

**END POLICE TERROR! DEFEND BLACK LIVES!**

# **STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA**

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*porel Socialismo*



INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF TEAMSTERS

**Struggle-La-Lucha.org**

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## **MILLIONS FACE EVICTION**

# **The people can stop it!**

By Stephen Millies

A wave of evictions and foreclosures is coming that can throw millions of people into the street. The federal ban on kicking people out of their apartments and houses — which only applied to properties with U.S. government-backed mortgages — has already expired.

So have many of the state and local moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures, although some have been extended into August. As many as 24 million people are at risk of being homeless by the end of September. Part of the Columbus, Ohio, convention center is being turned into an evictions court.

Most of those endangered are Black or Latinx, Asian, Indigenous and poor white families also face disaster.

Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau reveal the size of the looming catastrophe. Close to 24 million families have little or no confidence that they'll be able to pay their August rent.

Almost 15 million homeowners doubt they can make their August mortgage payment.

Thirty-two percent of families were not able to pay their July rent or mortgage payment on time.

A housing crisis was raging before the coronavirus pandemic erupted. The hundreds of thousands of homeless people living on the street or in shelters are just the tip of the iceberg. In 2019, there were 114,000 homeless students attending New York City schools.

Rent accounts for over half of the budgets of the poorest fifth of all families. Almost one in every two households forked over at least 30 percent of their income to their landlord or the bank holding their mortgage.

High rents force many families to live in overcrowded housing. That's one reason why so many Black, Indigenous and Latinx people are dying of COVID-19.

None of the overcrowding and rent gouging are the result of a housing shortage. Greedy landlords in New York City keep a quarter million apartments empty in order to jack up the rent. That's as criminal as hoarding food during a famine.

### **Fight back!**

Thirty million people are unemployed. That's almost a fifth of the U.S. workforce.

An economic crisis was starting even before the coronavirus hit. Don't believe the hype about a rapid economic recovery. Many millions will continue to be jobless.

Yet Congress let the \$600 weekly supplemental unemployment compensation program die. These payments were used by families to pay their rent or mortgage. What are they supposed to do now?

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Unemployed Councils organized by communists fought evictions. When a sheriff tried to carry out an eviction, dozens or hundreds of council members were there to move a family's furniture back into their home.

Such actions forced Chicago's Mayor Anton Cermak to ban evictions. With people on the move, Congress passed a National Housing Act in 1934. It saved many people's homes from being foreclosed by the banksters.

It has been the Black Lives Matter movement, with millions of people in the street, that forced the capitalist government to do anything at all. Wanna-be dictator Trump is trying to crush the struggle by sending his stormtroopers to Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Chicago; Kansas City, Mo.; and elsewhere.

But the heroic Wall of Moms in Portland pushed Trump back. We need a wall of people around the home of every family that the landlords are trying to evict. A wall of people can stop the banksters from stealing a family's house through foreclosure.

That's what housing groups and community organizations across the country want to do. They have to be supported. We have to organize, organize, organize!

The labor movement has to speak out, just as many union leaders have endorsed the Black Lives Matter movement.

We need a new solidarity day. The AFL-CIO should call demonstrations demanding a continuation of unlimited \$600 per week supplemental unemployment benefits and a halt to evictions and foreclosures.

Nobody's home is foreclosed nor is anyone ever evicted in socialist Cuba. One of the first acts of the Cuban Revolution was to limit a family's combined rent and utility bill to no more than 10 percent of their income.

That's what we need. Landlords and banksters need to be abolished along with the racist police.

We have to fight like Dr. King fought. The power of the people can stop evictions and foreclosures. □

### **Nominar a médicos cubanos al Premio Nobel de la Paz 12**

PHOTO: BOBBY WALLACE



## **KUMEYAAY NATION**

### **Border wall threatens burial sites**

By Zola Fish

Members of the Kumeyaay Nation gathered in Boulevard, Calif., on June 30 to halt the building of Donald Trump's border wall. The Army Corps of Engineers has been using dynamite to blast an existing wall which is located on sacred burial sites of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Indigenous artifacts and bones have been found at the blasting site.

Many of the hundreds of protesters were members of the Kumeyaay Original Peoples Alliance. Additionally, members of the American Indian Movement, Warriors of Awareness, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and Black Lives Matter were in attendance, along with allies from other organizations. Marchers chanted, "We didn't cross the border! The border crossed us!"

According to the organizer, Cyn Parada from the La Posta band of Kumeyaay, "Customs and Border Patrol [CBP] has not worked in good faith to permit monitors."

The Kumeyaay are native to both San Diego County and Northern Baja California. The border wall divides their tribal lands. The Kumeyaay are now divided into bands all over the east and north county sections of San Diego.

The blasting was stopped for the day, but will continue. Cyn Parada explained that the demonstration was meant to draw attention to the scheduled construction, which she said is just one example of a project that did not do enough to safeguard the ancestral lands of local tribes.

Blue Eagle Vigil, a member of the Viejas band of Kumeyaay, said, "We're sick and tired of not being at the table when our ancestors are being dug up."

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# Black-Indigenous solidarity beats NFL ‘Slurskins’

By John Parker

Recent events expose that a qualitative change has occurred in this period of history. Marxist social science explains how real changes — those capable of empowering our entire working class and tipping the balance of power toward us — come from the actions of our class.

To illustrate this, just consider the rapid changes that have occurred in the last two months, since the police murder of George Floyd — from cops being charged in Minneapolis, to the proposed dismantling of the city's police force while other cities are considering the same; the toppling of racist statues, from confederates and slave owners to genocidal colonialists and imperialists, from Gen. Lee to the horror of the Congo, King Leopold of Belgium.

The “slow wheels” of justice even sped up in the Supreme Court with victories regarding Indigenous sovereignty and abolishing one type of discrimination against LGBTQ2S workers. IBM felt compelled to join in by ceasing the sale of its facial recognition software to police departments for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

And now, after decades of Indigenous protests, the National Football League team in Washington, D.C., announced July 13 that it would drop the racist name “R\*dsk\*ns” and all associated logos.

All of this is a result of the militance and defiance that the Minneapolis Black community inspired when they courageously took on a terrorist military force in their neighborhoods — the police — and even burned down a precinct.

The movement they inspired went around the world. The people's willingness to risk life and limb unarmed against the militarized defenders of the ruling class scared the hell out of the bosses — so now they are on the defensive and willing to grant some reforms, and their corporate entities and political puppets are responding in kind.

In fact, although Washington team owner Dan Snyder had vowed to never change the name, he reversed his position in mid-July when major corporate sponsors like FedEx and Amazon threatened to pull their association with the team.

Here's what Snyder told USA Today back in 2013: “We'll never change the name, it's that simple. NEVER — you can use caps.”

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also reversed his longstanding support for the name and now suddenly sees the light, recognizing, he said, that

the name is a racial slur that should be changed.

## Capitalist collusion

There had been tremendous pressure from on high to keep the name, most recently coming from President Donald Trump, but also backed up by unscientific opinion polls conducted by the Washington Post. These polls were largely responded to by white fans of the Washington team, as Indigenous people pointed out repeatedly. The Washington Post colluded with Dan Snyder for years to make it appear that the team name was acceptable to Native people.

However, recently a more thorough, larger and more scientific survey was done by the University of California, Berkeley, and published in the Journal of Social Psychological and Personality Science. The study of 1,000 Native Americans found 49 percent were offended by the name. However, for those who actively engaged in their Native or tribal cultures, the number rose to 67 percent. And for young people it was 60 percent.

Arianne Eason, a UC Berkeley assistant professor of psychology, and Stephanie Fryberg, a University of Michigan psychologist, launched the study last fall. Eason said: “We keep seeing clear examples of Native people speaking up and protesting these problematic team names and mascots. Yet, public opinion polls, with little methodological transparency, say that Native people are not offended. Things just don't add up.”

“The data from previous opinion polls is often used to silence Native people,” said Fryberg, a member of the Tulalip Tribe in Washington state.

Eason and Fryberg's study is estimated to be the largest scale investigation to date of the relationship between Native American identity and attitudes towards Native mascots.

“Ultimately, our study demonstrates that people who identify most with being Native American are the ones most likely to feel harmed by the continued use of stereotypical Native American team names and mascots,” Eason said.

“This suggests that the debate over the continued use of Native mascots should be more closely attuned to Native American voices, particularly the voices of those who are most highly identified.”

This brings up a very important lesson for the movement, because another justification for keeping the name, even coming from so-called progressives, is that the name was sometimes used by Indigenous peoples themselves. So, we should dis-

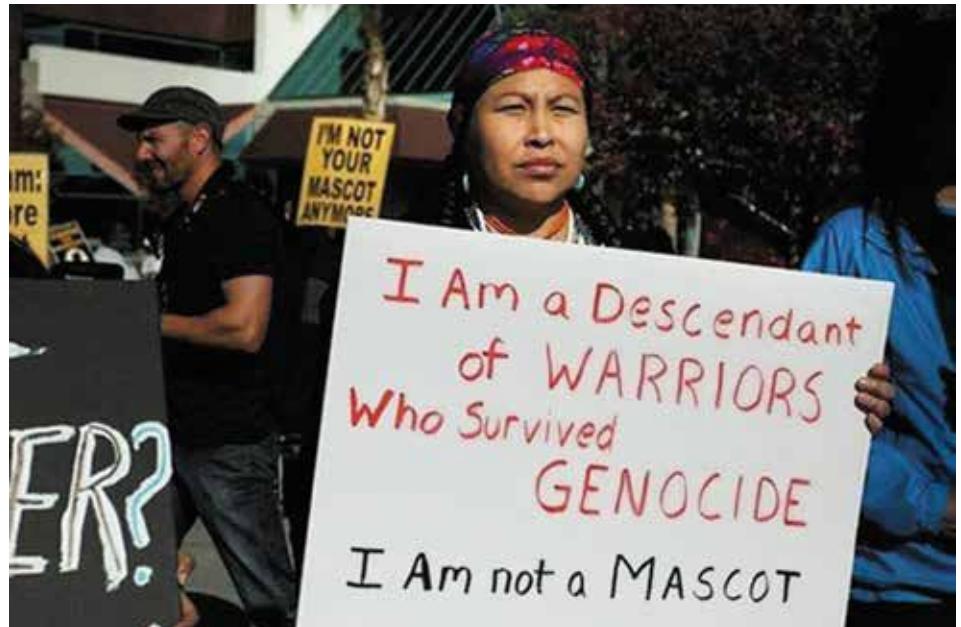


PHOTO: NOT YOUR MASCOTS

regard what Indigenous people are saying now about using the name for a sports team?

As a Black person writing this article, I feel compelled to offer another scenario. Imagine a sports team using the N-word with the justification that some Black people also use that word?

You don't build unity in our movement by denying the present and historic realities of racism that oppressed peoples are expressing opposition to.

