

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



# Congress will do nothing for us without struggle

By Stephen Millies

Eighty-one million people voted last year against Trump and racism. For nearly 50 years, poor and working people have suffered from frozen wages and cutbacks.

People want action now. Yet Congress is failing to pass the modest "Build Back Better" bill. Here's some of what it includes:

▶ **Two years of free community college.**

All education should be free. Even in capitalist France and Germany students don't pay college tuition. A trillion dollars that's owed for student loans should be wiped off the books, too.

▶ **Expand Medicare to include dental care, vision and hearing. Increase Medicaid coverage.**

Healthcare is a human right! Who wants their grandparents to be unable to go to the dentist and get their teeth fixed? Or not able to get glasses or hearing aids?

Nobody has to pay to go to a hospital or clinic in socialist Cuba.

Rev. Martin Luther King declared that "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Medicaid would cover more poor people in a dozen states where they have been excluded from the program by reactionary state legislatures.

▶ **Cut prescription prices.**



In service of a racist system: Police killings uncounted 7

Congress is only considering Build Back Better legislation because 26 million people marched last year to declare Black Lives Matter.

The pharmaceutical outfits are thieves. Pfizer and Moderna made billions from their COVID-19 vaccines, which were subsidized by the U.S. government.

No one should have to choose between paying their rent and buying

food or purchasing medicines. Alec Smith died in Minnesota on June 27, 2017, because he couldn't afford insulin anymore.

The price of insulin in the U.S. costs ten times more than what it sells for

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## Thousands march to defend reproductive rights

By Struggle-La Lucha Los Angeles bureau

On Oct. 2, women's marches were held all across California. Los Angeles hosted the largest of those marches with thousands in **'Bans Off Our Bodies'** 6 to the attendance.

In an interview given at the march, Emiliana Guereca, president of Women's March Foundation and founder of the Women's March LA Foundation, which initiated the action here, said the movement has grown "into a really strong feminist movement for women, pro-choice ...

"This moment, Oct. 2 for us, represents standing in solidarity with our Texas sisters so that SB8 is struck down and does not happen in Mississippi, does not happen in Florida.

"Unless all of us women rise up to this occasion, we are not going to be able to stop it. And, I think we've got the momentum and we've got to take to the streets and fight," Guereca said.

At the rally, representatives from the Socialist Unity Party distributed a statement condemning the misogynistic, anti-working-class Texas abortion law. The SUP also made the point that the movement cannot depend on the Demo-

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Los Angeles

SLL PHOTO

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# SO LONG, COLUMBUS: Boston proclaims Indigenous Peoples Day

By United American Indians of New England

Oct. 6 – The Acting Mayor of Boston, Kim Janey, has today signed an Executive Order declaring that the second Monday in October will be Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Boston, replacing Columbus Day and setting out a roadmap for future administrations to improve relations with Indigenous tribes and organizations.

Boston Mayor Janey has listened to Indigenous people and taken action today. Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday in October is necessary to bring awareness of the true history of Columbus and to honor the Indigenous history of the Americas and Boston as well as the Indigenous Peoples who continue to live and work in and contribute to the City of Boston.

Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag remarked: “The people of the Massachusetts Tribe have been a part of what is now called Boston for over 10,000 years. For far too long, the Indigenous history of this place has been obscured, and frequently erased, by the histories, myths and priorities of the dominant culture.

“We are happy to see the City of Boston take the important step of recognizing and celebrating Indigenous peoples in Boston, the Americas and around the world. Many thanks to Mayor Janey and the many members of her administration who

worked with the Indigenous community to make this happen.”

Kimimilasha James, an Aquinah Wampanoag youth leader with United American Indians of New England (UAIN), said: “As someone who was born in Boston but never felt that Indigenous people were welcomed by the city government, I am very happy about Mayor Janey’s actions today. Indigenous Peoples Day brings a positive message about Indigenous survival and resilience in the face of genocidal actions directed against Indigenous peoples since 1492. It’s a day to learn about and celebrate Indigenous history and contemporary Indigenous peoples and cultures.

“And it is just a first step for the city to begin to build relationships with Indigenous people and begin to address the many injustices faced by Indigenous people here in Boston and elsewhere. It is time for us to stop being largely ignored and erased.”

Gloria Colon, outreach coordinator for the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), said: “As a First Nation Migmaw mother, I am pleased that the city of Boston is honoring Indigenous Peoples Day. Growing up in Dorchester I experienced racism, I was targeted just for being Indigenous. While our city still has work to do to make all people safe, it is important that Indigenous children are appreciated and included.”

Mahtowin Munro (Lakota) from

United American Indians of New England and the statewide Indigenous Peoples Day campaign (IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org) said, “We have been working for several years to get Boston to properly acknowledge and be in relationship with Indigenous nations and people here.”

She continued: “We wish to thank Mayor Janey and her staff for listening to the concerns of Indigenous people in the city and for her expressed commitment to Indigenous sovereignty and racial justice for Indigenous peoples in the Boston area. She and her staff have set an example as well by thoughtfully consulting and considering future steps that need to be taken by the city. We are elated that she has declared Oct. 11, 2021, to be Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Boston.”

Raquel Halsey, member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and executive director of NAICOB, said: “I’m so proud to have a mayor who listens to the community and works to make Boston an inclusive city. As a service provider, we have heard countless stories of Indigenous people feeling unwelcome in Boston, and they have felt the lasting consequences of genocide and colonialism every day.

“Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day is an important step toward addressing the lived experiences of many residents and building trust between municipalities and Indigenous nations.”

Jean-Luc Pierite, member of the

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, president of NAICOB and member of the executive committee of the Black Mass. Coalition, said: “We must commend the tribal leaders, Indigenous activists and the City of Boston’s internal working group for their dedication towards the action steps to enable the health and wellness of our community members. NAICOB, following our over 50-year tradition and commitment to the New England Native American community, looks forward to being a partner in ensuring improved government-to-government relationships.”

For decades, Indigenous people have been calling for an end to the public celebration of Christopher Columbus. They have also asked that Indigenous Peoples Day, a day to honor Indigenous peoples from throughout the Americas, replace Columbus Day on the second Monday in October because of the date’s significance. They consider it a first step toward recognizing the genocide of millions of Indigenous people and the theft of their lands that began with the arrival of Columbus. It is a meaningful symbolic gesture in addressing the pain caused to Native Peoples by the many years of public celebrations of Columbus as a hero.

An increasing number of towns, cities and states around the U.S. are now celebrating Indigenous peoples instead of Columbus on this day.

Mayor Janey also acknowledged that Boston is located on the land of the Massachusetts Tribe. 📍

## Shinnecock people fight for land in playground of 1%

By Zola Fish

Before Europeans arrived, the Shinnecock people occupied a 146-mile ancestral territory, which included oceanfront, bays, sounds, marshes, creeks, salt meadows, forests and grasslands, in what is now called Long Island, N.Y.

The Shinnecock world began to change in 1640, when village leaders permitted English colonists to share a portion of their lands in exchange for 60 cloth coats, 60 bushels of corn and the promise of military protection.

The English considered the agreement a land sale, memorializing it in a “deed” that transferred to themselves a swath of Indigenous territory upon which they established Southampton.

The land appropriation continued in 1703, when the nation relinquished territory to Southampton in return for a 1,000-year lease of 3,500 acres. This included the Shinnecock Hills, now home of the ultra-exclusive Shinnecock Hills Golf Club.

And in 1859, the New York legislature approved a shady deal that abrogated the 1703 lease, returned the Shinnecock Hills to Southampton and restored the peninsula known as Shinnecock Neck to the tribe. The transaction, long considered fraudulent by the Shinnecock, reduced the tribe’s land base to its present size — approximately 800 acres for 1,200



In January 2020, members of the Shinnecock nation protested outside a construction site on Montauk Highway in Southampton, N.Y.

enrolled members.

Increasingly bereft of land, Shinnecock tribal members were forced to find employment in the colonial economy. Women became domestic servants in non-Native households, and men worked as farm laborers and as whalers who harvested their quarry close to shore. (Shinnecock means “people of the shore.”)

Later, the tribe had to fight to stop pollution and pesticides from killing off their main source of food, the sealife at their shorelines and all bodies of water. The settlers sprayed to kill mosquitos. But the fish ate the

mosquitos — no mosquitos, no fish, Natives starve.

The pollution got so bad that in 2012, hundreds of dead crabs washed ashore on Shinnecock land.

The Hamptons has become a playground for the 1%. Meanwhile 60%-70% of Shinnecock people live below the poverty level. Many celebrities live on Shinnecock land, including Anderson Cooper, Robert De Niro, Christie Brinkley, Alec Baldwin, Neil Patrick Harris, Beyonce and Jay Z, to name a few.

Traditionally, the Shinnecock were a fishing community and caught

scallops and clams. Heddy Creek was closed to them and they had to fight for fishing rights that were actually theirs by birthright. Now the fish that do swim the waters are undersized and the scallops and clams are hard to find as their numbers have dwindled.

The Shinnecock’s most recent struggle is an issue concerning the ancestors. The 1% continue to build on Shinnecock land. As they dig up ground for their swimming pools, they are unearthing entire skeletons. The wealthy see it as a land issue, while the Shinnecock see digging up ancestors as the worst thing a person can do.

Lawsuits are ongoing. The bottom line is that the Shinnecock deserve their land back.

The Shinnecock made a wonderful documentary titled “Conscience Point,” a moving look at their lives on the peninsula, by Treva Wurmfield (producer, writer, director and editor), Julianna Brannum (a Co-manche producer and documentary filmmaker) and Alli Hunter Joseph (a Shinnecock journalist and producer). This project is proof that women know how to make movies.

The struggle of the Shinnecock continues, fighting for the return of their ancestral land.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.



# Abuse of Indigenous children demands reparations, sovereignty

By Mahtowin Munro

From a talk given at an Orange Shirt Day 2021 commemoration in Boston on Sept. 30.

Orange Shirt Day has been commemorated in Canada since 2013, to honor the survivors and remember the children who never made it home from the Indian residential schools.

The Sept. 30 date was chosen because it is the time of year when children were forced to go into the residential schools. The orange shirt symbolism came about when Phyllis Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school in the 1970s, when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a 6-year-old girl as she was violently stripped of her clothing and belongings.

