

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



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Why won't Congress deliver badly needed stimulus checks?

By Gary Wilson

“Stimulus bill and checks not likely to arrive before Biden takes office,” Newsweek reported on Dec. 5.

On Dec. 2, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that they had offered Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell a \$908 billion coronavirus stimulus plan. Under the Pelosi-Schumer plan, there will be no stimulus checks at all, only a new \$300-per-week unemployment benefit that is not retroactive for those whose \$600-per-week benefits have ended. McConnell says he'll accept something that's a little more than half that amount, \$550 billion.

Pelosi and Schumer had rejected an offer from President Trump two months ago, on Oct. 1, for \$400 per week in retroactive unemployment benefits for those whose \$600-per-week benefit had ended, plus a stimulus check, because it “wasn't enough.”

Of course, Trump's election campaign might have benefited from checks going out then — which is why he offered it — but why put forward something that's much, much less now? Are they even trying?

There's a puzzle here. At first glance, it might appear that the capitalist class favors the stimulus since the stock market rises whenever passage appears more likely. Is there a common interest between Wall Street and the workers, who certainly need the extended unemployment benefits and stimulus checks?

The stimulus checks are newly printed money from the U.S. Treasury and some say that the new money is what is raising stock prices. That's the New Deal Democrats' approach, which is also given as the reason that reactionary Republicans are opposed to the stimulus.

Why would Mitch McConnell — who more openly than most speaks for big capitalist interests — oppose the proposal to put extra money into the hands of the workers if it is so good for the stock market? Is McConnell turning against the interests of business?

From the standpoint of the capitalists, the mass unemployment created by the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for employers to lower wages and increase the rate of surplus value gained from the exploitation of workers. Don't ignore the reports that say that in this pandemic, the billionaires are winning. While many have suffered, the richest among us



PHOTO: DAVID BACON

‘Our Black seniors are suffering all over Oakland,’ says Sharena Diamond Thomas. The largest percentage of tenants are Black, and high rents are terrifying to them. ‘They can't rest, they're stressed out, they can't move during the pandemic, and all of this makes them vulnerable to the virus.’

kept getting richer. (Farhad Manjoo in the New York Times, Nov. 25)

To the extent that the government feels obliged to put money into the hands of workers, if only to subdue unrest, the opportunity to raise the rate of surplus value — the ratio of unpaid to paid labor — is lost if the workers aren't desperate and are able to in any way resist wage cuts.

Why does the stock market rise when the passage of the stimulus appears more likely? The stock market looks only at the short term. What is going to happen in the next quarter? If money is put into the hands of workers now, the pace of business will increase. Seeing the prospect of more business activity, the stock market rises.

But any reduction in the rate of surplus value will reduce the rate of profit in the long run. While the stimulus can improve business activity, it also reduces the rate of profit — more business at a lower rate of profit.

So Sen. McConnell is right from the viewpoint of the capitalist class. And the working class has the exact opposite interest. McConnell and his capitalist patrons sense that without the stimulus there will be a higher rate of surplus value — gained by cuts in wages and benefits — even if this means less business activity in the next few quarters. Therefore, in the long run, the less stimulus put out by the government, the higher the rate of profit will be.

The interest of the capitalist class in the stimulus is thus diametrically opposed to the interest of the working class.

INSIDE

- 2 Biden's picks
- 2 Trump's lawyers howl
- 3 Street merchants
- 4 Voting in Michigan
- 5 Deep state
- 5 COVID tidal wave
- 6 India workers and farmers
- 6 Trump and Iran
- 7 Venezuelan election victory

Let's move forward in building socialism!

Dear Readers,

Dec. 9, 2020, marked the two-year anniversary of our publication, *Struggle-La Lucha* (SLL). We are proud that it has continued to bring news and revolutionary socialist analysis of critical developments in this past year.

As soon as the Black Lives Matter uprising took to the streets, we were able to publish hard copies of our newspaper and distribute papers from Los Angeles to New York City, from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., to San Diego and Atlanta, and at many other protests during the critical summer months despite the pandemic. We also expanded our online subscriptions by 75% in the past year.

Struggle-La Lucha analyzed the U.S. elections, the COVID and capitalist economic crises and published the popular series “Socialism and Dignity.” We continued with our international coverage of global developments and U.S. imperialism's relentless war drive.

Struggle-La Lucha is dedicated to strengthening the movement and building unity. We publish daily news links and include a section for events, for What is Marxism? and on how to join the **Socialist Unity Party**.

We've been able to do this because of your support.

Please donate at tinyurl.com/SupportSLL

Despite these difficult times for the working class, we are optimistic about a socialist future and our role in it. We have plans to amplify the voice of socialism. This includes:

- › Expanding our print schedule in preparation for distributions
- › Special national ad campaign to increase readership
- › Free subscriptions to prisoners and low-wage, front-line workers
- › Expanding our YouTube channel and updating our technical infrastructure

Your donation, regardless of size, will be deeply appreciated.

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Follow the reporters you've learned to know and trust from the front lines in the struggle for socialism: John Parker, Sharon Black, Lizz Toledo, Cheryl LaBash, Gloria Verdieu, Gary Wilson, Zola Fish, Steve Millies, Bayani, Scott Scheffer, Greg Butterfield and many others.

If you haven't already, subscribe now. struggle-la-lucha.org/subscribe
Looking forward to a socialist future.

Biden's picks don't treat capitalist disease

By John Parker

If the treatment for a symptom exacerbates the underlying illness, unleashing far more dangerous symptoms, then that “cure” would be considered a failure — especially if it accelerates the death of the patient.

The disease of racism, capitalism's primary tool to keep our class divided, has many symptoms. One of these is the lack of representation by oppressed peoples in all aspects of leadership in society. This is most glaringly seen in Washington, D.C., where people of color and women make up a small percentage of those in the highest offices of government compared to the dominance of white men.

That's the symptom in government. The capitalist establishment's preferred way of treating this symptom is like the pharmaceutical companies that gave us Oxycontin, now considered the source of the opioid epidemic: combating the symptom of pain related to an illness even though it would exacerbate the underlying illness with a deadly addiction.

For the sake of profit, the ruling class uses the symptom of exclusion and lack of diversity — which it is responsible for, and which must be taken on — in a way to actually erode working-class solidarity and unity, so that the capitalist system and imperialist war can continue, with no threat to the flow of profits

derived from increased exploitation of our class here and abroad.

That's what's going on right now in regards to President-elect Joe Biden's cabinet nominees. From the pages of the same book that saw the selection of the likes of Margaret Thatcher in Britain and Barack Obama in the U.S., we again see the necessary fight against exclusion used cynically by capitalist politicians to advance the interests of the ruling class.

Role of capitalist state

Biden is breaking many records in his selection of the first Black woman as vice president, Kamala Harris, and in his Cabinet nominations, with appointments that include the first woman to run the Treasury Department, the first Black deputy treasury secretary, and the first Black chair of the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA).

It's therefore understandable that many will feel hopeful about these appointments. In terms of the war on poverty, the appointment of more liberal figures, like Heather Boushey and Jared Bernstein, proposed as members of the CEA, could be a turn away from the Trump administration — right?

Well, if they are actually interested in making real change, hopefully they won't wield the same kind of toothless powerlessness that civilian police review boards around the country have.

