that has the power to transform society and end the exploitation of both people and nature. The place to be, if you want to fight this decaying system, is in the struggle to organize for a workers' world. ❑

Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities

More elevators, not cops!

By Edward Yudelovich
New York

The United Nations established the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Dec. 3, 1992, in a victory for the worldwide struggle of people with disabilities. IDPD has been celebrated around the planet to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of people with disabilities.

For the fifth consecutive year, People's Power Assemblies/NYC marked the IDPD with a Dec. 3 protest inside of Macy's, which linked struggles for accessibility and against police repression in New York's mass transit system.

In 2016, a U.S. Federal Transit Administration report card on accessibility in subway stations in major U.S. cities showed New York last at 22 percent (with Miami at 100 percent), far below San Francisco, Atlanta and Los Angeles. (Wall Street Journal, Jan. 29, 2016) The situation has not improved; with frequent elevator breakdowns, this city's subway accessibility is probably less than 20 percent.

The PPA flyer declared: "We demand fully accessible transportation for all New Yorkers and real affordable housing and health care. We fight, each to their ability, against the murder, mass incarceration, warehousing and institutionalization of people with disabilities, especially Black and Brown folks."

Speakers at Herald Square — New York's busiest holiday shopping center — included disabled activists from Disabled in Action, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Communications Workers Local 1180 Committee on People with Disabilities, People's Power Assemblies/NYC, People's MTA and Workers World Party. A veteran of the transit accessibility struggle in Canada joined the protest and shared common experiences and strategies in the fight for access.

Dec. 3, inside Macy's. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Then activists streamed through Macy's department store on ramps between the floors, holding impromptu indoor rallies to make people aware that disabled people are not invisible and that disabled people are not disposable. Workers and shoppers cheered and encouraged the protesters on, as they proceeded to the last stop during rush hour Penn Station, where they chanted and held street meetings. Travelers waiting for trains stood around to listen, building small crowds.

One rally speaker quoted from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," which has been used in the disability community's fight for elevators against the MTA in both the courts and the streets: "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. ... Justice too long delayed is justice denied." (See tinyurl.com/wamv4or for a video of the protest.)

Yudelovich is a person with emotional and hearing loss disabilities and an organizer for the WWP People with Disabilities Caucus.

Actions planned to 'Abolish sanctions!'

By John Catalinotto
New York

Organizers from New York-based anti-war, anti-racist and anti-imperialist organizations and defenders of human rights gathered at the Solidarity Center Dec. 14 to plan an ongoing campaign against Washington's use of economic sanctions, calling such sanctions the "equivalent of war."

The planning meeting of about 40 organizers showed what they envisage: A target date of March 13-15 for a public protest in whatever places around the country and the world where people can organize one—March 14 on Wall Street in New York. Plus an ongoing educational campaign involving mass outreach with social media, leaflets and teach-in type discussions explaining the grave costs of sanctions. Organizers prepared a draft resolution that could be used by other organizations—for example, unions and local groups—to take a position against sanctions.

In researching the impact of sanctions, some of the organizers — Colin Ashley of Peoples Power Assemblies/NYC and Sara Flounders of the International Action Center, who coordinated the meeting — were themselves surprised regarding the extent of the sanctions, which impact the lives of a third of the world's population living in at least 39 countries.

These sanctions are mostly initiated by U.S. imperialism and applied through the United Nations. But

Continued on page 8

‘What road to revolution?’

By Larry Holmes

This is a slightly edited version of a talk given by Workers World Party’s First Secretary at a public and livestreamed forum Nov. 23 on “What Road to Socialism?” sponsored by the New York branch of Workers World Party.

Larry Holmes. WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Why do we even pose the question: “What road to socialism?” Because hundreds of millions of people on this planet are turning to socialism, to some idea of it. As we all know there are different ideas of what socialism is.

Tens of millions of those people are here in the U.S. They’re not exclusively young people, but a lot are. And thousands, probably tens of thousands, are activists. They’re doing campaign work for Bernie Sanders or Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, or worker organizing, or support for migrants, or climate struggle work, and some are in the anti-racist movement.

There are also some who are influenced by the Democratic Socialists of America, the big umbrella with a leadership that is social democratic and reformist. Some of the leadership wants to save the Democratic Party; some of the leadership wants to save capitalism by reform.

But don’t confuse the leadership with the large numbers of people coming into the organization. Some of them no doubt may not evolve beyond reformism and social democratic politics. But some of them are open to a turn to a revolutionary orientation as far as their embracing socialism is concerned.

Our job is to win some of them over to a communist cadre organization — to a revolutionary orientation. We are optimistic that if we study and do our work in a patient way and learn from our mistakes, we can do this.

Winning revolutionaries

How? It won’t be one way. This is a long-term political struggle particularly inside the new sections of the working-class movement, as well as older sections. Will it involve an ideological struggle? Of course. Will it involve the necessity to demonstrate, once again, that capitalism can’t be reformed? To talk about [Vladimir] Lenin and the state? To talk about imperialism? To talk about our obligation to the most oppressed sectors of our class? Yes.

But also, it involves our approach to struggle — our entire approach to the struggle that will also be part of the struggle we are waging to win over as many as we can.

We’re not opposed to participating in bourgeois elections, on either a local or a national level. What we are opposed to is legitimating those elections. If we participate, that is, for the most part, to expose elections as being a dead end for the workers and the oppressed.

We’re for things like Medicare for All and cancelling student debt and free tuition and some of the other progressive demands.

But here is the big difference between the reformists and the revolutionaries. We may march for some issues with reformists — the political people who have tied themselves to the Democratic Party. But it is not in the interest of the social democrats, for the most part, to actually try to bring the workers and the oppressed into the struggle, to empower them, to shut shit down so that they begin to feel their weight.

What happens when workers and the oppressed take over the struggle? They break with the notion that things are determined in courtrooms and legislatures and so on.

Revolutionaries know we’ve got power, especially when we are out in the streets in large numbers. The reformists have the opposite orientation. Keep the masses proscribed, keep them down, make it all about the candidates.

Imagine if some of these so-called progressive social democrats were asking all the young people to ‘shut it down’ in order to win Medicare for All or to cancel student loans. But that’s not their orientation.

The school of struggle

The struggle itself — whether it directly involves workers — is always a class struggle. Like fighting racist police terror is part of the class struggle.

What all the great revolutionary leaders and theoreticians have taught us is that a struggle is a school.

The struggle is a school where the workers and oppressed learn how they can empower themselves, separate themselves from the status quo, challenge capitalism, and learn more and more with each struggle and ultimately become more revolutionary — until they feel that they no longer need the system or any kind of pretense, and they can take it all the way.

And it’s important for us to ponder that, because to a large extent, I think it’s in the course of the struggle that we will have the contest with the reformists and the social democrats. The next one to three years, I’m guessing, will be critical for revolutionary forces in the working-class movement, at least in the U.S.

Why? Because that is enough time for the next global capitalist crisis to develop, whether provoked by something in the financial markets or something else. Though you must consider sometimes things don’t turn around in terms of the struggle right away. Sometimes there’s choking demoralization among the masses, as was the case during the Great Depression and the stock market crash of 1929. It took a while before the working class got on its feet and started fighting back.