Today is also the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, although some provinces are refusing to honor it and there are too many Indigenous people saying they cannot even get the day off from work. Indigenous peoples have long been speaking the truth, and it is long overdue for settlers and newcomers to listen to that truth.

But honestly, there can be no reconciliation until reparations are made, Indigenous sovereignty is respected, Indigenous rights to consent and refuse are respected. Landback efforts and the right to decolonize need to be respected by Canada, a country that has still not changed its anti-Indigenous behavior or improved often deplorable conditions for Indigenous people, especially children. Apologies without actions do not mean anything.

More than 6,500 children have been found in unmarked graves on residential school grounds this year alone. They were not suddenly “discovered.” The survivors knew and testified about this. As children, some of the survivors were even forced to work on digging the graves.

One of the 2015 recommendations of the Canadian Truth & Reconciliation Commission was that Canada fund and help Indigenous communities identify graves at the residential schools and reclaim their lost children. But Canada did nothing.

At least 150,000 Indigenous children were placed in the Canadian Indian residential school system. Some people now are referring to them as Institutions of Assimilation and Genocide, since that was the intent of the programs. And schools should not have graves full of children either, should they?

## Genocide of Indigenous children

The residential schools were created to alienate Indigenous children from their communities, spiritualities, cultures, languages and homelands. This genocide of children was an overt effort to destroy Indigenous family systems and remove Indigenous peoples from their lands. Mounties would raid some communities to snatch up all the children and take them away.

In some schools, the children were not allowed to go home at all for years, and families were prevented from visiting them. Even preschool



PHOTO: RAQUEL HALSEY-ARBONA

Orange Shirt Day commemoration at the Federal Building in Boston, Sept. 30.

aged children were in these schools and died there. Children died of malnutrition, tuberculosis, heartbreak, abuse, medical experimentation and more. Families were often not even told that their child had died, and their bodies were often not brought home. All of this resulted in profound intergenerational trauma.

The number of school-related deaths in Canada remains unknown due to incomplete records. Estimates now range from several thousand to over 30,000. Indigenous communities are urgently trying to raise funds to bring in specialists to examine the land and find graves at residential schools.

Many of the schools were run by the Catholic Church. One of the demands today is that the Catholic Church and its prelates not only apologize, but release all of its records, hand over the priests and nuns who did this to children, pay reparations out of its vast wealth, and take concrete actions to repair relationships with Indigenous peoples.

It's only now, after this year's revelation of thousands of unmarked graves of children, that more Canadians are finally listening to what has happened to Indigenous people in North America. Even now, there remain some genocide deniers who tell Indigenous people to get over it.

## U.S. also stole children

Today is also a National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools.

Between 1869 and the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of Native American and Alaska Native children were removed from their homes and families and placed in boarding schools operated by the U.S. government and churches, including the Catholic Church and several Protestant denominations.

Though we don't know how many children were taken in total, by 1900 there were 20,000 children in Indian boarding schools, and by

1925 more than 60,000. The Native children who were removed from their homes, families and communities during this time were taken to schools sometimes thousands of miles away, where they were punished for speaking their native languages, stripped of traditional clothing and had their hair chopped off. They suffered physical, sexual, cultural and spiritual abuse, neglect and torture.

Many children never returned home and their fates have yet to be accounted for by the U.S. government, although U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has recently promised that there will be a thorough investigation.

Both countries also had a long history of removing Indigenous chil-

dren from their homes and placing them with white families to be adopted and assimilated and lose their ties to their communities, a practice that went on for decades and resulted in children we call “lost birds” because they grew up not knowing where they belong.

As a result, Indigenous people worked very hard to get laws such as the Indian Child Welfare Act passed so that this practice would end forever. Unfortunately, right-wing forces in recent

years have been trying to overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act so that more of our children will be stolen and adopted by whites, and the future of ICWA will soon be determined by the Supreme Court.

In both Canada and the U.S., Indigenous children are disproportionately taken from their families and put into foster care, at least four times more often than white kids. This has led some people to say that foster care has in effect become the new residential school system.

The writer is a leader of United American Indians of New England (UAINE), which hosts the annual National Day of Mourning commemoration in Plymouth, Mass., on the last Thursday of November. For more info, visit UAINE.org.

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.



51st Annual NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING  
Thursday, November 26, 2020  
12 Noon - Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock)  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Join us on our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores. Masks Up, Mayflowers Down!

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!  
We welcome all our relations crossed by the US border & ICE.

In 2020, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have substantial additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.

For More Information/Orientation:  
United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)  
[info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) [www.uaine.org](http://www.uaine.org) [facebook.com/groups/UAINEN](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINEN)  
Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/3PM7BiBfd>

Sorry, no pot-luck social this year due to COVID. Masks required!  
#MasksUpMayflowersDown #NDOM2020 #NoThanksNoGiving  
Donate via [gf.me/u/y2tjgg](https://gf.me/u/y2tjgg)



Union labor donated



# Wages cut by inflation: Building Back Better or return to austerity?

By Gary Wilson

Wages are being cut by inflation — the worst round of inflation in 30 years.

The dollar store is officially dead. Dollar Tree, the last of the big dollar-store chains selling items for \$1 or less, said on Sept. 28 that it was officially "breaking the buck." Today dollar stores are selling at \$10 or less, no longer devoted to \$1 items.

Personal income from all sources — wages, unemployment compensation, stimulus checks, Social Security benefits, etc. — when adjusted for inflation, fell in August.

Personal income should have grown as more workers got jobs, and wages increased for some jobs.

Congress and the Biden administration are locked in what almost seems like a game being played out for the TV cameras. The "Build Back Better" program promised by the Biden campaign had popular support. Already Democrats are talking about removing most of the plan's popular provisions. That'd mean a return to the austerity budgets of previous years.

In April, Biden proposed another 2% increase in the Pentagon budget, taking it up to \$753 billion for 2022; there was no opposition from the Democrats or Republicans.

Biden's "Build Back Better" plan before Congress is reported as being \$3.5 trillion, but if that's broken down into a single fiscal year amount — as is done with the Pentagon budget — then it is only \$350 billion, less than half of annual war spending.

## Inflation rate now as high as 13.5%

The most well-known inflation measure is the Consumer Price Index (CPI), produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) is produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In general, the CPI tends to report higher rates of inflation, which may be why the Federal Reserve prefers the PCE.

According to the Fed's preferred PCE measure, with food and ener-



The shipping industry was already limping and supply chains were disrupted before the pandemic.

gy included, inflation is at a rate of 4.8%. This is the highest PCE inflation measure since January 1991.

The CPI report of inflation for August put it at 5.3%.

The CPI and PCE reports are controversial and not universally accepted. On Wall Street, other measures are frequently used.

The CPI used to be determined by comparing the price of a fixed basket of goods and services spanning two different time periods. A few years ago that was changed to a cost-of-living index, a purposeful manipulation that allows the U.S. government to report a lower rate of inflation.

Business Insider reports that John Williams at Shadow Government Statistics says that the real inflation rate is now 13.5% and it is going to get higher. Williams uses the original CPI methodology based on a basket of goods and services.

In the spring, the Fed dismissed rising inflation as something that was "transitory," caused by bottlenecks and supply chain problems, that would be gone by the end of the year. Now the Fed is saying that "transitory" inflation will continue into late 2022.

On Sept. 29., Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a European Central Bank forum, "Inflation is high and well above target and yet there appears to be slack in the labor market," making an apparent reference to the 1970s "stagflation" that combined high unemployment (Powell calls that "slack") and fast-rising prices.

Today, employment is still more than 5 million jobs short of where it was before the pandemic.

Actually, the cause of inflation is not a quickie supply chain disruption that'll just go away, Powell seemed to admit.

"The current inflation spike is really a consequence of supply constraints meeting very strong demand, and that is all associated with the reopening of the economy, which is a process that will have a beginning, a middle and an end," he said.

## Fed handed out \$4.5 trillion

What is "very strong demand"? The Federal Reserve Bank handed out \$4.5 trillion over the last 18 months, along with short-term interest rates near 0% and long-term interest rates at record-low levels. The Fed's trillions are the source of the "demand," meaning spending, that Powell refers to.

The other part of the "demand" comes from Congress, which put out \$5 trillion over the past 18 months in forgivable small business PPP loans (over \$800 billion); funds sent to states to spend how they see fit; and bailouts for airlines and other big companies.

While some say that the inflation is "transitory" (over within the next year or so), other capitalist economists think it will be long term, such as Nouriel Roubini, professor of economics at New York University's Stern School of Business. He says that what's coming is 1970s-style "stagflation" — a situation in which the inflation rate is high, the economic growth rate is slow, and unemployment remains high.

## Trump's trade war against China

The focus on supply-chain disruption ignores the fact that the supply chain was already disrupted before the pandemic began, though the pandemic did add to the disruption in some areas.

Trump's MAGA trade war against China, which has been continued by Biden, had already created chaos in the supply chain. Tariffs raise prices and reduce availability of goods and services.

As Forbes noted: "Donald Trump's tariffs and the trade war his administration launched against China turned out to be far more damaging than many believed. ... The U.S. economy paid a heavy price for the Trump administration's protectionist trade policies."

Protectionist tariffs are inflationary; they increase prices as they keep out lower-priced foreign imports. Also, Trump's trade policy and his protectionist, anti-globalization policies hurt shipping. The shipping industry was already limping, and supply chains were disrupted before the pandemic.

## War spending and inflation

Sanctions are a form of economic warfare. In its hybrid wars against Iran and Venezuela, Washington has imposed sanctions against both countries that block oil trade. The sanctions, no surprise, mainly benefit Big Oil and are responsible for increasing the consumer price of fuel.

Also left out of the discussion of inflation is the ever-increasing Pentagon budget, perhaps the most important factor driving the inflation surge.

The Pentagon budget routinely eats up more than half of annual U.S. discretionary spending. By the Department of Defense's own accounting, military spending in the U.S. budget was \$13.34 trillion from 2000 through fiscal year 2019 in inflation-adjusted 2020 dollars. Add to that another \$3.18 trillion for the Veterans Administration, and the yearly average comes to a whopping \$826 billion.

Every year for the last seven years — under both Democratic and Republican administrations — the U.S. military budget has set a new historic high. The U.S. is spending more on its military than at any point since World War II.