In that case, the problem arises from the fact that the capitalist state needs repression to maintain inequality and exploitation of our class, so police review boards are a façade meant to appease people, not to have any real control over the police. And the role of the state in regard to economics is to maintain capitalist profits and the exploitation that keeps us in poverty.

Biden made that clear during his campaign speeches in 2019, where he also showed his willingness to lie as blatantly as Trump. Bloomberg News reported that during a campaign event with wealthy donors at the Carlyle Hotel in New York City, Biden said that he would not “demonize” the rich. Then he pledged that “no one's standard of living will change, nothing would fundamentally change.”

Worse, he made those comments after praising racist politicians, saying that he reaches “across the aisle” to bring about compromise. The problem is that his reach, in essence, only goes towards the right.

What makes this comment so Trump-like in its dishonesty? Shortly before, Biden had addressed the Poor People's Campaign Presidential Forum in Washington, saying that economic inequality was “the one thing that can bring this country down.” He listed several new programs to help the poor that he said he would fund if elected.

“We have all the money we need to do it,” he said.

Puts profits before people

In “Capital,” the historic three-volume work scientifically analysing the workings of capitalism, Karl Marx quoted economist T.J. Dunning: “Capital eschews no profit, or very small profit, just as Nature was formerly said to abhor a vacuum.”

“With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 percent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 percent certain will produce eagerness; 50 percent, positive audacity; 100 percent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 percent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged.”

The market is in search of profits, not saving humanity. And the two often have irreconcilable conflicts. So you can add to that list of things the ruling class is willing to do: the willingness to run humanity over the cliff of nonexistence with an irrational allegiance to capitalism and profit over people.

This explains Biden's cabinet choices — predominantly made up of the enablers of capitalism's many diseases, along with war criminals who belong in jail, not in office. Therefore, it will take a unified movement of our working class to promote and fight for socialism.

Read the full report at Struggle-La-Lucha.org.

Trump's lawyers howl: Debunking their conspiracy theories

By Lev Koufax

On Nov. 19, President Donald Trump's legal team, led by racist former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, held a news conference to discuss the results of the recent U.S. presidential election. What ensued was over an hour of ludicrous conspiracy theories and virulently anti-communist falsehoods aimed at overturning the votes of Black, Brown and other working-class voters.

At the core of the news conference were allegations that Joe Biden's recent election victory was a fraud perpetrated against the U.S. public. According to Trump's legal team, the “deep state,” the media, George Soros, socialist countries and the Democratic Party all colluded to steal the election from Donald Trump through ballot machine manipulation.

Far-right attorney Sidney Powell explained the allegations in depth. Powell claimed the Trump legal team had obtained mountains of evidence demonstrating the “massive influence of communist money through Venezuela, Cuba and likely China” in the recent election.

In her remarks, Powell traced the origin of this supposed fraud to Hugo Chávez, the socialist icon and former president of Venezuela — who has been dead for seven years!

Powell claimed that Chávez ordered the manipulation of Smartmatic voting machines to ensure



Rudy Giuliani and other members of Donald Trump's legal team spin dangerous conspiracy theories at Nov. 19 news conference in Washington, D.C.

that he never lost an election. Dominion Voting Systems, a Canadian-based company that provides voting machines to the U.S., is falsely claimed to be owned by the same company as Smartmatic.

Accusations of fraudulent elections in Venezuela continue to be made by the U.S. government and right-wing oppositionists even in the face of widespread recognition of their efficiency and validity.

Powell's conspiracy-laced statement also implicated Jewish billionaire George Soros in this vast plot to rig the election against Trump. Trump's legal team argued that So-

ros put his full financial weight behind communist efforts to interfere with the U.S. elections.

There is no evidence that Soros has relationships with or politically supports socialist countries like China, Cuba and Venezuela. On the contrary, he is a billionaire U.S. imperialist and devout capitalist.

From the late 1980s up to today, Soros and his Open Society Foundation have poured millions of dollars into supporting pro-imperialist, right-wing “color revolutions” against socialism in former Soviet republics and other countries.

There is significant irony in the

Trump team accusing China, Cuba and Venezuela of election tampering. If any country is guilty of election tampering, it is the United States.

The efforts by U.S. administrations, under both Republicans and Democrats, to subvert democracy and empower right-wing regimes in countries like Chile, Nicaragua, Grenada, Venezuela, Honduras, Burkina Faso, Ukraine and many others, are well-documented.

Outside of the bold-faced lies and baseless claims, the political lens of the news conference was gravely concerning in its unbridled anti-Semitism. Laying the blame upon the alleged collaboration of a Jewish billionaire and socialist countries smacks of the Nazi theory of “Judeo-Bolshevism.”

This conspiracy theory was widely propagandized by the Third Reich to shift blame away from the capitalist class and towards Germany's oppressed Jewish minority and the peoples of the Soviet Union.

In the case of Trump's legal team, the similarities of their allegations to the Nazi theory are hard to ignore. This is another step by Trump and his administration to muddy the waters and agitate their fascist base.

While George Soros is no progressive hero, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that associate him with socialist countries are dangerous. They must be condemned and debunked broadly by the working-class movement. 📌

The war against street merchants

By Stephen Millies

Jobless men sold apples during the Great Depression. Ninety years later, many city sidewalks are lined with street merchants trying to sell food, clothing and other needed goods.

Why are these women and men willing to stand in all sorts of weather for 10, 12 or more hours a day? Because they have to.

That's the only way the sellers can eat and pay the rent, not only for themselves but also for their children. Many street merchants send money to their families in other lands, keeping them alive.

Even during periods of capitalist "prosperity," millions are unemployed. Discrimination in hiring, particularly against the undocumented, drives many immigrants to sell on the street. The current coronavirus pandemic and economic crisis have forced many more to become street merchants.

Deliberate deindustrialization is another reason. Black workers in Baltimore who used to have union jobs at the now closed Sparrows Point steel mill or GM plant can be found selling goods.

None of these workers are criminals, yet they are victimized by police.

In 2019, 319 street merchants received a \$188,531 settlement in New York City after cops stole their property.

The big-hearted Los Angeles City Council voted in March to ban unlicensed street vending. As many as 50,000 people are to be driven off the streets, sidewalks and parks.

"Don't put fines on us, let us work," responded one worker, Aureliano Santiago. Thousands of street merchants have exhausted their savings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The same city government gave L.A. real estate developers and hotel owners around \$1 billion in tax abatements from 2005 to 2018.

Long standing hate

Donald Trump always hated street merchants. He tried to drive out disabled veterans from selling near Trump Tower on Manhattan's posh Fifth Avenue.

GIs can be saluted, paraded and buried after they come home from another war for Big Oil. But cops are to be sicced on them when they try to earn a living.

The New York Times — now an opponent of Trump — also demanded the vets' removal in a 1991 editorial. The Times lamented that "merchandisers of cut-rate ties, scarves, jewelry, counterfeit Rolexes, Bart Simpson T-shirts and other cheap goods have recruited a sales force of disabled veterans."

Why didn't the newspaper try to recruit veterans for decent-paying jobs? Over the past 60 years, nearly 900,000 manufacturing jobs in New York City have been destroyed.

Along Junction Boulevard in Queens, N.Y., this writer hasn't found any "counterfeit Rolexes" or, horror of horrors, "Bart Simpson T-shirts" for sale. Instead, winter clothing, housewares and plenty of tasty food, including pupusas, are being offered.