When the capitalist economic crisis comes

We haven’t talked a lot about the looming economic crisis. The International Monetary Fund held its annual meeting in October in Washington, D.C. Didn’t hear much about it; had to read the financial papers. This was a heavy meeting. Some of the bankers and heads of banks in the U.S. are pretending that the U.S. is different in relation to the financial markets. It’s not. The U.S. economy’s a little stronger, but that ain’t gonna last.

Christine Lagarde was not too long ago the head of the International Monetary Fund and recently she became the head of the European Central Bank. She said, “The financial markets, particularly in the U.S., have completely lost touch with the global economy, which is sinking. Sooner or later, a moment of truth is going to arrive.”

Mervyn King, a highly respected banker, spoke; he was the head of the Bank of England during the 2008 crisis. He said, “The world is on the edge of the repeat of another financial Armageddon. There are a lot of articles circulating about how what’s going on in the U.S. in terms of the Wall Street traders and coupon clippers is delusional.”

What’s coming? We can’t say when, all we know is that an economic crisis is coming. It’s going to have a big impact. Let’s remember the social and political impact of the 2008 crisis when the capitalist financial system collapsed worldwide and almost died.

I won’t go into all the things that the bankers did to revive it — they're still doing it, with low interest rates and so forth — but a lot of things also happened in terms of how it affected the working class. Go to any towns that had factories and workers and unions, and now what they have is substance abuse. That’s from the deindustrialization of the 1980s to the 2008 crisis, and now it got worse.

The crisis really hit young people around the world. It took away the promise, the hope that all you had to do was get a degree, pay off your loans, and most likely there’d be a comfortable place for you, either in the upper-middle class or in the bourgeoisie.

That hope is over, and that was one of the reasons for Occupy Wall Street and the Occupy movement. I would say the Black Lives Matter movement was also a result.

Radicalization to deepen

The next crisis is going to push the radicalization that happened over the last 10 years even further, into deeper and more vast sections of the working class. The question won't just be about reforming capitalism — that already is the question!

The question is: Will it be sharper? Is capitalism viable? Or in order to save ourselves, do we have to get rid of it?

And this is what we have to prepare for as revolutionaries. This will be when we battle the reformists, because it’s in these times that the true nature of the reformists come out. And the true nature and strengths of revolutionaries come out.

We will be in the school of struggle, and each struggle is a lesson that gets us closer to revolutionary barricades.

The new face of the working class

Let me conclude by posing a number of questions as we prepare for what is coming. Forget about my timeline, I can’t promise that it’s one to three years — that seems like a good time frame, but I could be off.

Some questions as we prepare are: How do we rebuild our party so that, when the struggle demands us, we’ll be in shape to meet that responsibility, when our role could be decisive? How do we deepen our roots in important sections of the working class? Every sector of the working class is important, including the older members trying to hold on to their pensions.

I don’t think we should limit ourselves to any particular sector, but I do see two that we should focus on. The first is migrant workers. They are the most oppressed, they are growing, they are militant, and this is why there’s a war against them. The bourgeoisie is trying to break them as a potential weapon that would push the entire working class forward. If we deepen our influence in the migrant working class, that’s a big step in really making WWP a workers' party.

Second, the youth. There was a time, certainly when I was young, when we as organizers sort of considered youth, they’re good because they’re marching against the [Vietnam] war, they’re shutting down shit the best they can. But our question was always: What will happen to them? Maybe they’ll have their couple of semesters of struggle, and then they’ll get their degrees and their comfortable life.

From a socioeconomic, political perspective, you could say that was true for 1969 or 1972. But that’s not true anymore. Young people are the working class. That’s not understood in some places; even the labor movement hasn’t grasped it. In this gig economy, it doesn’t matter how many degrees they’ve got, they’re not able to keep jobs or earn a living wage. This is the new face of the global working class, and in many ways the youth are the most dynamic, the newest sector.

If we are doing what we need to garner influence among young workers, even those who do not realize that they’re workers, that’s a big thing. By young people, obviously we mean LGBTQ2+ people and women, and all the industries and areas they work in.

The road to revolution

How do we strengthen working-class internationalism? How do we help our class on a global scale, to act as a class, to be conscious and supportive of workers and the oppressed everywhere, regardless of language and geography? That’s rough, but we have to tackle it if we’re on the revolutionary road.

And how do we struggle against the unnecessary, unhelpful and sometimes demoralizing fragmentation in the left movement? The workers and oppressed are involved in many struggles, most often local struggles. How does each get its due? How can we connect the dots between struggles? How do we get people to look beyond their region and look beyond the issues that define their struggle?

Of course, there are a lot of differences in the political movement among those who call themselves communists and socialists and Marxists, and some of those are big issues. Some of them are so big that they can’t be reconciled, like oil and water. But having said that, a lot of activists who consider themselves revolutionaries should be working together on a global basis. And the reasons why they don’t: Some of those seem sectarian, some seem very short-sighted, some reasons seem based on the past and some seem just being stuck in the way they did things 10, 20, 25 years ago.

There’ll be no big revolutionary breakthrough unless some of this fragmentation is broken down. Those of us who have been around long enough to be part of that fragmentation — and I hope people consider WWP to be a very small part of it — how can we fight that fragmentation? If we don’t do it, there’ll come a time when young people, new forces, will just push everyone who’s been around for a while aside, for better or worse.

The road to revolution. What road to revolution? We want to make sure that our party, which is far from perfect, but utterly revolutionary, is not stuck in the past, but aimed toward the future. □

Attack on Bolivia and Venezuela followed the same playbook

By Marco Teruggi

Slightly edited version published in Sputnik World, Dec. 7. Translation by Michael Otto.

The different steps followed by the coup d'état in Bolivia can be matched with what the right wing is desperately trying to pull off in Venezuela. Both processes have unfolded according to what appears to be a similar playbook. An analysis of the successive central coup moments reveals this.

Jeanine Añez, self-proclaimed president of Bolivia, took on the role that Juan Guaidó was called upon—and failed—to carry out in Venezuela. Añez, just like Guaidó, was a second-string leader of the opposition. Due to a combination of circumstances, she played a central role in fronting the coup d'état that forced President Evo Morales to resign on Nov. 10.

That's not the only correlation between the two coups d'état. Both destabilization processes seem to follow the same scenario to be carried out by actors and repeated discourses—which mirror each other—both in the depths of real power as well as with the nominal representatives of that power.

"It's a method applicable to any of our revolutionary processes. We have studied the methods, the phases of the new generation of warfare. In some cases they achieve half the result, in others the complete result. In Venezuela this has not been possible," explains Cris González, ambassador of Venezuela to Bolivia. He has returned to Caracas.

The parallel actions of the two coup processes begin from the premise supporting the entire coup plot: the false claim of electoral fraud.

Gonzalez said: "In Bolivia the [right-wing] media began harping on fraud long before the elections and thus it was reported that there was going to be a fraud on Oct. 20. That very day there was talk of fraud because a large number of people had already accepted the idea that there was going to be a fraudulent election before the first count had been issued."

