

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

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# Victory to anti-fascist forces of Donbass & allies! U.S./NATO hands off Russia!

Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido statement on the military conflict in Ukraine

On Feb. 24, the anti-fascist Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, together with the Russian Federation, launched a military action with the goal of "demilitarization and denazification" of the U.S.-NATO coup regime in Ukraine. It is in the interest of poor and working people, anti-war and anti-imperialist forces, especially in the U.S. and other NATO countries, to take a clear and unambiguous position in solidarity with the anti-fascist forces. The real war danger comes from U.S. and NATO forces surrounding Russia. The government in Kiev is a proxy of these forces of war, with no regard for the people of Ukraine.

For eight years, the people of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region have maintained their independence in the face of constant bombing, shooting and terrorist attacks by the Ukrainian government – a regime installed by a fascist coup orchestrated with bipartisan U.S. support. More than 14,000 people have died in Ukraine's war on Donbass, according to the United Nations.

Since November 2021, the U.S. has pushed Kiev to launch a new murderous invasion of the Donbass, while claiming that the real threat was from Russia against Ukraine. Meanwhile, the U.S. and its NATO military allies poured weapons and "trainers" into Ukraine, and built up their own imperialist armies on Russia's Western borders and throughout Eastern Europe. The U.S. rejected Moscow's just demands to guarantee Ukraine's neutrality and pull back NATO's armies.

Russia officially recognized the independence of Lugansk and Donetsk on Feb. 21 – nearly eight years after the people of Donbass overwhelmingly chose independence in a democratic referendum, rejecting the rule of the pro-Western/neo-fascist coup government in Ukraine.

The response of the U.S. and its allies was to impose new sanctions on Russia – an act of war – and to send still more troops and weapons to threaten the independent countries of the re-

gion. This included blocking the Nord Stream II gas pipeline project between Russia and the European Union, a major goal of Big Oil and Wall Street banks.

**Washington and NATO deliberately and methodically pushed the Donbass republics and Russia into a corner, from which there were only two options: submit or fight back.**

On the night of Feb. 23-24, the People's Militias of Donetsk and Lugansk and their Russian allies launched a military action with the goals of reclaiming Ukrainian-occupied areas of Donbass and demilitarizing and denazifying the Ukrainian-NATO regime.

The People's Militias are fighting to drive back the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including neo-Nazi battalions armed and trained by the U.S., Canada and NATO, that constantly threaten the lives of their residents. U.S. white supremacists have trained with the Ukrainian fascist gangs, something even admitted by the FBI, and gained military experience fighting against Donbass which they bring back to attack oppressed communities here. They were key players in the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Va., and the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer.

The Russian armed forces have carried out attacks on at least 74 military bases throughout Ukraine, many of them constructed and upgraded by NATO specifically to facilitate war against Russia. Russian, Donbass and the Ukrainian anti-fascist underground are also working to locate, capture or eliminate neo-Nazi forces, including the ringleaders of the 2014 Odessa massacre, when at least 46 people were killed at the House of Trade Unions.

The anti-fascist military action, forced on Donbass and Russia by the Western imperialist powers, principally President Joe Biden and the U.S. government, has exposed confusion and equivocation in the U.S. anti-war movement, even among socialists and communists.

Let's be clear: Modern capitalist Russia is not an imperialist country. It had no means to become one after the counterrevolution in the USSR. It is a regional power akin to India or Brazil, primarily an exporter of commodities, not capital. In order to maintain its independence, Russia had to ally itself with other countries in opposition to imperialism.

Ukraine's coup regime, by contrast, is a pawn of U.S. imperialism that has been waging a brutal war on its neighbors in Donbass for eight years and offered itself as a base for NATO aggression against Russia.

We want to remind the movement of the principles laid down at the dawn of imperialism by V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution. Differentiating the communist position from the pacifists, who condemn all wars equally, Lenin said, "We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created."

If Iran attacked Saudi Arabia to stop the genocidal U.S. war on Yemen (carried out by Saudi Arabia at Washington's behest), which also threatens Iran and its regional allies, we hope that anti-imperialists would recognize that this was a just war, despite some of our ideological differences with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Yet this is exactly what is happening in Ukraine today.

Our responsibility is to stop U.S. imperialism and its wars in all forms, and to stand in solidarity with those who fight against U.S. domination.

**Victory to the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and their allies!**

**Solidarity with the anti-fascist underground and exiles of Ukraine!**

**U.S./NATO: Hands off Russia! Get out of Ukraine and Eastern Europe!**

**Dismantle the imperialist NATO war machine – bring all the troops home now!** 📢

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## Why Russia recognized the Donbass republics

By Greg Buttefield

Feb. 23 — In order to have a clear anti-war, anti-imperialist position today, class-conscious workers need



to understand the significance of the Russian Federation's Feb. 21 decision to recognize the Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk as independent, sovereign countries, nearly eight years after they first declared independence from Ukraine.

Following an unprecedented live telecast of the meeting of Russia's National Security Council, President Vladimir Putin announced, "I deem it necessary to make a decision that should have been made a long time ago – to immediately recognise the independence and sovereignty of the

Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR)."

Putin signed presidential decrees recognizing the republics; establishing treaties of friendship and mutual cooperation with them; and authorizing Russian peacekeepers to be deployed to the Donbass if requested. Reciprocal decrees were signed by the leaders of the DPR and LPR, Denis Pushilin and Leonid Pasechnik.

The U.S. and its global allies denounced the decision.

Russia's decision came after several days of heightened Ukrainian



military attacks on the two small republics. Two-thirds of Ukraine's NATO-armed and -trained mili-

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# Brian Flores lawsuit exposes NFL racism

By Steven Ceci

Everyone in the sports world should unite in solidarity with Brian Flores for standing up against racism in the National Football League (NFL).

The NFL is being called out as a racist institution – particularly in its hiring practices of oppressed nationalities, specifically African Americans. Former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores, who is Black, filed a class-action lawsuit against his former employer, the NFL, and two additional teams — the Denver Broncos and New York Giants.

Flores filed his case on the first day of Black History Month, accusing the NFL of systemic racism in the hiring of coaches and executives. Flores also dismissed the Rooney Rule, the league directive by which NFL owners are compelled to interview one “minority” candidate per head coach vacancy, as a sham that has produced nothing except unconvincing window dressing.

Besides being a clarion call for others affected by racism in the NFL to join in, the Flores’ lawsuit pays homage to those who sacrificed and challenged discrimination and racism.

In his preliminary statement, Flores said, “As this Class Action Complaint is filed on the first day of Black History Month, we honor the brave leaders that fought so hard to help break down racial barriers of injustice. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass, Jackie Robinson and Mamie Till, to name only a few.”

In the 58-page lawsuit, Flores alleged that “the NFL remains rife with racism, particularly when it comes to the hiring and retention of Black Head Coaches, Coordinators and General Managers.”

Flores — who was fired by the Dolphins in January, despite a record-winning three seasons — also claims that he was subjected to what he called “sham” interviews for head coaching positions by both the New York Giants this offseason and by the Denver Broncos in 2019. Flores says the interviews were only meant to satisfy the league’s quota for interviewing candidates of color before the teams ultimately hired white men.



Former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores is challenging NFL racism.

Flores has recently been on the losing end of the lie that the NFL cares about diversity. He just completed his second consecutive winning season in Miami. It marked the first time that the hapless Dolphins have had consecutive winning seasons in almost 20 years. Flores even brought the team back from a 1-7 start to a winning record, the first NFL coach to accomplish that feat. And yet he was fired.

Flores finally had enough and

filed his lawsuit, after a phony Rooney Rule interview with the New York Giants — an organization that has never hired a Black head coach.

Flores realized that his interview was a sham when his former mentor Bill Belichick texted him by accident. Belichick tried to congratulate Brian Daboll for landing the Giants job, but texted the wrong Brian.

The Giants had seemingly decided to hire a white coach that had never been a head coach, even before Flores was interviewed. Flores decried the fact that the league has only one Black head coach while

70% of players are Black.

What has really upset the NFL’s defenders is that Flores describes the NFL as being managed like a plantation.

Flores recognizes that by undertaking his lawsuit, he will be white-balled from the league just like Colin Kaepernick was for kneeling against police terror. But he also sees the importance of challenging this racist institution for the sake of other Black coaches and players. 📌

# A victory! Professor Rabab Abdulhadi wins second grievance at SFSU

By the International Campaign to Defend Professor Rabab Abdulhadi

A faculty panel has unanimously sided with Professor Rabab Abdulhadi at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in a grievance she filed through her union, the SFSU chapter of the California Faculty Association. Dr. Abdulhadi’s grievance reiterated her demand for SFSU to fulfill its outstanding commitment to build Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) Studies by hiring two additional tenure-track faculty members, institutionally supporting AMED, stopping the attempt to dismantle AMED, and ending the creation of the hostile work environment to which Dr. Abdulhadi has been subjected for at least 13 years for her directorship of AMED and her refusal to abandon it.