## Racist history of team name

A 2016 Washington Post article exposes the racist history of the 87-year-old team name, starting with the lyrics that then-owner George Marshall commissioned his wife to write in 1937, when the team moved to Washington. They are offensive and presented here to simply illustrate the racist beginnings that accompany that name:

“Hail to the R\*dsk\*ns

Hail victory!

Braves on the warpath

Scalp 'um, swamp 'um — We will Take 'um big score.

Read 'um, weep 'um, touchdown, We want heap more.

Fight on, Fight on, 'til you have won, Sons of Wash-ing-ton.

Rah! Rah! Rah!

Hail to the R\*dsk\*ns.

Hail victory!

Braves on the warpath

Fight for old D.C.”

It took 30 years for those lyrics to just be modified.

It's ironic that the racist use of “scalping” in the song implies the use of merciless violence by Indigenous peoples. It was, in fact, one of the methods of merciless genocide against Indigenous peoples used by the colonizers, with scalping widely used to verify kills.

Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England told

Struggle-La Lucha: “White settlers for centuries routinely put bounties on the heads of Indigenous people, although plenty of them did this for fun and sport. Those who scalped Native people were paid different rates depending on whether the person scalped was a man, woman or child.

“The scalps were often referred to as ‘red-skins,’” Munro explained. “This is why it is so despicable that the Washington team clung to that name for so long. We often call them the ‘Slurskins.’”

In 2015, Indian Country Today exposed a news story dated Oct. 9, 1885, that speaks to Munro's points.

The article reports: “The clip, published by the Atchison Daily Champion in Atchison, Kan., tells of settlers in Arizona fanning out across the state to ‘hunt for redskins, with a view of obtaining their scalps.’ Scalps taken from the bodies of dead Indians were valued at \$250, according to the report.”

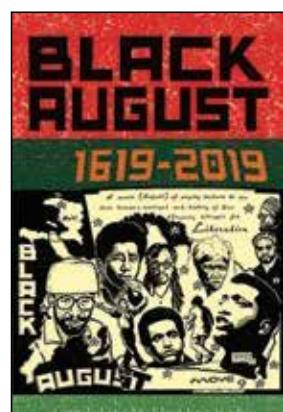
It's not surprising then that, according to the aforementioned Washington Post article, Marshall, under pressure from the Kennedy White House, became the last owner to integrate his team in 1961. The team chose Ernie Davis, an African American Heisman Trophy recipient, in the NFL draft — but traded him just 10 days later.

This victory of the long-awaited name change was made possible by the relentless struggle waged by Indigenous activists, who met with team presidents, filed petitions and waged protests all across the U.S.

Those voices were amplified by the recent demonstrations protesting the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, which screamed from the streets that the oppressed will no longer tolerate racism and will fight it by any means.

All of this also exposes the power coming from the solidarity of Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples fighting this system.

## STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM ★ LA LUCHA POR SOCIALISMO



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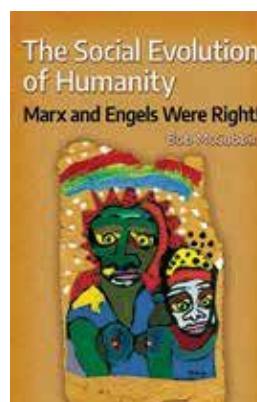
### BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle.

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom

- \* Contributions by Gloria Verdieu
- \* Carl Muhammad \* Zola Fish \* Mary Lou Finley
- \* Dennis Childs \* Eusi Kwayana \* Mumia Abu-Jamal
- \* Curtis Howard \* Sylvia Cameron Telafaro



[tinyurl.com/vwarcv7](http://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7) Kindle or paperback

### The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study augments Frederick Engels' *'Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State'*, focusing on social/sexual relations, in particular, the changing social status of women.

McCubbin is the author of *'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.'* First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

# About #AbolishthePolice

By John Parker

While this is happening now (from Time magazine):

"On Wednesday, the George Floyd Resolution to Eliminate the Oakland Schools Police Department passed 7-0. The district will eliminate its police department by the end of the year and hire more social workers, psychologists or 'restorative justice practitioners.' In the coming months, the district will work with students, parents, teachers and the BOP [Black Organizing Project] to create a new school safety plan. ... The public school board in Minneapolis voted unanimously on June 2 to terminate its contract with the city's police department in response to Floyd's death. Schools leaders in Portland, Ore.; Denver and Seattle have since made similar decisions."

Okay, are we supposed to be happy about the Los Angeles Unified School District rejecting the 90 percent cut

and instead cutting just \$25 million from their budget? The school police chief is resigning and told his cops to not show up at the schools, exposing how much these pigs care about children's safety since they say they are essential to it.

So, the demand to take away some of the cops' funds overshadowed and defeated and muffled the current and winnable demands to abolish these armed and dangerous cops from threatening and terrorizing our Black and Brown children in school and replace them with appropriate and more effective guardians of their safety. That's what happened, and is happening everywhere in the country where defunding is the only and main demand, sidestepping the demands to disband; or abolish and replace; or impose community control. The weaker demand that was accepted leaves the cops ready for their next kill.

Some demands create reforms that empower our class and others create



Los Angeles, June 16, 2020.

demands that disempower our class and allow the status quo to remain. When a new police chief for the LAUSD is found, the cops will be once again roaming the school halls with guns at the waist and at eye level of our children. We must demand what we need, not just what is palatable to the ruling class. The ruling class is

desperate to find a way to soften the effects of the militancy in the streets that is now making changes at the speed of light. Let's not help them turn off the light.

#disarmthepolice  
#abolishthepolice  
#communitytakeover  
#communitycontrol

# Rushed school reopenings endanger students, workers

By Ripley Butterfield

Despite the soaring rate of new coronavirus infections in the United States, a high percentage of students in grades K-12 will be returning to school in the fall. Nearly every state ordered public schools to close in March or April, remaining closed for the end of the 2019–2020 academic year. Here in New York, I and over a million other kids and teens went home one day and never came back, switching a week later to a shaky form of online learning.

Despite the challenges of finishing tenth grade alone over Google Classroom, I acknowledge how crucial this move was for the sake of public health. The height of COVID-19 deaths in my state was devastating. There's no doubt that we would have surpassed that number many times over had the virus gotten more of a chance to infiltrate our cramped schools.

President Donald Trump is leading the federal government in a massive push to reopen schools, against the will of public health officials, scientists, and teachers' unions across the country. Not to mention students themselves — many are fearful of what attending school in the midst of a pandemic will mean for their families' health.

That isn't to say that keeping schools physically closed is a perfect answer: thousands of workers rely on schools as free daily childcare for their young kids. That's why it is so frustrating that rather than devoting time and resources to creating safe environments to meet the needs of working families, the U.S. government is pressing for all students to return to unsafe conditions.

The summer months should have brought about new plans for necessary childcare, more accessible online options, and smoothing the many rough patches that remote learning brought about. Instead, we

are being told we must go back to school as usual.

## Guidelines revised under pressure

The Centers for Disease Control initially released a nine-page document outlining what is needed for a safe reopening of schools. It is a detailed checklist meant for schools to use in order to determine readiness to reopen as well as safety on a day-to-day basis.

The document strongly notes that there is substantial risk associated with in-person learning at this time, and promotes either a fully or partially remote model of schooling. However, Trump immediately called the CDC guidelines "tough," "impractical" and "expensive," threatening to cut schools' funding if they do not reopen in full.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos also promoted reopening schools in person. Claiming that a hybrid model (part in school, part at home) would not serve families, she dismissed the CDC guidelines as "flexible," not to be required of schools.

Soon after, a new set of guidelines was released. The CDC now supports opening schools everywhere, and reports that COVID-19 poses a low risk to children. Essentially, the document says that children are more likely to be harmed by a lack of in-person learning than by being infected by coronavirus. Although the guidelines do suggest use of face masks and implementing social distancing, it is not to be required of schools.

I find this revised statement to be incredibly aggravating. The CDC strongly supported strict health and safety measures for in-person schooling barely a week before. The weak guidelines that followed came under the influence of Trump's recent announcements, not from a scientific basis. I worry about the validity of the data on COVID-19 spread in schools, as well.



Teachers, students and parents in Pinellas County, Fla., protest unsafe school reopenings, July 14.

schools plan to fund the purchase of crucial sanitary materials and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Chicago Teachers Union has stated that there is no "safe re-opening," and has made a list of demands to the mayor and the Chicago Public School system. They say sanitized buildings, widely available PPE, nurses, counselors, social workers, alternatives for immunocompromised students and teachers, as well as increased ventilation in schools to promote airflow, must all be provided and maintained in order for the school year to start.

Mississippi Teachers Unite has called for the postponing of school reopenings in the state until Sept. 1, so that there is time to ensure a safe environment that adheres to health guidelines. Again, the school system must be fully funded so teachers do not have to buy masks and hand sanitizer themselves.

This concern is constant throughout teachers' unions across the U.S., as it is common for teachers to spend large amounts of their own money throughout the year on things like disinfecting wipes, tissues, paper towels and soap. At my school in Brooklyn, N.Y., students are regularly offered extra credit in classes to buy some of these items ourselves.

It is unacceptable for U.S. states and cities (ones that often spend millions or billions of dollars a year on their police departments, mind you) to not provide their public schools with adequate funding, period. But this isn't even about the lack of extracurriculars or classroom renovations, as terrible as that is — this is basic hygienic materials.

How are we to reopen schools during a pandemic that cannot even keep bathrooms stocked with paper towels?

The vast majority of U.S. students did not have ongoing public schooling throughout the pandemic. We do not know how quickly multiple asymptomatic students could lead to an outbreak inside a school. We cannot claim to know, based on evidence from before the height of the pandemic, or from other nations that succeeded in flattening the curve of infection.

Additionally, it seems that much of the support regarding reopening relies upon the idea that young children are not easily infected. I feel there is not enough information on teens and young adults. I know of multiple classmates who have gotten sick, some with long-term consequences, who are under the age of 18. And, of course, this data means nothing for the safety and wellbeing of teachers, other school workers and parents.

## CTU: No 'safe reopening' possible now

In many states, a specific plan for school reopening has not yet been decided on. Worse, there has been no clarification in most places on how

# Coronavirus surges in U.S.: Capitalism is the crisis!

By Greg Butterfield

As a consequence of bosses' rush to "reopen the economy" for profit amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic — and the unwillingness or inability of bought-and-paid-for political "leaders" to stand up to their demands — infections and hospitalizations are surging throughout much of the United States.

The surge of infections has especially engulfed states in the South and West, like Texas and Florida, whose leaders, following the lead of President Donald Trump, largely ignored measures to slow the virus's spread and then quickly dropped any pretense of protecting public health as pressure to "reopen" grew from Wall Street right on down to the small capitalist on the corner.

California is another epicenter of the virus surge. That state had earlier taken relatively strong measures, but like other Democratic-governed states, caved in to capitalist pressure and began dropping public health measures at the end of May. Now, other states like New York, which had slowed the spread but is now barreling ahead with reopening amid the surge in the rest of the country, could soon face a new spike.