That was the appeal for support used to call out and legitimize the mobilizations that were launched before the votes were counted. The media had constantly repeated this lie in order to implant that false idea in the consciousness of large segments of Bolivian society.

PHOTO: A. DEQUIDT

Pro-Bolivian government demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela, March 30.

The illusion of fraud

That same method was systematically applied in Venezuela from the earliest years of the revolution. It was behind the façade of a fraud's existence that the right-wing coup sector refused to participate in the presidential elections of May 20, 2018, in which Nicolás Maduro was reelected president. The objective was to refuse to recognize this electoral victory and declare that Maduro was a dictator, and on that basis to create the framework for the parallel government that was set in motion when Guaidó proclaimed himself interim president last Jan. 23.

In Bolivia, it was possible to mobilize a sector of the population by creating the illusion of fraud, which led to the activation of street combat groups. This was particularly visible in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba during the coup that began on Oct. 20 and forced Morales to resign on Nov. 10.

In Cochabamba, for example, recorded testimonies exposed how right-wing gangs rode in groups of tens or even hundreds on motorcycles to persecute and terrorize supporters of the Morales-led political process and all those who were Indigenous.

Gonzalez explained, "Never before had we seen homemade bazookas used in a protest and the presence of armed motorcyclists, which was one of the phenomena of the coup that occurred in that area."

In both Cochabamba and Chasquipampa, where the first massacre took place after Nov. 10, local residents denounced the presence of [right-wing] Venezuelans in the front ranks of the shock troops. The type of weapons, mode of deployment and tactics of confrontation were similar to those used in the so-called guarimbas [colloquial for "violent barricades"] in Venezuela in 2014 and 2017.

That wasn't all: As in the attempt to overthrow Maduro in 2017, right-wing gangs persecuted political and social leaders who were part of the process of change [in Bolivia, "process of change" means the movement supporting Morales] and launched attacks on any local progressive media.

Attacks on Morales' supporters

The houses of Morales' supporters were defaced with graffiti and burned, and the people themselves were beaten, as was Patricia Arce, the courageous Indigenous woman mayor of Vinto. Bolivia TV and Radio Patria Nueva, the radio station of the Unified Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia, where the director was tied to a tree, were similarly attacked.

The Bolivian right, like the Venezuelan right, denied all their violence. That big lie was sustained by the national and international media, which had, among other tasks, to make the violence invisible.

Evo Morales was forced to resign along with Vice President Álvaro García Linera. In contrast, Guaidó's call to "End the usurpation!" is something he never managed to carry out since he first proclaimed it at the beginning of this year.

From the moment [Morales left], the second step — the "transitional government" — was implemented in Bolivia. The Venezuelan coup strategy included announcing this goal over and over again.

This so-called "transitional government" [manufactured] two central [facts on the ground]. First of all, Añez proclaimed herself president and appointed a de facto government, recognized by the United States, the Organization of American States, right-wing governments in Latin America and even by the European Union. That legitimization in turn implied the denial that a coup d'état took place.

A wave of terror

One of the major tasks carried out by the de facto government was to unleash a massive wave of terror by the Bolivian Armed Forces and the Bolivian National Police, resulting in three massacres and 35 acknowledged deaths.

In addition, the de facto government publicly threatened National Assembly members from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), journalists, political leaders and former officials. Human rights organizations and social movements that came from Argentina to record the situation in the country were threatened and physically attacked at the airport.

The "transitional government" meant that there would be restoration of the old order, an operation carried out with impunity due to the breakdown of the rule of law, with persecution of the opponents, that is, the MAS leaders of social movements and politicians. These are the conditions that the coup d'état requires for the third step: "free elections."

Añez asserted from the beginning, as did Guaidó, that she would call for elections and that her role is provisional. As could be anticipated, one of the central facts is that Evo Morales and Álvaro García Linera will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming elections. As for MAS, they may participate for the time being.

The OAS, as expected, will validate the elections as part of its legitimization of the coup d'état. Gonzalez paused, emphasizing the role played by the OAS as Washington's main instrument of action in carrying out U.S. foreign policy. The OAS played this role in Bolivia as well as in Venezuela, where the right-wing governments of the OAS and, in particular, its secretary general, Luis Almagro, have seated Guaidó's representative to speak for Venezuela at the table.

The coup in Bolivia is a mirror for Venezuela: It anticipates what would happen if the strategy that projects Guaidó onto the world stage were to triumph. That strategy is now facing its worst crisis since his self-proclamation.

González said that the coup strategy has not ended: "Here there is a judgment about who is the real enemy of the people: It's the USA." This means we can expect new actions will be taken against the government, the political process and the country, which will translate into a tightening of the economic blockade, as well as possible attacks that have not been seen before.

"What else remains?" asked Gonzalez. "Weapons of mass destruction that have left a trail of pain, blood and death in the Middle East. The continent must be prepared to reject this. We cannot allow our continent to become a war zone!" ❐

Actions planned to 'Abolish sanctions!'

Continued from page 6

it is mainly the U.S. and its allies — in the European NATO countries, Japan and Australia — that are responsible for enforcing them.

A few reports gave examples of how these punitive sanctions work. Colette Pean from the December 12 Movement discussed the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe 20 years ago after that country seized some of the land farmed by white settlers for distribution to its citizens. She emphasized how the punitive economic effect hurt all of southern Africa.

Juyeon (JC) Rhee of the Korean group Nodutdol discussed how punitive sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea) helped bring about famine conditions in the mid-1990s.

Underlining the international outreach of the initiative, organizers reported that the call has already been posted on the website at sanctionskill.org in 12 languages and that more are coming, including languages that have official status on six continents. The following call has been endorsed by over 1,000 organizations and individuals as of Dec. 13.

Call to Action for International Days of Action Against Sanctions and Economic War – March 13-15, 2020

Sanctions Kill!
Sanctions are War!
End Sanctions Now!

Sanctions are imposed by the United States and its junior partners against countries that resist their agendas. They are a weapon of economic war, resulting in chronic shortages of basic necessities, economic dislocation, chaotic hyperinflation, artificial famines, disease and poverty. In every country, the poorest and the weakest — infants, children, the chronically ill and the elderly — suffer the worst impact of sanctions.

U.S.-imposed sanctions violate international law and are a tool of regime change. They impact a third of humanity in 39 countries. They are a crime against humanity used, like military intervention, to topple popular governments and movements. They provide economic and military support to pro-U.S. right-wing forces.

The U.S. economic dominance and its +800 military bases worldwide demand all other countries participate in acts of economic strangulation. They must end all normal trade relations — otherwise they risk having Wall Street's guns pointed at them. The banks and financial institutions that are responsible for the devastation of our communities at home drive the plunder of countries abroad.

Many organizations have been fighting sanctions and economic war for some time. NOW is an opportunity to combine efforts to raise consciousness on this crucial issue.

This broad campaign will include protests and demonstrations, lobbying, petition drives and all forms of educational efforts.