It wasn't any different a centu-



PHOTO: SAM BLOCH / THE COUNTER

Street vendors march across Brooklyn Bridge to protest police harassment and demand COVID relief in New York City, Nov. 12.

ry ago in Manhattan's Lower East Side — today's Loisaida — with the exception of knishes being sold. Streets were filled with pushcarts operated by Jewish and Italian poor people trying to survive.

Police fired 41 shots at Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4, 1999, murdering the unarmed immigrant from Guinea. Right-wing commentator Heather Mac Donald dismissed the African victim as "a peddler of bootlegged videos and tube socks."

Does selling tube socks deserve the death penalty? For displaying a complete lack of humanity, Mac Donald has become a fixture at the anti-union Manhattan Institute.

Hilter didn't like peddlers, either. Nazis targeted Jewish peddlers to divert people's hatred away from big capitalists like the Krupps.

Landlords want to get rid of street merchants because they don't collect rent from them. The same goes for the banks that own the landlords' mortgages.

It's Amazon, not street merchants, that is ruining thousands of retail stores. It's owner Jeff Bezos, with his \$186 billion fortune, who's responsible for emptying out the shopping centers.

What do you have to sell?

In a capitalist society like the U.S., everybody has to sell something. For the vast majority of the population, this means selling one's ability to perform labor.

Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism, called this ability "labor power." Skilled labor is compounded simpler labor.

Capitalism couldn't exist if everyone was "their own boss." The capitalists need you to work for them.

Andrew Carnegie wanted his tombstone to read, "Here lies a man who knew how to get other men to work for him." Tens of thousands of "other men" worked in Carnegie's steel mills 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

It took centuries in Western Europe to force people to work for capitalists. They had to be cut off from their means of sustenance.

The reason there's been no Brit-

ish king named Henry since the 1500s wasn't because Henry VIII had six wives. It's because this tyrant hanged 72,000 homeless people, who were called "vagabonds."

Rudy Giuliani would have been one of Henry's lawyers.

British colonizers forced Africans to work for them by violence and imposing taxes. It was the African Holocaust that supplied the U.S. with the enslaved labor that produced most of the country's exports until the Civil War.

Millions of farmers in the U.S., including sharecroppers, have been driven off the land since the Great Depression. But not everybody could find a job.

That includes activists who were put on "do not hire" lists. Martin Irons, a leader of a 1886 railroad strike, was forced to sell peanuts on the streets of St. Louis to survive. The Black communist organizer Hosea Hudson had to sell shaving goods during the 1950s anti-communist witchhunt.

The tens of millions who sell their labor power to capitalists and the millions of people who are forced to sell on the streets are natural allies.

Defending street merchants goes hand-in-hand with fighting police terror. It's part of the same struggle as fighting for health care and unemployment compensation during the coronavirus crisis. [u](#)

MOONANUM JAMES ¡PRESENTE!



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Moonanum James, co-leader of United American Indians of New England.

Struggle-La Lucha newspaper and the Socialist Unity Party mourn the passing of Indigenous leader and activist Roland (Moonanum) James. We extend our sympathy and solidarity to his family, friends and community.

"Moonanum James died last night at age 70. Proud Aquinnah Wampanoag man, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, a powerful speaker, talented musician, anti-war Navy vet, sworn enemy of the pilgrims, fighter for justice, and father of Ben, Kisha and Womsikuk. Thank you to VA hospital staff who were very kind and took good care of him," wrote UAINE co-leader Mahtowin Munro on Dec. 5.

James was well known and respected as an organizer of the annual National Day of Mourning observance and march in Plymouth, Mass., on the U.S. "Thanksgiving" holiday, begun by his father Wamsutta Frank James more than five decades ago. NDOM honors the survival and continuing struggle of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and worldwide against colonialism and capitalism.

Read Moonanum James' talk at the 50th National Day of Mourning in 2019, 'The Thanksgiving myth celebrates genocide': [Tinyurl.com/y5cl9j2k](https://tinyurl.com/y5cl9j2k)

Please consider making a contribution to UAINE's 2020-2021 Fundraiser: [Tinyurl.com/yxvjr3dr](https://tinyurl.com/yxvjr3dr)
Moonanum James, ¡presente!

What's behind the certification fight in Michigan

By Cheryl LaBash

Detroit — On Monday, Nov. 23, the Michigan Board of Canvassers met to certify the votes from the Nov. 3 elections, a necessary step to complete the archaic U.S. Electoral College process. Eyes have been on Michigan throughout the election and after, targeted by the Trump regime's efforts to overturn the election results. This is the backstory to that struggle.

Focusing on the question, "Will the Michigan Board of Canvassers certify or won't they?" obscures the roots and role of the Black freedom struggle in this battle, and the struggle of all oppressed nations inside the U.S. in this election.

The MAGA theme present since before the 2016 election is a not-so-thinly-veiled synonym for "make America white again." The campaign to disenfranchise, to nullify the votes of Detroiters is as much a part of that campaign as the brutal treatment of migrant families and asylum seekers at the border with Mexico as well as the Muslim ban, or sending body bags to the Navajo nation when they requested PPE.

What are Detroiters to think when accused of "dead" peoplevoting? How many deaths were suffered when the unchecked pandemic swept through the city's Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities? The traumatized community publicly mourned the dead in a citywide public memorial event with huge remembrance photographs displayed throughout Belle Isle Park.

Knowing the disproportionate deaths among communities of color, Trump embraced the fallacy of "herd immunity," accepting the deaths that would come. Genocide? Urban removal through pandemic?