The rest of the world is watching, dumbfounded, at the utter criminality and ineptitude of the U.S. ruling class and its officials. As the European Union prepared to lift travel restrictions, it announced that people from the U.S. would not be permitted to visit because of the lack of control over the coronavirus here.

## From panic to profit-driven 'reopening'

There has not been a clear or consistent policy to combat the spread of the virus at the federal, state or local levels — just a hodgepodge of half-measures and no measures.

When it was finally acknowledged in March that the virus was quickly spreading, projections of 100,000 or more deaths sent Washington and Wall Street into a panic. It was too

late for areas like New York, Seattle and Los Angeles, where the pandemic was already out of control. But at last some stay-at-home measures were implemented in late March.

But already in early April, the capitalist class — the bosses, bankers and landlords who hold true power over U.S. society — overcame their initial panic and decided that workers must be dragooned back to their jobs for the sake of profits, deadly contagion or no, even as those same bosses laid off millions of others. They were more fearful of the capitalist crisis of overproduction that coincided with the pandemic, and were determined to scrape up whatever profits they could on the backs of the workers.

By the beginning of May, the modest measures to control the virus's spread had already fallen by the wayside in most of the country. Only those early centers of the health crisis — mostly major coastal cities where the victims were largely Black and Brown people and elders — maintained or strengthened public health measures. And by the Memorial Day holiday at the end of the month, those too were being loosened.

The virus spread in meat-processing plants in the Midwest and South, in Amazon warehouses, in newly reopened churches, restaurants and bars. In many places, bosses and politicians alike flouted regulations meant to enforce mask wearing, social distancing and other safety practices, and thus encouraged middle-class white "consumers" to do likewise.

The president — who can hardly be described as anything but a virus himself — gleefully ignores any state or local public health measures that he encounters, the very picture of a wealthy oligarch who has a team dedicated to protecting his own health.

What we see now are the perfectly predictable and preventable consequences of a system that prioritizes profits over people's lives.

U.S. capitalism, the wealthiest empire that has ever existed on planet



Earth, could have pumped trillions of dollars into finding a vaccine in cooperation with other countries. It could have guaranteed a job, home and income to every single person living in this country for the duration of the health crisis.

But that's not what capitalism is for. It exists to enrich the few at the expense of the many. The system and its political representatives, whether of the Donald Trump or Joe Biden varieties, "conservative" or "liberal," Republican or Democrat, all dance to the tune of the profiteers, the lives and health of the working class be damned.

## Protests are urgent public health measures!

Following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, many politicians and media pundits were quick to warn that the countrywide uprisings against killer cops would contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

That didn't happen. In fact, six weeks into the protest movement, with daily actions happening in cities large and small in every part of the country, there is no correlation between the protests and the surge of the virus. Rather, it is all down to the capitalist-driven rush to "reopen the economy."

"In what's considered the first systematic look at the question, a team of economists determined that only one of 13 cities involved in the earliest wave of protests after Memorial Day had an increase that would fit the pattern," the Associated Press reported July 1.

"It was Phoenix, where experts say cases and hospitalizations surged after a decision by Gov. Doug Ducey to end Arizona's stay-at-home order on May 15 and ease restrictions on businesses. Arizona residents who were cooped up for six weeks flooded Phoenix-area bar districts, ignoring social distancing guidelines."

Why is this? For one thing, unlike the white supremacist "reopen" protests at state capitols in April and May, the anti-racist protesters are highly conscious of their social responsibility to wear masks, avoid unnecessary physical contact, use hand sanitizers or gloves, participate in car caravans, and stay home or get tested if feeling under the weather.

Unlike the megachurches, bars and factories that have been among the "superspreaders" in much of the country, the protests against police terror have been held out of doors, where transmission is less likely, especially when people are wearing masks.

Protests are not only an urgent public health measure to fight systemic racism. It is clearer every day that to win any kind of effective measures to combat the surging coronavirus and stop the pandemic from claiming tens or hundreds of thousands of more lives, a rebellion on the scale of the George Floyd protests and beyond, inseparably linked with the struggle against racist terror, is urgently needed.

Capitalism is the crisis. In the battle for public health, protests, uprisings, strikes and socialism will be the solution! ☮

# OPERATION WARP SPEED → Trump's \$10 billion

By Scott Scheffer

Donald Trump has resumed daily White House briefings regarding the COVID-19 pandemic on July 20. He had pouted and quit that role in late April after facing criticism and ridicule for having downplayed the pandemic, for his promotion of disinfectant as a possible cure for COVID-19, and generally for his anti-science approach.

Narcissistic and ill-informed, Trump is an easy mark for late-night talk show comedy monologues. But mixed in with all the absurdities by Trump is a clear expression of the agenda of U.S. billionaires.

They are unwilling to put their profits on hold or continue government spending for the welfare of millions of workers who have been thrown out of work by the pan-

demic. Unlike cancer or diabetes or obesity — all public health killers — COVID-19 is contagious, highly contagious. Staying at home, wearing masks and social distancing are all necessary measures to stop the spread of the virus.

Their plan would see schools reopen so that working parents could be forced back to their jobs. Reopening the economy in its entirety is the goal, and the push to come up with a vaccine in a recklessly short time is their hoped-for magic bullet. The White House goal is to have a vaccine by the end of 2020. The vaccine against Ebola took five years to go into trial and that was much faster than previous vaccines.

Capitalism benefits by its government intersecting with science. Scientists and medical professionals that hold positions in a capitalist

government play a dual role. They are also beholden to the same profit-seeking capitalist compulsion, but at times have to resist it to try to navigate through a crisis.

During this pandemic, they are advocates of measures to slow the spread of the virus: testing, social distancing, masks, contact tracing, quarantine of infected individuals, and shutting down workplaces, schools, bars, restaurants and churches. Trump's buffoonish leadership aside, this contradiction between the capitalist compulsion to exploit workers and the professionals who want to pause profits in the interest of rationality and human life is what is behind the apparent rift between the Trump-Pence wing of the White House Task Force and its more cautious and science-minded members.

Even in the absence of a vaccine,

there has been great success against the disease by vigorously sticking to a regime of anti-pandemic measures in places like China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, South Korea, North Korea and the state of Kerala in India. In each of those places there is some measure of universal health care.

China's population is roughly four times greater than that of the U.S. but suffered about one-thirtieth of the death count from COVID-19.

Cuba's death toll out of a population of 11 million people was limited to just 87 people. Cuba has developed two treatments that aid the recovery of people already infected. Both drugs have been shared and used internationally.

Parallel to the anti-China rhetoric that emanated from the White House during May and June, the World Health Organization, a United

# Black voter suppression near 1950s level

By Gary Wilson

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled July 6 that states can penalize members of the Electoral College who do not support the winner of their state's popular vote in a presidential election.

The court's ruling is in response to the 2016 presidential election, when 10 electors voted for someone other than their state's chosen candidate, highlighting how electors have the potential to swing an election. The ruling does not in any way change the Electoral College system.

The U.S. does not have direct elections for the president of the republic, though direct elections are considered to be the norm for a bourgeois democracy. The ability to vote directly is synonymous with democratic rights; the inability synonymous with denial of rights. The Electoral College system, borrowed from the Roman slave empire's constitution some 2,000 years ago, gives only a semblance of voting rights, keeping real power in the hands of the wealthy few.

Indirect elections, through the Electoral College, increase the power of the wealthy.

In the 2000 election, George W. Bush lost the popular vote but won in the Electoral College. The same happened again with Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016 by almost 3 million votes — over 2 percent — but won the indirect Electoral College vote.

The 2020 election campaigns of the Democrats and Republicans have almost exclusively focused on winning the Electoral College vote, particularly in what are called "battle-ground states."

## Court gutted Voting Rights Act

The Supreme Court has already gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The court's 2013 *Shelby v. Holder* ruling eliminated federal oversight of state election and voting laws.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice: "The decision in *Shelby* County opened the floodgates to laws restricting voting throughout the United States. The effects were

immediate. Within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced that it would implement a strict photo ID law. Two other states, Mississippi and Alabama, also began to enforce photo ID laws that had previously been barred because of federal pre-clearance."

In July 2017, in Georgia, 600,000 people, some 8 percent of the state's registered voters, were purged from the rolls and required to re-register — an estimated 107,000 of them simply because they hadn't voted in recent elections. In 2018, the state blocked the registration of 53,000 state residents, 70 percent of whom were African American.

Voter ID laws and other restrictions that fall most heavily on African American and Latinx people have been initiated in a number of other states, not all in the South. Polling locations have been closed, early voting restricted and registration rules made stricter.

Black voter suppression in this country has returned to near 1950s levels.

## Constitution gave power to slaveholders

In 1787, the Constitution was adopted to insure that the executive power was always held by the slaveholding class. Of the first 10 presidents of the U.S., only two, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, were not slave owners.

In writing on the Electoral College's racist origins, Yale constitutional law professor Akhil Reed Amar says:

"If the system's pro-slavery tilt was not overwhelmingly obvious when the Constitution was ratified, it quickly became so. For 32 of the Constitution's first 36 years, a white slaveholding Virginian occupied the presidency.

"Southerner Thomas Jefferson, for example, won the election of 1800–01 against Northerner John Adams in a race where the slavery-skew of the Electoral College was the decisive margin of victory: without the extra Electoral College votes generated by slavery, the mostly southern states that supported Jefferson would not have sufficed to give him a major-



Photo: Marion S. Trikosko

The 1963 March on Washington.

ty. As pointed observers remarked at the time, Thomas Jefferson metaphorically rode into the executive mansion on the backs of slaves." ("The Troubling Reason the Electoral College Exists" by Akhil Reed Amar, Time, Nov. 8, 2016)

More than two centuries after it was designed to empower a slavocracy, the system continues to suppress the Black vote and empower the wealthy.

Voting in 1787 was restricted to white male adult property owners, about 6 percent of the population. In the early 1800s, the property requirement was gradually changed to paying taxes so that by 1857, all white male taxpayers were allowed to vote. Citizenship was not required until 1928, following an anti-socialist, anti-immigrant campaign that led to the illegal deportation of 1.8 million people.

The Reconstruction era 15th Amendment states that voting rights cannot be denied or abridged based on "race, color or previous condition of servitude." And briefly, voting rights were opened to African Americans. Disfranchisement came after the defeat of Reconstruction, with Jim Crow laws effectively keeping voting limited to white male taxpayers.

The segregation and disenfranchisement laws known as "Jim Crow" represented a formal, codi-

fied system of racial apartheid that dominated the U.S. in the North as well as the South for three quarters of a century beginning in the 1890s.