As an initial step for this campaign we encourage mobilizations and educational efforts to be organized during the International Days of Action against U.S. imposed Sanctions and Economic War on March 13-15.

Please add your endorsement and help spread the word at www.SanctionsKill.org.

Email: Info@SanctionsKill.org ❐

Algerians: 'The system' has a new president, but he's not ours

By G. Dunkel

"The system" is what Algerians call the shadowy, highly corrupt group of Army officers, high-ranking politicians and businesspeople running their country. In February the news hit that Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the then-current president who had had a disabling stroke in 2013, was going to run for a fifth term as president.

Tens of thousands of Algerians took to the streets all over this vast country, the largest in Africa, to protest him and his regime. After a month or so of weekly protests following Friday prayers involving hundreds of thousands of people — men, women, youth, families and elders who remembered the war for independence from France — Bouteflika resigned. The interim government, basically set up by the army, called for an election in July. Nobody registered as a candidate, so it was called off in June.

Weekly protests continued, even in the deadly heat of an Algerian summer, demanding "the system" be replaced by a fairer arrangement that didn't just reward people at the top.

Dec. 12 presidential election

The interim government of Abdelkader Bensalah, who was speaker of the upper house, set Dec. 12 as the date for the next presidential election and undertook extensive political and organizational steps to prepare for it.

All the candidates that were vetted by the electoral commission were close collaborators — ministers and

Dec. 12 protest.

others — with the Bouteflika regime. The Hirak, the loose coalition that coordinated the 42 massive weekly national demonstrations leading up to Dec. 12, called for a boycott of the election, since all the candidates were part of "the system."

The Dec. 12 demonstrations in Algiers were huge, and people stayed in the streets, even after the cops aggressively attacked protesters and singled out a few to beat and then arrest in front of French TV cameras. (There is a very large Algerian community in France.) There were photos of nearly empty polling places and lines of people waiting to stuff their ballots into a trash can.

In the Kabylie, a historically rebellious area east of Algiers, where Amazigh (Berber) is the main language, protesters broke into polling stations and found that ballot boxes had already been stuffed. (Al Jazeera, Dec. 14)

Algerian election officials, claiming turnout was close to 40 percent, declared Abdelmadjid Tebboune the winner in the first round with 58 percent of the votes cast.

The Rally for Culture and Democracy, a major secular, center-left political party, estimated the turnout was 8 percent, which is consistent with the reports of ballot stuffing and sparse crowds at many polling stations. (tinyurl.com/s396s48)

Police reaction, according to the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, varied from region to region. In Algiers, it was aggressive and nasty but relatively restrained. French television and international press cameras were mainly located in Algeria's capital.

In Constantine, the largest city in eastern Algeria, the protest reportedly went off without major hitches. In the Kabylie, which has about 9 million people, there wasn't much police presence, but a vicious attack, with cops firing rubber bullets, took place in Haïzer. (www.tsa-algerie.com)

In Oran, the police made over 400 arrests in a "brutal fashion," beating people with their clubs and liberally using tear gas, according to local newspaper Le Matin d'Algérie (Dec. 13).

The Hirak was able to hold its weekly protests in a number of cities Dec. 13. It is not clear how this presidential election is going to affect the ongoing struggle in Algeria. ☐

Britain's Trump wins: Workers need anti-racist unity

Continued from page 1

been devastated by mine and factory closings.

Labor Party moderates have jumped on the anti-Corbyn bandwagon, blaming his left turn for Labor's losses and slandering him as "anti-Semitic" for criticizing Israeli apartheid. Corbyn has said he will resign as party leader.

Democrats in the U.S., including presidential candidate Joe Biden, are citing the British election results as evidence that their party needs to move toward the center. Will this narrative be used to marginalize the party's more progressive wing, including four courageous Congresswomen of color known as "The Squad"?

'Not my prime minister'

While the capitalist media — including the notorious British tabloids — are calling the vote a Conservative "landslide," young people are already in the streets raising the slogan "Not my prime minister." A poll before the election showed a majority of voters under 35 supporting Labor.

Johnson does not have overwhelming popular support. The Tories received 43.6 percent of the popular vote. With a voter turnout of 67 percent, that's less than 30 percent of all eligible voters. Many immigrants, who now face more hate crimes and discrimination, could not vote.

Having become the party of white supremacy and xenophobia, the Tories made gains at the expense of the ultra-right United Kingdom Independent Party and Brexit Party, which won no seats at all. Compared to the 2017 Tory popular vote, this time it only rose by about 330,000. Labor lost most of its votes to anti-Brexit parties, including the Green, Liberal Democrat and Scottish National parties.

Conservatives were pushed back in Scotland and the north of Ireland. The SNP won 48 of 59 seats, a gain of 13. The pro-nationalist Sinn Fein retained its seven

PHOTO: MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

Immigrant advocates denounce racist Brexit before election.

seats, while the Social Democratic and Labor Party took two seats from the anti-nationalist Democratic Unionist Party, who helped the Tories form the last government. This is the first nationalist — that is, for a united, independent Ireland — majority since the 1921 partition of Ireland. (euronews.com, Dec. 13)

"The majority of people here voted to remain and they see Brexit as something that is very unfairly being imposed upon them," said Sinn Fein's John Finucane, who defeated DUP's Nigel Dodds in South Belfast.

Brexit is also unpopular in Scotland. SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has called for a new referendum vote on Scottish independence, claiming the imposition of Brexit has led to increased support for independence, after a narrow majority voted to stay with Britain in 2014.

Johnson immediately voiced his disdain for Irish and Scottish self-determination, stating: "At this stage it does look as though this one-nation Conservative government has been given a powerful new mandate, to get Brexit done and not just to get Brexit done but to unite this country and take it forward." (Reuters, Dec. 12)

What's the revolutionary view?

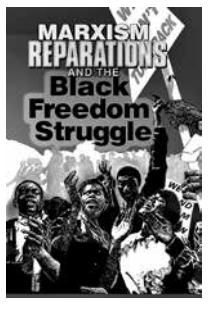
The Labor Party — progressive but reformist "democratic socialists" — has suffered a setback. But Marxists understand that class struggle is the driving force of history. The coming attacks on the workers and oppressed living in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland will meet mass resistance. The protests will grow.

What else must revolutionary socialists keep in mind going forward?

Workers World Party founder and late Chairperson Sam Marcy stated in a 1972 document, a statement he repeated often, "The acid test for a revolutionary workers' party is its position on the national question." To deny the centrality of racism, xenophobia and occupation — national oppression — in analyzing Brexit and the Tory advances is to fail that test.

Now is the time to build global, multinational class solidarity on both sides of the Atlantic. ☐

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle



Edited by Monica Moorehead

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

Available at major online booksellers.

Free PDF download at *www.workers.org/books*

Atlanta residents fight eviction

About 100 people, mostly from the Peoplestown neighborhood in South Atlanta rallied at City Hall on Dec. 16, protesting the attempt by the city to evict long time residents, Robert and Bertha Darden and Tanya Washington, and their family members.

After the outside rally and press conference, the group marched into Mayor Kiesha Bottoms' office and took it over. The mayor was in hiding and refused to meet with the community people. They remained in her office until midnight but intend to continue to force a meeting.