Issued yesterday by the three-person Faculty Hearing Committee that adjudicated Dr. Abdulhadi’s grievance on February 4, a report agreed with Dr. Abdulhadi’s claims that SFSU breached her hiring contract and fostered a hostile work environment to pressure her to give up AMED Studies. The Faculty Hearing Committee supported Dr. Abdulhadi, and upheld AMED’s independence and integrity.

The statutory grievance filed by Dr. Abdulhadi documented SFSU’s refusal to honor the original Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) which the university signed when it recruited Dr. Abdulhadi to create and direct the AMED program in 2005. That MOU stipulated that two additional tenure-track positions would be hired along with Dr. Abdulhadi to ensure a full and sustainable academic, communal and advocacy multi-site space on the history, pol-

itics, cultures and social movements of Arab, Muslim and Palestinian communities as they intersect with and contribute to the indivisibility of justice within and outside of the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU.

The fact that those faculty positions were never filled served to thwart AMED Studies and turn it into a token, one-person operation without possibility of growth and development — had it not been for Dr. Abdulhadi’s tenacity and determination to resist such designs. In addition, the grievance detailed how the university created a hos-

tile work and study environment on campus for Dr. Abdulhadi and her Arab, Muslim and Palestinian students and their allies, including anti-Zionist Jewish students, staff and colleagues. These efforts have been publicly decried by numerous scholars and academic organizations, including the SFSU chapter of the California Faculty Association.

The February 4 Faculty Hearing Committee rejected the university’s claims, including several bad faith actions that sought to undermine the transparency of the grievance hearing.

Academics, public intellectuals, and the broader Palestine justice movement welcome yesterday’s ruling and congratulate members of the Faculty Hearing Committee, Dr. Abdulhadi and the SFSU chapter of the California Faculty Association for their persistence in protecting faculty rights and refusing to join the SFSU Administration in its collusion with the Zionist, orientalist and racist agenda that seeks to silence the teaching of Palestine.

For more information, write to [Team@professorabdulhadidefense.com](mailto:Team@professorabdulhadidefense.com).

## Oakland teachers and ILWU Local 10 join forces



Hunger strikers at Westlake Public School in Oakland, Calif., left, join protest, above, with ILWU Local 10 and Oakland Teachers on Feb. 17. They are fighting the closure of public schools and to save the Port of Oakland.

# Plans to build ballpark at the Port of Oakland threatens thousands of union jobs

By Lallan Schoenstein

On Feb. 17, *Struggle-La Lucha* interviewed Clarence Thomas, a third-generation longshore worker, retired past secretary-treasurer of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 and author of “Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March.” The book is about the struggles of ILWU Local 10, one of the most radical unions in the country and maybe the world. It is an anthology based on articles and interviews, photographs, and posters, with Thomas’ introductory analysis containing vital lessons for today’s labor movement.

**Struggle-La Lucha:** It’s great to be talking with you as Local 10 and the Oakland teachers, along with other labor and community activists, rally in Oscar Grant Plaza to stop the privatization of Howard Terminal and the closure of eleven Oakland schools.

**Clarence Thomas:** At present, the City Council of Oakland is voting to certify an Environmental Impact Report presented by John Fisher, owner of the Oakland A’s baseball team, in his quest to gentrify the Port of Oakland with a waterfront ballpark and development at Howard Terminal.

The Port of Oakland is the third busiest port on the West Coast, an economic engine for the entire region of northern California. ILWU Local 10 is the largest labor force at the Port of Oakland. It has a long militant labor history.

**SLL:** Why is the history of the ILWU Local 10 so important in this struggle?

**CT:** In the 1934 San Francisco General Strike, dock workers led by the legendary union leader Harry Bridges won control of the hiring hall and ended discriminatory hiring practices, known as the “shape-up.” During the following years, ILWU Local 10 — with African American leadership — became internationally recognized as one of the most democratic and radical trade unions in the U.S.

**SLL:** I’ve heard Fisher’s project described as building an “amusement park on top of an assembly line.”

**CT:** Fisher wants to shut down Howard Terminal and replace it with a 35,000 seat ballpark; including 3,000 skybox condominiums for the wealthy, where you can watch a baseball game from your condo; a 400-room luxury hotel; and 1.8 million square feet of retail and commercial space.

Presently, there is no infrastructure for public traffic at all at the port. Two railroad lines run right in front of the Howard Terminal. One is for Amtrak, the other is for Union Pacific Railroad which at times carry hazardous material.

There are good reasons why ports and other maritime facilities have zoning laws; which says that no matter how beautiful the scenery may be in terms of skylines and waterfront, you can’t build housing on the maritime facilities.

**SLL:** Who is John Fisher?

**CT:** He is a right-wing billionaire, who owns the Oakland A’s, Gap clothing stores, and is one of the major U.S. landowners. He is instrumental in many other gentrifying projects.

Fisher happens to be a major play-

er in funding and operating charter schools. He owns KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) charter schools and has affiliations with Rocketship charter schools. Fisher and his family are very much involved in the implementation of charter schools on the West Coast.

The reason why I’m emphasizing this is because the city of Oakland is in the midst of closing schools in predominantly African American and Brown communities. For the record, along with generations of other African American and working-class families, I have been the beneficiary of Oakland Unified School District. If we want to have real working-class democracy and not just bourgeois democracy, we need public schools. If a country does not invest in its youth, it has no future.

When they close public schools, it’s a precursor for charter schools. They are creating an environment where public schools can be converted into condominiums.

My father, Clarence C. Thomas, Sr., and his family were part of the great Black migration from Mississippi to Oakland, California, in 1936. He enrolled in Clawson Elementary School. For more than 20 years, Clawson elementary has been the site of upscale condominiums in Oakland. When I talk about the closure of schools — then the schools being converted into high-cost condominiums — it is based upon fact.

**SLL:** I see that Local 10 and the Oakland teachers have joined forces.

**CT:** There are currently two Oakland teachers at Westlake Middle School — Maurice André San-Chez and Moses Olanrewaju Omolade — who are on a 17-day hunger strike. These teachers are demanding that the state invest money in education and not in closing schools. They say they will end their hunger strike if California Gov. Gavin Newsom, the superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, and the School Board members, meet with them.

Thus far, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Newsom have been very dismissive of the teachers’ demands.

Gov. Newsom wants to fashion himself as some kind of progressive. He had an opportunity to release many political prisoners from California state prisons, based on humanitarian release, because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He refused to do that.

We have to be very clear about whose interests the Democratic Party serves, which leads me to bring up the issue of how Democratic politicians claim to be friends of labor. They have been demonstrating that they are anything but.

First of all, I’d like to call attention to two prominent California politicians. One is Rob Bonta, who is currently the Attorney General for the State of California. Bonta played a major role in effectuating legislation that would allow the publicly owned Howard terminal, specifically designated for maritime use, to be used as a site for recreation and luxury housing. In his role as State Assemblyman, Bonta and State Senator Nancy Skinner have been working in collaboration to make Fisher’s

gentrification plan possible.

Fisher is the stingiest baseball owner in Major League Baseball. This is not just hyperbole. During the pandemic last year he refused to pay the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Authority the rent on the property where the A’s currently play baseball. He said he had not been able to generate any money because of the pandemic. Yet he’s attempting to acquire some of the largest public space in the city of Oakland. He wants an amusement park for the rich at a thriving working port.

**SLL:** Will Oakland benefit in any way from Fisher’s proposal?

**CT:** No! The city of Oakland, like many major cities, is suffering from a lack of affordable housing. There is a growing population of people who are living on the streets and in parks. John Fisher is asking for a billion dollars from Oakland taxpayers to pay for infrastructure, on-site and off-site, for this development.

It’s important for people who will be reading this interview to understand how neoliberal policies are driving John Fisher’s efforts at the Port of Oakland. Neoliberalism is generally associated with economic policies including privatization, which is what is taking place at Howard Terminal and the closure of Oakland Public Schools.

**SLL:** Are other union leaders supporting Local 10 and the teachers?

**CT:** Most of the unions represented by the Alameda County Central Labor Council are supporting Fisher’s project. The reason is because of the very large membership of the Building Trades unions. The Building Trades also have a lot of money and they support Democratic politicians. If we are to be very truthful, the Building Trades have a long history of racism and exclusion of people of color in their ranks. They say that the project will generate jobs. Yes, it will. Most of those jobs will be the better paying jobs which will go to the members of the Building Trades.

What happens after the project is built? What jobs will be available to the working class in the city? Not the kind of jobs that will allow them to be able to rent apartments or buy homes.

Let me get to some specifics as to what this development would mean to port workers at the Port of Oakland. ILWU Local 10 is the only predominantly African American longshore union on the entire West Coast. Local 10 has a history of social justice, activism, and solidarity with the oppressed and the working class, at home and abroad.