## Do weapons have use value?

In "Generals Over the White House," Marxist theoretician Sam Marcy wrote that "military production in the epoch of imperialism is a special case of commodity production. ... The products of the military-industrial complex are by Marxist definition commodities. However, in addition to having an exchange value, commodities must also have a use value. ...

"The products of the military-industrial complex enter into the process of capitalist production not as commodities in general but as ... commodities of a peculiar type. While they have use values in the narrow economic sense, their broad sociological significance is that of a cancer which tends to consume the entire body politic.

"The process of capitalist production and exchange in the final analysis does mean that the capitalist, in order to realize his profit, must produce a useful product. If not, it undermines the very process of capitalist reproduction.

"The sum total of the product that emanates from the military-industrial complex is devoid of usefulness to society. This is not readily apparent in the U.S., which was the victorious country in World War II. At the end of the war, after having spent billions and billions of dollars, the U.S. appropriated most of the profitable world markets and sources of scarce raw materials which had belonged to its allies and its adversaries, thereby vastly enriching monopoly capitalism at home.

"However, since the Korean War, the U.S. imperialist establishment has consistently lost ground in its military adventures. It has flooded the U.S. as well as the rest of the world with small pieces of paper whose decreasing value gives evidence of the indebtedness it has incurred as a result of military adventures for which there has been no material return to compensate for the vast expenditures entailed in producing the planes, guns, tanks and other sophisticated equipment employed. ...

"Cranking up the war machine in the very early 1930s was a stimulus to the capitalist economy. Cranking it up again in a period of hyperinflation and worldwide capitalist stagnation will operate as a depressant instead." 📌

## LA march to defend reproductive rights

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cratic Party, or politicians from either ruling class party, to sincerely or effectively fight this major attack against women.

Maggie Vascassenno, co-coordinator of the Socialist Unity Party in Los Angeles, said: "Many of the speakers made great points. But the fact that our literature was so greatly in demand showed a thirst for a more class-conscious perspective, going beyond the Democratic Party politicians."

Struggle-La\_Lucha-.com

info@struggle-la-lucha.org

@StruggleLaLucha

/strugglelalucha



# How capitalism shackles the fight against climate change

By Scott Scheffer

Journalists from the U.S. and Europe have warned that the summer of 2021 should be a wakeup call on climate catastrophe. Rightfully so. A slew of recent studies and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had already issued dire assessments even before the wildfires, droughts, floods, Hurricane Ida and extreme heat waves shocked the world.

Everything points to the same reality — the efforts of climatologists to predict the timing and impact of global warming have been too conservative. The events of summer 2021 rendered the newest scientific pronouncements almost unnecessary. Deaths in the thousands and destruction in the billions of dollars, widespread and all in a matter of a few weeks, spelled it out clearly.

You don't have to be a scientist to understand that climate change's terrible effects are worsening sooner than expected. The situation is urgent.

What the mainstream journalists and scientific studies omit is the weakness of capitalist government responses, the conspiracy of sabotage by big corporations and banks, and the meticulously concealed contribution of the imperialist U.S. military to pollution and climate change.

The fight against global warming is shackled by capitalists chasing down profits at all costs. That planet-threatening quest for markets and money isn't a policy that can be changed by electoral politics. It's an inherent trait of the capitalist system. The fight against climate

change must be a revolutionary struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

## Damning admission, toothless response

Just before the 2021 disasters began raining death and destruction in June and July, a Greenpeace investigation — a climate activists' sting operation — tricked a top ExxonMobil lobbyist into revealing company efforts to promote climate change denial. It's egregious and normally kept under wraps, yet all perfectly legal under capitalism.

ExxonMobil's senior director for federal relations talked about working with "shadow groups," supporting a carbon tax that had no chance of getting through Congress just for the sake of climate change PR, all the while influencing senators to weaken climate elements of Biden's infrastructure bill.

"Joe Manchin, I talk to his office every week," the Big Oil flack bragged. "We look for the moderates on these issues."

The "shadow groups" are a huge network of think tanks and pressure groups like Heartland Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Heritage Foundation. The oil giants have been using them to spread disinformation and downplay the dangers of global warming for decades. ExxonMobil alone spent more than \$30 million doing that between 1998 and 2014.

The sting resulted in a congressional investigation, which is still going on, but is predictably toothless. Letters to ExxonMobil, BP America, Chevron Corporation and Shell Oil ask them to testify about their dis-



PHOTO: WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH

Youth-led protest at climate change meeting in Milan, Italy, Oct. 1.

information campaigns and commit to stopping them so that future legislation to mitigate climate change might stand a chance of getting through Congress.

Essentially, the investigation demands that they admit their guilt and promise to be better, but nothing will happen to them if they don't abide.

## Imperialism is the culprit

A bill proposed by two members of the congressional group known as "The Squad" aims to choke off Federal Reserve financing for projects that contribute to the climate change disaster.

It has little chance of getting past the corporate-backed politicians in either party, but it revealed the extent to which the major institutions of capitalism add to the crisis, even as their politicians feign concern. The Federal Reserve is supposed to supervise and regulate bank operations, but is financing the continued extraction of fossil fuels.

There is also a concerted push to shift the onus of climate change efforts onto the backs of those countries that have been exploited and

underdeveloped in the age of imperialism. The biggest factor in the existential threat of global warming is still the global dominance of the capitalist system, even as the development of the Chinese economy is affecting that balance.

The narrative of the U.S. major media places the blame on poor countries and China's rising economy for greenhouse gases while touting the "greening" of U.S. capitalism. This marketing subterfuge conceals the efforts by giant energy companies and multi-trillion-dollar banks to maintain their profits at all costs.

It's made easier by the successful U.S. pressure to leave massive Pentagon pollution out of international calculations.

Blaming the Global South is a purposeful distraction. Placing the blame where it belongs — on the big imperialist powers and the profit system — is an essential part of being able to leave the planet in inhabitable condition for future generations.

As a result of the Paris Accords, wealthier countries were obliged to contribute \$100 billion to impoverished countries to help finance clean energy projects before the next major international climate talks, scheduled to take place in November in Copenhagen.

In an international pre-meeting that concluded in early October in Milan, Italy, the fact that the rich capitalist economies still haven't met that obligation became a contentious issue — not only inside the meeting hall, but outside, too, as hundreds of youth, led by activist Greta Thurnberg, lambasted their foot-dragging. 📌

# New Orleans day of action demands real hurricane relief

By Gregory E. Williams

On Sept. 26, several revolutionary and progressive organizations came together for a day of action in downtown New Orleans. Organizers were responding to the horrible conditions affecting working class and oppressed communities following Hurricane Ida, as well as the capitalist-made crises that preceded it.

All the organizations raised demands and outlined visions for a broad, mass fightback, based on non-sectarian cooperation and unity through struggle.

The Party for Socialism and Liberation-Central Gulf Coast started things off at City Hall with a Cancel the Rents rally, as part of a national campaign. The campaigners are calling for an immediate cancellation of rent debts and an indefinite eviction moratorium.

## Hold Entergy accountable — make FEMA pay

The March for Real Hurricane Relief kicked off at City Hall after the Cancel the Rents rally. Sponsoring organizations included Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO)

— New Orleans, New Orleans Renters Rights Assembly, New Orleans Hospitality Workers Alliance, Unión Migrante, Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition, New Orleans Mutual Aid Society and the Socialist Unity Party.

The march went from City Hall to the Civil District Court Building (where evictions happen) to the Federal Building.

At City Hall, Serena Sojic-Borne with FRSO said: "We need public-run utilities. That means the government manages the power grid. But more importantly, we need a people's board that oversees the government running the power grid!"

In front of the civil court building, Daiquiri Jones represented the Renters Rights Assembly, stating: "In that climate [of COVID-19 and other crises] it's unconscionable that they're opening eviction court and prioritizing the interests of a few people. We still don't have adequate assistance for the people who are actually paying the property taxes [renters], the people who are going to work every day—they're the ones supporting the city. ... The idea that the burden is on the people who



SSL PHOTOS: GREGORY E. WILLIAMS

work the most, and support the city the most, is unconscionable.

"We have reasonable demands. We want \$500 million in rental assistance to southeast Louisiana. We want eviction court to stay closed until all rental assistance is distributed to the people, not just writing the landlord a check."

On the street, organizers building toward an Ida Survivor Town Hall event distributed a flyer calling for a movement where survivors can "propose demands for consideration, to debate these proposals and to vote on whether a proposed demand is to be part of the collective voice," citing the historical lessons of Hurricane Katrina, and the folly of "throwing ourselves at the mercy of politicians, bureaucrats and disaster capitalists."

The crowd chanted as they began to march, "All the money for the people!"

## There was no plan

At the Hale Boggs Federal Building, a speaker with Unión Migrante said: "We are indignant at the injustice of being totally exploited as immigrants. We're not eligible for support from FEMA and so many government programs because of being undocumented. Our neighborhoods are the last to have their trash picked up, and the mayor is not doing a very good job as mayor."

"She didn't have an evacuation plan or anything when the hurricane came. We as Unión Migrante made a video informing the community what to do when a hurricane came and then when the hurricane came around, nothing was actually orchestrated. And the mayor just says, 'save yourselves, whoever can get out.' But there was no plan for how to actually implement that."

A Unión Migrante sign read, "We built this city! We deserve hurri-

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Washington, D.C.



Austin, Texas



New York City

# Women coast to coast demand: BANS OFF OUR BODIES!

By Sharon Black

Washington, D.C., Oct. 2 — Hundreds of thousands of people came out across the U.S. to protest not only the reactionary Texas “heartbeat law,” but growing attacks on reproductive rights in many other states. Women marched not only in large cities, but in towns and rural areas in every single state. The national Women’s March announced more than 650 marches and protests in all 50 states.

Here in Washington, where Women’s March tweeted that more than 20,000 people marched, the group targeted the U.S. Supreme Court, which allowed the Texas law to go forward. The court was scheduled to open its new session two days after.

The Texas law encourages a witch-hunt to enforce the ban, which prohibits abortions after six weeks — before most women even know they are pregnant. It promises to reward individuals with a \$10,000 bounty if they successfully sue anyone who helps a woman get an abortion.

At the Supreme Court building, bigoted rightwing groups advocating to take away the rights of women and oppressed-gendered people marshalled less than 100 counter-demonstrators. They were protected by a phalanx of riot police.