— Photo and caption by Jimmy Raynor

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

Fight for socialism enters new decade

Continued from page 1

worker and community power to fight for public schools.

2013 & 2014: Three radical Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi — created **#BlackLivesMatter** after the acquittal of the killer of African-American teenager Trayvon Martin. In growing outrage over continued murders and police killings of Black people, enormous mass marches and shutdowns militantly occupied highways, subway lines and buildings. The movement accelerated after the 2014 death-by-cop of African Americans Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in New York City and Tamir Rice in Cleveland, and the banner of #BlackLivesMatter was lifted internationally.

2015: With a U.S. Supreme Court decision, **same-sex marriage was legalized on a national basis**--a survival right for LGBTQ2+ people to safeguard families and gain access to financial benefits. The ruling was won by almost 30 years of organizing, focusing first on decriminalizing sodomy — a felony prosecuted almost exclusively against LGBTQ2+ people. Massive civil disobedience at the Supreme Court in 1987 and years of state-by-state organizing resulted in SCOTUS striking down sodomy as a criminal act in 2003, ultimately paving the way to this win.

2016: The Indigenous Water Protector actions at Standing Rock and the Dakota Access Pipeline protests began in early 2016 when Indigenous youth organized a direct action and social media campaign to stop the pipeline. Joined by adults, including Joye Braun of the Indigenous Environmental Network and tribal historian LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, they established a camp as the center for direct action, spiritual resistance to the pipeline, cultural preservation and defense of Indigenous sovereignty. During months of struggle, many peoples defended the land and water, often confronting U.S. state forces.

2017: Tarana Burke, an African-American activist began using the phrase "Me Too" in 2006 on social media to raise awareness of an epidemic of sexual abuse and assault, especially against girls and women of color. **#MeToo** went viral in 2017 after women tweeted their personal experiences of abuse, often by men in positions of power. In January a massive Women's March protested predator and abuser Trump's inauguration as president, and low-wage women workers began using #MeToo to fight sexual abuse in the workplace and for $15 an hour.

2017: After a murderous Unite the Right rally of white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Virginia on Aug.12, a **powerful coalition of anti-racist, anti-fascist forces pulled down a Confederate statue in Durham, N.C.**, on Aug. 14. The bold act accelerated protests challenging racist monuments and flags, and scores were defaced, pulled down, legally challenged and removed.

2018: Socialism became a mainstream media buzz word, as **a record number of U.S. workers went on strike** or held work stoppages, starting with the West Virginia education workers walking out and ending with a national strike by Marriott Hotel workers winning protections against sexual abuse and for im/migrant workers. Attacks on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid/Medicare sparked **a renewed movement of disabled people**, with hundreds arrested at Congressional hearings.

2019: Thousands of people demonstrated in hundreds of cities in June demanding **"Close the Camps."** Galvanized by continuing federal imprisonment of im/migrants seeking asylum at the southern border, protesters began to accurately denounce such imprisonment "concentration camps" where parents and children were brutally separated and people were housed indefinitely in life-threatening circumstances.

2019: In September millions turned out internationally in the **Global Climate Strike**. While Greta Thunberg of Sweden became the mainstream face of the strike, it was initiated by young people of all nationalities in their teens all over the world, like Ruth Weaver of Massachusetts who said, "The real planet killers at work here are the corporations. . . . This is not our fault but now it is our responsibility to take on these corporations." (workers.org, Sept. 24)

International resistance and struggle against imperial capitalism continued in 2019 as China celebrated the 70th anniversary of its communist revolution, and Cuba, Bolivarian Venezuela and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea) continued strong and committed to the road to socialism, despite U.S. attempts at economic destabilization and "regime change."

In 2018 and 2019 enormous international protests and strikes, many led by Indigenous peoples and some called by labor union and environmental coalitions, exploded against capitalist austerity measures and neocolonial exploitation in Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Mali, Puerto Rico, Honduras and elsewhere.

This communist review of the decade reveals that growing mass consciousness and activism are aimed at the intertwined abuses of capitalist state power and corporate exploitation that are reinforced through all forms of bigotry.

Such a mass mobilization can collectively build the road toward revolutionary socialism. ☐

France: Workers' militant resistance confronts gov't intransigence

By G. Dunkel

Dec. 16 — The general strike in France has lasted 12 days as of today. Transportation is barely hanging on, with just 10 to 30 percent of scheduled trains running. Cars and buses spend hours in traffic jams. Bicycle lanes are jam-packed. Cafés, restaurants, hotels and stores report losing major amounts of year-end holiday business.

Traffic jams in the region that includes Paris were twice as long today as they are at their worst when mass transit is running normally.

The public reaction to the strike is surprising. Despite the tremendous inconvenience, a strong majority supports the unions' objections to the government's plan to impose major pension cuts. Many believe the government left the workers no choice, pushing them out on strike.

In addition, the government minister in charge of its retirement project was forced to resign today because of "financial improprieties."

The four federations inside the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) — transportation, railroad workers, chemical industry, and mines and energy — just issued a public warning to the government. "It has a week to announce the withdrawal of its proposal and to relaunch real negotiations to improve the current retirement system." The strike will continue while the CGT waits.

The French Democratic Labor Confederation (CFDT), which is the largest labor confederation in the private sector, had firmly supported the way the government proposed restructuring the retirement system. Yet what it can't support are government plans to make workers stay on the job years longer to get a full pension. So on Dec. 11 the CFDT announced it would fully participate in the next national protest march on Dec. 17 and in the general strike.

Workers march in the streets of Draguignan, Dec. 10, to say no to pension reform.

On Dec. 11, all the left-wing parties in France, some of which are radical more in name than practice, held an open meeting for the first time in 29 years. Attendees included the Communist Party of France (PCF), which called the meeting; France Unbowed (France insoumise); Workers Struggle (LO); the New Anti-capitalist Party; the Socialist Party; and the Greens. The union confederations CGT and SUD were also present. The meeting was widely covered by the French press.

Fabien Roussel, the leader of the PCF, summed up the meeting: "There was unanimity against the government reform. We are asking for its proposal to be withdrawn. We are all united on this point and call for a mobilization for Dec. 17." (Le Monde, Dec. 11-12)

President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Édouard Philippe claim that since Macron's campaign promised "reforms," and the people voted to elect him, that means the people gave him a mandate to impose these changes on the retirement system.

French workers ask why the government, which had participated in two years of discussions, did not propose a concrete plan regarding the pensions until the massive Dec. 5 national demonstration and another six days of a general strike. ☐

Defendamos levantamientos populares de América Latina

Continúa de la página 12

infinito es una mentira absoluta.

Por ejemplo, un número abrumador de informes aparecieron en todos los medios corporativos en los Estados Unidos que dieron "fraude electoral" como la razón por la que Morales fuera derrocado, sin una pizca de evidencia. Nunca debemos permitir que estas mentiras se cuelen en los medios progresivos que existan.