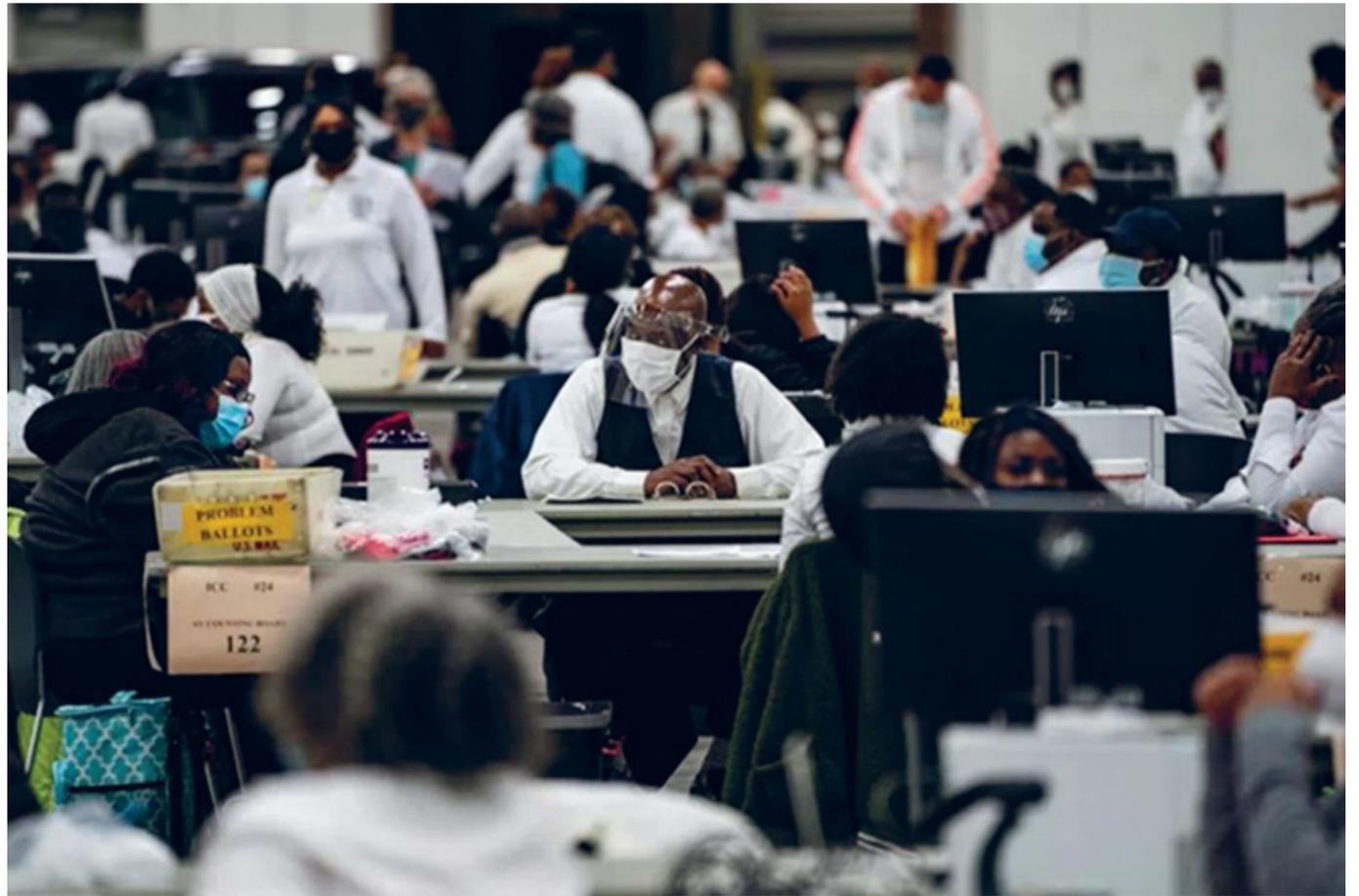
Detroit is the largest city in the state of Michigan. Although the population declined after the auto industry abandoned the city, Detroit remains the major U.S. city with the highest percentage of residents of African descent, still 80 percent or more.

Detroit has worn a target since Black workers were decisive in the fight to unionize the auto industry, were a militant force on the shop floor with the League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, and won a Black political voice with the election of Coleman Young and left-wing militants like Ken Cockrel Sr.

These political figures resulted from and were lifted by the mass rebellions against police repression and racism that are now, at last, widely recognized as being intertwined with the very foundation of the U.S.

Cockrel, later elected to the Detroit City Council, famously put Chrysler racism on trial in the successful 1970 defense of Black autoworker James Johnson, who had killed two foremen and a job setter at the plant.

Similar to what Cuba has endured, Black Detroit had to pay for its rebelliousness and struggle for self-determination with decades of economic exclusion and financial blockade. The city corporation itself as well as residents were cut off from



Election workers in Detroit prepare to begin processing ballots on November 3, 2020.

loans and financing, or when not cut off had to pay higher rates.

Neoliberalism hits home

A fundamental of capitalist economics is the exploitation of the majority of people by a small handful who gain wealth and wield political power. With the defeat of the Soviet Union and the end of the "Cold War," neoliberalism's war against the working class became unchecked.

A universal right-to-vote would make capitalist rule more difficult and could get in the way of forcing concessions on the "free" working class. So roadblocks and barriers to universal suffrage were invented: poll taxes and so-called "literacy tests" to prevent Black voters in Southern states from exercising that right, backed up by terror and night riders.

Then in recent times, voter ID laws and the "cleansing" of voter rolls were measures added to existing barriers preventing participation in the elections: holding voting on a work day, limits to mail-in voting, excluding formerly incarcerated people, confusing deadlines for voter registration, and drawing districts after the 10-year census to keep neoliberal politicians in control of state legislatures.

Further, destroying the organized labor movement was on the neoliberal to-do list. In 2011, a law was being pushed through the Wisconsin state legislature that would require annual membership votes to maintain certification for public workers' unions. Media reports called it the "Wisconsin Budget Repair" bill. The law pushed the budget crisis — a result of the 2007–2008 "Great Recession" — into the pocketbooks of the working class in government jobs.

Wisconsin originated public employee unions. What is now called the Wisconsin State Employees Union/Council 24 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was formed in Madison, Wis., in 1932. Workers

in Wisconsin were the first in the country to win full recognition of union collective bargaining rights for public workers. That was in 1959.

From Wisconsin to Michigan

In February 2011, a mass mobilization was initiated by Wisconsin teachers to occupy the state capital with mass marches on the weekends to oppose the "budget repair" bill. The marches drew as many as 100,000 workers. This writer joined in those actions in Madison.

A Michigan reporter who was also there asked me, a Detroit city worker retiree, why I was in Madison. I told her that if we didn't stop this steamroller in Wisconsin, it would be in Michigan soon.

In fact, the very next month, March 16, 2011, in Michigan, the Emergency Manager Law Public Act 4 was enacted by the same kind of pro-business, gerrymandered legislature, giving the governor the power to "declare the city or school board in receivership and appoint an emergency manager to act for and in the place and stead of the governing body ... of the local government."

In response, a massive mobilization based in the labor movement collected more than 400,000 signatures to put that law — a weapon aimed against Detroit — to a vote of the people. At the next presidential election, Nov. 7, 2012, PA4 was overwhelmingly repealed by the voters of Michigan.

Then the coup began. The lame-duck legislature passed the Emergency Manager bill again on Dec. 26, but with a clause that protected it from repeal by the voters, effective March 28, 2013. Just two weeks earlier, on Dec. 11, 2012, that same legislature struck a blow against the heart and origin of the industrial union movement by enacting a so-called right-to-work, anti-union law — in the home state of the United Auto Workers and the Flint sit-down strike.

The Emergency Manager Law was

aimed at Detroit, Flint and Benton Harbor. Detroit is still the largest city in Michigan, a Black and Latinx working-class center that controlled the water supply for all southeastern Michigan, held the gateway to Canada, owned the stellar Detroit Institute of Arts collections and sat on a prime location on the Detroit River, the waterway connecting the Great Lakes, not to mention billions in accumulated city workers pension funds under control of the city administration.

In the face of the racist ruling-class financial blockade and redlining, the pension fund provided a development lifeline for Black city administrations. Limited only to solutions within the capitalist system, the city administration couldn't go forward, caught between the needs and demands of the people and an economic and political system designed to exploit the working class. Responsive to community pressure to say "No," the city's elected officials refused to go along with sweeping privatization proposals.

When the Detroit city administration proposed in the late 1970s to close Detroit General, a public hospital, a mobilization opposed the closing, including sit-ins and arrests at City Hall. Detroit General was transferred and renamed Detroit Receiving in 1980, with the promise that it would remain a public facility; that promise held for 30 years.

Current Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan was CEO of the Detroit Medical Center when it was sold in 2010. Today it is part of the for-profit Tenet Healthcare. By 2013, the Detroit Health Department and the Herman Kiefer Health Complex became collateral damage. The Detroit Health Department was completely dismantled except for the few legally required health officials. All other services went to private nonprofits.