Great struggles were waged in the following years and over time more democratic rights were won, particularly the right to vote. After a mass women's movement for suffrage, women's right to vote was won in 1920, with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment prohibited the requirement to pay poll taxes in order to vote. Not until the historic Civil Rights movement won the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a nationwide "one person, one vote" electoral system established in the U.S., with the exception of prisoners.

## 6 million denied right to vote

According to the Sentencing Project, as of 2010 an estimated 6 million people in this country were denied the right to vote because of a felony conviction, a number equivalent to 2.5 percent of the U.S. voting-age population. That number is certainly higher today. Given the racist justice system, these 6 million are predominantly from Black and Brown communities.

So the 1965 Voting Rights Act was functionally broken by the Supreme Court in 2013.

As the late Civil Rights leader Rep. John Lewis said this year on June 25, the anniversary day of the Supreme Court's *Shelby v. Holder* decision: "The record is clear. A rampant war is being waged against minorities' voting rights in my home state of Georgia and across the nation."

Earlier this year, Lewis introduced a resolution for a Right to Vote Amendment to the Constitution, as the right to vote is still not guaranteed. The amendment includes a provision to stop any attempts to restrict voting rights.

This year's elections have already seen widespread denial of voting rights. In fact, the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee have mounted an aggressive national effort to suppress voting rights, which they call "voter fraud." It's an in-your-face racist maneuver. Without a fight, the Black vote will be suppressed.

The Black Lives Matter movement has put a spotlight on the institutionalized racism governing this country. The electoral system is part of that. There's more than statues that need to be toppled.

# injection won't stop COVID-19

Nations entity, has become a target of the Trump administration. The World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, met virtually in May, and while the U.S. attacked the WHO and foisted a resolution on the entire body that slandered China and the WHO itself, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that a Chinese success in developing a vaccine would be for "global public good." Within days, the White House confirmed that it would cut funding to the WHO. Trump said the WHO was too "cozy with China."

U.S. capitalists don't see medicine as being for "global public good." When a U.S. pharmaceutical company develops a product that may be profitable, they send an army of lobbyists to push for approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

The capitalist rush to come up

with a vaccine has created a feverish competition in the U.S. and other capitalist countries. More than 70 efforts are underway internationally. Under Trump's "Operation Warp Speed," more than \$10 billion is being paid out to 14 pharmaceutical companies to develop, produce and distribute a vaccine. This is not a cooperative venture — each company is jealously guarding its research, and regardless of their success, they will have been paid in full out of taxpayer money. How much profit has been baked into each of their contracts is being kept under wraps.

The U.S. Justice Department has absurdly accused China of stealing Western research on a vaccine. It was China's unprecedented and rapid mapping of the genetic code of the virus and sharing it with the world that actually spawned the initial research

for a vaccine. According to ABC News Australia, "the University of Queensland team began developing a vaccine against COVID-19 on Jan. 10 — the day the genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was first made public."

In recent days, news reports about advances in the development of vaccines centered around Oxford and AstraZeneca and Moderna. China's state-owned pharmaceutical Sinopharm has also begun phase III clinical trials as have three nonstate Chinese corporations.

The successful development of an effective vaccine would be welcomed by the entire world. But the Trump administration's rushed and reckless effort for a vaccine as a substitute for tried and true anti-pandemic measures while putting people back to work and in harm's way must be rejected.

# SOCIALISM & DIGNITY

## A job is a right!

**I**ver 20 million workers are unemployed in the United States. That's a catastrophe. Joblessness hasn't been this high since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Extended unemployment benefits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act are set to expire July 31. The various state moratoriums on evictions and utility shutdowns are also scheduled to end soon.

What are people supposed to do then? COVID-19 infections are spiking in Arizona, California, North and South Carolina, Florida, and Texas. Even when this pandemic ends, or at least slows down, many of the lost jobs are not coming back.

That doesn't bother Larry Kudlow, President Trump's \$185,000 per year director of the National Economic Council. He thinks "recessions are therapeutic."

This millionaire collects \$3,557 a week from the feds but doesn't want to extend the \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit. Kudlow claims it's a "disincentive" that will discourage people from going back to their jobs.

So people are staying home because they're lazy? The continuing pandemic and massive job destruction have nothing to do with it?

Larry Kudlow is what white privilege looks like. He was fired from Wall Street's now shuttered Bear Stearns bank in 1994 because of his cocaine addiction. But Kudlow never had to worry about being arrested for drug possession.

Lee Otis Johnson, the Black leader of Houston's Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) chapter, wasn't so lucky. He was framed in 1968 for allegedly having one marijuana joint and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

It was fear of what tens of millions of suddenly jobless workers might do that forced Trump and Congress to cough up \$600 per week and a stimulus check, too.

The millions of people who are marching in the streets, chanting "Black lives matter!" are why unemployment benefits may be extended and another stimulus check mailed out.

### Why can't everyone have a job?

Before it was destroyed, in the socialist Soviet Union everyone had a job. Unemployment was unknown. During the height of capitalist "prosperity" in the U.S., millions of workers are jobless.

The difference was that the Soviet Union had an overall economic plan. The industries belonged to the people. Soviet banks didn't lend money to real estate sharks like Donald Trump.

While U.S. corporations and the federal and state governments have budgets — which are plans — capitalism can't be controlled. Dog-eat-dog capitalist competition prevents it. As Karl Marx wrote, "Capital has a life of its own." (No offense meant to dogs, who never eat other dogs; it's just a saying that a capitalist first used to describe capitalist competition.)

The biggest monopolies employ thousands with marketing degrees who try to determine what goods and services can be sold in the capitalist market. But ultimately, "too much" stuff is produced.

How can this be? At least a billion people on earth go to bed hungry, including millions of people in the U.S.

Overcrowded housing is one of the reasons so many Black, Indigenous and Latinx people have died of the coronavirus. People need more health care, schools and transportation.

Capitalist overproduction has nothing to do with people's needs. It's producing more stuff than can be sold at a profit.

Every ten years or so since 1825, a capitalist economic crisis breaks out and creates more misery. COVID-19 accelerated the current recession, but it started earlier, particularly with the over-production of oil.

Frederick Engels — the friend and co-worker of Karl Marx — described how a capitalist econom-

ic recovery is guaranteed to turn into another recession:

"The industrial trot breaks into a canter, the canter in turn grows into the headlong gallop of a perfect steeplechase of industry, commercial credit, and speculation, which finally, after breakneck leaps, ends where it began — in the ditch of a crisis."

### Unemployment isn't equal

Capitalism requires unemployment, a phenomenon that didn't exist in previous social systems. Engels called jobless workers an "industrial reserve army."

Capitalist production often needs a sudden increase in the number of workers, like during the Christmas buying rush. Unemployed workers are recruited from the industrial reserve army to handle the extra work.

That's a secondary feature of the industrial reserve army. Its main function is to increase the average rate of profit.

If there was a permanent shortage of labor under capitalism — instead of a continual surplus of workers seeking employment — it would be impossible to maintain the level of exploitation. Working and poor people wouldn't tolerate being overworked and abused.

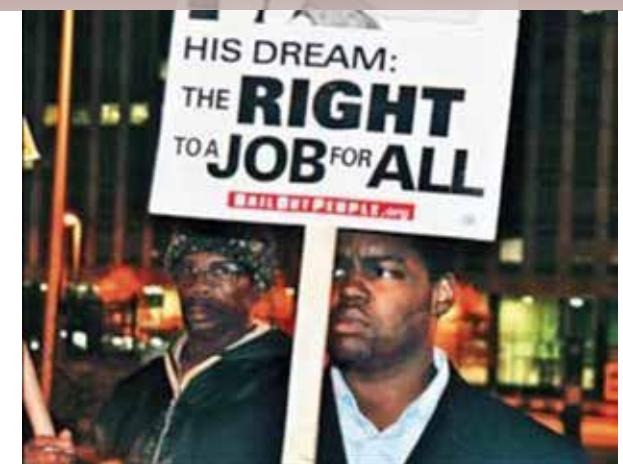
Samuel Insull — a 1920s Midwest utilities czar whose \$3 billion empire collapsed in the Great Depression — best expressed the thought of his fellow exploiters: "My experience is that the greatest aid to the efficiency of labor is a long line of men waiting at the gate." (That is, a mass of unemployed women and men trying to get hired.)

The industrial reserve army also plays an important political role in the racist U.S. The Black unemployment rate is almost always at least double the white jobless rate.

It's even worse for Indigenous people. Latinx people also suffer from higher joblessness.

Hiring discrimination not only means that whites have the better paying jobs. It means that a white applicant is more likely to be hired for a lousy paying job.

This material factor has helped capitalists poison the minds of too many white workers. But look what's happening now.



The Black Lives Matter movement has gotten the support of millions of whites across the U.S. The wealthy and powerful are terrified.

### Don't starve, fight!

When the Great Depression started 90 years ago, there was no unemployment compensation or welfare. The Communist Party raised the slogan "Don't starve, fight!" and organized unemployment councils.

Despite police attacks and even killings, communists stopped evictions in Chicago and other cities. A mass movement won unemployment insurance and Social Security.

Millions of workers were hired by the Works Progress Administration to build schools, parks and bridges. Organizing drives forced the biggest corporations, like General Motors and Ford, to sign union contracts.

We can do even more today. Many union members are supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Seattle Labor Council has expelled the local police "union." The AFL-CIO should follow Seattle's example and kick out the cops.

The labor movement needs to demand "A Job is a Right!" and "Jobs not Jails!" Unemployed councils have to be started again.

Millions of young people need jobs with union wages and union benefits. The rich can pay for it.

Evictions and foreclosures of homes have to be stopped. So do utility shut-offs. The water must be turned back on!

Amazon, FedEx and Walmart workers need to be organized. Millions of other workers need unions, too.

We can win if we organize and struggle. We must win millions to the need for a socialist revolution that will abolish unemployment forever. ☒

## U.S. capitalist health care is racist

**D**eamonte Driver didn't have to die. An abscessed tooth led to the 12-year-old Black youth's death on Feb. 25, 2007.

Deamonte's mother, Alyce Driver, worked two jobs. But her pay was so low that she couldn't afford \$80 for her son to have a tooth extracted.

Few dentists in Prince George's County, Md., accepted Medicaid. Alyce Driver was trying to find a dentist for another son who had six bad teeth.

After initially being sent home from an emergency room, Deamonte was rushed to the hospital. The infection in his tooth had spread to his brain.

Despite two operations Deamonte Driver didn't survive. He really died of racism.

Black people in the U.S. are dying of COVID-19 at a rate 2.7 times greater than that of whites. In Wisconsin's Racine County, the rate is seven times higher.

Latinx people are over three times more likely to die as compared to whites. In Apache County, Ariz., the death rate of Indigenous people from the virus is nearly 17 times higher than that of local whites.

Poor white people suffer from unequal medical care. So do all transgender people.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Capitalism is inequality and the nearly \$4-tril-

lion U.S. medical-industrial complex is shockingly unjust and inhumane.