Con respecto al poder del estado, notamos que el gobierno bolivariano de Venezuela ha logrado durante el transcurso de 2019 defenderse contra un ataque imperialista total y el intento de organizar un golpe de estado. Hasta ahora, el gobierno de Nicolás Maduro ha mantenido su apoyo de las Fuerzas Armadas Bolivarianas y ha organizado milicias populares de trabajadores armados y agricultores.

Deberíamos continuar apoyando al gobierno venezolano y su uso justo de las fuerzas estatales contra las pandillas reaccionarias respaldadas por el imperialismo estadounidense.

También deberíamos aplaudir cualquier intento de los movimientos populares o gobiernos de romper el monopolio de la clase dominante sobre la violencia. Como el líder revolucionario ruso V.I. Lenin señaló hace más de un siglo que este es un paso difícil pero necesario para el éxito de cualquier revolución que intente poner en el poder a una clase oprimida y explotada.

La organización de milicias populares en Venezuela es un ejemplo de tal intento. Deberíamos brindar apoyo político a todos esos intentos.

La lucha de clases latinoamericana se encuentra en una nueva fase. Las masas oprimidas en las Américas que continúan luchando contra sus despiadados enemigos de la clase dominante, con cualquier medio que puedan emplear, merecen nuestro apoyo. ☐

Behind the U.S. anti-China campaign

The facts about Xinjiang

By Sara Flounders

In order to evaluate the claims of massive human rights violations of the Uyghurs, an ethnic and religious minority in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, it is important to know a few facts.

Xinjiang Province in the far western region of China is an arid, mountainous and still largely underdeveloped region. Xinjiang has significant oil and mineral reserves and is currently China's largest natural-gas-producing region.

It is home to a number of diverse ethnic groups, including Turkic-speaking Muslim Uyghurs, Tibetans, Tajiks, Hui and Han peoples.

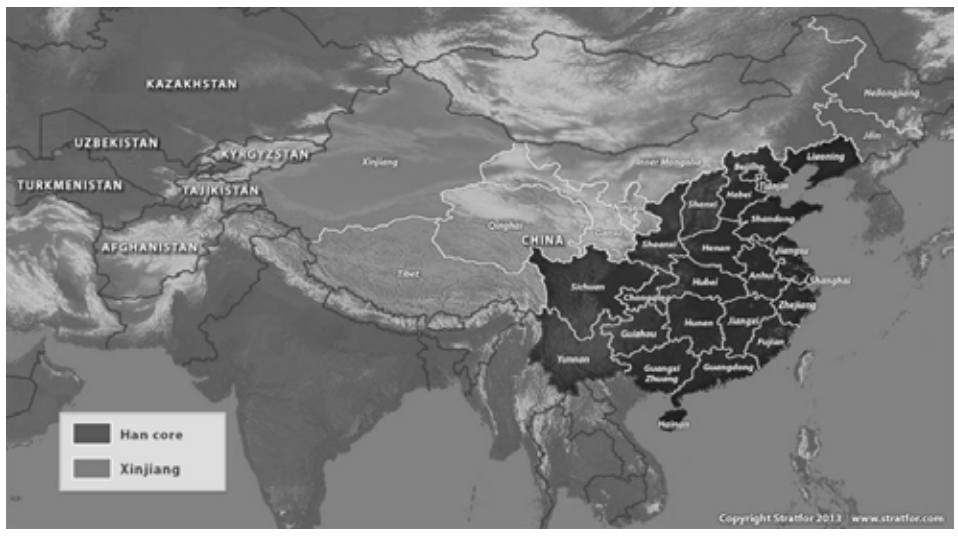
Xinjiang borders five Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, where more than 1 million U.S. troops and even more mercenaries, contractors and secret agents have operated over four decades in an endless U.S. war.

What is happening in Xinjiang today must be seen in the context of what has been happening throughout Central Asia.

Xinjiang is a major logistics center for China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. Xinjiang is the gateway to Central and West Asia, as well as to European markets.

The Southern Xinjiang Railway runs to the city of Kashgar in China's far west where it is now connected to Pakistan's rail network under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a project of the BRI.

The U.S. government is deeply hostile to this vast economic development project and is doing all it can to sabotage China's plans. This campaign is part of the U.S. military's "Pivot to Asia," along with naval threats in the South China Sea and support for separatist movements in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet.



Map features Central Asia and China, including Xinjiang.

No U.N. report on Xinjiang

The U.S. and its corporate media charge that the Chinese government has rounded up 1 million people, mainly Uyghurs, into concentration camps. News reports cite the United Nations as their source.

This was disputed in a detailed investigative report by Ben Norton and Ajit Singh titled, "No, the UN did not report China has 'massive internment camps' for Uighur Muslims." (The Grayzone.com, Aug. 23, 2018) They expose how this widely publicized claim is based entirely on unsourced allegations by a single U.S. member, Gay McDougall, on an "independent committee" with an official sounding name: U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has confirmed that no U.N. body or official has made such a charge against China.

CIA/NED-funded 'human rights'

After this fraudulent news story received wide coverage, it was followed by "reports" from the Washington-based Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders. This group receives most of its funds from U.S. government grants, primarily from the CIA-linked National Endowment for Democracy, a major source of funding for U.S. "regime change" operations around the world.

The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders shares the same Washington address as Human Rights Watch. The HRW has been a major source of attacks on governments targeted by the U.S., such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Syria and China. The network has long called for sanctions against China.

The CHRD's sources include Radio Free Asia, a news agency funded for decades by the U.S. government. The World Uighur Congress, another source of sensationalized reports, is also funded by NED. The same U.S. government funding is behind the International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation and the Uyghur American Association.

The authors of the Grayzone article cite years of detailed IRS filing forms to back up their claim. They list millions of dollars in generous government funding — to generate false reports.

This whole network of supposedly impartial civil society groups, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks and news sources operates under the cover of "human rights" to promote sanctions and war.

CIA-funded terror

Central Asia has experienced the worst forms of U.S. military power.

Beginning in 1979, the CIA, operating with the ISI Pakistani Intelligence Service and Saudi money, funded and equipped reactionary Mujahedeen forces in Afghanistan to bring down a revolutionary government there. The U.S. cultivated and promoted extreme religious fanaticism, based in Saudi Arabia, against progressive secular regimes in the region. This reactionary force was also weaponized against the Soviet Union and an anti-imperialist Islamic current represented by the Iranian Revolution.

For four decades, the CIA and secret Pakistan ISI forces in Afghanistan sought to recruit and train Uyghur mercenaries, planning to use them as a future terror force in China. Chechnyans from Russia's Caucasus region were recruited for the same reason. Both groups were funneled into Syria in the U.S. regime-change operation there. These fanatical religious forces, along with other small ethnic groups, formed the backbone of the Islamic State group (IS) and Al-Qaida.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center bombing, the very forces that U.S. secret operations had helped to create became the enemy.

Uyghurs from Xinjiang were among the Al-Qaida prisoners captured in Afghanistan and held in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo for years without charges. Legal appeals exposed that the Uyghur prisoners were being held there under some of the worst conditions in solitary confinement.