The early days of the COVID-19 pandemic could have been less

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

deadly if robust public health services had remained intact.

On March 14, 2013 — even before the Emergency Manager law went into effect officially on March 28 — the Emergency Financial Manager took over Detroit. By July 18, 2013, the city of Detroit was forced into bankruptcy.

Fight against bankruptcy

Emergency management dictatorships stripped elected representation from more than half of Michigan's Black residents in Detroit, Benton Harbor and Flint. In Detroit, the bankruptcy was fought in the courts and in the streets, closing the road in front of Federal Court. In Benton Harbor, community activist the Rev. Edward Pinkney was railroaded to jail. Every step of the way, resistance and protest called out the robbery by the Wall Street bankers.

But the biggest headline crime was against the people of Flint, home of the sit-down strike in 1937. To cut costs, Flint's emergency financial manager in collusion with then-Gov. Rick Snyder transferred the public water supply from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department system to the Flint River, an industrial waste dump.

An outcry began about smelly, discolored water flowing from residential faucets. Ridicule was heaped on the people who protested. They were accused of making up stories, until Flint pediatrician Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha blew the whistle on the massive lead poisoning of Flint's children. State officials, including Gov. Snyder, escaped accountability for this crime and the fight continues for reparations and replacement of water pipes.

The Emergency Manager Law couldn't be repealed, but the struggle isn't over.

In 2018, the Michigan Constitution was amended by two initiative petitions to democratize voting in Michigan — each submitting more than 420,000 signatures. Proposal 2: "People not Politicians" took redistricting out of the hands of the neoliberal state legislature. Proposal 3: "Promote the Vote" granted that anyone who had not been convicted of a crime and as a result was in jail could register and vote.

Also provided were automatic and same-day registration, early voting, mail-in ballots without reason, and in 2020, satellite voting stations across Detroit, plus drop boxes for mail-in ballots for those worried about the post office cutbacks. Voting has never been so easy.

The struggle in Wisconsin was diverted into gathering signatures to recall Gov. Scott Walker. The recall vote failed when the Democratic Party ran the same candidate against Walker instead of the militant leaders of the mass protests.

This is the backstory to the fight to have the 2020 election certified. Detroit has fought for the right to vote and will not give it up to slick maneuvers.

Three hundred people logged on to the Wayne County Board of Canvassers zoom meeting making their voices heard. Hundreds more testified at the State Board of Canvassers meeting on Monday, Nov. 23, speaking for hours even after the Canvassers certified the Michigan election with 3 out of 4 voting for certification with one abstention. [📄](#)

The 'deep state' is the real state

By Stephen Millies

Is there a "deep state" that's conspiring against Trump? Retired three-star Army Gen. Michael Flynn seems to think so.

The brass hat posted a video on Twitter in July using slogans from the ultraright QAnon movement. This cult believes satan-worshipping members of a "deep state" inside the government are trying to overthrow Trump.

But who is more "deep state" than Flynn, Trump's first national security advisor? Flynn was director of the Defense Intelligence Agency from 2012 to 2014.

The DIA is just one of at least 17 spy agencies within the U.S. government. Whistleblower Edward Snowden exposed how the National Security Agency snoops on everybody's social media using its PRISM program.

These spy agencies spend \$85 billion plus per year to spread misery and violence all over the earth. The CIA overthrew the democratically elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende, on Sept. 11, 1973. More people were killed in this bloody military coup than died in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001 (9/11!).

It was the CIA and Pentagon that conducted regime change in Dallas in 1963 by killing President John F. Kennedy.

In 1968, the deep state had the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated. At the time, Dr. King was supporting a strike of Memphis, Tenn., sanitation workers, who were government employees.

Millions of federal, state and local workers teach children, clean streets, work inside hospitals and perform many other necessary tasks. All of them are considered roadkill by the billionaire class.

This was shown during the U.S. government shutdown in 2013 that



Trump ordered assassination of anti-racist activist Michael Reinhoel by the real 'deep state.'

lasted 16 days. Hundreds of thousands of workers, many of them Black, were laid off.

Mothers who wanted to apply for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutrition program couldn't do so. Dow Chemical wasn't sorry that 90% of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board employees were let go.

But none of the concentration camps that incarcerated migrant children were closed. The U.S. Air Force kept bombing Afghanistan. The real state never even slowed down.

Organized violence

The capitalist state isn't about helping people with Social Security or food programs. It's cops, jails, brutality and death.

Frederick Engels — who with his friend Karl Marx founded scientific socialism — described this real state as "bodies of armed men." Every regime of rich exploiters needs organized violence to suppress the poor and working majority.

That wasn't the case with Indigenous peoples like the Iroquois whose lands were stolen by Euro-

pean invaders. There were no rich or poor in these communities. Armed goons with badges weren't required to keep a small, wealthy minority in power.

The deep state is just an extension of the police who kill an average of three people every day in the U.S.

Trump ordered U.S. Marshals belonging to the deep state to assassinate the anti-racist activist Michael Reinhoel on Sept. 3. Trump bragged at a rally: "They knew who he was. They didn't want to arrest him. Fifteen minutes, that ended."

Thirty-seven shots were fired at Reinhoel. That's the tyranny of a police state. It's applauded by the QAnon followers.

Yes, there is a deep state with its members worshipping the dollar, not Satan. Michael Flynn is part of it.

On Dec 1, Flynn tweeted his support for the fascist group We The People. They're calling for martial law to be imposed, the Constitution suspended and a new presidential election held, to be conducted by the military.

Trump wanted to call out the troops on June 1 to crush the Black Lives Matter movement. Generals in the deep state hesitated to follow Trump because they feared that rank-and-file GIs wouldn't follow the police state orders.

Trump is now trying to organize a more successful coup to overturn the election. He wants the deep state to organize it and five Supreme Court justices to bless it. The fools in QAnon and We The People are just extras in this plot, like on a movie set.

Eighty-one million people voted against racism and Trump. The power of the people needs to be ready to stop the real deep state and evict Trump from the White House. [📄](#)

A two-day COVID tidal wave in the U.S.

By Stephen Millies

In just the first two days of December, an estimated 5,495 people died of the coronavirus in the capitalist United States.

That's 690 more deaths than the total number of people who have died of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic in the following socialist countries: People's Republic of China (4,634 deaths); Socialist Republic of Vietnam (35 deaths); and the Republic of Cuba (136 deaths).

The population of these three socialist countries is an estimated 1.548 billion people or almost five times the population of the United States. Yet they've suffered less than 2 percent



of the estimated 274,762 deaths from COVID-19 in the U.S. as of Dec. 3.

On a per capita basis, the difference in the death rate between the

capitalist U.S. and the rates in these three socialist countries is 267 times. Why is that so?

One reason is that socialist countries don't close hospitals because they're losing money. Under socialism, medical care is for people not for profit.

Just in New York City, both St. John's Hospital in Queens and St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village were recently closed and turned into luxury housing. The Jersey City Medical Center with a thousand beds was converted over 20 years ago.

Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia with 400 beds was also shut down and is being turned into luxury apartments. These beds are desperately needed now.

The coming months may see even higher numbers of COVID deaths in the United States. Black, Indigenous and Latinx people are at least twice as likely to die.