In Austin, Texas, women and supporters flooded the grounds of the State Capitol, demanding “Our bodies, our choice, our right!” Thousands more marched in cities throughout the state.

Los Angeles hosted the largest of California’s many marches for reproductive rights. In New York City, thousands marched across the Brooklyn Bridge and converged with thousands more in lower Manhattan, chanting “Bans off our bodies!”

## Who will be most impacted?

Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party distributed thousands of flyers from the West to East coasts, pointing out that “it is Black, Brown and Indigenous people, the poor and youth who rely on reproductive rights centers for basic healthcare, including contraception, general checkups and cancer screenings. Texas law SB8 will shut down care for transgender people who will no longer be able to access needed hormone replacement therapy.”

“Many women will be forced to flee to other states just to obtain the basic right to control one’s own body. But even this will not be possible for many poor, working-class and very young women, who will be forced to risk their lives or health in

back-alley abortions.

“The same reactionary forces responsible for this measure, and those who do nothing about it, care little about children and less about all women, regardless of who they love and their gender identity, including transgender women.

“A box full of diapers and a car-seat is of little help when families are facing joblessness and homelessness. Where is the fight to stop unemployment benefits from being cut? Where is the moratorium and cancellation of rents, foreclosures and utility shutoffs?

“Where is the fight to stop forced sterilization of poor and oppressed women from Puerto Rico to Mississippi; or the fight to make sure that every person and all children have free healthcare; or for paid maternity leave for working families? What about the lack of affordable, safe daycare that has forced women and all genders out of the workplace?”

## Concern for most oppressed

In Orlando, Fla., these sentiments were echoed by protesters who expressed concerns that poor, Black and Brown women, along with trans women, would be disproportionately impacted.

Over a thousand people took over the streets, reflecting the urgency



Washington, D.C.

SLL PHOTO: ANDRE POWELL

felt since a bill similar to SB8 was introduced this September in Florida, which would ban abortions and allow lawsuits against doctors who perform the procedure.

The power of protest had an immediate effect.

On Oct. 6, just three days after the historic mobilization, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Pitman temporarily blocked enforcement of SB8, declaring that “This Court will not sanction one more day of this offensive deprivation of such an important right.”

“We’re celebrating today, but our fight isn’t over,” Women’s March tweeted. “Texas will appeal. Which means the law could be put back into place soon. But we know this: hundreds of thousands of us showed up last weekend for abortion justice and we’re not done yet.”

# End deportations and racist attacks on Haitian refugees!

By John Parker

## Los Angeles

On Sept. 23, Los Angeles activists and progressive organizations held a protest to join the week of actions held around the country in solidarity with Haitian refugees at the Texas border.

The protest was held at the LA County Courthouse, where U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla’s office is located, in order to send a message to the Biden administration demanding the immediate end of deportations and the inhuman, racist and genocidal treatment of Haitian refugees by the Border Patrol.

Endorsers and participants at the rally included the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Unión del Barrio, Comités de Resistencia, Black Alliance for Peace, BAYAN-SoCal, Occupy LA, American Indian Movement SoCal, Puerto Rican Alliance, National Young Lords Organization,

Full Rights for Immigrants Coalition and the Socialist Unity Party.

All of the organizations spoke at the rally, which was livestreamed. They made the following demands:

Temporary Protected Status should be extended and those facing deportation should be granted immediate asylum;

Title 42, the law that both Trump and Biden have used as an excuse to deny refugees the international right to asylum, should be revoked;

Haitians should be given reparations in acknowledgment of the historical and present U.S. destruction of political and economic institutions in Haiti — resulting in the refugee crisis today;



SLL PHOTOS: SCOTT SCHEFFER

No tolerance for white supremacy, as witnessed by the world with the Border Patrol’s use of whippings and abusive and racist treatment of the refugees;

Solidarity with immigrants must increase, especially for Haitian peoples who, like any African immigrants in general, face the most rac-

ist treatment by the U.S. government — from both the Democratic and Republican parties.

The organizations are now discussing a followup action, including a car caravan to the San Diego border, to expand this fightback.



# In service of a racist system: Police killings undercounted by more than 50%

By Gloria Verdieu

The New York Times recently published an article entitled “More Than Half of Police Killings Are Mis-labeled.” It reported the results of a study conducted by researchers at the University of Washington and published in *The Lancet*, a world-renowned medical journal that publishes articles that address urgent topics to initiate debate, put science into context and influence decision makers around the world.

The study compared the U.S. National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) to open-sourced, non-governmental databases, and scientifically analyzed tens of thousands of entries. It confirmed that police violence has been grossly underreported for at least four decades.

The findings present evidence that deaths at the hands of the police disproportionately impact people of color in general, and Black people in particular, due to systemic racism.

This study is a follow-up to an earlier study by Boston University's School of Health and the University of Pennsylvania in June 2018, also published in *The Lancet*. That study argued that policing should be treated as a public health issue, forcing the entire system of recruitment and training to change.

Now some three years later, this extensive research shows again that police killings — whether in pursuit, in transit or in custody — continue to be a national public health crisis.

This has had devastating effects on Black communities, resulting in more violent clashes with police and other law enforcement agencies, as noted in a presentation made by this author at the “Ending Police Violence” shadow session at the 2018 American Public Health Association meeting in San Diego.

## 17,100 missing deaths

The University of Washington study dives deeper into the issue of recording the names, ages, gender, race and ethnicity, location, date, year and time of death, various details leading up to death, and medical examiners' and coroners' reports on the cause of death. After retrieving data from the NVSS and three open-sourced, non-government data sources — the Guardian's “The Counted,”

the Washington Post's “Fatal Force” and the “Mapping Police Violence” project — researchers estimate 30,800 deaths from police violence between 1980 and 2018. This represents 17,100 more deaths than reported by the NVSS.

During this period, the mortality rate due to police violence was highest among Black, non-Hispanic people, followed by Hispanic people of any race. Many of those deaths were either misclassified or not reported.

The New York Times gave examples of misclassified, improperly coded death certificates on NVSS reports, noting that pathologists have complained that law enforcement does not provide all relevant information and they are at times pressured to change their opinion.

The examples cited included Ronald Greene, who arrived dead at the hospital in 2019, bruised and bloodied, with two stun-gun prongs in his back. His death was ruled accidental and attributed to cardiac arrest. Louisiana State Police initially said Greene died on impact after crashing into a tree. The Union Parish coroner attributed Greene's death to a car crash and made no reference to police conflict.

Two years later, the 46-minute body cam video was released, showing that Greene was stunned, punched and placed in a chokehold by police. Greene's grieving mother said, “How he died is evil.” The family filed an unlawful death lawsuit. This is reflected in the Fatal Encounters open-source database.

## Sickle cell trait excuse

“Sickle cell trait: an unsound cause of death,” published in the *Lancet* in August 2021, states, “Physicians deny justice to communities by providing medical cover for death at the hands of law enforcement officers and by perpetuating medical falsehoods to justify this practice.” The article cites the recent case of George Floyd.

On May 25, 2020, an initial autopsy report about Floyd read, “Man dies after medical incident during police interaction.” The report attributed his death to Floyd's history of heart disease, substance use, and the sick-



Protesters in Baton Rouge, La., demand justice for Ronald Greene, who was killed by Louisiana State Police in 2019. His death was one of the many misreported by official sources.

le cell trait.

The sickle cell trait is a genetic disorder that disproportionately affects African Americans. While it can cause serious health issues, the trait is often passed from parent to child with no symptoms.

It was the bravery of Darnella Frazier, the teen who filmed the incident with her cell phone for 10 minutes and uploaded it to Facebook, that got a murder conviction against Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin and a small measure of justice for George Floyd's family. Frazier's video showed that despite any underlying health issues, Floyd really died because Chauvin knelt on his neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds.

In a May 2021 article, “How a Genetic Trait in Black People Can Give the Police Cover,” the New York Times cited 47 cases where the sickle cell trait was referenced in autopsy reports, court filings and other public records in police custody deaths.

It details several cases where Black people were forcefully restrained, pepper sprayed or shocked with stun guns, and yet the presence of sickle cell was used to justify their deaths.

## Underreporting masks racism

Black people were killed at a higher rate than white people every year from 1980 to 2018. In 2019, Black people were killed at a rate 3.5 times higher than white people. Latinx and Indigenous people are killed disproportionately as well.

Of the three open-source data collection methods cited by the University of Washington study, *The Guardian's* “The Counted” had the lowest percentage of cases missing race or ethnic information and cov-

ered people killed by other law enforcement agencies besides police.

The Bureau of Justice and Statistics, a division of the U.S. Justice Department, actually considers open-source data collection methods preferable to government reporting systems due to underreporting by the NVSS.

Reporting fatal police violence accurately and creating a database that is transparent and open to the public

is one way to expose the system for what it is and a step forward in gaining accountability for the crimes committed on a daily basis. This is just a step because, as the study acknowledges, the real solution is to eliminate the burden of police violence on Black and Brown people.

Police are not held accountable and their actions lack transparency. “Mapping Police Violence” reported that in 1,147 deaths, only 13 officers were charged with a crime.

The *Lancet* report states, “Police forces should exist to enforce laws that protect public safety, but throughout the USA's history, police have been used to enforce racist and exploitative social orders that endanger the safety of the most marginalized groups in society.”

Some of the earliest examples of policing include the capture of runaway slaves, dismantling labor strikes and movements, and stopping riots, protests and other expressions of social outrage.

The police are highly militarized and escalate situations that could be resolved without violent interactions. They are trained to believe that any interaction can turn deadly, particularly in Black, Brown and other oppressed communities, and they react as such.

## Capitalism relies on police violence

But the fundamental issue goes much deeper than training. The role of police in capitalist society is to protect the property of the wealthy and enforce the rule of the rich over the workers and oppressed. Ultimately, the only way to root out police violence is to do away with the racist,

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# Protest welcomes Haitian refugees, slams Border Patrol racism

By Steven Ceci

On Sept. 29, Baltimore activists joined the Emergency Week of Actions for Haitian Refugees by staging a protest at City Hall. Russell McClain from the Peoples Power Assembly facilitated the rally. Rev. Annie Chambers opened up with a powerful and rousing message in opposition to the Biden administration's racist deportations.

Dr. “Doc” Cheatham, who represents the Henson Neighborhood Association in police victim Freddie Gray's community, presented the

group's demands. Next, Bill Goodin from BlackMen Unifying BlackMen and Leon Purnell, director of the Eastside Men and Families Center, pointed out the disparity in the treatment of Black immigrants.