U.S. wars dislocate region

The U.S. occupation of Afghanistan and the massive U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 created shockwaves of dislocation. Social progress, education, health care and infrastructure were destroyed. Sectarian and ethnic division was encouraged to divide opposition to U.S. occupations. Despite promises of great progress, the U.S. occupations sowed only destruction.

In this long war, U.S. prisons in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq were notorious. The CIA used "enhanced interrogation" techniques — torture — and secret rendition to Guantanamo, Bagram and the Salt Pit in Afghanistan. These secret prisons have since been the source of many legal suits.

According to U.N. investigations, by 2010 the U.S. held more than 27,000 prisoners in over 100 secret facilities around the world. Searing images and reports of systematic torture and prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib in Iraq and Bagram airbase in Afghanistan surfaced.

Exposing cover-up of war crimes

In July 2010 WikiLeaks published more than 75,000 classified U.S./NATO reports on the war in Afghanistan.

In October of that year, a massive leak of 400,000 military videos, photos and documents exposed, in harrowing detail, torture, summary executions and other war crimes. Former Army intelligence analyst Private Chelsea Manning released this damning material to WikiLeaks.

Based on the leaked documents, the U.N. chief investigator on torture, Manfred Nowak, called on U.S. President Barack Obama to order a full investigation of these crimes, including abuse, torture, rape and murder committed against the Iraqi people following the U.S. invasion and occupation.

The leaked reports provided documentary proof of 109,000 deaths — including 66,000 civilians. This is seldom mentioned in the media, in contrast to the highly publicized and unsourced charges now raised against China.

Prosecuting whistle blowers

The CIA's National Endowment for Democracy pays handsomely for unsourced documents making claims of torture against China, while those who provided documentary proof of U.S. torture have been treated as criminals.

John Kiriakou, who worked for the CIA between 1990 and 2004 and confirmed widespread use of systematic torture, was prosecuted by the Obama administration for revealing classified information and sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Chelsea Manning's release of tens of thousands of government documents confirming torture and abuse, in addition to horrific photos of mass killings, have led to her continued incarceration. Julian Assange of WikiLeaks is imprisoned in Britain and faces deportation to the U.S. for his role in disseminating these documents.

Rewriting history

How much of the coverage of Xinjiang is intended to deflect world attention from the continuing crimes of U.S. wars — from Afghanistan to Syria?

In 2014 a Senate CIA Torture Report confirmed that a torture program, called "Detention and Interrogation Program," had been approved by top U.S. officials. Only a 525-page Executive Summary of its 6,000 pages was released, but it was enough to confirm that the CIA program was far more brutal and extensive than had previously been released.

Mercenaries flood into Syria

The U.S. regime-change effort to overturn the government of Syria funneled more than 100,000 foreign mercenaries and fanatical religious forces into the war. They were well-equipped with advanced weapons, military gear, provisions and paychecks.

One-third of the Syrian population was uprooted in the war. Millions of refugees flooded into Europe and neighboring countries.

Beginning in 2013, thousands of Uyghur fighters were smuggled into Syria to train with the extremist Uyghur group known as the Turkistan Islamic Party. Fighting alongside Al-Qaida and Al-Nusra terror units, these forces played key roles in several battles.

Reuters, Associated Press and Newsweek all reported that up to 5,000 Turkic-speaking Muslim Uyghurs from Xinjiang were fighting in various "militant" groups in Syria.

According to Syrian media, a transplanted Uyghur colony transformed the city of al Zanbaka (on the Turkish border) into an entrenched camp of 18,000 people. Many of the Uyghur fighters were smuggled to the Turkish-Syrian border area with their families. Speaking Turkish, rather than Chinese, they relied on the support of the Turkish secret services.

China follows a different path

China is determined to follow a different path in dealing with fanatical groups that are weaponized by religious extremism. China's action comes after terror attacks and explosives have killed hundreds of civilians in busy shopping areas and crowded train and bus stations since the 1990s.

China has dealt with the problem of religious extremism by setting up large-scale vocational education and training centers. Rather than creating worse underdevelopment through bombing campaigns, it is seeking to engage the population in education, skill development and rapid economic and infrastructure development.

Terrorist attacks in Xinjiang have stopped since the reeducation campaigns began in 2017.

Two worldviews of Xinjiang

In July of this year, 22 countries, most in Europe plus Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, sent a letter to the U.N. Human Rights Council criticizing China for mass arbitrary detentions and other violations against Muslims in China's Xinjiang region. The statement did not include a single signature from a Muslim-majority state.

Days later, a far larger group of 34 countries — now expanded to 54 from Asia, Africa and Latin America — submitted a letter in defense of China's policies. These countries expressed their firm support of China's counterterrorism and deradicalization measures in Xinjiang.

More than a dozen member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the U.N. signed the statement.

A further statement on Oct. 31 to the Third Committee of the U.N. General Assembly explained that a number of diplomats, international organizations, officials and journalists had traveled to Xinjiang to witness the progress of the human rights cause and the outcomes of counterterrorism and deradicalization.

"What they saw and heard in Xinjiang completely contradicted what was reported in the [Western] media," said the statement. ❐

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El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.

Para mas informacion: ***LowWageCapitalism.com***

Defendamos levantamientos populares de América Latina

MUNDO OBRERO
editorial

Las manifestaciones y huelgas populares y masivas contra el gobierno han desafiado a los regímenes corruptos y antipopulares que gobiernan varios países de América Latina, comenzando en diferentes momentos durante los últimos seis meses. Estos países incluyen Puerto Rico, Haití, Ecuador, Chile y Colombia.

Cómo los regímenes locales y sus patrocinadores en Washington reaccionaron a estas revueltas, y a luchas similares en otros países de la región, contienen lecciones también para progresistas y revolucionarios en los Estados Unidos que desean apoyar estas revueltas populares contra los regímenes neoliberales.

Si bien cada uno de estos países tiene sus propios problemas específicos, todos sus gobiernos han impuesto políticas neoliberales para hacerle la guerra a la clase trabajadora y a todos los pobres. Impusieron un capitalismo desenfrenado, privatizaron la propiedad estatal, redujeron los programas sociales y, en general, utilizaron el poder del gobierno y del estado para aumentar la tasa de explotación de la clase trabajadora y el saqueo de los recursos naturales, a menudo dirigidos a los pueblos indígenas. Estas políticas neoliberales han servido tanto a las empresas transnacionales como a la oligarquía local.

El imperialismo estadounidense pone su aparato político, diplomático, económico, informativo, militar y de inteligencia detrás de mantener a estos regímenes en el poder. Los regímenes, a su vez, sirven a los intereses corporativos y bancarios con sede en los EE.UU. Los conflictos recientes han demostrado
que tanto la clase dominante local como la imperialista utilizarán todas sus ventajas y emplearán las tácticas más despiadadas y brutales para permanecer y expandir su poder.

Tácticas de clase dominante y el caso de Bolivia

¿Cuáles son esas ventajas? En primer lugar, el control del aparato estatal: la clase dominante rica tiene el monopolio de la violencia. En segundo lugar, el control de los medios de comunicación capitalistas, que son propiedad de los ricos y mienten sin cesar para expandir los intereses de los ricos, al tiempo que se propaga una ideología reaccionaria y a menudo racista. En tercer lugar, el acceso a la economía imperialista mundial y al dólar estadounidense.