This ongoing tragedy didn't have to happen. It's how capitalism functions. COVID-19 is another reason we need a socialist revolution. [📄](#)



The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

by Stephen Millies SLL articles include:

- Bombings greet the Great Migration • What did the unions do?
- Communists fight racism and evictions • A city of struggle
- Chicago Mayor Daley's racist machine • Never forget Fred Hampton
- The people put Harold Washington in City Hall

Available in a pamphlet form at tinyurl.com/1919chicago

Indian workers and farmers unite, besiege far-right government

By Greg Butterfield

A political and class struggle of historic proportions is taking place in India, the world's second most populous country. U.S. corporate media have treated it as invisible.

For the second time in less than a year, more than 250 million Indian workers joined a general strike on Nov. 26, shutting down much of this huge, multinational Asian country. According to the alliance of 10 trade union centers that called the strike, it was even larger than the one on Jan. 8, 2020 — the largest strike in human history.

Of tremendous significance for an oppressed country that combines giant industrial cities and huge swaths of agricultural land, this new workers' action linked arms with India's poor farmers — who today are besieging the capital of Delhi from all sides to demand that the far-right, U.S.-backed government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi withdraw three new laws aimed at speeding up the privatization of agriculture and eroding the rights of peasants and agricultural workers.

The fear instilled in the Modi government by the emergence of this worker-peasant alliance was reflected in the brutal repression deployed against strikers across the country — especially the farmers and allies who marched on the capital. Riot police dug trenches, fired tear gas and other chemical agents, sprayed water cannons and beat protesters with truncheons.

But to no avail. The marchers broke through each police blockade until they reached the borders of the Delhi Union Territory. (Like Washington, D.C., the Indian capital has a separate status from the surrounding states.) And there the farmers have remained, for five days and counting.

In other states, workers and farmers blockaded highways and railways. They shut down scab operations that tried to defy the strike call. Though peaceful, in many areas they fought back when attacked by the cops.



Indian farmers and allies confront police violence on the outskirts of Delhi, Nov. 26.

The strike even reached the majority Muslim region of Jammu and Kashmir, which has spent more than a year under veritable martial law imposed by the chauvinist regime in Delhi.

Strikers' demands

India's impoverished workers and farmers have been hard hit by the global capitalist economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment has soared to 27 percent, while the gross domestic product has collapsed by nearly 24 percent.

As reported by Proletarian Era on Nov. 1, "India has ranked 94 among 107 nations in the Global Hunger Index 2020 and is in the 'serious' hunger category. Experts have blamed poor implementation processes, lack of effective monitoring, a siloed approach in tackling malnutrition and poor performance by large states." The conclusion: "Malnutrition is endemic in India."

Since Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party took control of India's national government in 2014, it has imposed a growing list of austerity and privatization measures while slamming civil rights, especially targeting women, Muslims, migrants and Indigenous communities. Modi is part of the global far-right trend that includes figures like Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and, of course, U.S. President Donald Trump.

"It was the tens of millions of migrant workers who had to suffer as the Modi government announced the [COVID] lockdown abruptly. In the name of the pandemic and lockdown almost all the employers have cut the number of workers drastically. In spite

of court orders against it, a 12-hour working day is imposed by most managements," according to a statement by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Red Star.

For the Nov. 26 all-India strike, the alliance of union centers — many affiliated with the country's diverse leftist parties — issued seven main demands:

- Cash aid of Rs7,500 per month (roughly \$100) for all unemployed households;
 - 10 kg of free food monthly to all needy people;
 - Expansion of the National Rural Employment Act to provide 200 days' work per year in rural areas at enhanced wages; extension of employment guarantee to urban areas;
 - Withdraw all anti-farmer laws and anti-worker labor codes;
 - Stop privatization of the public sector, including the financial sector, and stop corporatization of government-run manufacturing and service entities like railways, ordnance factories and ports;
 - Withdraw the circular on forced early retirement of government and public sector employees;
 - Scrap the current privatized National Pension Service and provide adequate pensions for all.
- "Hundreds of our party workers have been arrested in different states along with workers of other organizations," said Provas Ghosh, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist). "We demand their immediate release."

96,000 tractors, 12 million farmers

Some 12 million farmers began marching early in the week from northern Indian states near the capital. They were joined by delegations of farmers throughout the country, as well as workers, students, and women's and other people's organizations. An estimated 96,000 tractors provided symbolic strength to the massive march.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh (Farmers' Struggle) Coordination

Committee (AIKSCC), a coalition of over 200 farmers' groups, declared it "the longest march in the history of Planet Earth."

It included a convoy of 10,000 women farmers from the state of Punjab. Its leader, Harinder Bindu from Bhatinda, has been a farmer for 30 years. She was interviewed by the Indian web publication The Wire:

"The large number of women protesters has been a noteworthy aspect of the farmers' march to Delhi. Bindu feels that the time is ripe for women to come out in large numbers now. She, like others, has brought along cooking essentials and rations to last them for the length of the protest.

"The three laws brought by the Modi government will impact women in a very different way," said Bindu. She says that even though all Indians will be affected adversely by these three laws, women need to raise their voices more because the kitchen, which is considered their department, will come to a 'halt with this law.'

"If the farmers are affected, they will not be able to earn enough money to sustain their households. This will impact women as they will have to control the portions of meals that they cook," she says, adding that children will also be affected ultimately.

"This is not all. She says that when farms stop generating enough income, women will have to go out to work in areas where there are no guarantees for their safety."

During a Nov. 30 press conference, farmers' union leaders vowed that protesters will keep sitting at the borders of Delhi until the government revokes the farm laws.

Two representatives of the transport workers' unions joined the news conference. They announced: "All taxis, buses, trucks will be put on halt. We will go on strike and let nothing run in Delhi."

"The workers and peasants will not rest till the disastrous and disruptive policies of the BJP government are reversed," said Tapan Sen, general secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions. "The strike today is only a beginning. Much more intense struggles will be following." 📌

Trump wants Iran's oil and gas off market for benefit of U.S. corporations

U.S. President Donald Trump's pursuit of confrontation with Iran is about keeping its oil and gas off the market for the benefit of U.S. oil corporations, a U.S. political analyst has said.

Bill Dores, a writer for Struggle-La Lucha and longtime antiwar activist, made the remarks in an interview with Press TV on Nov. 10 while commenting on the statement of European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who said the United States needs to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The European official also called for Iran to resume its full compliance with the nuclear accord.

"We need to find a way for the U.S. to rejoin the Iran nuclear deal, and

for Iran to come back into full compliance. The nuclear deal is still assessed as a landmark of successful diplomacy ... We are proud of it as the biggest success of our diplomatic capacity," Borrell told a GLOBSEC webinar on Tuesday.

"First of all, the Trump regime's opposition to the JCPOA, and its pursuit of confrontation with Iran, is not about Iran's nuclear energy program, which everyone knows is peaceful. It's about keeping Iran's oil and gas off the market for the benefit of U.S. oil corporations, monopolies, in particular the fracking interests in the United States who are behind the Trump regime. They are desperate for confrontation, even war with Iran," Dores said.

"From the point of view of Europe that would be a disaster. The United States has long used its control of the energy resources of West Asia and North Africa and its ability to use war to disrupt the flow of energy as leverage over Europe. And most of the West European countries or EU countries don't have oil. They don't have gas. They want oil and gas at the cheapest prices. And they need trade. They don't want to be at the mercy of U.S. oil monopolies anymore," he added.