ILWU Local 10 is one of the few places in the entire United States of America where Black people, specifically Black women and other women of color, can work and make the same amount of money as white men.

This development would curtail the future not only of ILWU members but also mitigate the capacity for the Port of Oakland in the midst of a pandemic. It is absolutely scandalous. The reason for this interview with you today is to be able to shed some light on it.

**SLL:** How did you become a member of ILWU Local 10?

**CT:** My grandfather migrated

from Louisiana and went to work in a shipyard in Oakland in 1943. One year later he became a member of the ILWU. Some 20 years later, in 1963 — the year of the March on Washington — my father became a member of ILWU. In 1965 my great uncle Robert Harmon also became a member of Local 10. After the passing of my father, while an active member of Local 10 in 1985, I became a member of Local 10.

Trent Willis, who just completed his second term as ILWU Local 10 President, is a third-generation longshore worker. His father went to work on the waterfront the same year as my dad.

Leo Robinson, the rank-and-file leader of ILWU who was responsible for writing the historic resolution calling for the boycott of South Africa’s apartheid cargo — also became a member of Local 10 in 1963.

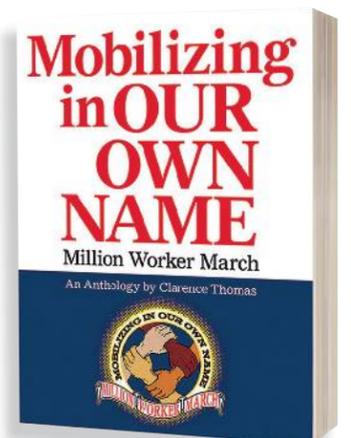
I am mentioning this because it is so important to understand what the ILWU meant to people who reside in the Bay Area and the impact that they’ve made, not only in the Bay Area but across the country and around the world.

Former Oakland mayor and U.S. Congress member Ronald V. Dellums, whose father was a longshore worker, attended Westlake Middle School where the teachers are currently on a hunger strike. Rep. Dellums played a critical role in Congress in advocating for sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

Dellums, Robinson, and I all graduated from Oakland Technical High School. It is not a coincidence that all of our social justice activism was in some way influenced by our fathers’ membership in ILWU Local 10, one of the most democratic and militant rank-and-file unions.

In conclusion, during the years when there has been turmoil in the fight to end segregation and apartheid in the U.S., those waterfront jobs have meant so much to many in the Bay Area, not only Black people but the entire working class.

The union jobs allowed dock workers in the community to buy homes, to send their children to college, even though some of those members had no higher education at all. It enabled them to effectuate political change in the Bay Area. When Nelson Mandela was released from prison and did a worldwide tour, he came to Oakland where the longshore workers had refused to unload South African cargo. Mandela spoke to thousands at the Oakland Coliseum where the Oakland A’s currently play baseball. 📍



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# A century of lies for war, about Russia

By Stephen Millies

Before the planes can drop the bombs, capitalist newspapers and TV networks have to spread the lies. In 1898, U.S. banksters wanted to grab Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines from Spain.

They used the explosion aboard the battleship USS Maine while it was docked in Havana to do so. Two hundred sixty sailors were killed. From coast-to-coast, newspapers ran headlines proclaiming “Remember the Maine!”

Within 10 weeks Congress declared war on Spain. Not until 1976 did U.S. Rear Admiral Hyman Rickover, as the head of an official inquiry, admit that the explosion was accidental and that Spain wasn't responsible. Puerto Rico is still a U.S. colony.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson claimed Vietnamese PT boats attacked the U.S. naval vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin. This big lie was the excuse to step up bombing of Vietnam and Laos. Millions of people were killed in that dirty war, including 58,000 GIs.

Who can forget George W. Bush's Big Lie that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction? The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people whose family members were killed certainly can't.

Now the target of war propaganda is the Russian Federation. An elected Ukrainian government was overthrown eight years ago with the assistance of fascist gangs. The 2014 coup was greased by \$5 billion in U.S. payoffs since 1991.

The CIA was behind the Ukraine coup just as it pulled the strings in overthrowing Chile's elected President Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973. Communist organizations were outlawed in both Chile and Ukraine.

The Ukrainian regime even banned the singing of the revolutionary anthem “the Internationale,” which was written to commemorate the Paris Commune. Over 40 people were murdered when the House of Trade Unions in Odessa was set on fire by neo-Nazis.

This is the “democracy” that President Biden wants us to support.



‘Remember the Maine!’ newspaper lies were used to launch a war.

The man in the White House said nothing about 14,000 people being killed in the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics by intense shelling by Ukraine.

The Russian intervention has helped rescue people in Donetsk and Lugansk. It's aimed to prevent Ukraine from being a NATO base against Russia. Pentagon generals view the Russian Federation as six million square miles to be occupied by the U.S.

## Lying in order to invade Russia

It's not new for capitalist newspapers to lie about Russia. “Documents prove Lenine and Trotzky hired by Germans” was the New York Times' front-page headline on Sept. 15, 1918.

The sensational article — first of a series — claimed Bolshevik leaders Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky were “German agents” and “the Bolshevik revolution was arranged for by the German Great General Staff.”

According to the Times, the millions of people from dozens of nationalities that rose up in a socialist revolution, was just a conspiracy hatched by the German Kaiser. This is like John Birch Society members who claim the Black Lives Matter movement or the French Rev-

olution are and were the result of conspiracies.

The 1918 Big Lie was based on 70 documents provided by U.S. government agent Edgar Sisson. The problem was the “Sisson Documents,” supposedly originating from different locations, were almost all typed on the same manual typewriter.

It was an obvious fraud that swiftly boomeranged. In the 1950s, retired U.S. Ambassador George Kennan — himself a Cold War architect — pronounced them forgeries.

Yet this fake news was used by President Woodrow Wilson to justify sending troops to occupy Arkhangel'sk and Vladivostok in revolutionary Russia. That didn't stop Seattle dock workers from smashing crates of rifles going to former Czarist Admiral Kolchak, who threw suspected Bolsheviks into the boilers of steam locomotives.

Black Liberation fighters including Claude McKay, Langston Hughes, W.E.B. Du Bois, Claudia Jones and Paul Robeson were inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution.

Less than two months after the “Sisson Documents” were published, German workers and sailors, inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution, overthrew the Kaiser.

## Triumph and defeat

The Soviet Union that resulted from the Bolshevik Revolution lifted up people from more than 100 nationalities. They established the world's first and largest affirmative action programs that fought for equality.

Ukraine is a good example. Between 1915 and 1965, the number of students in Ukraine more than tripled to reach 8.5 million. In the same period the number of college students increased twenty times. (“National Languages in the USSR: Problems and Solutions” by M. I. Isayev.)

These students were taught primarily in Ukrainian. Compare that to the mission schools in the United States and Canada where Indigenous youth were beaten if they spoke their own languages. Many died.

Never forget that 27 million Soviet people, including millions of Ukrainians, died defeating Hitler. It was the Red Army that liberated Auschwitz on Jan. 27, 1945. One of the heroes was the Ukrainian woman sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko who killed 309 Nazis.

Tragically the Soviet Union was overthrown 30 years ago. Like Reconstruction's bloody overthrow by the Ku Klux Klan, it was a defeat for all poor and working people.

While monuments to Confederate slave masters have been toppled by the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands of statues of revolutionaries and Red Army leaders have been destroyed in Ukraine. Meanwhile statues of the Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, whose followers slaughtered thousands of Jewish and Polish people, have been erected.

Eighty-one million people voted against Trump and racism in 2020. They didn't vote for a war against the Russian Federation.

Our enemies are the landlords who are jacking-up rents by as much as 40%. President Biden isn't able to defend voting rights but he's threatening a new dangerous armed conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

Hands off the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, and the Russian Federation! [📌](#)

# Cuba: Ukraine and the spark of Donbass

By Elson Concepción Pérez  
February 20, 2022

In a tweet, the member of the Political Bureau and Cuban Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, wrote: “We strongly reject the propagandistic and communication hysteria unleashed by the U.S. government against Russia and we firmly oppose the expansion of NATO to the borders of that brother country.”

The last week — that of the Russian “invasion” of Ukraine, fabricated by Washington — ended, and with it even the Russian military maneuvers, scheduled in advance, began the timeline for the return home of those involved.

Both the President of the United States, Joe Biden, as well as the highest exponents of NATO and some

European rulers or subordinates were left wanting the shots to ring out and insisted on new lies on the same subject, but now more towards the inside of Ukraine than in the foreign environment.

The Kiev government, used as “bait” for Russia to “take the bait” of the West and provoke a war, seems to be disappointed by so many lies and manipulation of those who have promised it NATO membership and the guarantee of its security in the face of a possible reaction from Moscow.