Todas estas ventajas se utilizaron durante la reciente lucha en Bolivia, que aún no ha terminado.

Protesta en Caracas, Venezuela defiende al gobierno pro Morales en Bolivia, 30 de marzo de 2019.

El progresista y primer presidente indígena Evo Morales ganó las elecciones del 20 de octubre que deberían haberlo hecho presidente legal hasta el 2025. La oligarquía racista de Bolivia difundió la Gran Mentira de que hubo fraude electoral, para lo cual no había evidencia. La Organización de Estados Americanos controlada por Estados Unidos respaldó esta mentira, al igual que el Departamento de Estado de Estados Unidos, y se repitió en todos los medios corporativos locales e imperialistas.

La clase dominante de Bolivia movilizó un movimiento fascista basado en el racismo anti-indígena y el fanatismo religioso. Al final, los ricos usaron su control del estado, es decir, la policía nacional y las Fuerzas Armadas, para obligar a Morales y sus partidarios gubernamentales a abandonar Bolivia o enfrentar la muerte.

El poder estatal boliviano, que ahora cumple plenamente un régimen golpista de facto sin posición constitucional, abrió fuego con munición real contra manifestaciones masivas de pueblos y trabajadores indígenas en El Alto y Cochabamba. La gente continúa la resistencia masiva en condiciones difíciles.

Lecciones de solidaridad durante la crisis capitalista

La brutalidad y la crueldad de la clase dominante, especialmente desde que su sistema capitalista mundial entró en modo de crisis en 2008, son claras. La lección para los progresistas es que debemos continuar protestando y exponiendo los crímenes del imperialismo estadounidense y sus lacayos en la oligarquía latinoamericana en su uso del poder estatal.

Eso significa protestar por los disparos del gobierno chileno a los ojos de los jóvenes manifestantes, la brutalidad del régimen colombiano y los paramilitares, los asesinatos de manifestantes ecuatorianos en octubre y el tiroteo de haitianos durante el año pasado.

Contrarrestar las mentiras de los medios es una tarea que los progresistas norteamericanos deben asumir con energía. Nuestra posición predeterminada puede ser que cualquier cosa que la mayoría de los principales políticos estadounidenses, de los dos grandes partidos burgueses, digan sobre estos desarrollos en América Latina y cualquier cosa que los medios corporativos repitan hasta el

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¡Manos de Estados Unidos fuera de Venezuela!

MUNDO OBRERO
editorial

En la reunión del Tratado Interamericano de Asistencia Recíproca (TIAR) en Bogotá, Colombia, el 3 de diciembre, unos 15 países tomaron medidas contra el gobierno bolivariano de Venezuela. Restringieron los viajes de los principales miembros del gobierno venezolano, incluidos su presidente y vicepresidente.

Este paso hostil de estos países, cuyos gobernantes de derecha están subordinados al imperialismo estadounidense, es una señal de que Washington planea intensificar su ataque contra el gobierno y el pueblo venezolano.

En una entrevista de Margaret Flowers y Kevin Zeese de Resistencia Popular, el activista venezolano con sede en Nueva York William Camacaro explicó estos puntos con gran detalle. Camacaro, que participa activamente en el Comité de Solidaridad con Venezuela NYC y organiza viajes de soberanía alimentaria a Venezuela, alertó a las personas en los Estados Unidos para instarlos a tomar medidas para defender a Venezuela.

Camacaro discutió cómo el gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro cuenta con el respaldo del ejército de Venezuela y ha organizado milicias populares para defender al gobierno elegido democráticamente. Debido a este apoyo, el gobierno de Caracas ha impedido que los agentes de Washington realicen un golpe de estado, que han intentado instigar desde principios de este año.

Camacaro enfatizó la seriedad de la reunión TIAR y las amenazas provenientes del régimen colombiano. También describió la postura peligrosa y agresiva del imperialismo estadounidense como levantamientos masivos en todo el hemisferio que han puesto bajo ataque el neoliberalismo respaldado por Estados Unidos. También habló sobre el golpe militar-fascista en Bolivia y algunas de las diferencias entre Venezuela y la Bolivia de Evo Morales.

La entrevista entrega un mensaje que los activistas contra la guerra y antiimperialistas en los Estados Unidos deben tomar en serio: debemos mantener nuestro nivel de defensa del gobierno del presidente Maduro.

Nuestro partido Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero continuará apoyando el proceso revolucionario venezolano y el gobierno de Maduro, y también apoya el llamado de Camacaro al movimiento aquí para mantenerse alerta y tomar las medidas apropiadas.

Dirigimos a nuestros lectores al texto completo de la entrevista con Camacaro, publicada el 7 de diciembre en popularresistance.com, que también se puede encontrar en tinyurl.com/uegr5l5.

¡Imperialismo estadounidense, fuera de América del Sur y el Caribe! □

Llamado a las jornadas internacionales de acción contra las sanciones y la guerra económica: del 13 al 15 de marzo de 2020

¡Las sanciones matan!
¡Las sanciones son la guerra!
¡Acabemos con las sanciones ahora!

EUA y sus socios subalternos imponen sanciones contra los países que se resisten a sus agendas. Estas sanciones son un arma de guerra económica que provoca escasez crónica de productos de primera necesidad, trastornos económicos, una hiperinflación caótica, hambrunas artificiales, enfermedades y pobreza. En todos los países, los más pobres y los más débiles – lactantes, niños, enfermos crónicos y ancianos – son los más afectados por las sanciones.

Los EUA han impuesto sanciones que han violado las leyes internacionales y son un instrumento de cambio de régimen. Dichas sanciones afectan una tercera parte de la humanidad en 39 países. Imponer sanciones es un delito contra la humanidad que es utilizado como intervención militar, para derrocar gobiernos y movimientos populares. Las sanciones proporcionan apoyo económico y militar a las fuerzas de derecha pro- EUA.

La dominación económica usamericana y sus más de 800 bases militares en el mundo exigen que todos los otros países participen en actos de estrangulamiento económico. Quienes deben poner fin a todas las relaciones comerciales normales, de lo contrario corren el riesgo de ver las armas de Wall Street apuntándolos a ellos. Los bancos y las instituciones financieras que son responsables de la devastación de nuestras comunidades nacionales también están impulsando el saqueo en países extranjeros.

Numerosas organizaciones luchan contra las sanciones y la guerra económica desde hace algún tiempo. Ahora tenemos la oportunidad de unificar los esfuerzos para sensibilizar las personas sobre este tema fundamental.

Esta amplia campaña incluirá protestas y manifestaciones, cabildeos, campañas de petición y todo tipo de iniciativas educativas.

Como primera etapa de esta campaña, alentamos la organización de movilizaciones e iniciativas educativas a organizar para las Jornadas internacionales contra las sanciones impuestas por EUA y la guerra económica del 13 al 15 de marzo.

Apoya la campaña y ayuda a difundir el llamamiento.

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