"And so this creates a conflict of interest in the U.S. corporate establishment as well. It will be a conflict of interest in the incoming Biden administration. There are different factions, those who may benefit at

the moment from relaxing sanctions, and those who, like the Trump regime, are working with Israel to not only keep sanctions in place but actually escalate to war, as we can see with the murder of Dr. Fakhri-zadeh," he stated.

In May 2018, Trump withdrew Washington from the JCPOA, and since then, he has been piling sanctions on Iran as part of his administration's so-called maximum pressure campaign.

In response to the U.S.'s unilateral move and Europe's failure to help Iran take advantage of economic benefits of the deal, Tehran rowed back on its nuclear commitments five times in compliance with Arti-

Continued on page 7

National Assembly elections in Venezuela: A blow to regime change

By Leonardo Flores

Venezuela held legislative elections on December 6 and, as has become the norm, the U.S. and sectors of the opposition that boycotted the election are claiming fraud without presenting evidence. The coalition of parties supporting President Maduro won 68% of the vote and a supermajority in the National Assembly. All the evidence suggests the elections were free and fair. However, turnout was only 31%, a participation rate that was hampered by a partial opposition boycott of the election.

This call to abstain was made by Juan Guaidó and his allies, but a different faction of the opposition participated fully. In the past three years, this faction of the opposition has taken a moderate stance that involves engaging in dialogue and participating in elections. The moderates accepted the election's results, called for reflection and strongly criticized the call for a boycott.

The Trump administration spent the last several months attempting to sabotage Venezuela's elections by characterizing them as a "sham" and sanctioning some of these moderates. Yet now that the vote took place, there is no evidence of irregularities. Claiming that elections are fraudulent before they're even held – and insisting that fraud occurred in the face of overwhelming evidence against such a claim – is a specialty of the Trump administration.

The U.S. government repeatedly said that there were "no conditions" for free and fair elections, but the condition it sought to impose was the resignation of President Maduro. Unsurprisingly, the European Union, the Lima Group (an ad hoc set of Latin American countries pushing for regime change in Venezuela) and the corporate media followed the State Department's lead, attempting to delegitimize what is likely one of the most fraud-proof electoral processes in the world. In contrast, observers on the ground, including the Latin American Council of Electoral Experts, underscored the election's compliance with international standards.

Continued from page 6

cles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA.

As the Europeans continued to fail to put their verbal support for the deal into action, the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) passed a law last week to protect Iran's interests against the Western sanctions.

Under the law, the Tehran administration is required to halt UN inspections of its nuclear sites and step up uranium enrichment beyond the limit set under Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal if sanctions are not eased in two months.

The Islamic Republic has, however, stressed that its retaliatory measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the mutual trade from the U.S. sanctions or if the U.S. decides to return to the JCPOA unconditionally and compensate for the economic losses Tehran suffered due to its abrupt pullout.

Source: Press TV



Left, International observers of Venezuela election report on its fairness.

PHOTO: AVN

Below, Socialist campaign rally in Portuguesa, Venezuela.

PHOTO: PSUV

A secure electoral system

Back in 2012, Jimmy Carter called Venezuela's process "the best in the world." It's not hard to see why. Venezuela has electronic voting machines that print paper receipts. The machines are only unlocked when a voter's identity is verified by digital fingerprint scan and a spot-check of their national identity card. After voting on the machine (a simple process that can take as little as 10 seconds), it prints out a paper receipt so electors can verify that their vote was correctly recorded. The elector then places this receipt in a secure ballot box, and then signs and places a thumbprint on the voter roll.

After polls close, the digital vote count is compared to a random sampling of at least 54% of the ballot boxes (a figure that is higher than necessary to have a statistically significant result). It's a system with multiple redundancies that is backed by 16 different audits that must be signed off on by representatives of political parties.

In these elections, 14,000 candidates from 107 parties (97 of which oppose the Maduro government) ran for 277 seats. The choices ran the ideological spectrum from communists and socialists to evangelicals, Christian conservatives and neoliberals. Opposition candidates got air time on state television stations and took part in several debates.

The elections were monitored by 300 international observers from 34 countries, as well as over 1,000 national observers from political parties and social organizations. Teri Mattson, who observed two previous elections in Venezuela, led a CODEPINK observation delegation and described this year's elections as free and fair, and without fraud or tampering.

"Voting is easy, fast and secure: an incentive for all voters while also preventing long lines due to cumbersome ballots and voter procedures such as those seen in the U.S.," Mattson said.

Voter turnout

Of course, the low turnout is bound to raise eyebrows, yet it's important to place it into context. One factor that depressed participation is a gasoline shortage induced by U.S. sanctions, which made it difficult for some voters to travel to polls. Migration is another factor that artificially reduced turnout. Only citizens who currently reside in the country can vote in legislative elections, but most who left in recent years still appear on voter rolls as living in Venezuela.

A further factor is the pandemic.

Venezuela is doing significantly better than most countries in handling the coronavirus (3,694 cases per million population and 33 deaths per million population, versus 46,348 cases per million and 877 deaths per million in the U.S.). However, there's still enough fear of the virus that it serves as a disincentive to voting.

International comparisons should also be taken into account when analyzing the turnout. For example, parliamentary elections were also held Sunday in Romania, which had similarly low voter turnout (33%). Other countries have also had poor participation this year, including legislative elections in Egypt (28% turnout), Mali (35%), Jamaica (38%) and Jordan (30%), as well as municipal elections in Costa Rica (38%). Additionally, U.S. midterm elections typically feature 40% voter turnout (it's not an apples-to-apples comparison, as virtually all eligible voters are registered in Venezuela, which is not the case in the U.S.). None of these elections are less legitimate for their low participation, and neither is Venezuela's.

The failed strategy of boycotts

Clearly, a significant factor in reduced turnout was the extremist opposition's call for a boycott. This tactic of boycotting elections has been used by the opposition in the past, including in the 2005 legislative elections, the 2017 national constituent assembly elections, the 2017 municipal elections (partial boycott) and the 2018 presidential elections (partial boycott).

However, at no point has boycotting elections helped them in any way. So why do the extremists keep engaging in a failed tactic? After all, the opposition routinely claims (again, offering no evidence) that 80% of the population disapproves of the Maduro administration; it doesn't make sense to cede ground when there's the possibility of winning.

One explanation is that they were afraid of losing. In the last elections that featured full participation, the 2017 gubernatorial elections, the opposition ended up losing in 19 of 23 states. It's not clear that they would have won this time around, particularly as a significant percentage of their base has migrated in recent years. A loss would have destroyed once and for all the fiction of Juan Guaidó being the so-called interim president (his "claim" to the presidency is based on his being a legislator in the current National Assembly). Better to not run than run and lose.



Another explanation is that a boycott was part of the Trump administration's maximum pressure campaign, which involves ongoing attempts to delegitimize Venezuela's democratic credentials. This strategy was threatened when the moderate opposition engaged in dialogue and announced they were running in the elections. The Trump administration quickly denounced them as "complicit" with and "puppets" of the Maduro government, before sanctioning several of those leaders.

The U.S. got the European Union on board with this plan as well. In January, the EU sanctioned three moderate opposition figures for "acting against the National Assembly's democratic functioning" after they were elected to leadership positions in the legislature, replacing Juan Guaidó and two of his allies.