### Robbing life from millions

One hundred fifty years after the U.S. Civil War, white men in 2015 had a life expectancy at birth 4.4 years greater than Black men. White women lived an average 2.8 years longer than Black women.

Within New York City, there are outrageous differences in lifespans. Sixty-five percent of people in Battery Park City at Manhattan's southern tip are white and most households have incomes of over \$100,000 per year. They lived to be on average almost 86 years old.

A subway ride away in Brooklyn's Brownsville community, 93 percent of the residents are Black or Latinx. Their life expectancy was just 74.4 years. That's 11.5 years of life stolen from them by capitalism.

Rates of infant and maternal mortality are even more unequal. In 2017, Black babies in Milwaukee were five times more likely to die than white babies. Black mothers in Wisconsin were five times as likely to die giving birth as white mothers.

Over 22,000 people have died of the coronavirus in New York City. Whether people lived or died often depended on what hospitals they went to.

The fancy private hospitals in Manhattan are often connected to a medical school and have the best technical equipment. Lincoln Medical Center

# SOCIALISM & DIGNITY

## We don't need their cops

**W**hen the Pilgrims invaded the Wampanoag nation in the 1620s, they didn't find any police or jails. Such cruelty wasn't necessary.

That's because there were no rich or poor in Wampanoag society. A community of equals doesn't need armed thugs with badges. Billionaires and banksters didn't require protection since these parasites didn't exist.

Three people are killed by police on every average day in the United States. Almost 5 million people are jailed every year, many of whom can't afford bail.

More than 10 million people are arrested annually by police armed with guns, clubs and mace. Almost any of these arrests can result in death or serious injury. Many do. All are humiliating.

The capitalist U.S. is a violent police state. The wealthy and powerful spend around \$200 billion a year to have over 800,000 cops on the street and keep 2.3 million people in prisons. Every cent of this money is stolen from the working class, both employed and unemployed.

### Cops push drugs

Violence is promoted by the capitalist state that pours drugs into poor communities. The "French Connection" that flooded New York City with heroin was a CIA connection. Drug-dealing gangsters who beat up striking French workers and communists worked in tandem with U.S. spy agencies.

Corrupt cops were also essential. Nearly 100 pounds of "French Connection" heroin were checked out of the New York Police Department's evidence locker on Jan. 4, 1972, never to be found again.

Drugs help suppress communities from organizing for jobs, housing and health care. That's why CIA-owned Air America, with 20,000 employees, drenched the U.S. with dope during the Vietnam War.

"The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia" by Alfred McCoy exposed these crimes. The CIA tried to stop the book from being published.

One of the reasons the ruling class sought to destroy the Black Panther Party, assassinating dozens of its members, was because the Panthers fought against drugs.

The Reagan administration created the crack



epidemic to fund the contra terrorists who were trying to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Crack served as an excuse to incarcerate hundreds of thousands of more people. Joe Biden was responsible for many of the laws that filled the prisons.

Banks make vast profits by laundering drug and crime money that's estimated by the United Nations to be as much as \$2 trillion a year.

### Tear down the walls!

Poor people in Paris started the French Revolution by tearing down a hated prison called the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

The U.S. has thousands of bastilles. Every one of them should be torn down, including the immigration concentration camps where children are kept in cages.

Many of these U.S. bastilles are labeled "correctional institutions." "Correction" was the term used by the slave masters to describe their torture of enslaved Africans.

Louisiana's Angola State Prison is on the site of a former plantation that had the same name. It was called Angola because that's where many of its enslaved African workers came from.

Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3 endured over 40 years in solitary confinement there. His comrade, Herman Wallace, spent 42 years in the "hole." Wallace was released three days before he died of liver cancer.

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor. Ruchell Cinque Magee has been imprisoned in California for 57 years. That's twice as long as

### LUCHA POR SOCIALISMO STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

in the Bronx — one of 11 city-owned hospitals — had trouble getting ventilators.

"Safety net" hospitals like Lincoln almost exclusively serve the poor and are often understaffed. Meanwhile, the five big private hospital chains in the Big Apple can afford to spend \$150 million a year in advertising.

Not only have patients died needlessly because of this inequality. So have health care workers.

Kious Kelly, an assistant nursing manager at Manhattan's Mount Sinai hospital, died of the virus on March 24. Workers there had to use garbage bags as personal protective equipment.

Mount Sinai Health System CEO Dr. Kenneth Davis doesn't wear garbage bags. In 2017 he was paid over \$12 million.

### Cuba has what we need

For capitalists, health care is a commodity to be sold for a profit, like Twinkies or napalm. Nowhere else has medicine become more of a source of profit than in the U.S.

The four biggest U.S. pharmaceutical outfits — Pfizer, Merck, Abbott and Eli Lilly — have a total stock market value of \$700 billion.

Eli Lilly raked in \$8.3 billion in profits last year. Its best-selling product is Humalog insulin, a life-saving medicine for people with diabetes.

According to the American Medical Association, insulin prices tripled between 2002 and 2013.

'Socialism & Dignity' the book is coming soon. Read the series online at [tinyurl.com/socialism-and-dignity](http://tinyurl.com/socialism-and-dignity)

• • •

Nelson Mandela was kept behind bars in apartheid South Africa.

Magee is being held because he joined Jonathan Jackson in trying to free Jonathan's brother, Black Panther Party Field Marshal George Jackson. Jonathan Jackson was killed at the Marin County courthouse on Aug. 7, 1970, along with William Christmas and James McClain.

This attempted jailbreak was as righteous as the attack on Harper's Ferry for which John Brown, John Edwin Cook, John Anthony Copeland Jr., Edwin Coppock, Shields Green, Albert Hazlett and Aaron Dwight Stevens were executed.

California Gov. Ronald Reagan tried to railroad Dr. Angela Davis to the gas chamber for Jonathan Jackson's courageous deed, since he was one of her bodyguards.

We need to return Brother Ruchell and all the prisoners home to their families.

### Community control now!

Every real revolution frees prisoners and fires the police of the old regime. Karl Marx gave this description of the world's first working-class government, the 1871 Paris Commune:

"No more corpses at the morgue, no nocturnal burglaries, scarcely any robberies; in fact, for the first time since the days [of the revolution] of February 1848, the streets of Paris were safe, and that without any police of any kind."

There are calls across the country to defund the police. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is suggesting a mere \$100 million to \$150 million cut in the city's \$1.86 billion police budget. New York City's mayor, Bill de Blasio, is proposing an even smaller percentage cut to the \$6 billion that its police department spends.

These shell games won't stop killings by police. A genuine demand for defunding the police is offered by the December 12th Movement in New York City.

D12 member Iman Essiet stated, "It is time to redirect the millions of dollars budgeted to the police to community-based organizations and social agencies which are equipped to address issues such as drug abuse, domestic violence, children's behavior in schools, mental health, homelessness, unemployment and poverty."

The police have to be disarmed. Their guns, clubs, mace, rubber bullets, tear gas and pepper spray have to be outlawed. So do their patrol wagons in which Freddie Gray was killed via a "rough ride" by Baltimore cops.

Almost none of the police in the socialist People's Republic of China have guns.

The Black Panther Party raised the demand for community control of the police. The National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression and its executive director, Frank Edgar Chapman Jr., are demanding this today.

The NAARPR wants an "elected Civilian Police Accountability Council that holds police officers accountable for crimes such as assault, murder, torture and racial profiling." Such a council could fire racist, sexist and homophobic cops.

The struggle for community control is a stepping stone to abolishing the police. A movement of millions in the streets can stop the killer cops. ■



In March, lack of personal protective equipment forced nurses at Mount Sinai West Hospital to use trash bags.

Full at [tinyurl.com/y3599bay](http://tinyurl.com/y3599bay)

# In response to Trump's army of thugs Anti-racist protests expand

By Scott Scheffer

Eighty-eight years ago, on July 28, 1932, the U.S. military attacked Black and white military veterans in a Bonus Army demonstration demanding relief from the hunger wrought by the Great Depression. The attack has parallels to Trump's use of federal troops to try to stop the Black Lives Matter uprisings of 2020.

In 1924, World War I veterans were given bonus certificates that would earn interest and be redeemable in 1945. But the Great Depression hit in 1929 and soon the many thousands of WWI veterans and their families were living in desperate and deep poverty. The idea of redeeming those bonus certificates early started to catch on.

The cauldron where the idea simmered and became a demand and then a powerful movement was the city of Portland, Ore. Organizing meetings in Portland led to a national movement that demanded the early release of the funds.

In 1932, 43,000 veterans and their families from every corner of the country converged on Washington, D.C. Although the U.S. Army that they served in had been segregated, Black and white veterans and their families traveled together and then set up camps together in and around the U.S. capital to demand their money.

In late June, the police attacked and



killed two Bonus Marchers. The Bonus Army still stood strong, stuck together and returned to the camp they had been driven from. Under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who viewed the Black and white unity as a communist plot, Maj. George Patton (later the infamous Gen. Patton) carried out a brutal attack with soldiers on horseback, using teargas and batons that injured 55 veterans and caused the death of a young boy.

The Bonus Marchers had captured the imagination of millions who followed the progress of the march and the camps every day in the news. The wide support from the entire working class turned to outrage over the idea that the military would attack poverty-stricken veterans. To the government, the threat of this

movement hadn't been about the money. It was the fact that Black and white veterans and families were organizing and fighting together.

Fast forward to today. Desperate to defeat the Black Lives Matter movement, the Trump administration has assembled and dispatched an army of federal agents and private mercenaries. The use of the federal agents as domestic police was regularly used in the past to put down strikes — the Homestead, Pa., massacre in 1892; the Ludlow Massacre in 1914; and so on — and against civil rights uprisings in the 1960s. Lyndon Johnson deployed U.S. troops in Detroit, Chicago and Baltimore. The hiring of paid mercenaries employed by companies that are descended from Erik Prince's infamous Blackwater "rent-a-thug" company to try to break up this his-

toric working-class uprising recalls the days of Pinkerton's mercenaries employed for bloody union busting starting with the Homestead massacre. In the face of the militant and united movement that has raged for more than two months, Trump and others in his administration are as alarmed as President Herbert Hoover was facing the Bonus Army in 1932.

But Trump's new army of thugs has only added to the anger and determination of the anti-racist movement. In spite of all of the police repression, protests have only continued and grown. By the weekend of July 25-26, federal agents had been sent to Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Chicago; Albuquerque, N.M.; Washington, D.C.; and Kansas City, Mo.

Trump further threatened to extend what amounts to a federal troop occupation to Detroit, New York City and Philadelphia. But instead of melting away, protests immediately grew in the cities that were already occupied by Trump's army. Tens of thousands gathered at solidarity protests in Seattle, which became another battlefield. Forty-five protesters were arrested there. Demonstrations also grew in Los Angeles; Austin, Texas; Baltimore; Atlanta; New York City; Chicago; and other cities.

All power to the people! Smash racism and jail killer cops! Federal troops out of our cities!