However, with these actions, the only thing they have caused Ukraine is a substantial economic loss that already exceeds \$3 billion, without counting the bills that will be passed on later for the “aid” in weapons of all kinds that they are providing it with. But where are the shots and the sup-

posed casualties caused by the Russian invasion? Where did the tanks and artillery that Washington announced would reach Kiev come in.

Then they remembered a key piece in this puzzle: the separatist republics of Donbass with their territories of Donetsk (DPR) and Lugansk (LPR), in Ukraine, became, overnight, the spark of a new provocation against Moscow.

Kiev, with its army, is staging a montage that cannot be sustained, but which already this weekend left some civilians dead and more than 40,000 people of Russian origin were forced to cross the border and take refuge in the Russian region of Rostov.

In view of the heated warlike mood, both Russia and Belarus, which had already ended their joint military maneuvers, have decided to

prolong them. Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin described the current scenario as “a strong smell of gunpowder” in the region, with the possibility of “Europe being pushed into a war”, as several neighboring countries are accumulating more advanced weapons, according to RT.

He also reiterated that the goal of the Russian and Belarusian maneuvers remains the same: “to ensure an adequate response and de-escalation of the enemies' military preparations.”

In the meantime, the spark in Donbass may become, with the help of the West and the mainstream press at its service, a detonator that will make what Russia and the international community want to avoid — a war — a reality.

Source: Walter Lippmann/Granma

# Biden gives Big Oil a win, gas prices going up

By Gary Wilson

On Feb. 22, President Joe Biden announced new sanctions on Russia and on the company that built Nord Stream 2 and its German CEO. These sanctions will mean higher gas prices in the U.S. as well as in Europe.

“As I said last week, defending freedom will have costs, for us as well and here at home,” Biden said. “We need to be honest about that.” Biden added that he will take measures to “blunt” gas price increases, “to limit the pain the American people are feeling at the gas pump.”

Biden said he’s doing this in coordination with the major oil producers, but gave no details, meaning that there’s really no limit planned. It’s a signal of support to Big Oil profits, particularly in the heating gas market in Europe.

An inflation rate in the U.S. at 7.5% — higher prices for gas, food and rent — has been a severe wage cut for all workers here. At the same time, corporate profits have reached a 70-year high.

“Two dozen of the most profitable oil and gas companies — a group that includes Shell, BP, ExxonMobil and Chevron — recorded \$74.9 billion in net income” in the third quarter of 2021, reports Common Dreams. “Big Oil’s soaring profits come as gasoline prices have hit a seven-year high in the U.S. ... with Americans now paying about \$3.40 for a gallon of fuel compared with around \$2.10 a year ago.”

The sanctions on Russia and Nord Stream 2 — the ones that will drive gas prices even higher, with some predicting pump prices going up to \$7 a gallon — are driven, in part, by the demands of Big Oil. The sanc-

tions were announced after Russia gave recognition to the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Lugansk People’s Republic in Donbass. Biden calls this an invasion of Ukraine, which it is not.

If the goal of U.S. sanctions was really for peace in Ukraine, why didn’t the Biden administration demand implementation of the 2015 Minsk 2 agreement, which is the policy supported by both France and Germany? Minsk 2 requires Ukraine to negotiate with the two Donbass republics on autonomy, but no serious negotiations have been held.

## EU gets gas from Russia

The European Union imports 40% of its gas from Russia. The primary route for gas from Russia is through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany. Nord Stream 2 was built to provide a more secure and stable pipeline that has at least double the capacity.

Biden really spilled the beans earlier when he indicated that he wanted to block Nord Stream 2, a pipeline built to bring Russian gas under the Baltic Sea directly to Germany.

On Feb. 7, Biden threatened to take control over the German-Russian project that the U.S. has no relation with. From the White House transcript:

[By previous arrangement, the first question went to a Reuters reporter.]

Reuters. Andra — Andrea. You’ve got the first question.

Q: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Chancellor Scholz. Mr. President, I have wanted to ask you about this Nord Stream project that you’ve long opposed. You didn’t



mention it just now by name, nor did Chancellor Scholz. Did you receive assurances from Chancellor Scholz today that Germany will, in fact, pull the plug on this project if Russia invades Ukraine? And did you discuss what the definition of “invasion” could be?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: The first question first. If Germany — if Russia invades — that means tanks or troops crossing the — the border of Ukraine again — then there will be — we — there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.

Q: But how will you — how will you do that exactly, since the project and control of the project is within Germany’s control?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: We will — I promise you, we’ll be able to do it.

Blocking Nord Stream 2 has been a goal of Big Oil and therefore of the U.S. government. It was near the top of Donald Trump’s agenda. Despite what reports may say, the record of the Trump administration is a long series of sanctions and hostile actions against Russia, as the Brookings Institution has detailed.

Mostly unknown here, Trump

worked overtime to block the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. In 2018, Trump got German Chancellor Angela Merkel to agree to spend \$1 billion building a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) port to import highly priced U.S. LNG. The plan was canceled after Trump lost the election and Merkel left office.

With the U.S. pushing a NATO expansion to Russia’s borders and supporting a coup government in Ukraine, the Biden administration found another way to block Nord Stream 2. As Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland explained in a State Department press briefing on Jan. 27: “If Russia invades Ukraine one way or another Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.”

On Feb. 22, when Biden announced his sanctions on Russia, Germany announced it was halting the certification process for Nord Stream 2. The Nord Stream 2 project was finished in September, but has stood idle pending certification by Germany and the EU.

Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s former president and now deputy chairman of its Security Council, tweeted: “Welcome to the new world where Europeans will soon have to pay 2,000 euros per thousand cubic meters!” — suggesting prices were set to double. 🇺🇸

# Granma: Ucrania y la chispa de Donbás

Por Elson Concepción Pérez  
20 de febrero de 2022

En un tuit, el miembro del Buró Político y canciller cubano, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, escribió: «Rechazamos enérgicamente la histeria propagandística y comunicacional que desata el Gobierno de EE. UU contra Rusia y nos oponemos firmemente a la expansión de la OTAN hasta las fronteras de ese hermano país»

La última semana —la de la «invasión» rusa a Ucrania, fabricada por Washington— terminó, y con ella hasta las maniobras militares rusas, programadas de antemano, comenzaron el cronograma de regreso a casa de los involucrados.

Tanto el presidente de Estados Unidos, Joe Biden, como los máximos exponentes de la OTAN y algunos gobernantes o subordinados europeos se quedaron con las ganas de que sonaran los tiros e insistieron en nuevas mentiras sobre el mismo tema, pero ahora más hacia el interior de Ucrania que en el entorno foráneo.

El Gobierno de Kiev, utilizado

Rusia estima que más de 40 000 refugiados de Donbás ya están en su territorio.  
FOTO: SPUTNIK



como «carnada» para que Rusia «mordiera» el anzuelo de Occidente y provocara una guerra, parece decepcionado ante tanta mentira y manipulación de quienes le han prometido la entrada a la OTAN y la garantía de su seguridad ante una posible reacción de Moscú.

Sin embargo, con esas acciones lo único que han provocado a Ucrania es una cuantiosa pérdida económica que ya supera los 3 000 millones de dólares, sin contarse las facturas que le pasarán luego por la «ayuda» en armas de todo tipo que le están facilitando. Pero, y los tiros y las su-

puestas bajas que provocaría la invasión rusa, dónde están. Por dónde entraron los tanques y la artillería que anunció Washington llegaría hasta Kiev.

Entonces recordaron una pieza clave en este rompecabezas: las repúblicas separatistas de Donbás con sus territorios de Donetsk (RPD) y Lugansk (RPL), en Ucrania, se convertían, de la noche a la mañana, en la chispa de una nueva provocación contra Moscú.

Kiev, con su ejército, está escenificando un montaje incapaz de sostenerse, pero que ya este fin

de semana dejaba algunos civiles muertos y más de 40 000 personas de origen ruso se vieron obligadas a cruzar la frontera y guarecerse en la región rusa de Rostov.

Ante lo caldeado de los ánimos bélicos, tanto Rusia como Bielorrusia, que ya terminaban sus maniobras militares conjuntas, han decidido prolongarlas. El ministro de Defensa bielorruso, Víktor Jrenin, calificó el escenario actual con «un fuerte olor a pólvora» en la región, con la posibilidad de que «Europa sea empujada a una guerra», pues varios países vecinos están acumulando armas más avanzadas, según RT.

Además, reiteró que el objetivo de las maniobras de Rusia y Bielorrusia sigue siendo el mismo: «garantizar una respuesta adecuada y la desescalada de los preparativos militares de los enemigos».

Mientras, la chispa en Donbás puede convertirse, con la ayuda occidental y de la gran prensa a su servicio, en un detonante que haga realidad lo que Rusia y la comunidad internacional quieren evitar: una guerra.