More recently, the EU refused the calls from two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles to monitor the elections. Capriles said his participation was contingent upon EU monitoring, which didn't occur because the EU claimed it did not have enough time to prepare a delegation. This was back in September, three months before the vote. After the elections, the EU had the gall to criticize the Venezuelan government for failing "to mobilize the Venezuelan people to participate."

In practical terms, higher turnout may have opened the doors for negotiations between the U.S. and the moderate opposition, but that possibility now seems less likely. Other than that, the low turnout is not going to have much impact on the ground in Venezuela.

The Maduro government will have a supermajority in the National Assembly for the next five years, which should help it develop measures to counter the economic sanctions. It's in a stronger position now than it was prior to the elections. After four years of sanctions, sabotaged industries, attempted coups, an assassination by drone attempt, a mercenary incursion and paramilitary attacks, among others, Venezuela managed to survive the Trump administration's maximum pressure.

The elections were carried out in complete tranquility. That is quite an achievement and puts to rest the magical thinking of the Trump administration and extreme opposition, which have spent years saying that regime change is just around the corner.

Source: Resumen

¡Condenemos el ataque terrorista y el asesinato del científico iraní Mohsen Fakriadeh!

Declaración del periódico Struggle-La Lucha y del Partido de Socialismo Unido

El Partido de Socialismo Unido y la publicación Struggle-La Lucha mandamos nuestras más profundas condolencias al pueblo iraní, al gobierno de la República Islámica de Irán y a la familia y seres queridos del científico Mohsen Fakrizadeh Mahabadi, asesinado en un ataque terrorista por agentes del gobierno de Israel. El régimen de Tel Aviv es una herramienta del imperialismo estadounidense, que proporciona miles de millones de dólares en ayuda financiera y militar para mantener a flote la ocupación israelí de Palestina.

Fakrizadeh se desempeñó como jefe de la Organización de Investigación e Innovación del Ministerio de Defensa. Esto lo convirtió en un objetivo importante para los servicios de inteligencia israelíes, que tienen un historial de asesinatos de científicos iraníes. Su asesinato se produce inmediatamente después del ilegal asesinato del estimado comandante del Cuerpo de la Guardia Revolucionaria Islámica Qassem Soleimani en enero, ordenado por el presidente de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump.

Lo que los medios estadounidenses ampliamente han ignorado es que el Dr. Fakrizadeh ayudó a desarrollar un kit de prueba COVID-19 producido localmente, un hecho que la ONU reconoció y aplaudió.

Esto es algo de gran importancia. Irán ha sufrido duras sanciones estadounidenses que le han impedido obtener ayuda médica crucial y otras necesidades durante la pandemia global. Como resultado, los niños están muriendo y las personas no pueden obtener la atención médica que antes se daba por sentada. Las sanciones son otra forma de guerra destinada a subyugar y destruir países soberanos.

Lo que está sucediendo no tiene que ver con el programa pacífico de



Funeral del científico iraní asesinado Mohsen Fakrizadeh en Teherán, el 30 de noviembre.

energía nuclear de Irán. La guerra continua contra Irán es parte de una estrategia más amplia para proteger las ganancias del petróleo y la energía de Estados Unidos a expensas del pueblo, tanto en EUA como en el exterior. En este momento, la industria del petróleo, el gas y el fracking está desesperada por evitar el colapso.

Lo que se necesita ahora no es continuar esta guerra contra el pueblo de Irán, sino tejer lazos de solidaridad mundial para luchar contra una crisis de salud que ha dejado casi 1,5 millones de muertos hasta ahora. Sólo en los Estados Unidos, que lidera el mundo en casos de COVID, al menos 267.000 personas han fallecido.

El vergonzoso y cobarde ataque contra el científico iraní Fakrizadeh y otras provocaciones de guerra, se producen en un momento en que la lucha para acabar con el flagelo del racismo y la violencia policial en Estados Unidos está lejos de terminar y cuando los trabajadores de todo el mundo capitalista se enfrentan a desalojos masivos, hambre y desempleo.

Hacemos un llamado al movimiento antiimperialista y contra la guerra, a los trabajadores y las organizaciones comunitarias en los Estados Unidos, a que se unan a nosotros para exigir:

Fin a la guerra de Estados Unidos e Israel contra Irán

Eliminar todas las sanciones y reparar los daños

Eliminar toda la ayuda al estado racista de Israel;

¡Boicot-Desinversión-Sanciones ya!

Fuera del "Oriente Medio" todas las tropas, barcos, aviones y espías de EUA

Regresen a EUA las Flotas V y VI.

Cerrar el Comando Central de EUA

Poner fin a todas las ventas de armas a Arabia Saudita.

Luchar contra el COVID y el racismo, no en guerras por ganancias petroleras

¡Dinero para estímulos y necesidades del pueblo, no para la guerra!

10 de diciembre 2020

Condemn terrorist attack and murder of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakriadeh!

Statement by Struggle-La Lucha newspaper and the Socialist Unity Party

The Socialist Unity Party and the publication Struggle-La Lucha send our deepest condolences to the Iranian people, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the family and loved ones of scientist Mohsen Fakrizadeh Mahabadi, murdered in a terrorist attack by agents of the Israeli government. The regime in Tel Aviv is a tool of U.S. imperialism, which provides billions of dollars in financial and military aid to keep the Israeli occupation of Palestine afloat.

Fakrizadeh served as the head of the Research and Innovation Organization of the Defense Ministry. This made him a major target for Israeli's intelligence services, who have a track record of killing Iranian scientists. His murder comes on the heels of the illegal assassination of beloved Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Commander Qassem Soleimani in January, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump.

What hasn't been publicized

widely by the U.S. media is that Dr. Fakrizadeh helped to develop a homegrown COVID-19 test kit, a fact that the United Nations recognized and applauded.

This is of incredible importance. Iran has suffered under harsh U.S. sanctions that have prevented it from getting crucial medical aid and other necessities during the global pandemic. As a result, children are dying and people are unable to get the medical care that was once taken for granted. Sanctions are another form of war meant to subjugate and destroy sovereign countries.

What is taking place is not about Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program. The continuing war on Iran is part of a broader strategy to protect U.S. oil and energy profits at the expense of the people, both at home and abroad. At this moment, the oil, gas and fracking industry is desperate to stave off collapse.

What is needed now is not to continue this war on the people of Iran,

but rather to build global solidarity to fight a health crisis that has left nearly 1.5 million people dead so far. In the United States alone, which leads the world in COVID cases, at least 267,000 people have perished.

The shameful and cowardly attack on Iran's scientist Fakrizadeh and other war provocations come at a time when the fight to end the scourge of racism and police violence in the U.S. is far from finished and when workers throughout the capitalist world are facing mass evictions, hunger and joblessness.

We call on the anti-imperialist and anti-war movement, on workers and community organizations in the U.S., to join us in demanding:

Stop the U.S./Israeli war on Iran

End all sanctions — Reparations for damages

End all aid to the racist state of Israel — Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions now

All U.S. troops, ships, planes and spies out of the 'Middle East'

Bring home the Fifth and Sixth Fleets. Shut down the U.S. Central Command

End all arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Fight COVID and racism, not wars for oil profits

Money for stimulus and people's needs, not war!

Dec. 1, 2020

STRUGGLE ★ **LA LUCHA**
for Socialism | por el Socialismo

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