*Full at [tinyurl.com/yxkwk25y](http://tinyurl.com/yxkwk25y)*

# Donald Trump's June 1 coup attempt

By Gary Wilson

On Monday, June 1, Donald Trump called Attorney General William Barr, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley to the White House, where he got on the phone with the country's governors and proceeded to demand that they "dominate" the streets, saying, "Most of you are weak." He told them that he was putting Gen. Milley in charge.

The White House announced that Trump would give a speech later in the day. Although he didn't mention this on the call, there were numerous reports that the president intended to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 — used by President Andrew Jackson to deploy federal troops to literally massacre a major slave rebellion led by Nat Turner in Virginia's Southampton County.

The Insurrection Act gives Trump the authority to use the military to put down protests.

The afternoon of June 1 saw the unprecedented sight of Gen. Milley in battle fatigues, with Attorney General Barr, on the White House grounds in advance of Trump's speech in the Rose Garden. They appeared to be reviewing the troops which were lined up facing the protests in Lafayette Park across the street.

## Thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers

Suddenly, the whole nation witnessed the aggressive and violent action by 5,000 National Guard troops and federal agents, decked

out in full body armor, to move the protesters out of the way just before the president came out to speak about dominating the streets, saying, "As we speak, I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers."

Shortly after that, Trump led Barr, Milley, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and others over to a church where he famously held up a Bible.

A secret federal police force also appeared on the streets of Washington. Heavily armed and dressed in full body armor, this force had no identifying insignia. The Washington Post reported that the unidentified forces were under the command of Attorney General Barr.

The next day, perhaps symbolically, the Lincoln Memorial was occupied by a full National Guard unit dressed for battle.

The 82nd Airborne, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., along with a military police unit from Fort Drum, N.Y., was headed to Washington.

What followed over the next few days was a counter move. One high-ranking retired military officer after another, led by former Defense Secretary James Mattis, said they did not support military intervention. Mattis compared Trump's response to Nazi tactics.

By Thursday, June 4, Milley himself apologized for his participation.

All of the military officers who spoke out were careful in what they said, making their objections to only this specific instance of military intervention.



## Dictatorship of capitalism

Because the state is based on armed bodies — the army and police — and its auxiliaries, the prisons, courts and so on, even the most democratic bourgeois government has a hidden dictatorship of capitalism. This is not necessarily a military dictatorship. But military dictatorships are sometimes brought in to rescue a capitalist government in crisis, especially when there is a popular uprising.

The U.S. is in the midst of a great crisis, an economic and political crisis. Unemployment is in the tens of millions, at levels not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Homelessness has reached record levels. For those workers who have jobs, pay is at record lows, income inequality at record highs.

On top of that came the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police, the police murder of Breon-

na Taylor in Louisville, Ky., and the lynching of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia. In response, an uprising for justice, against police terror, defending Black lives and rights has swept the country.

Trump could order U.S. troops to occupy U.S. cities to put down the uprising. But what he didn't consider was that those troops could say no. In fact, most of the soldiers probably support the uprising. Many of the soldiers come from the Black and Brown communities that are leading the protests. More than 55 percent of the whole population of the country say that the burning of the Minneapolis police station was justified.

General Mattis made a veiled reference to the problem of the troops. The soldiers, he said, could refuse to follow orders if they believed those orders were illegal.

*Full at [tinyurl.com/trump-coup](http://tinyurl.com/trump-coup)*

# 'State and Revolution' by V.I. Lenin

## A guide for today's movement against police terror

By Sharon Black

"The State and Revolution" was written by V.I. Lenin in 1917 during the Russian Revolution on "the most urgent problem of the day ... the problem of explaining to the masses what they will have to do to free themselves from capitalist tyranny." Still relevant.

Lenin describes what Karl Marx and Frederick Engels said about the bourgeois state during the early period of capitalist development in Europe. The state was literally choking society, referring to how large and quickly the instruments of repression and bureaucracy had grown.

In today's global capitalist system, the capitalist state is even more monstrous, with its gargantuan growth and its repressive forces.

No surprise there.

Today's "armed bodies" include not only police departments in every city, county and state, but also Homeland Security, Border Patrol police, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, sheriff's departments, the FBI and the National Guard. This does not even account for the vast prison system, both private and public, the juvenile jails, immigration detention camps, the vast court system that protects and upholds capitalist law or all of the imperialist apparatus used to control and colonize oppressed people around the world — some 15 different major spy agencies including the CIA and National Security Agency to all sorts of operatives, both public and private, legal and illegal, as well as assorted special forces. Plus the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and the entire Pentagon apparatus on more than 5,000 known military bases and installations around the world.

As class antagonisms develop, as the divisions in society between exploiter and exploited, of oppressor to oppressed grow larger, so does the repressive force of the state grow.

### Class character of the state

Lenin writes that Marx and Engels viewed history and the development of the state from the lens of material conditions and class struggle. They understood that the state is not a divine power that fell from heaven (or more aptly hell) but from the development of classes and economic conditions, that its purpose is to maintain, preserve and protect whichever class holds power.

Lenin discussed the historical development of the state in a short lecture delivered in July 1919, to students at the Sverdlov University, an excellent introduction to "The State and Revolution." You can read a transcript of Lenin's lecture on the Marxist Internet Archive. (The State: A Lecture Delivered at the Sverdlov University, July 1919 [tinyurl.com/y3p4a6xw](http://tinyurl.com/y3p4a6xw))

Today's class of millionaires and billionaires and potentially even trillionaires is a tiny group in com-

parison to the vast global working class. They could not preside over and perpetuate a system of exploitation that has led to extreme levels of impoverishment and misery without both a complex and sophisticated political machine, "a body separate and above" on the one hand; and on the other hand without the machinery of repression: police, prisons and the military.

Lenin thoroughly debunked the myth that the state is an independent entity remaining neutral and playing the role of reconciling differences between classes.

Take the modern-day U.S. police apparatus: Part of its DNA is historically rooted in the early slave patrols used by the Southern landowners to hunt down runaway slaves. While policing has deeply expanded and evolved, its purpose as an occupying army in the most oppressed communities has not changed.

The Constitution, a document that's revered and worshiped in almost every kid's history book, is dripping with blood and hypocrisy. While the "founding fathers" spoke of "freedom and inalienable rights," they were simultaneously butchering Indigenous people and stealing their land. The Constitution was written by and for wealthy white landowners and mercantile capitalists and as such did not even pretend to be for universal suffrage. It did not include Black people, women, Indigenous people or anyone who was not white and wealthy.

Back to the present millionaires and billionaires: today's capitalist economic crisis, pushed over the cliff by the coronavirus pandemic, will undoubtedly reveal even more what the true predatory role of the capitalist state is to millions of workers.

It won't be the owners of Bank of America who will throw workers and their families out of their homes and apartments, but rather sheriffs and police departments.

When people are hungry, supermarket CEOs and agribusiness executives won't stand in front of the warehouses storing food — instead they will order their capitalist policy makers to call out the National Guard and cops to defend "their private property."

### Study 'State and Revolution'

Most of the accounts of Lenin's personality depict him as a person lacking in vanity. So it's doubtful that today he would be on a soapbox yelling "I told you so." Lenin was fervently and single-mindedly committed to serving the working class and oppressed and making revolution.

It's more likely that if Lenin were alive, he would be at the barricades in the George Floyd uprising. On the streets in the daytime and at night writing on the necessity of finishing the revolution for Black liberation, connecting the fight to capitalism and calling for socialism.

Lenin might have even been picked up and kidnapped by Homeland Security in some city like Portland or

Chicago. He was arrested several times for his political activity.

But Lenin isn't here today, so the next best thing we can do is to review, read and study "The State and Revolution."

If you are new to reading Lenin, don't give up if the style seems old fashioned and alien to today's political period. Instead, read to understand the concepts.

The pamphlet "The State and Revolution" is not only a clarion call to revolution and the abolition of all the hated repressive apparatus of class oppression; it was also Lenin's own meticulous and detailed study of Marx and Engel's writings on the state.

Struggle-La Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party invite you to attend our classes and study Lenin's "The State and Revolution."

We will not only be reviewing how Lenin's theories apply to the current struggle against racist police terror but also to the capitalist elections. Can the police be reformed? What is capitalist "democracy" versus workers' democracy? What did Marx and Lenin learn from the heroic Paris Commune and the communards who "stormed the heavens"?

If you would like to attend, please sign up for Struggle-La Lucha and SUP updates as we will send out notices and invites through email. Stay tuned to our web page.

Check out our YouTube channel at [tinyurl.com/SUP-YouTube](http://tinyurl.com/SUP-YouTube) and see our archive of classes. 

## A lifelong fighter for liberation

**Fidel Agcaoili**, chief negotiator of the Peace Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, has passed on in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

In a statement emailed to the media, the NDFP announced that he died on July 23 in Utrecht.

Agcaoili, 75, assumed the chairmanship of the NDFP Peace Panel in 2016.

He was the longest-detained political prisoner during the Marcos dictatorship and later served as the founding secretary general of SELDA, an organization of political detainees.

Agcaoili also served as secretary general of the Partido ng Bayan, a national democratic political party that fielded candidates to both senatorial and congressional seats during the administration of then-President Corazon Aquino.

### Following is a statement from the Socialist Unity Party:

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle for Socialism/La Lucha por el Socialismo send our deepest and warmest condolences to the family and friends of Fidel Agcaoili and to all his comrades in the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. We are deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of a beloved revolutionary hero, a lifelong fighter for liberation who braved the single longest political imprisonment under Ferdinand Marcos's martial law, who founded the organization SELDA for ex-political detainees, and served as Secretary-General of Partido ng Bayan and as Chair of the NDFP Negotiating Panel.



PHOTO: JON BUSTAMANTE

## FIDEL AGCAOILI

Comrade Fidel embodied all the best values of a great revolutionary — selfless, humble, comradely, warm, and completely and singularly devoted to the masses. He was a true hero who devoted his life to serving the people. He is well-remembered in his life's work: the steadfast and enduring revolutionary movement of the people of the Philippines. It is an honor to have known and worked with him in the international solidarity movement. He will live forever in our hearts and in the people's struggle.

On this sad occasion, the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle ★ La Lucha remain steadfast in our revolutionary solidarity with the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front, the New People's Army, and the People's Democratic Revolution. Your struggle and victory will be his monument. 

## MOUNT RUSHMORE

# Treaty defenders face off against Trump

By M. Tiahui

On July 3, more than a hundred Indigenous and allied land defenders stood for hours and blocked a South Dakota highway leading to Mount Rushmore in advance of a scheduled speech and rally by President Donald Trump at the U.S. national monument carved into stolen land. Led largely by Lakota and other Native youth, the heroic defenders faced off against police in riot gear in front of them.