Fuente: Granma

# War crisis: Donbass resists U.S.-planned attack, needs solidarity

By Greg Butterfield

Feb. 21 – Before dawn on Feb. 20, the 79th Airborne Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces attempted to cross the Seversky Donets River in Lugansk, near the Russian border, and attack positions of the People's Militia of the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR). The anti-fascist militia soldiers drove back the Ukrainian troops. As they fled, the Ukrainian soldiers fired on the village of Pionerskoye, destroying five homes and killing two civilians.

Since Feb. 18, the independent republics of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass mining region have come under heavy attack from Ukraine. There have already been multiple attempts by the Ukrainian military to break through the 200-mile ceasefire “line of contact” established in 2015, to find a vulnerable spot to begin an invasion, including one Feb. 20 at the Svetlodarsk Arc, about halfway between the republics' capitals, and one that is ongoing at the time of writing in the south of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), near the fascist-occupied city of Mariupol.

The attacks are the most intense the region has seen since the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Militias defeated a Ukrainian invasion in February 2015 at the Battle of Debaltsevo. The renewed assault by the U.S.-supported government in Kiev is in flagrant violation of the 2015 Minsk II ceasefire accords, to which Ukraine is a signatory.

Since 2014, more than 14,000 people have died in Ukraine's war on Donbass.

The illegal Ukrainian attacks are carried out with hundreds of tons of weapons supplied by the United States and other countries of the NATO military alliance. Many of these weapons are in the hands of neo-Nazi battalions that have pledged to ethnically and politically “cleanse” the Donbass of its Russian-speaking and other “foreign” residents and leftist Ukrainians.

More than 150,000 Ukrainian troops, or roughly two-thirds of the country's military, is currently stationed on the line of contact, poised to invade. Strategic points are occupied by the Right Sector, Azov Battalion and other fascist groups that have been officially incorporated into the Ukrainian Armed Forces and received military training from the U.S., Canada and Britain.

As Struggle-La Lucha has frequently explained, the true danger of invasion is not coming from the Russian Federation against Ukraine,

but from Ukraine against the people of Donbass. Washington has been relentlessly pushing the government of Ukrainian President Zelensky to attack Donbass for months in hopes of provoking a confrontation with Russia.

As it has done before every major war in its history, U.S. imperialism is lying about the real causes of the war crisis in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Like the claim of “weapons of mass destruction” 20 years ago that preceded the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the hue and cry from Washington and the corporate media about an “imminent Russian invasion” stands reality on its head.

It is the four million residents of Donbass — who have lived under the shadow of war and blockade for nearly eight years — who are facing the consequences of U.S.-NATO lies. They continue to resist. They need our solidarity now more than ever.

## Evacuation ordered

On Feb. 17, as a gesture of goodwill after meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the pull-back of some Russian troops from their defensive positions on the country's western border.

Instead of accepting Moscow's olive branch, Washington and Kiev took this as the opportunity to launch a major attack on the small republics near Russia. President Joe Biden once more declared that Putin had “decided to invade Ukraine.” This shows that Biden & Co. had no interest in preventing a war, only inciting it.

On Feb. 18, with the intensification of Ukraine's attacks and the clear preparations for invasion, Denis Pushilin and Leonid Pasechnik — heads of state of the DPR and LPR — announced the voluntary evacuation of civilians to Russia. Priority is given to elders, children and parents. So far more than 53,000 people have been evacuated to hastily prepared refugee centers in Rostov-on-Don and other cities in western Russia.

Soon after, Pushilin and Pasechnik ordered the full mobilization of the male population between the ages of 18 and 55 for service in the People's Militia to defend their embattled homeland. Many other Donbass residents of all genders and ages, including political exiles from Ukraine, have decided to stay and resist, including workers responsible for the upkeep of infrastructure and vital services, healthcare workers and political activists.

On the night of Feb. 20-21, as Ukrainian shock troops attempted



Night battle between Donetsk defenders and Ukrainian sabotage squad, Feb. 20.



Explosion caused by Ukrainian bombing of gas pipeline in Lugansk, Feb. 19.

Photo: Alexy Albu

to break through the DPR's southern border near Russia, shelling by Kiev's military knocked out the pumping station that provides drinking water for 21,000 residents. The Donetsk News Agency reported that a Ukrainian saboteur blew himself up attempting to place a bomb at the railway station in Donetsk, the capital city. Two schools were reported damaged by shelling.

Meanwhile, in a stark provocation, fire from Ukrainian-controlled territory destroyed a border outpost on Russian territory. Earlier, two Ukrainian shells were reported to have hit fields in Russia's Rostov region.

## Voices from Donbass

After a Ukrainian projectile exploded outside her home, Anzhela Martynenko, a resident of the Petrovsky district of Donetsk, told a News Front reporter: “The shelling has started since yesterday. The child and I did not sleep, the child was frightened.”

## Why Russia recognized the Donbass republics

Continued from page 1

tary forces are poised on the roughly 200-mile “line of contact” with Donetsk and Lugansk, near Russia. Some 175,000 NATO troops, meanwhile, are also stationed on Russia's western border.

Hundreds of Ukrainian artillery attacks, shootings and terrorist acts have been carried out since Feb. 17, killing and wounding civilians and members of the Donbass People's Militias, destroying homes and damaging vital infrastructure like water filtration plants, gas pipelines and schools.

Mass evacuations of civilians from Donetsk and Lugansk began Feb. 18. Everyone understood that a Ukrainian invasion was imminent, even though the Biden administration, standing reality on its head, kept repeating that Russia was planning to invade Ukraine.

Although the shelling of Donetsk, capital city of the DPR, subsided briefly after Russia's announcement,

“Why are we being fired upon? Please tell us what we did to [Ukrainian President] Zelensky? Why have we been suffering for eight years? Innocent people, children. ... There is nowhere to hide, peaceful people live here — miners, teachers, doctors, children who still go to kindergarten.”

To the Biden administration, the New York Times and Washington Post, Bloomberg News and CNN, these embattled residents of Donbass are reduced to a “Russian false flag operation,” “separatists” and “Russian proxies.”

To Democratic and Republican politicians, like the oligarchs and neo-Nazis of Kiev, the workers of Donbass are merely collateral damage, incidental casualties encountered in reaching the goal of NATO expansion and the suffocation of Russia.

As the Ukrainian military sends

Continued on page 8



Families are being evacuated from Donetsk.

Home destroyed by Ukrainian troops in Lugansk village on Feb. 20



Ukrainian attacks soon resumed, including a bomb attack on the Donetsk television center and the killing of two Lugansk civilians by a Ukrainian anti-tank missile Feb. 22.

## What Washington wants

Since November 2021, Washington has relentlessly pushed Ukraine to launch a major attack on the Donbass in hopes of drawing Russia into a conflict to justify further NATO expansion and shut down Russian fuel exports to Western Europe.

For three decades, the bipartisan goal of U.S. capitalism has been to break up Russia and bring it firmly under Washington's control — something Putin acknowledged in his Feb. 21 address to the Russian people.

On Feb. 22, Biden and “Defense” Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the deployment of thousands more U.S. troops, attack helicopters and fighter planes to Eastern Europe.

Biden imposed broad new sanctions on Russia, including individual sanctions on parliamentarians who supported the decision to recognize the Donbass republics. Other imperialist countries and U.S. puppet regimes quickly followed suit.

Perhaps most important, Germany announced Feb. 22 that it was stopping authorization of the newly completed Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline that was set to significantly increase the flow of fuel from Russia to the European Union.

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# Por qué Rusia reconoció las repúblicas del Donbas

24 de febrero de 2022  
por Greg Butterfield

Para tener hoy una clara posición contra la guerra y el antiimperialismo, las/os trabajadoras con conciencia de clase deben comprender el significado de la decisión del 21 de febrero de la Federación Rusa de reconocer a las repúblicas Donetsk y Lugansk del Donbas como países independientes y soberanos, casi ocho años después de que declararan por primera vez su independencia de Ucrania.

Luego de una transmisión en vivo sin precedentes de la reunión del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional de Rusia, el presidente Vladimir Putin anunció: "Considero necesario tomar una decisión que debería haberse tomado hace mucho tiempo: reconocer de inmediato la independencia y la soberanía de la República Popular de Donetsk (RPD) y la República Popular de Lugansk (RPL)".

Putin firmó decretos presidenciales reconociendo las repúblicas; estableciendo tratados de amistad y cooperación mutua entre ellos, y autorizando el despliegue de fuerzas de paz rusas en el Donbas si así lo solicitaban. Los líderes de la RPD y la RPL, Denis Pushilin y Leonid Pasechnik, firmaron decretos recíprocos.

Estados Unidos y sus aliados globales denunciaron la decisión.