Union activist Sharon Black, who traveled to Haiti, explained why the movement demands reparations for the Haitian people. Then came Dick Ochs from Baltimore Peace Action, who spoke against U.S. military intervention.

Socialist Unity Party representative Andre Powell and Joyce Butler of Peoples Power Assembly and Pris-

oners Solidarity Committee concluded the rally with rousing chants.

What became a “people's assembly,” representing both West and East Baltimore, called for the mayor and City Council to pass a resolution welcoming Haitian refugees, condemning the racist violence by the Border Patrol, and denouncing Biden's deportations and plans to imprison refugees at Guantanamo.

Everyone exclaimed, “We the people of Baltimore welcome Haitian people to our city.” 📍

**Baltimore**

SL PHOTO: ANDRE POWELL





# AFRICOM: An extension of U.S.-European colonialism and genocide

By Gloria Verdieu and John Parker

In 2007, the George W. Bush administration inaugurated the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) to further the influence of the U.S. and extend its military reach directly into Africa. AFRICOM, however, wasn't officially established in Africa, with its expanded troop presence and unprecedented use of drones on the continent, until Barack Obama was elected president in 2008.

This Oct. 1, the Black Alliance for Peace (BAP) hosted a webinar titled "AFRICOM at 13: Building the Popular Movement for Demilitarization and Anti-Imperialism in Africa." The event featured voices rarely heard in the U.S., from countries most affected by AFRICOM, including internationally-known activists for liberation and those representing the growing movement on the continent against AFRICOM.

The program started with a film by BAP exposing the imperialist aims of AFRICOM and its yearly price tag of \$2 billion in Africa alone.

Guest speakers exposed the other resources required for AFRICOM's maintenance: the cost of peoples' sovereignty and right to self-government, in addition to the cost of inflaming humanitarian crises.

This webinar was part of a month-long effort by the Black Alliance for Peace to educate and advocate for these demands: the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Africa; the demilitarization of the African continent; the closure of U.S. bases throughout the world; and that the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) oppose AFRICOM and support hearings on AFRICOM's impact on the African continent.

## 'To dominate and exploit us'

Imani Na Umoja is a member of the Central Committee of the African Party of Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, the largest political party in Guinea-Bissau, which participated in its armed struggle for independence from Portugal. Umoja spoke about AFRICOM's major role in the recent coups on the continent to ensure resources for U.S. imperialism and deny its peoples' right to self-determination.

U.S. claims of promoting democracy are the exact opposite in its deeds.

"The agreements are so horrendous it makes me sick, and should make anyone sick," said Kwesi Pratt Jr., a journalist and general secretary of the Socialist Movement of Ghana. He was referring to the establishment of U.S. bases in Ghana and agreements signed by the government that allow U.S. forces more immunity, freedom of movement and secrecy than its own citizens, diplomats or even the president of the country, "simply by showing their U.S. ID cards."

Pratt said that the agreements do not allow anyone to question what the U.S. forces bring into or take out of the country. "The U.S. Army can use our resources for free ... the agreement was signed to dominate and exploit us."

Irene Asuwa of the Revolutionary Socialist League of Kenya spoke fur-

ther on AFRICOM's domestic cost to her people. "The war on terror is an excuse to kidnap people," she said, explaining the heightened profiling of Somali peoples in Kenya. "In less than 12 hours they are taken into court and sentenced as terrorists with no lawyer, then taken away."

The speakers helped bring to life what award-winning journalist Nick Turse, who exposed the unreported buildup of AFRICOM in 2008, wrote for the Intercept in February 2020: "Since 9/11, the U.S. military has built a sprawling network of outposts in more than a dozen African countries. ... During testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee late last month, Stephen Townsend, the commander of AFRICOM, echoed a line favored by his predecessors that AFRICOM maintains a 'light and relatively low-cost footprint' on the continent.

"This 'light' footprint consists of a constellation of more than two dozen outposts that stretch from one side of Africa to the other. The 2019 planning documents provide locations for 29 bases located in 15 different countries or territories, with the highest concentrations in the Sahelian states on the west side of the continent, as well as the Horn of Africa in the east."

That so-called "light footprint" has had the effect of increasing, not decreasing terrorist activity.

## U.S. presence promotes terrorism

Turse continues: "Violent extremism and insecurity on the continent has increased exponentially during the very years that the U.S. has been building up its network of bases."

This build up includes "persistent counterterrorism operations that include commando raids, combat by U.S. Special Operations forces in at least 13 African countries between 2013 and 2017, and a record number of U.S. airstrikes in Somalia (just over one attack per week in 2019)," he wrote.

The result: "There are now roughly 25 active militant Islamist groups operating in Africa, up from just five in 2010 — a jump of 400% — according to the Defense Department's Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Militant Islamist activity also hit record levels in 2019. There were 3,471 reported violent events linked to these groups last year, a 1,105% increase since 2009..."

"The situation has become so grim that U.S. military aims in West Africa have recently been scaled back from a strategy of degrading the strength and reach of terror groups to nothing more than 'containment.'"

This also echoes a 2017 United Nations report called "Journey to Extremism in Africa," which states that government actions of repression, including increased drone killings, killings of family members, jailings and repression are the main motivation for recruitment into extremist organizations.

Many studies have also correlated the lack of food and basic necessities of life as the greatest cause of internal conflict. In 2018 the U.N. also reported that it would take just \$175 billion per year for 20 years to erad-

icate poverty, not only on the entire continent of Africa, but the entire world. That's just 17% of the U.S. yearly military spending of nearly \$1 trillion (the total expense is more than the defense budget).

So the money supposedly spent on fighting terrorism — which actually acts as a recruitment agent for folks joining extremist organizations — could be spent to actually end the conditions that create these extremist organizations. And it would have the added benefit of removing the greatest source of terrorism on the continent, the U.S. military.

So why isn't that happening?

## Profits before people

The fact is that AFRICOM's "war on terror," in addition to being a vital tool for U.S. imperialism, is also a self-perpetuating money machine for the ruling class — a huge bonanza for the military-industrial complex and the politicians and corporations who directly or indirectly benefit from it.

As many of the webinar speakers pointed out, the primary goal of AFRICOM is to ensure the continued theft of resources by the U.S. and its allies and to maintain U.S. military dominance on the continent.

"In 2007 to 2009, a discovery of oil on the Congo and Uganda border of 1.7 billion barrels brought heavy militarization and oil conglomerates and then, in 2012, Obama announces troops [being dispatched] to capture Joseph Kony (leader of a small rebel grouping), although he hadn't been in Uganda for almost six years," said Salome Ayuak, a member of BAP and Horn of Africa Pan-Africans for Liberation and Solidarity.

Ayuak also explained that one-third of permanent and semi-permanent AFRICOM bases reside in the Horn of Africa, reflecting the strategic importance of its waterways for trade and oil exploration. "We must look at AFRICOM through a materialist lens to see the long history of its policing in African states," she stated.

## Militarism or mutual assistance?

Kambale Musavuli, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo and national spokesperson for Friends of the Congo, stated: "The U.S. has been engaged in the DRC since 1885. It was the first country to recognize the Congo as the personal property of King Leopold [Belgian monarch who committed the most horrendous atrocities against the native population, killing more than 10 million, in the exploitation of their labor for rubber production and export]. The U.S. used the relationship built with Leopold to get the uranium from the DRC used to bomb Hiroshima in 1945."

And in a further example of war crimes and genocide, Musavuli explained the role of the U.S. and its AFRICOM partners in the 1996 and 1998 invasions of the Congo by Rwanda and Uganda — causing the deaths of over 6 million Congolese.

This was followed by a huge ex-



Protesters in Accra, Ghana, demonstrated against AFRICOM expansion in 2018.

traction of mineral wealth essential for phones and computers. "Most of us have devices that use those minerals," he noted.

Musavuli also contrasted the approach of U.S. militarism to China's mutual assistance in the race for cobalt and coltan, minerals primarily found in the Congo. "While the Chinese sent foreign ministers in the middle of the pandemic to forgive loans and discuss needed development programs, two weeks later [U.S.] soldiers showed up to meet local officials and sign military agreements.

What is to be done? Maybe Kwesi Pratt Jr. of Ghana should answer that:

"All of these atrocities would not be possible if the power was in the hands of working people in Africa. So our task first and foremost is to make sure power resides in the hands of working people, to make sure that the revolutionary forces control power, that neocolonial regimes are defeated, and we move away from neocolonialist capitalism ...

"Only under the banner of socialism can we stop all these enemy forces — we are in danger otherwise."

Which means we in the U.S. have to work towards exposing and dismantling AFRICOM, the Pentagon and capitalism here in the belly of the beast — which requires principled unity, solidarity and struggle — just as our comrades in Africa are determined to keep pushing forward.

Visit [BlackAllianceForPeace.com](http://BlackAllianceForPeace.com) for more information.

## Hurricane relief

Continued from page 7

cane relief too!"), referring to the fact that immigrants did so much of the rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina.

Jackie of the New Orleans Mutual Aid Society explained that, although Ida hit and caused an emergency, "what all the mutual aid groups in New Orleans are responding to is the emergency that preceded the emergency, which is that people don't have what they need. We're trying to meet those needs, but we can't do it because the need is too great."

They elaborated that the problem is the historical effects of capitalism and oppressions like racism, which have made communities vulnerable.

Echoing Jackie's words, David Brazil with Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition said that the disaster of the storm "took place within the larger disaster, which is capitalism, and the larger disaster, which is white supremacy.

"The real source of wealth in society is workers. All the money that FEMA has is workers' tax money. It's our money! And as soon as we need it, it should be coming back to us.

"It's great that people have come together, but we cannot fill the gap by asking community members to step in where social services should



# U.S. defeat in Afghanistan provokes war in Washington

By Bill Dores

Twenty years have passed since the George W. Bush regime launched its so-called “war on terror.” U.S. troops have left Afghanistan in defeat. The Taliban are back in Kabul. The knives are out in Washington.

Congressional Republicans are demanding Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair General Mark Milley resign. South Carolina Senator (and oil company agent) Lindsey Graham called for President Joe Biden’s impeachment. Some of them have accused him of “treason.”

Meanwhile, Pentagon generals are distancing themselves from the White House decision to pull all U.S. troops from that war-ravaged land.