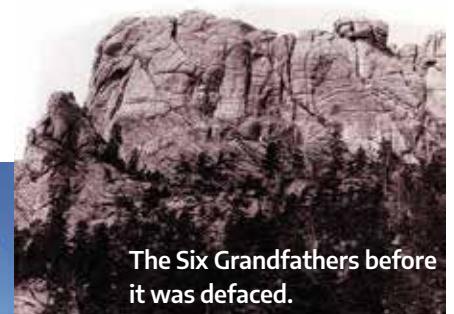
The treaty defenders parked white vans across the road to ensure the road would stay blocked for some time even after they were arrested. They later removed the wheels, climbed on top of the vans, and shouted, "Land back!" Several were arrested. Through it all, they also were confronted by rabid Trump supporters who were angry that they were not able to get through to attend the rally.

Nick Tilson of the NDN Collective said the group had "reclaimed the road," which is on stolen treaty land. "We don't need them to give us permission to do this on our land."

Krystal Two Bulls said, "We need to be bringing out the roots of what we're talking about. This country was founded on white supremacy," including the genocide of Native people and slave labor of Black people.

Trump's rally in the Black Hills was a direct attack on Lakota and other Indigenous people who hold the area sacred and hold clear treaty rights to the area, just as his visit to Tulsa, Okla., near the Juneteenth holiday was a clear attack on Black people.

Mount Rushmore — known as the Six Grandfathers — is part of the sacred Black Hills. The U.S. has refused to honor treaties for the area since gold was discovered there in 1874 by an Army expedition led by Gen. George



The Six Grandfathers before it was defaced.

Black Hills defense.

PHOTOS: INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY

Custer. Uranium was later discovered and mined by corporations.

In the 20th century, the Six Grandfathers were defaced when the Mount Rushmore monument to white supremacy was created by a Klu Klux Klan member. Two of the presidents carved into the mountain were slave owners (Jefferson and Washington), another (Lincoln) approved the hanging of 40 Native men in the largest mass execution in U.S. history, and the last (Theodore Roosevelt) was an imperialist and staunch believer in white racial superiority. All four presidents held anti-Native and other racist views.

The treaty defenders demanded that Mount Rushmore be removed and the Black Hills returned to the Lakota. In advance of Trump's rally, Oglala Lakota tribal chair Bear Runner publicly said that the people did not give permission for Trump to enter into the Black Hills.

Like many other Native people, Bear Runner believes that Mount Rushmore needs to come down. "I don't believe it should be blown up, because it would cause more damage to the land. But there are other methods to take down the monument that would have less environmental impact."

# Unemployment crisis: Don't blame China

By Gary Wilson

The New York Times headline declared: "U.S. unemployment worst since the Great Depression." (New York Times, May 9, 2020, print edition)

As many as 40 percent of the people laid off will not be getting rehired because their employers — restaurants, theaters, small businesses, and big companies like Hertz, JCPenney, Frontier Communications, J. Crew, Lord & Taylor — are going bust.

Before the coronavirus, people receiving unemployment benefits in most states got less than half their weekly paycheck. The federal stimulus package — called the CARES Act — provided \$600 a week. That \$600 weekly check is what you'd earn for a 40-hour week if you were getting paid \$15 an hour. It's more than double the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. The stimulus payments ended in July.

The unemployment checks will stop because Trump and most capitalist economists say that the current unemployment crisis is the result of the deliberate shutting down of the economy made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By decree, the country will be reopened for business and unemployment will be over — that is, benefit checks to the unemployed will be over. In part, it's also a propaganda move to say there's no economic crisis of capitalism.

### Covering up capitalist crisis

The politicians and the capitalist economists don't want to acknowledge that there is a cyclical capitalist crisis of overproduction, a recession, maybe a depression.

Steep, long-term unemployment is what defines a depression. In the Great Depression, after employment reached its deepest lows in 1933, full

employment did not return until the U.S. had entered World War II in 1941.

Today, Trump and many capitalist economists say this is only COVID-19, there is no underlying economic crisis. Therefore, full employment will return quickly when the pandemic is over, maybe in the next year or two.

So it's not a depression, not even a recession?

The world economy was already in the beginning stage of a recession when the pandemic began. On top of the economic crisis came the government-ordered COVID-19 shutdowns of many businesses and stay-at-home orders. Shipping and travel declined dramatically, causing the demand for oil to plummet.

However, Trump and the capitalist economists are now claiming that there was nothing wrong with the U.S. economy before the pandemic hit. Instead, they are blaming both the pandemic and the economic crisis on China, and even the Chinese Communist Party. If it wasn't for China, Trump now claims, everything would be fine.

It's not only Trump and the Republicans who are blaming China. Joseph Biden's Democratic presidential campaign blames the economic crisis on COVID-19. Biden holds that while Trump's reaction to the pandemic was incompetent, the real villain is China. To have anyone believe this, Trump and Biden rely on a combination of anti-Chinese racism and old-fashioned anti-communism.

### China saved lives

For example, there is the claim that the Chinese government badly botched its response to COVID-19. In reality, the Chinese government's response to the pandemic has been far superior to the response of federal, state and local governments of

the U.S., a fact that the anti-China propaganda attempts to obscure.

China's rapid response held back the virus and saved lives.

When a new disease suddenly appears, identifying and containing it is not a simple task, and there are always mistakes. Once it was clear how serious the crisis was, China acted immediately.

With full transparency, China notified the World Health Organization (WHO) on Dec. 31 that there were 27 cases of a mysterious pneumonia-like illness in Wuhan. On Jan. 12, Chinese scientists shared the virus's genome via the internet. It was the fastest this has ever been accomplished. According to a recent timeline published by China to refute the slanders being spread by the U.S., China briefed the U.S. on coronavirus epidemic prevention on Feb. 3 for the 30th time.

The WHO, and other public health agencies and experts, describe China's response as setting new, groundbreaking standards and practices in outbreak detection and response. WHO officials said China's quick response helped contain the spread and saved lives around the world.

The ruling class and its paid politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike, are increasingly united on making China the scapegoat.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been unleashed as the U.S. attack dog on China, reports The Hill. The measures being threatened against China can only aggravate the economic crisis, but may serve to rally support for the president in a war-like situation.

### A built-in crisis

The media have completely hidden the boom-and-bust industrial cycle of capitalism.

Capitalism is doomed to periodic crises of overproduction. A cri-

sis of overproduction comes about because of the anarchy of capitalist production. Capitalist crises are a collision between two forces — production and the markets. Capitalists expand production seemingly without limit and are in competition among themselves to do that, but the markets expand only slowly if at all. Production exceeds what can be sold for a profit.

### Record levels of debt

U.S. capitalism was in a crisis of overproduction in 2019 and in the beginning of 2020. This could be seen in the record level of consumer debt. On Feb. 11, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new record level at \$14.15 trillion. That's mortgages, student loans, auto loans and credit card debt.

Also rising, according to the Fed's report, were credit card delinquencies, that is, nonpayment of credit card debt. That's because, in part, wages for most workers are lower, in real terms, than they were 40 years ago.

At the same time, business sector debt was historically high, the Fed also reported, higher and more unstable than consumer debt. The Fed's response, in fact, was to print more money to bail out Wall Street and the unstable businesses.

The "Great Repression," as they call the COVID-19 economic shutdown, has a very real impact, but it is layered on top of a recession that would have meant mass job loss, either later this year or in 2021, whether or not the pandemic had occurred. This is not to deny that the pandemic will profoundly shape the new recession. The current economic situation is being shaped by the interaction between the "Great Repression" and an underlying cyclical crisis of overproduction.

# #ConcertforCuba heard around the world

By Cheryl LaBash

#ConcertforCuba, two weekends of international musical performances, explored new potentials for international cultural and political collaboration. No live music in your town? Enjoy music from the world with a global audience dancing to the same beats.

On July 18 and 19, Chicago-based HotHouse, led by Marguerite Horberg, the Instituto Cubano de la Música, Raúl Cruz and attorney Bill Martínez provided the core to unite 80 segments of music, solidarity messages, and poems with more than 300 volunteers making it all come together.

Get Out of Cuba's Way came back the next weekend, July 25 and 26, with African music, dancing and voices coinciding with international celebrations of the 1953 attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, which launched the end of U.S.-backed dictatorships in Cuba.

The HotHouse "thank you" email reported 200,000 online viewers with millions more in Cuba's live broadcast on Canal Clave. Media sponsor Pacifica Foundation, with a network of listener-sponsored radio stations, simulcast in Washington, D.C.; New York City; Atlanta; and other cities, sending the united salute to Cuban doctors, amplifying a chorus to #unblockCuba.

The July 18 and 19 lineup included Orbert Davis' Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, Osain Del Monte, Ozomatli, Grupo Moncada, the fabulous Omara Portuondo y La Orquesta Failde and

Los Van Van. Music with a message uplifting praise for Cuban medical workers and calling for the end of the U.S. strangulation blockade was expressed by more than 100 individuals. Nancy Morejón read her poem for George Floyd, murdered by the Minneapolis police on May 25.

Elected officials and noted film makers Danny Glover, Michael Moore and Ed Asner added their voices to activist leaders. Alicia Jrapko of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, and Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink, promoted the nomination of Cuba's Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade for the 2021 Nobel Prize.

While the global pandemic forced us to stay apart for our health and the health of our communities, it has unleashed creative new ways of uniting on a level and with a breadth



previously unknown and unavailable to our movements. Although the U.S. blockade prevents Cuba from using Zoom and WebEx, we have found other tools for Cuba to speak for herself. Cuba's message of

solidarity, unity and putting human security, needs and development first, is being heard throughout a world looking for answers to an unprecedented health and capitalist economic collapse. □

## U.S. threatens 'piracy' while Iran and Venezuela continue trade

By Cheryl LaBash

The U.S. has not backed off attempts to block Iran-Venezuela trade. The new attacks are asset forfeiture through U.S. courts targeting "shipping companies, insurers, certifiers and flag states that register vessels," according to a July 13 Reuters report.

In May, five tankers from Iran successfully delivered gasoline and other supplies to Venezuela, breaking the U.S. starvation blockade that is damaging human lives in both countries. Although threatening the Iranian tankers with U.S. Navy warships, surveillance aircraft and special forces teams lurking off the coast of Venezuela, Washington backed off from direct military intervention.

At that time, Iran justifiably reminded the imperial U.S. that it can control access to the Straits of Hormuz, described as "the world's most important oil transit chokepoint" by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In 2018, some 21 percent of global petroleum liquid shipments



Workers celebrate the arrival of Iranian oil tanker Fortune in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, on May 25.

passed through these narrow shipping lanes.

On July 1, U.S. federal prosecutors filed a civil-forfeiture complaint to seize the gasoline cargo in four more tankers heading from Iran to Venezuela. It is unlikely that a civil forfeiture court order could seize or auction the cargo unless the tanker was in U.S. waters. But the threat of U.S. military action looms, using an asset forfeiture order from a U.S. court as a pretext.