La decisión de Rusia se produjo después de varios días de intensos ataques militares ucranianos con-

tra las dos pequeñas repúblicas. Dos terceras partes de las fuerzas militares ucranianas, armadas y entrenadas por la OTAN, se encuentran en la "línea de contacto" de aproximadamente 200 millas con Donetsk y Lugansk, cerca de Rusia. Mientras tanto, unas 175.000 tropas de la OTAN también están estacionadas en la frontera occidental de Rusia.

Cientos de ataques de artillería, tiroteos y actos terroristas ucranianos se han llevado a cabo desde el 17 de febrero, matando e hiriendo a civiles y miembros de las Milicias Populares del Donbas, destruyendo hogares y dañando infraestructura vital como plantas de filtración de agua, tuberías de gas y escuelas.

Las evacuaciones masivas de civiles de Donetsk y Lugansk comenzaron el 18 de febrero. Todos entendieron que una invasión ucraniana era inminente, a pesar de que la administración Biden, tergiversando la realidad, repetía que Rusia planeaba invadir Ucrania.

Aunque el bombardeo de Donetsk, la capital de la RPD, disminuyó brevemente después del anuncio de Rusia, pronto se reanudaron los ataques ucranianos, incluyendo un bombardeo en el centro de televisión de Donetsk y la muerte de dos civiles de Lugansk por un misil antitanque ucraniano el 22 de febrero.

## Lo que quiere Washington

Desde noviembre de 2021, Washington ha presionado persistentemente a Ucrania para que lance un

At the same time, Russia had little choice but to take this step, which was forced upon it by Washington. For eight years, since the 2014 U.S.-backed coup in Kiev, Moscow has parried numerous Western attempts to draw Russian forces into a fight with Ukraine. But it has become apparent that room to maneuver has run out.

Among the Russian people there is massive support for the residents of Donbass. It's doubtful that the Putin government could have survived the abandonment of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Putin's televised address combined a clear-eyed assessment of the stakes of the current confrontation for Russia with an analysis of Ukrainian history severely distorted by anti-Sovietism and Russian nationalism. We must honestly acknowledge that this is an impediment to rebuilding solidarity between Russian and Ukrainian workers.

But the true significance of Russia's decision to recognize the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics goes in another direction. It's an acknowledgement of the deeply rooted traditions of anti-fascism and internationalism of the multinational Soviet working class, even three decades after the socialist USSR was broken up.

Today as never before, the workers and oppressed of the U.S. and the world must reject the lies of Washington, Wall Street and the corporate media and demand: No war with Russia! Biden, recognize Donetsk and Lugansk! U.S. out of Ukraine! 🇷🇺



FOTO: AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS DE DONETSK

En Donetsk, los fuegos artificiales iluminaron el cielo y la gente ondeó banderas rusas en la Plaza de Lenin después de que Moscú reconociera las repúblicas del Donbass el 21 de febrero.

gran ataque contra el Donbas con la esperanza de involucrar a Rusia en un conflicto y así justificar una mayor expansión de la OTAN y cerrar las exportaciones de combustible ruso a Europa Occidental.

Durante tres décadas, el objetivo bipartidista del capitalismo estadounidense ha sido dividir a Rusia y ponerla firmemente bajo el control de Washington, algo que Putin reconoció en su discurso del 21 de febrero al pueblo ruso.

El 22 de febrero, Biden y el secretario de "Defensa", Lloyd Austin, ordenaron el despliegue de miles de tropas más, helicópteros de ataque y aviones de combate estadounidenses en Europa del Este.

Biden impuso nuevas y extensas sanciones a Rusia, incluidas sanciones individuales a los parlamentarios que apoyaron la decisión de reconocer las repúblicas del Donbas. Otros países imperialistas y regímenes títeres de EUA rápidamente siguieron su ejemplo. Quizás lo más importante fue cuando Alemania anunció el 22 de febrero que detendría la autorización del recién terminado gasoducto Nord Stream 2 que estaba destinado a aumentar significativamente el flujo de combustible de Rusia a la Unión Europea.

Cortando esta relación, obliga a que Europa compre productos de gas y petróleo de fuentes controladas y de propiedad estadounidense, dirigiendo las ganancias a los bancos de EUA. Este fue un objetivo principal de la campaña contra Rusia de Washington. Justo entonces, los precios del petróleo y el gas subieron a niveles casi récord, con el petróleo cerca de los 100 dólares el barril el 23 de febrero.

**De todos los imperialistas de la OTAN, Alemania fue el país que más se demoró en apoyar la campaña de guerra de EUA. Pero es importante recordar que Alemania, aunque es la potencia económica más fuerte de Europa, también está ocupada militarmente por el Pentágono, con la friolera de 119 bases militares estadounidenses, solo superada por otro enemigo imperialista, Japón, con 120.**

## La verdadera importancia del reconocimiento

El reconocimiento de Rusia de las repúblicas de Donetsk y Lugansk fue recibido con gran entusiasmo por los

residentes del Donbas, quienes han vivido ocho años de guerra y sanciones de Ucrania, y les ha costado más de 14.000 vidas. Fue un reconocimiento importante, aunque tardío, de su decisión democrática en el referéndum del 11 de mayo de 2014 y los sacrificios que han hecho para defenderse de la ocupación neo-nazi y la OTAN.

Ellos entienden, al igual que los fascistas ucranianos que buscan "limpiar" la región del Donbas, que una mayor agresión de Kiev ahora significa una confrontación militar con Rusia. El presidente de Ucrania, Volodymyr Zelensky teme esto, pero como herramienta voluntaria de Washington, no tiene poder para resistir.

Al mismo tiempo, Rusia no tuvo más remedio que dar este paso, obligado por Washington. Durante ocho años, desde el golpe de estado en Kiev del 2014 respaldado por Estados Unidos, Moscú ha evitado numerosos intentos occidentales de llevar a las fuerzas rusas a una lucha con Ucrania. Pero se ha hecho evidente que se ha agotado el margen de maniobra.

Entre el pueblo ruso hay un apoyo masivo a los residentes del Donbas. Es dudoso que el gobierno de Putin pudiera haber sobrevivido el abandono de Donetsk y Lugansk.

El discurso televisado de Putin combinó una evaluación clara de lo que está en juego en la confrontación actual para Rusia con un análisis de la historia de Ucrania severamente distorsionada por el antisovietismo y el nacionalismo ruso. Debemos reconocer honestamente que esto es un impedimento para reconstruir la solidaridad entre los trabajadores rusos y ucranianos.

Pero el verdadero significado de la decisión de Rusia de reconocer las Repúblicas Populares de Donetsk y Lugansk va en otra dirección. Es un reconocimiento de las tradiciones antifascistas e internacionalistas profundamente arraigadas de la clase obrera soviética multinacional, incluso tres décadas después de la disolución de la URSS socialista.

Hoy como nunca antes, las/os trabajadoras y oprimidos de los Estados Unidos y el mundo deben rechazar las mentiras de Washington, Wall Street y los medios corporativos y exigir: ¡No a la guerra con Rusia! ¡Biden, reconoce Donetsk y Lugansk! ¡Estados Unidos fuera de Ucrania! 🇷🇺

Continued from page 6

Cutting off this relationship – forcing Europe to buy oil and gas products from U.S.-owned and -controlled sources, directing the profits into U.S. banks – was a major goal of Washington's anti-Russia campaign. On cue, oil and gas prices jumped to near-record levels, with oil close to \$100 a barrel on Feb. 23.

**Of all the NATO imperialists, Germany had most dragged its feet in supporting the U.S. war drive. But it's important to recall that Germany, though the strongest economic power in Europe, is also militarily occupied by the Pentagon, with a whopping 119 U.S. military bases, second only to another imperialist frenemy, Japan with 120.**

## Real significance of recognition

Russia's recognition of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics was greeted with great enthusiasm by Donbass residents, who have lived under eight years of Ukrainian war and sanctions, at the cost of more than 14,000 lives. It was an important, if belated, acknowledgement of their democratic decision in the referendum of May 11, 2014 and the sacrifices they have made to fend off NATO/neo-Nazi encroachment.

They understand, as do the Ukrainian fascists that seek to "cleanse" the Donbass region, that further aggression by Kiev now means a military confrontation with Russia. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky fears this, but as a willing tool of Washington has no power to resist.

# The Western allied nations bully the world while warning of threats from China and Russia

By Vijay Prashad

On January 21, 2022, Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach attended a talk in New Delhi, India, organized by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses. Schönbach was speaking as the chief of Germany's navy during his visit to the institute. "What he really wants is respect," Schönbach said, referring to Russia's President Vladimir Putin. "And my god, giving someone respect is low cost, even no cost." Furthermore, Schönbach said that in his opinion, "It is easy to even give him the respect he really demands and probably also deserves."