Gone is the “United We Stand” bravado we heard when U.S. bombs began to rain on Afghan villages on Oct. 7, 2001. It has gone the way of the record super-profits the “war on terror” brought U.S. oil companies and their bankers.

Gone too is the triumphalism that accompanied the end of the anti-Soviet Cold War, the talk of “the end of history” and a “new American century.” They have been replaced by gloom and recrimination.

Donald Trump’s “Make America Great Again” pipe dream, based on “U.S. energy dominance,” has crashed and burned. Joe Biden’s cry that “America is back” rings hollow.

## The furious eat themselves

Global setbacks for the U.S. ruling class always set off battles in Washington. After the victory of the great Chinese Revolution in 1949, President Harry Truman was accused of “losing” China. A four-year red scare followed as Senator Joseph McCarthy blamed this profound social revolution on “communists” in Washington.

The U.S. failure to conquer Korea in 1953 led McCarthy to aim his fire at the U.S. military high command itself. That attack on Washington’s holy of holies caused his political demise.

The victory of the 1959 Cuban Revolution, the first socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere, electrified Latin America and the Caribbean. It terrified Washington and Wall Street.

In August 1960, Cuba’s revolutionaries nationalized U.S. corporate holdings in their country. That September, Fidel Castro visited Harlem and proclaimed solidarity with the Black freedom struggle.

The Pentagon and CIA were confident they could “neutralize” Cuba’s revolutionary government as they had earlier pro-people governments in the region. But it was a different time and a different kind of revolution.

The defeat of the CIA’s 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion set off a gang war in Washington. The Pentagon and CIA blamed President John F. Kennedy for not sending U.S. troops and planes to back up their mercenaries. JFK was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

The U.S. defeat in Vietnam was followed by the Watergate scandal and President Richard Nixon’s resignation. The 1979 Iranian Revolu-

tion and the deliberately provoked hostage crisis that followed brought down Jimmy Carter and put Ronald Reagan in the White House.

The U.S. flight from Afghanistan may not seem to be an event on the scale of these earth-changing social revolutions. Yet it represents the utter failure of the 20-year, \$10-trillion-plus “war on terror” to accomplish its goal. And the inability of the decaying U.S. empire to capitalize on its Cold War victory.

What was that goal? To restore the stranglehold on the world’s energy resources U.S. corporations enjoyed after World War II. Not because the United States needs oil, but because U.S. corporations need profits. Control of oil and gas assured the dominance of Wall Street banks and the U.S. dollar in the world capitalist economy.

In 1960, Western oil majors owned most of the world’s known oil reserves outside of the Soviet bloc. Half of the overseas profits of U.S. corporations came from Arab, Iranian and Venezuelan oil.

The anti-colonial upsurge of the second half of the 20th century changed things. OPEC was founded in 1962 to challenge the power of the oil companies. The Libyan Revolution of 1969 led by Muammar Gaddafi, Iraq’s oil nationalization of 1972 and the Iranian Revolution of 1979 took nearly a quarter of the world’s oil reserves out of Western corporate hands.

## The 30-year war

The attempted reconquista did not start with the events of 9/11. They were but a phony pretext to expand it.

The first Bush regime launched the 30-year oil war in 1991 with Operation Desert Storm, as the Soviet Union dissolved under the impact of Gorbachev’s perestroika. It continued under Republican and Democratic regimes.

From 1991 to 2001, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians, mostly children, were murdered by U.S. bombs and sanctions. The plans for the first U.S. war against Iraq were on George H.W. Bush’s desk months before Iraqi troops went into Kuwait in 1991. The plans to invade Afghanistan were on his son’s desk on Sept. 10, 2001.

The second Bush regime was run by fellows of the Project for a New American Century. A 1998 PNAC document said a “new Pearl Harbor” was needed to galvanize support for a wider war. On Sept. 11, 2001, that wish was realized.

A few weeks after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, General Wesley Clark was informed that the Pentagon planned to “take out seven more Muslim states in five years” — Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Somalia and Sudan. Four of those have important oil and gas reserves. The others are on strategic transportation routes.

And Afghanistan? It sits astride a route by which oil and gas from former Soviet Central Asia could reach South Asia and the Indian Ocean.

The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, funded the 2006 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and orchestrated the overthrow and murder of Libyan Presi-



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

dent Muammar Gaddafi 10 years ago. Since 2011, Washington has armed and funded a bloody war against Syria in cahoots with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Israel and Al Qaeda, the alleged perpetrators of 9/11.

U.S. troops occupy Syria’s oil fields; U.S.-backed “insurgents” block the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to the Mediterranean. U.S. drone strikes have killed thousands of civilians in Somalia and Pakistan. U.S. arms still flow to the Saudi Kingdom, the UAE and the racist state of Israel to murder people in Yemen and Palestine. Sanctions cause great suffering in Iran and Venezuela.

## Fails to stop U.S. decline

The U.S. war machine has succeeded in killing, wounding and displacing millions of people and spending tens of trillions of dollars.

What did its corporate masters gain from all this? A decade-long energy price bubble that brought record profits to oil companies and their bankers. It then collapsed.

It has failed to reverse the world situation in Washington and Wall Street’s favor. It has not opened new markets for capital investment. It has not restored the U.S. ruling class to the dominant position it occupied after World War II. It has only slowed its decline. It cannot stop the global contraction of the capitalist system.

Israel was driven from Lebanon and cannot crush the Palestinian resistance. The Saudis and UAE are

losing their war in Yemen. Syria has taken back most of its territory. Iran and Venezuela remain strong and independent of U.S. rule. The U.S. has abandoned Afghanistan and U.S. troops are under siege in Iraq.

Gas and oil from former Soviet Central Asia now goes directly by pipeline to China. The Nord Stream pipeline is bringing Russian gas to Europe. Nord Stream 2 is under construction.

Will the Biden administration abandon Wall Street’s war against the world? No, it can’t.

The power and wealth of U.S. monopoly capital, its very existence, can only be maintained by destruction. That’s all it has to offer the world.

U.S. troops have left Afghanistan. But not a dime has been cut from the military budget. In fact, it’s slated to go up by \$10 billion next year. The White House and Pentagon say they need that money to confront China. Meanwhile, Congress cannot even pass the Build Back Better Act.

Working class and oppressed people inside the United States have nothing to gain from endless war. Neither Afghanistan or China, Iran or Venezuela are our enemy. We do not need Wall Street banks to be at the center of the world economy.

We need healthcare and education and good-paying jobs for all. We need to get the Pentagon war machine and its corporate masters off our backs. ■

## Cada haitiano tiene en Cuba un hermano

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Según el joven galeno, hoy no hay ni sospechosos ni confirmados con el SARS-COV-2 en el campamento de refugiados haitianos, pero siguen alertas, pues tienen a una gestante de ocho semanas y a una señora, con un fibroma que le causó sangramiento, bajo cuidados antianémicos.

«Enseguida las remitimos al Hospital General Octavio de la Concepción y la Pedraja, en Baracoa, donde fueron examinadas y tratadas; pero acá tenemos la mayoría de los recursos para actuar ante cualquier cuadro clínico. Igualmente contamos con el sistema de ambulancias para emergencias», asegura el doctor.

## Cuba tiene alma de hermano

Gilbert Joseph, el migrante haitiano que desea estudiar Medicina en Cuba, tiene 30 años. Sabe que debe volver a casa, pero espera que, a más tardar en 2023, pueda volver a esta Isla hospitalaria para cursar la carrera de sus sueños.

Ese también es la ilusión de Itson Taylor, quien con solo 14 años se em-

barcó con los padres, tíos y primos en busca de un futuro mejor y descubrió a este pequeño país del Caribe.

Itson, en un lenguaje que mezcla el francés y el español, asevera sentirse bien, aunque su familia insiste en irse, pero él quisiera quedarse para vestir la bata blanca o verde que porta el doctor Diolkis, quien les calmó las fiebres y malestares que agobiaban a todos luego de estar días a la deriva en el mar.

Eric Dormezil, el capitán del navío haitiano, también se siente agradecido por todo y todos, «los haitianos sabemos que en el pueblo cubano tenemos nuestros hermanos, pues históricamente nos cuidan bien».

De esa hermandad entre pueblos caribeños habla emocionado Benisoi Joan Baforte, migrante residente en Maisí desde 1989. Él ayuda siempre como traductor cuando sus compatriotas arriban al archipiélago. Adora a Maisí, donde tiene dos hijos, y a Cuba la lleva en el pecho grabada como la mejor nación del mundo, «no hay mejor lugar para estar a salvo».

Fuente: Granma



# Happy birthday socialist China!

By Stephen Millies

Seventy-two years ago, on Oct. 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared "China has stood up!" The socialist People's Republic of China was born after decades of struggle.

Chinese women stepped forward with unbound feet. No longer could U.S. and British warships prowl the Yangtze River. Peasants, workers and progressive intellectuals knew their liberation had come.

China shook the world as its revolution inspired oppressed people everywhere. In his autobiography, Malcolm X wrote how the Chinese Revolution boosted his spirits while he was in prison.

China gave refuge to Mabel Williams and Robert F. Williams, who organized self-defense against the Ku Klux Klan in Monroe, North Carolina.

While 80% of China's population couldn't read or write before the revolution, illiteracy was practically wiped out by 2015.

In 1949 there were just 117,000 college students in China. By 2015, there were 37 million.

People in China had an average lifespan of just 36 years in 1949. By 2019, life expectancy had more than doubled, to reach nearly 77 years.

In 2021, Black men in the United States had a life expectancy at birth of just over 68 years.

All of the peoples and nationalities in socialist China have shared in these gains. One of the greatest triumphs of human rights was the abolition of serfdom in Tibet.

The coronavirus pandemic shows the failure of U.S. capitalism. While nearly 700,000 people have died of COVID-19 in the U.S., less than 5,000 people died in socialist China. That's

despite China having a billion more people than the U.S.

China's President Xi Jinping announced plans to provide other countries with two billion vaccine doses this year. Despite President Joe Biden's promises, the United States has so far distributed only 160 million doses.

## The world's workshop

None of these gains would have been possible without a socialist revolution and the leadership of the Communist Party of China. While the bankers tell the politicians what to do in Washington, communists control China's banks.