In civil forfeiture, government agents seize assets — cars or cash, for example — from people suspect-

ed of criminal or illegal activity, often without bothering to charge the owners with any crimes. Poor people without bank accounts, who must rely on cash transactions, are frequently victimized by police in this way. In many U.S. states, Black and Brown drivers are targets for this legalized theft.

Even the U.S. Justice Department called attempting to use asset forfeiture internationally, where sovereign countries do not recognize U.S. authority, "a waste of U.S. prosecutorial and judicial resources."

"Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesperson for the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, said any attempt by the U.S. to prevent Iran's lawful trading with any country of its choosing would be an act of 'piracy, pure and simple,'" the Associated Press reported July 2.

"This is a direct threat to international peace and security and in contravention of international law including the U.N. Charter," he said in a statement." □

## U.S.-Israel wage war on Iran

By Scott Scheffer

On July 2, a huge explosion did extensive damage to Iran's most important nuclear fuel enrichment facility at Natanz. The investigation by Iranian officials is ongoing, but there is little doubt that this was the latest attack on Iran by the United States and Israel. Investigators believe a bomb was brought directly into the building.

The U.S.-backed Israeli regime responded to questions from the press with very thinly veiled comments that all but took responsibility for the deadly sabotage. In 2010, the U.S. and Israel carried out a cyberattack against the same facility using the Stuxnet virus. Initially, it was thought to have set back Iran's centrifuge program for years, but the damage then turned out to be minimal.

The July 10 issue of the New York

Times quoted anonymous U.S. officials who described U.S.-Israeli strategy as "a series of short-of-war clandestine strikes."

On July 23, three weeks after the Natanz explosion, two U.S. F-15 fighter jets flew toward an Iranian passenger plane headed to Beirut. While flying over Syria, the pilot was forced to take such sudden evasive maneuvers that some passengers flew from their seats and hit the ceiling of the aircraft from the sudden drop in altitude.

The attack on Natanz comes just six months after the Jan. 3 U.S. assassination of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, and eight others. Soleimani was Iran's most important military figure and was widely admired in Iran.

Soleimani was in Baghdad, accord-

ing to Iraq's Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi, to discuss a message from Saudi Arabia intended to ease the ongoing confrontation with Iran. Saudi Arabia has been waging war against Yemen, where Houthi forces drove the pro-U.S. government out of the capital in 2014 and have held most of the country since. The Houthis receive aid from and are in an anti-imperialist alliance with Iran.

The uranium enriched at Natanz only reaches the 4.5 percent purity level for electrification. The advanced centrifuges that Iranian engineers are working on are to help make their outdated power grid more efficient, and free up gas and oil for export. Uranium needs to be enriched to 90 percent or higher purity to make a nuclear bomb. Iran doesn't possess or want the technology to accomplish that.

[Full at tinyurl.com/y43qbp74](http://tinyurl.com/y43qbp74)

## KUMEYAA NATION Border wall

Continued from page 1

"Our ancestors fought for us and died for us," Parada said. "It's time for us to start saving that history and passing it on to our children, instead of just watching it get desecrated."

Border Patrol officials said they are working to reschedule the blasting.

The actions are continuing. Another protest was held at the blasting site on July 3, and a march was held in downtown San Diego on July 5.

This reporter has seen construction trucks still going up the road to the wall. The colonizers want their monument to racism, even if it means desecrating an ancient people's culture.

Trump's wall is a monument to white supremacy. It's a monument to himself. Walls are about racism and xenophobia. The border wall is to remind Latinx people they are not welcomed in the U.S.

For Native Americans, the U.S./Mexico border is an imaginary line. The traditional homelands of 36 federally recognized tribes, including the Kumeyaay, Pai, Cocopah, O'odham, Yaqui, Apache and Kickapoo peoples, were split in two by the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, which carved modern day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas out of northern Mexico.

Colonial powers claim Indigenous lands as their own. It takes a lot of arrogance for the colonizers to stand on stolen land and complain about immigration. This is Indigenous land and it's time to take it back.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

# Se lanza en EEUU campaña para nominar a médicos cubanos al Premio Nobel de la Paz

By Alicia Jrapko and Medea Benjamín

Washington DC, EE.UU.- La campaña estadounidense para nominar a la Brigada Médica Internacional Henry Reeve para el Premio Nobel de la Paz 2021 se anunciará el martes 16 de junio de 2020. Esta campaña ha sido respaldada por prominentes intelectuales, artistas, políticos y ciudadanos comunes de todo el mundo que reconocen la destacada contribución de la Brigada Internacional a la salud y la vida de todos los seres humanos.

Entre las adhesiones iniciales se encuentran el Premio Nobel de la Paz Adolfo Pérez Esquivel; el ex Presidente de Ecuador, Rafael Correa; los actores Danny Glover y Mark Ruffalo; los escritores Alice Walker, Noam Chomsky y Nancy Morejón; los cineastas Oliver Stone y Petra Costa; el músico Tom Morello y el cantante y compositor Silvio Rodríguez, entre muchos otros. A ellos se unen más de 10.000 personas que hasta ahora han firmado la petición en todo el mundo, y numerosas organizaciones, entre ellas La Vía Campesina (Movimiento Internacional Campesino), que representa a 182 grupos en 81 países.

En una notable muestra de cooperación internacional, más de 2.000 médicos, enfermeras y profesionales de la medicina de Cuba han colaborado en 27 países afectados por el COVID-19, salvando miles de vidas y poniendo en peligro su propio bienestar.

Los profesionales cubanos de la salud prestan actualmente la asistencia que se necesita con urgencia en Andorra, Angola, Antigua y Barbuda, Barbados, Belice, Cabo Verde,



Dominica, Granada, Guinea, Haití, Honduras, Italia, Jamaica, Kuwait, México, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Perú, Qatar, Santa Lucía, San Cristóbal y Nieves, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Sudáfrica, Surinam, Togo, Trinidad y Tobago y Venezuela.

La Brigada Médica Internacional Henry Reeve lleva el nombre de un soldado estadounidense que luchó por Cuba durante su Primera Guerra de Independencia (1868-1878). La Brigada se formó en 2005 cuando un gran grupo de profesionales de la salud se preparó para ir a Luisiana después del devastador huracán Katrina; sin embargo, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos ignoró la oferta y varios días después esa Brigada fue enviada a Guatemala y Pakistán para ayudar después de fuertes desastres naturales. En 2005 el primer grupo de profesionales consistió en 1.500 doctores y personal médico.

En sus casi 15 años de historia, más de 7.000 profesionales de la salud han formado parte de la misma.

La Brigada Henry Reeve ha recibido numerosos premios internacionales, incluido el prestigioso "Premio Conmemorativo del Dr. Lee Jong-wook para la Salud Pública" de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) en el año 2017.

Propuesta primero por grupos europeos, la campaña por el Premio Nobel de la Paz se ha extendido a nivel mundial. El renombrado escritor y lingüista Noam Chomsky dijo que "Cuba es el único país que ha mostrado un genuino internacionalismo durante esta crisis del coronavirus".

"Me conmovió hasta las lágrimas ver a los cubanos, en el punto álgido de la pandemia, dirigiéndose a la parte más infectada de Italia para ayudar a salvar vidas", dijo Medea Benjamin, co-directora del grupo pacifista CODEPINK, que co-preside el Comité estadounidense que apoya la campaña, junto con Alicia Jrapko del Comité Internacional Paz, Justicia y Dignidad a los Pueblos. "El esfuerzo heroico de los docto-

res cubanos en esta pandemia no es sólo la contribución médica que están aportando en muchas partes del mundo, sino también su gran espíritu solidario y amor a la humanidad", señaló Jrapko.

La Campaña propiciará un apoyo amplio y diverso en todos los sectores de la sociedad, estimulando una mayor atención por parte de los medios de comunicación al programa médico cubano; paralelamente los organizadores de la misma destacan la importancia de que se conozcan las voces de los médicos que se ofrecen como voluntarios para estas misiones, como así también las de los pacientes que tratan.

La declaración oficial de la Campaña resume el espíritu de este esfuerzo mundial: "Esperamos que el ejemplo de Cuba inspire a los que estamos en otros países a promover políticas y acciones más compasivas y generosas no sólo para combatir las pandemias sino también para construir un mundo más justo y pacífico".

Las co-presidentas de la campaña estadounidense para nominar a la Brigada Médica Internacional Henry Reeve para el Premio Nobel de la Paz 2021 y otros patrocinadores están disponibles para entrevistas.

Fotos y videos de los médicos también están disponibles.

Para más información ir a: <https://www.cubanobel.org/>  
Para adherir a la petición ir a: [https://www.cubanobel.org/firma\\_la\\_peticion](https://www.cubanobel.org/firma_la_peticion)

Fotografías de libre uso para medios de comunicación aquí: [www.cubanobel.org/gallery](http://www.cubanobel.org/gallery)

## Nobel Peace Prize for Cuban doctors

To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee:

In the midst of this global pandemic unprecedented in modern history, there is one group from a small country that has provided hope and inspiration to people around the world: the Cuban doctors and nurses who are part of the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade now working in 22 countries to fight COVID-19. In recognition of their magnificent solidarity and selflessness, saving thousands of lives by putting their own lives at risk, we urge you to award them this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Henry Reeve was a 19-year-old American who left his home in Brooklyn, N.Y. to join the Cuban struggle for liberation against the Spanish in the late 1800s. The Brigade named after him was formed by the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro in 2005 after the U.S. rejected an offer to send 1,500 Cuban doctors to provide assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Since its formation, the medical personnel of the Brigade, now composed of 7,400 voluntary health-care workers, have been on the front lines providing disaster relief. Before COVID-19, it had treated more than



3.5 million people in 21 countries ravaged by the world's worst natural disasters and epidemics. An estimated 80,000 lives have been saved as a direct result of the Brigade's front-line emergency medical treatments.

One of their most heroic acts was in 2014-2015, when the Brigade sent over 400 doctors, nurses and other health workers to West Africa to confront the dangerous Ebola pandemic, working in regions where healthcare facilities and even basic infrastructure such as roads and communications systems were minimal. This team constituted the single largest

medical operation on the ground in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. In recognition of the work of these specialists, the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded them the prestigious Dr. Lee Jong-Wook Memorial Prize for Public Health in 2017.

The Henry Reeve Brigade is only

one part of the Cuban medical system, coordinated by the Cuban Ministry of Public Health, which has sent more healthcare workers overseas than the entire World Health Organization.

Now that the world is suffering a devastating pandemic, the Brigade is working globally to try to stop the spread and care for those who are sick. The world was so moved to see the Cubans going off to the most infected part of Italy, Lombardy, to help save lives. As of May 1, over 1,450 Cuban medical personnel were fighting COVID-19 in 22 countries: Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Suriname, Togo and Venezuela.

To endorse the campaign go to [www.cubanobel.org/nobelcuba](http://www.cubanobel.org/nobelcuba)

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