The next day, on January 22, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba summoned Germany's ambassador to Ukraine, Anka Feldhusen, to Kiev and "expressed deep disappointment" regarding the lack of German weapons provided to Ukraine and also about Schönbach's comments in New Delhi. Vice Admiral Schönbach released a statement soon after, saying, "I have just asked the Federal Minister of Defense [Christine Lambrecht] to release me from my duties and responsibilities as inspector of the navy with imme-



A 2014 photo of a nuclear-armed B-52H Stratofortress bomber based at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

diately effect." Lambrecht did not wait long to accept the resignation.

Why was Vice Admiral Schönbach sacked? Because he said two things that are unacceptable in the West: first, that "the Crimean Peninsula is gone and never [coming] back" to Ukraine and, second, that Putin should be treated with respect. The Schönbach affair is a vivid illustration of the problem that confronts the West currently, where Russian behavior is routinely described as "aggression" and where the idea of giving "respect" to Russia is disparaged.

## Aggression

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration began to use the word "imminent" to describe a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine toward the end of

January. On January 18, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki did not use the word "imminent," but implied it with her comment: "Our view is this is an extremely dangerous situation. We're now at a stage where Russia could at any point launch an attack in Ukraine." On January 25, Psaki, while referring to the possible timeline for a Russian invasion, said, "I think when we said it was imminent, it remains imminent." Two days later, on January 27, when she was asked about her use of the word "imminent" with regard to the invasion, Psaki said, "Our assessment has not changed since that point."

On January 17, as the idea of an "imminent" Russian "invasion" escalated in Washington, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov rebuked the suggestion of "the so-called Russian invasion of Ukraine." Three days later, on January 20, spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova denied that Russia would invade Ukraine, but said that the talk of such an invasion allowed the West to intervene militarily in Ukraine and threaten Russia.

Even a modicum of historical memory could have improved the debate about Russian military intervention in Ukraine. In the aftermath of the Georgian-Russian conflict in 2008, the European Union's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia, headed by Swiss diplomat Heidi Tagliavini, found that the information war in the lead-up to the conflict was inaccurate and inflammatory. Contrary to Georgian-Western statements, Tagliavini said, "There was no massive Russian military invasion underway, which had to be stopped by Georgian military forces shelling Tskhinvali." The idea of Russian "aggression" that has been mentioned in recent months, while referring to the possibility of Russia invading Ukraine, replicates the tone that preceded the conflict between Georgia and Russia, which was another dispute about old Soviet borders that should have been handled diplomatically.

Western politicians and media outlets have used the fact that 100,000 Russian troops have been stationed on Ukraine's border as a sign of "aggression." The number—100,000—sounds threatening, but it has been taken out of context. To invade Iraq in 1991, the United States and its allies amassed more than 700,000 troops as well as the entire ensemble of U.S. war technology located in its nearby bases and on its ships. Iraq had no allies and a military force depleted by the decade-long war of attrition against Iran. Ukraine's army—regular and reserve—number about 500,000 troops (backed by the 1.5 million troops in NATO countries). With more than a million soldiers in uniform, Russia could have deployed many more troops at the Ukrainian border and would need to have done so for a full-scale invasion of a NATO partner country.

## Respect

The word "respect" used by Vice Admiral Schönbach is key to the discussion regarding the emergence of

both Russia and China as world powers. The conflict is not merely about Ukraine, just as the conflict in the South China Sea is not merely about Taiwan. The real conflict is about whether the West will allow both Russia and China to define policies that extend beyond their borders.

Russia, for instance, was not seen as a threat or as aggressive when it was in a less powerful position in comparison to the West after the collapse of the USSR. During the tenure of Russian President Boris Yeltsin (1991-1999), the Russian government encouraged the looting of the country by oligarchs—many of whom now reside in the West—and defined its own foreign policy based on the objectives of the United States. In 1994, "Russia became the first country to join NATO's Partnership for Peace," and that same year, Russia began a three-year process of joining the Group of Seven, which in 1997 expanded into the Group of Eight. Putin became president of Russia in 2000, inheriting a vastly depleted country, and promised to build it up so that Russia could realize its full potential.

In the aftermath of the collapse of the Western credit markets in 2007-2008, Putin began to speak about the new buoyancy in Russia. In 2015, I met a Russian diplomat in Beirut, who explained to me that Russia worried that various Western-backed maneuvers threatened Russia's access to its two warm-water ports—in Sevastopol, Crimea, and in Tartus, Syria; it was in reaction to these provocations, he said, that Russia acted in both Crimea (2014) and Syria (2015).

The United States made it clear during the administration of President Barack Obama that both Russia and China must stay within their borders and know their place in the world order. An aggressive policy of NATO expansion into Eastern Europe and of the creation of the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the United States) drew Russia and China into a security alliance that has only strengthened over time. Both Putin and China's President Xi Jinping recently agreed that NATO's expansion eastward and Taiwan's independence were not acceptable to them. China and Russia see the West's actions in both Eastern Europe and Taiwan as provocations by the West against the ambitions of these Eurasian powers.

That same Russian diplomat to whom I spoke in Beirut in 2015 said something to me that remains pertinent: "When the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq, none of the Western press called it 'aggression.'"

*This article was produced by Globetrotter. Vijay Prashad is an Indian historian, editor and journalist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at Globetrotter. He is the chief editor of LeftWord Books and the director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research. He is a senior non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including *The Darker Nations* and *The Poorer Nations*. His latest book is *Washington Bullets*, with an introduction by Evo Morales Ayma.*

## Donbass resists U.S.-planned attack

Continued from page 6

exploding shells whistling into civilian areas of Lugansk and Donetsk, its Sabotage and Reconnaissance Groups (DRGs) attempt to sow fear by infiltrating the republics and carrying out acts of terror.

On the night of Feb. 18, as Ukrainian bombs rained on the world's longest gas pipeline, causing a massive explosion in the capital of Lugansk, a DRG blew up the car of the Donetsk People's Militia leader outside the government center in Donetsk. No one was killed.

Then, on Feb. 20, a dramatic night battle took place between DPR special forces and a Ukrainian DRG in the Kievsky district of Donetsk. Two DPR troops were wounded. One Ukrainian terrorist was killed, and another taken prisoner.

Alexey Albu, an antifascist exile from Odessa, Ukraine, now living in Lugansk, witnessed the aftermath of the gas pipeline explosion from his home. He told *Struggle-La Lucha*: "The next day we tried to evacuate our comrades, but Ukrainian Nazis mined an important bridge in Samsonovka village. There was a big traffic jam. We drove in fields and got lost many times. When we came back we saw that the bridge was open and a lot of cars went to the border."

Stanislav Retinsky, a secretary of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic, told SLL: "Due to the aggravation of the situation on the front line through the fault of Ukraine, the educational process, cultural and sports events have been suspended in the Donetsk People's Republic.

"Due to the increased demand, there was a temporary shortage of fuel at petrol stations. Large queues can be observed near ATMs. In this

regard, the Central Republican Bank has set a daily cash withdrawal limit on one card of 10 thousand rubles.

"At the same time, card payments in retail chain stores can be carried out without restrictions. Hospitals are operating normally."

Sveta Licht, a political activist who grew up in Donetsk and returned there after the 2014 U.S.-backed coup in Kiev, explained: "The evacuation that is currently taking place in Donbass is voluntary. Everyone who left, left of their own will.

"Most of the remaining are those who left in 2014-15 and now do not want to, or their work is related to the functioning of important infrastructure, for example. Among those who remain, it is really people ready to become volunteers [to defend against invasion].

"We don't panic, we're fine. We are not planning to evacuate for now according to family circumstances. ... Plus, the elderly and children are the priority, the republic is saving pensioners from nursing homes and orphanages first, and that's right. Those who had to live as refugees will understand."

It is because of the bravery, determination and sacrifice of the Donbass people that U.S. ambitions to provoke a bigger war with Russia have been held back for the last eight years. They continue to resist, true to the traditions of their Soviet ancestors who fought back and defeated the German Nazi occupation and its Ukrainian collaborators during World War II.

Today the responsibility of the workers of the world, and especially those in the U.S. and other NATO countries, is to extend the hand of solidarity to them and shut down Washington's war plans. 📌

# The occupation of Ottawa is a far-right assault on labor and democracy

By Stephen Gowans

Ottawa, Feb. 10 — Some people believe the occupation of Ottawa is a leftwing, pro-working-class phenomenon, but that's hardly the view of trade unionists, community organizers, activists and frontline workers here in the city.

We see, feel, hear, and experience the occupation first-hand, on the ground. That might be why we understand the occupation differently: not as a leftwing phenomenon and democratic expression, but as a far-right movement of racists, evangelicals, union-haters, and conspiracy-minded lunatics, inspired and supported by the likes of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Elon Musk.

To be sure, you don't have to live in Ottawa to grasp the true nature of the occupation.

Teamsters Canada opposes the occupation and calls COVID-19 "the real enemy of truckers."

Pierre LeBlanc, a local activist, recently wrote to Matt Taibbi, who has written an substack article describing the occupation as Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau's Ceausescu Moment.