The result has been fantastic economic growth. China today manufactures more goods than the United States. It has built more miles of high-speed rail than the rest of the world combined.

Back in 1949, the urban working class accounted for just 1% of China's population. By 2019, there were 442 million people employed in the cities.

China started its industrialization with the help of the then-existing Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Eastern Europe. Today China is helping countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America with its Belt and Road Initiative.

Building bridges, housing, hospitals, railroads and schools takes a lot of steel. While China made less than a million tons of steel in 1949, it currently produces more than a billion tons.

That's over 50% of world production. In the capitalist U.S., steel production has shrunk to 72 million tons, less than what was made in 1945.

The deliberate deindustrialization in the United States has thrown



Persecuted by the U.S. government, Black liberation fighters Mabel Williams and Robert F. Williams were welcomed in China. Here they march on May Day 1967 at the Beijing Working People's Cultural Palace.

their lives to defend Korea.

U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur wanted to drop atom bombs on both China and Korea. The U.S. Air Force burned Korean children alive with napalm and phosphorus bombs, just as it did later in Vietnam and Laos.

The capitalist media is now trying to blame China for the coronavirus pandemic. Scientists reject the lie that COVID-19 was started in a Wuhan laboratory. We shouldn't be fooled by it either.

Three decades ago, the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe were overthrown. This tragedy was a greater defeat than the crushing of the German working class by Hitler.

Poor and working people still have the socialist countries of China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos and Vietnam on their side. Bolivia, Iran, Nicaragua, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe are fighting U.S. economic sanctions. Palestine will be free.

History is on our side. Happy birthday to the socialist People's Republic of China! 📌

## Police killings undercounted

Continued from page 7

for-profit system that relies on it.

There have been some trends that have decreased police killings temporarily in some cities, such as banning the shooting of non-violent offenders who are fleeing, high-speed chases in residential areas and shooting into moving cars.

But recent reform efforts to cut down fatal police violence, like banning chokeholds, mandating body cameras, training in de-escalation, diversifying police forces, and civilian police review and advisory boards have all failed. We know these efforts have failed because fatal police violence has remained the same or increased since 1990.

We need community control of the police, with the power to hire and fire. We need immediate practical measures like disarming and demilitarizing the police. Some may see this as too radical, but is it?

There are 19 countries where the regular police are unarmed, including Norway and Britain, where only select officers are armed. In 2019, no one died from police violence in Norway, and three people were recorded to have died from police violence in England and Wales between 2018 and 2019.

A better way of protecting, supporting and keeping our communities safe is possible. Disarming the police is an urgent step that must be considered — otherwise you must realize that calling the police could result in the death of you or someone you care deeply about. 📌

## Congress will do nothing for us without struggle

Continued from page 1

in other countries. When the Minnesota legislature passed the "Alec Smith Act" to guarantee emergency access to insulin, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America tried to get it thrown out in federal court.

Big Pharma spent a million dollars a day in the first three months of 2021 to lobby Congress.

One result is that Medicare is prohibited from negotiating with drug companies. So it pays nearly twice as much for medicines as the Veterans Administration does.

### Child poverty is obscene

► **Expand the child tax credit to pay families \$300 per month for children under 6 years old and \$250 per month for children ages 6 to 18.**

Over 10 million children in the United States live in dire poverty. That includes more than one out of four Black children.

While 22,000 children live in New York City homeless shelters, there's not a single homeless child in Cuba.

► **Help subsidize childcare for children under five. Universal pre-kindergarten for children aged 3 and 4 years old.**

Free child care should be guaranteed to every family that needs it. It

was the Bolshevik Alexandra Kollontai that helped establish universal childcare in the socialist Soviet Union.

► **Paid family and medical leave.**

Of the 41 countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States is the only one that doesn't allow working parents time with their newborn or sick children. Japan offers more than a year of paid leave for new parents, while Canada offers six months.

While the media says this bill will cost \$3.5 trillion, that's spread over 10 years. So the real annual cost is \$350 billion.

Compare that to the trillion-dollar annual war budget, which includes not just the Pentagon but also the spy agencies and other government departments. The U.S. spent \$6 trillion in building nuclear weapons that, if used, would kill every human being on the planet.

The only reason why this legislation is being considered by Congress is that 26 million people marched last year to declare Black Lives Matter!

The provisions of "Build Back Better" may seem meager to those familiar with social conditions in other countries with stronger labor movements. But socialists shouldn't sneer at workers who hope this legislation is enacted.

millions of workers out of a job and helped to keep wages down for everybody. But it wasn't China that closed nine of the 10 auto plants in Flint, Michigan. General Motors did.

While Flint's children were lead poisoned by their drinking water, China has been going full speed ahead with its own Green New Deal. China spent \$100 billion to reforest 123,000 square miles. That's an area larger than New Mexico.

### China won't go backwards

U.S. billionaires have never forgiven the Chinese people for making a revolution. Their fortunes started with enslaving Africans, killing Indigenous people, stealing half of Mexico and smuggling opium into China.

One of the biggest drug dealers was Warren Delano, a grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

A few months after the People's Republic of China was founded, Washington started the Korean War. Four million people were killed in this dirty war.

Among them was Mao Anying, a son of Mao Zedong. He was one of many Chinese volunteers who gave



# Puerto Rico: Resistance against Luma

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

A people responds when its tolerance level is exhausted in the face of injustice and abuse. That is precisely what is happening here in Puerto Rico.

So the struggle is not united? It's not energetic enough? It doesn't matter; what really matters is that pockets of resistance have begun throughout the archipelago and that progressive organizations, independence movements and people's struggles in other sectors are inserted to direct it towards a goal that advances independence and sovereignty.

Today the most crucial struggle, because it touches the entire population and the economic future of the country, is against the privatization of the energy sector.

On June 1, the U.S.-Canadian company Luma took control of the transmission and distribution of electricity. Since then the nation has suffered two rate hikes and growing blackouts that sometimes reach three a day, with dire consequences for the health, economy and even the mental health of the people.

But resistance is also rising, with calls against the government and Luma. Also against the U.S.-imposed Fiscal Control Board that has pro-

moted privatizations since it began in 2016.

There have been spontaneous demonstrations called on social networks, cacerolazos [banging pots and pans] at 8 o'clock at night, multiple protests around the country, and now there are several calls by organizations and left-wing parties that will surely lead to mass events that will finally end the dictatorship of the privatizing entities.

We will continue to report on the development of this struggle.

From Puerto Rico, for Radio Clarín de Colombia, this is Berta Joubert-Ceci.



SLL PHOTOS: BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

'Luma out' protest in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Oct. 1.

# U.S. Cold War drive and the Australia nuclear deal

By Scott Scheffer

On Sept. 15, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced their new trilateral security agreement, AUKUS, and its first initiative — the delivery of a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia. The deal is a dangerous escalation in the U.S.'s new Cold War against China.

Australia already had an agreement to buy a fleet of diesel submarines from France. For France, the deal was worth somewhere near \$90 billion and was part of a plan to strengthen its economic and military standing in the Indo-Pacific region without damaging trade relations with China.

The U.S. kept the nuclear submarine deal secret from the French government until the ink on the contract was already dry. France — taken completely by surprise — called the deal a “stab in the back,” and in an unprecedented move, withdrew its ambassadors to both the U.S. and Australia.

It isn't only the money that dealt a blow to France, although all the imperialist powers lean on arms sales to remedy the inevitable economic contraction that happens at the bottom of their capitalist boom and bust cycle.

Only rarely are secrets of advanced military technology shared, even with allies. The fact that Britain and the U.S. are providing nuclear-powered submarines to Australia means that Australia will be dependent on them for maintenance, training and support.

Australia has unambiguously signed on to the Cold War against China. The new alliance locks Australia into deeper participation in the Pentagon's growing aggression against socialist China and sets back France's plans for a military alliance with Australia.

## Growing military presence

In addition to their own unilateral and growing military presence close to China's coast, the Pentagon and the State Department have also been twisting arms, bribing and otherwise coercing countries in the region to join in their reckless anti-China aggression through a network of alliances. The World War II vintage “Five Eyes” alliance — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Britain and

the U.S. — was an outdated, multi-lateral nest of spies.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad) was established in 2007 between Japan, India, the U.S. and Australia. The “Dialogue” in the Quad's name is a misnomer — it was an expansion of war games called “Exercise Malabar” that are periodically repeated.

Previously, these military “games” were only between the U.S. and India in the Indian Ocean. In 2007 they were held on a huge scale off the Japanese island of Okinawa, as close to China as it is to Japan. Quad members and Five Eyes countries have also been called on to voice support for the bogus “lab leak” theory that blames China for COVID-19.

A decade ago, Australia had dropped its role in the Quad out of fear of losing trade with China. After it rejoined the Quad, the U.S. redoubled its effort to lure Australia into a yet stronger commitment, and sent troops to Darwin, the settler outpost on the northwestern corner of the continent.

The unexplained presence of U.S. Marines in Australia has ebbed and flowed ever since. Recently, when Australia became a mouthpiece for the phony lab-leak theory angering China, the U.S. sent 1,200 additional Marines.

France and the other European powers also trade with China and resisted joining the U.S. “Pivot to Asia.” The differences between the imperialist ruling classes of Europe and the U.S. over how to deal with the emergence of socialist China as a world power are at the root of this rift.

## U.S. media propaganda

A recent U.S. Defense Department paper, the “China Military Power Report,” fueled a media buzz propagating the idea of China having the world's most powerful navy, reminiscent of the lies preceding Operation Desert Storm, when U.S. media trumpeted that Iraq had the strongest army in the world. That was a way to justify the war they wanted.

While it is true that China has the most naval vessels in the world, they are almost all small craft designed for defense of the coastline. China has a right to all the military that's needed to defend itself.

But U.S. imperialism is not David challenging a Chinese military Goliath. The U.S. has been maintain-

ing a provocative naval presence in the South China Sea, including three of its eleven aircraft carrier groups. China has just two carriers, and neither is anywhere near the U.S.

And then there are the alliances the U.S. has coerced with South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and — now more than before — Australia.

To be sure, China's People's Liberation Army is prepared and powerful, dedicated, ready to defend. But the people of China don't need and

don't want a horrendous war.

China has issued an appeal for a reversal of the AUKUS agreement. Zhao Lijian, China's foreign ministry spokesperson, issued a statement saying: “Facing common challenges of fighting the pandemic and economic recovery, the people in the Asia-Pacific region need growth and employment, not submarines and gunpowder,” and urged the AUKUS members to “fulfill their international nuclear non-proliferation obligations.”

# USA, stop lying about Cuba!

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cynically still being used, as demonstrated by U.S. involvement in the anti-Cuban government protests of July 11, 2021.

Even in a global medical crisis, the Trump and Biden administrations continue the anti-Cuba “maximum pressure” campaign to intentionally hurt Cuban families on both sides of the Florida straits.

But more than that: the U.S. financial stranglehold has prevented Cuba from accessing raw materials to produce two of the five vaccine candidates developed by Cuban scientists. Slowing the vaccination of the Cuban people is biological warfare, using the coronavirus as a weapon.

On June 23 at the United Nations, the world voted for the 29th time for the U.S. to end its economic, financial and commercial blockade on Cuba. As the U.S. angled to use “humanitarian aid” as a knife against Cuba, other countries — including Mexico, Argentina and China — sent personal protective equipment, food and medicine. Supporters around the world united to send solidarity syringes to let Cuba live.

Cuba's vaccination program is moving forward, now including children as young as 2. Cuba is on target for 100% vaccination by the end of this year. Infection and death rates are declining.

## Hope for Global South

Cuba's vaccines hold hope for the Global South, particularly Africa. According to Our World in Data, only 2.4% of people in low-income countries have been vaccinated.

In March, Cuba and Zimbabwe announced construction of a state-of-

the-art pharmaceutical production plant in that blockaded southern African country.

Reuters reported Oct. 7 that Moderna has announced plans to build a plant in Africa. However, “Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, said he had not seen the Moderna statement and the company had not consulted with him.

“At a news conference, he welcomed any efforts to address the continent's medium-to-long term needs, but said Moderna's plans would not solve its problems securing COVID-19 vaccine doses now.”

The World Health Organization continued its criticism of vaccine hoarding by the imperialist countries, reported CNBC Sept. 7: “‘This is not just unfair, it's not just immoral, it's prolonging the pandemic,’ said Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID. ‘And it is resulting in people dying.’”

Kerkhove's words echo the summary of the June 18-21 Summit for Vaccine Internationalism. Summit coordinator Varsha Gandikota-Nellutla said:

“A new international health order is in formation. It is desperately needed to overcome the vaccine apartheid which threatens our very survival, calls the South's sovereignty into question and risks further murderous mutations of this virus.”

At that summit, “Cuba committed to not only open collaboration but affordable prices, with Dr. Regla Pardo, Cuba's vice minister for health, telling the summit: ‘Cuban vaccines will be affordable and will benefit those most in need.’”

This raises an interesting ques-



## PUERTO RICO

# Resistencia contra Luma

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Un pueblo responde cuando su nivel de tolerancia se agota ante las injusticias y los abusos. Eso precisamente está sucediendo aquí.

¿Qué la lucha no es unitaria? ¿Que no es lo suficientemente energética? No importa, lo que realmente vale es que comiencen focos de resistencia a través del archipiélago y que las organizaciones progresistas, independentistas y las luchas de pueblo en otros sectores se inserten para encausarla hacia una meta que adelante la independencia y soberanía.

Ahora, la lucha más crucial, porque toca a toda la población y el futuro económico del país, es contra la privatización del sector energético. El primero de junio, la compañía gringa-canadiense Luma tomó el control de la transmisión y distribución de electricidad y desde entonces el pueblo ha sufrido 2 alzas de tarifas y crecientes apagones que a veces llegan a 3 veces por día, con las conse-

cuencias nefastas en la salud, economía e incluso en la salud mental del pueblo.

Pero la resistencia también va en aumento con convocatorias en contra del gobierno y de Luma. También en contra de la impuesta Junta de Control Fiscal que ha impulsado las privatizaciones desde que comenzó en el 2016.

Ha habido manifestaciones espontáneas convocadas por las redes, cacerolazos a las 8 de la noche, múltiples protestas alrededor del país, y ahora hay convocadas varias por organizaciones y partidos de izquierda que seguramente desembocarán en actos multitudinarios que por fin dará fin a la dictadura de los entes privatizadores.

Seguiremos informando del desarrollo de esta lucha.



Desde Puerto Rico para RADIO CLARIN de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci



FOTOS DE SLL: BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

'Fuera Luma' protesta en San Juan, Puerto Rico, el 1 de octubre.

# Cada haitiano tiene en Cuba un hermano

Por Dairon Martínez Tejada

6 de octubre: Gilbert Joseph quería conocer Cuba en otras circunstancias. Venir a estudiar Medicina era su sueño, pero la situación en su natal Haití le obligó a posponer los planes y salir en busca de un cambio.

Con el riesgo de nunca volver, de truncar su vida y proyectos futuros, se lanzó a la mar junto a otros de sus compatriotas rumbo a la supuesta tierra de las oportunidades: Estados Unidos, pero el Paso de los Vientos pudo más que las ganas de arrancarse la miseria de sí, y terminaron aquí, en la Mayor de las Antillas, una tierra distinta a la suya,

que les abrió las puertas para cuidarlos antes de facilitarles el regreso a casa.

Nuestro archipiélago no era lo que esperaban ver los 212 haitianos, que desde el pasado 17 de septiembre recalaron por Maisí, Guantánamo; sin embargo, la atención ha sido mucho más de lo que alguna vez tuvieron.

«Al momento de la llegada les brindamos lo mejor de nosotros, afirma Roel Estévez Matos, administrador del campamento de refugiados, que desde 1976 habilitó la Revolución Cubana para atender las constantes oleadas migratorias provenientes de Haití. El objetivo es que se sientan a gusto, aún después de pasar por la



Los migrantes haitianos que intentan llegar a EE. UU., pero que recalán accidentalmente en Cuba son atendidos adecuadamente.

FOTO: TELECENTRO SOLVISIÓN

terrible experiencia del naufragio.

«Acá se les brinda servicio de hospedaje, entre naves con capacidad para 236 personas, y se les garantiza la alimentación (desayuno, merienda, almuerzo, merienda y comida), de acuerdo con las posibilidades del país. Además, tenemos un puesto médico con dos enfermeros y un doctor, pendientes las 24 horas de las patologías y enfermedades que se presenten».

Estévez Matos explica que todos los años sucede el fenómeno, los haitianos salen de su nación con destino a lugares más desarrollados: EE. UU., Islas Nassau, Bahamas, pero el mal tiempo los redirige hacia territorio cubano. Desde 2001 se han reportado 76 embarcaciones, con más de 4 000 migrantes; de julio a diciembre suelen concentrarse las mayores oleadas.

«Al arribar a nuestra patria, enseguida se moviliza un equipo integral de especialistas, responsables de la atención y pesquisaje general, para conocer el estado de salud de todos y en correspondencia con ello se actúa», agrega.

Diolkis Samón Domínguez es uno de los médicos responsables del bienestar de los migrantes, entre ellos 18 menores de edad con escabiosis y otras enfermedades en la piel, debido a la insolación por el largo tiempo que estuvieron en altamar, pero los demás mantienen condiciones de salud aceptables.

A todos se les tomó muestras para descartar VIH/sida, el paludismo, hepatitis, y previniendo el contagio por la COVID-19 se les realizó una prueba de pcr en tiempo real, de la que resultaron cuatro positivos. A estos último se les aisló, medicó y ya negativizaron, pero siguen en vigilancia, de hecho, a todos se les repitió el pcr al menos dos veces.

«Igualmente, como medida preventiva se les suministra el tratamiento antipalúdico por 14 días, se vela por el cumplimiento de las medidas higiénico-sanitarias y se les entregó nasobucos, pues no tienen costumbre de usarlos», apunta el doctor Samón Domínguez.

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# For the sake of global health: USA, stop lying about Cuba!

By Cheryl LaBash

Oct. 8 — Today a People's Peace Prize was awarded to Cuba's Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade — not the Nobel Peace Prize, although more than 100 organizations and 40,000 individuals from the U.S. alone supported the Henry Reeve Brigade's nomination.

As the global community stumbled under the coronavirus assault, Cuba's army of whitecoats rushed to hot spots when called, not shirking the danger. It's nothing new for them. In 2014, 10,000 Cuban medical professionals volunteered to go to Liberia and Sierra Leone to fight terrifyingly deadly ebola in West Africa.

In 2017, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recognized the Henry Reeve Brigade with its prestigious Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at a World Health Assembly (WHA) ceremony.

The PAHO press release says it all:

"The Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade has 'spread a message of hope throughout the world,' said the award presenter, John Linto, president of the Korean Foundation for International Health Care (KOFIH). Linto explained that the brigade's 7,400 voluntary healthcare workers have treated more than 3.5 million people in 21 countries ravaged by many of the world's worst natural disasters and epidemics throughout the past decade.

"He added that an estimated 80,000 lives have been saved as a direct result of the Brigade's front-line emergency medical treatments to patients in these countries."

Cuba's Henry Reeve Brigade was formed in 2005 from more than 1,500 fully-equipped doctors assembled to aid the people of New Orleans, who

were displaced, suffering and dying in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Named after a young U.S. Civil War veteran who joined Cuba's war of liberation and died fighting there, the brigade was rebuffed by President George W. Bush. But many of those same doctors then traveled to the snowy hills of the Himalayas to treat earthquake survivors in Pakistan.

## Cuba's global struggle against COVID

Fast forward to 2021 and the coronavirus pandemic. Suddenly these same internationalist heroes are widely slandered by the U.S. State Department. Intentionally coded terms like "human trafficking" were used to create a negative initial reaction. But according to the standard applied to Cuba by the U.S. State Department, the biggest human trafficker is capitalism itself.

Countries that need more doctors and can afford to do so pay Cuba for medical or other professional services. The Cuban workers are paid for their international work, and they also receive their regular pay at home. Countries that can't afford to pay still get help.

Yes, the total contract price may be more than is paid to the doctors, but it doesn't go into the pocket of a billionaire. Instead, the additional money goes for the public good, to provide free healthcare for all the Cuban people.

U.S. slander of the Henry Reeve Brigade and other economic interference is part of a regime-change plan to create unbearable hardship for the Cuban people, in the vain hope they will turn against their government. It has been an acknowledged plan since April 6, 1960, in the Mallory-Rubottom State Department memo. And it is

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