In his response to Taibbi, LeBlanc summed up quite effectively why the Ottawa occupation is an anti-labor, far-right phenomenon:

Dear Matt,

I regularly read you and find much of your writings instructive. This time, you have overreached to cartoonish effect. Attempting to link Trudeau to Ceausescu was gross, baseless hyperbole at its worst. And it seriously erodes your credibility.

I despise Biden, the Clintons and Trudeau as much as you do, and have often said so in my writings, but you totally misrepresent what is going on here.

What is going on here in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada is a full-on assault on Canadians by organised cadres of the extreme, fundamentalist, right-wing evangelicals, recently or forcefully retired RCMP and other police officers, one of Trump's advisors and a whole raft of Canadian and American conservatives and rightwing wingnuts. Much of it financed by American so-called donors and whipped-up by Fox News and many others. That you should associate your good name with them is sorely disappointing.

Firstly, this is not a truckers' protest. It is a planned insurrection, a version of color revolutions not unlike what went on in Ukraine, Georgia and Bolivia, and the ongoing attempted coups d'etat against Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Peru, Chile and many other countries around the world, and the defense and promotion of Apartheid Israel. As well as the attempted laughable political and economic throttling of Russia and China. Real truckers who make their daily



A supporter carries a U.S. Confederate flag during the Freedom Convoy protesting COVID-19 vaccine mandates and restrictions in front of Parliament on January 29, 2022, in Ottawa, Canada. Hundreds of truckers drove their giant rigs into the Canadian capital Ottawa on Saturday as part of a self-titled "Freedom Convoy" to protest vaccine mandates required to cross the U.S. border.

*living crossing the border are few and far between. Indeed, this occupation is deeply damaging to them and their families – they will be long degraded by this cynical hijacking of their good name and profession. Even at the Ambassador Bridge blockade, there are only 5 transport trucks involved in that blockade. The rest are the same people who have been attacking nurses, doctors and other health workers in front of hospitals for over 2 years, and who have suddenly discovered that using their supped-up half-ton toys, 4X4s, SUVs and tractors as weapons is very effective. Much like Kissinger and Pinochet organized a fringe of truckers in Chile in 1973 to overthrow Allende.*

*The cadres leading this are the who's who of Canada's supremacist extremists (you know the list) linked up with former RCMP officers (the latest iteration of the spokesman is ex-RCMP). They are holed-up in the luxury of an Ottawa hotel with one of Trump's advisors, linked up with other yahoos of the U.S. oligarchy/billionaire club (Elon Musk, etc., and the military complex deep-state agents). Collectively, they are highly experienced in sabotage, artificially creating infrastructure and economic gridlock to bring a society to its knees and whipping up disaffected and naïve citizens as their film extras, blackshirts and peons.*

*But you surely know all of this, Matt; you're a student of capitalist/imperialist/fascist history. What I don't understand is what motivates you to such drivel. Unless it is some kind of nihilistic desire to replace Canada's capitalist, racist, colonialist system by any means, even if that means creating an even more fascist state.*

*You're either naïve, seeking attention or a classic disruptor, consequences and massive suffering be damned.*

Pierre LeBlanc

The lunatic far right People's Party is four-square behind the occupation, as are the interim leader and likely future leader of the country's Conservative Party. When have anti-union, pro-business, social conservative parties ever embraced an authentic, pro-labor, left-wing movement? The Ottawa police have done nothing

to liberate the city, preferring to avoid confrontation and hob-nob with the occupiers, or avoid them altogether. The city's chief of police, Peter Sloly, is an endless source of excuses for why he and his officers cannot act. Early on he declared "there may be no policing solution." The chief's inaction has led to calls for his resignation, along with that of the city's mayor, Jim Watson, dubbed Mayor Milquetoast by a local newspaper columnist for offering nothing more than impotent pleas for the occupiers to go home. With what genuine leftwing, pro-worker, movement has the police ever been complicit?

A coalition of local labor unions, community organizations, and residents will hold a rally this Saturday in solidarity with frontline workers and Ottawa residents affected by the occupation.

It will

- Call for an end to the occupation.
- Show support for frontline workers.
- Say no to white supremacy, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia and all other forms of hate that the convoy has directed at residents.
- Call for public health measures that protect our communities.

- Call for immediate support for workers who have lost income due to the convoy, 14 paid sick days for all workers, decent pandemic pay, an end to the crisis in long-term care, and a strong public health-care system.

A majority of Canadians and U.S. Americans support COVID-19 restrictions. Occupy Ottawa is not a grassroots working-class movement, but an astroturfed corruption of far-right billionaires whose aim is to pressure governments to lift all COVID-19 restrictions and return to business-normal. As The Wall Street Journal, the mouthpiece of the hard-right billionaire class put it, "the message of Canada's trucker protest" is that "it's time for the pandemic emergency orders to end." (How many legitimately leftwing, pro-worker, pro-democracy movements were ever endorsed by The Wall Street Journal?) If the far-right elite and its occupation shock-troops have their way, governments will transition from COVID-19 mitigation measures to a "living with COVID" strategy, more aptly dubbed "dying with COVID"—over the opposition of a majority of their citizens.

The Journal acknowledged that most Canadians oppose the occupation of their capital. Musk, Trump, the Journal, Canada's far-right parties, and the occupiers care not a fig for democracy, not one jot for the well-being of others, and not one iota for the welfare of labor. Their sole concern is to lift COVID-19 restrictions, and they appear ready to go to great lengths to achieve their aim, no matter how reactionary their goal and no matter how anti-democratic and thuggish their methods. [R]

URGENT

LEONARD PELTIER HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID

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## The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot



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# ¡Victoria a las fuerzas antifascistas del Donbas y sus aliados! ¡EUA / OTAN, saquen sus manos de Rusia!

Comunicado del Partido de Socialismo Unido sobre el conflicto militar en Ucrania

El 24 de febrero, las Repúblicas Populares antifascistas de Donetsk y Lugansk, junto con la Federación Rusa, lanzaron una acción militar con el objetivo de “desmilitarizar y desnazificar” el régimen golpista de Estados Unidos y la OTAN en Ucrania. Es en el interés de las/os pobres y trabajadores, fuerzas contra la guerra y antiimperialistas, especialmente en EUA y otros países de la OTAN, tener una posición clara e inequívoca en solidaridad con las fuerzas antifascistas. El verdadero peligro de guerra proviene de las fuerzas estadounidenses y de la OTAN que rodean a Rusia. El gobierno de Kiev es un representante de estas fuerzas guerrilleras, y no tienen en cuenta al pueblo de Ucrania.

Durante ocho años, las/os habitantes de Donetsk y Lugansk en la región del Donbas han mantenido su independencia frente a los constantes bombardeos, disparos y ataques terroristas del gobierno ucraniano, un régimen instalado por un golpe fascista orquestado con el apoyo bipartidista de EUA. Más de 14.000 personas han muerto en la guerra de Ucrania en Donbas, según las Naciones Unidas.

Desde noviembre del 2021, EUA ha presionado a Kiev para que lance una nueva invasión asesina del Donbas, al tiempo que afirma que la verdadera amenaza viene de Rusia contra Ucrania. Mientras tanto, EUA y sus aliados militares de la OTAN vertieron armas y “entrenadores” en Ucrania y construyeron sus propios ejércitos imperialistas en las fronteras occidentales de Rusia y en toda Europa del Este. Estados Unidos rechazó las justas demandas de Moscú de garantizar la neutralidad de Ucrania y retirar los ejércitos de la OTAN.

Rusia reconoció oficialmente la independencia de Lugansk y Donetsk el 21 de febrero, casi ocho años después de que el pueblo de Donbas eligiera abrumadoramente la independencia en un referéndum democrático, rechazando el régimen del gobierno golpista prooccidental y neofascista en Ucrania.

La respuesta de EUA y sus aliados fue imponer nuevas sanciones a Rusia, un acto de guerra, y enviar aún más tropas y armas para amenazar a los países independientes de la región. Esto incluyó el bloqueo del proyecto de gasoducto Nord Stream II entre Rusia y la Unión Europea, un objetivo importante de los bancos de Wall Street y las grandes petroleras.

Washington y la OTAN empujaron deliberada y metódicamente a las repúblicas del Donbas y Rusia a un rincón, del que solo había dos opciones para salir: someterse o contraatacar.

En la noche del 23 al 24 de febrero, las Milicias Populares de Donetsk y Lugansk y sus aliados rusos lanzaron una acción militar con el objetivo de recuperar las áreas ocupadas por Ucrania en el Donbas y desmilitarizar y desnazificar el régimen ucraniano-OTAN.

Las Milicias Populares están luchando para hacer retroceder a las Fuerzas Armadas de Ucrania, incluidos los batallones neonazis armados y entrenados por EUA, Canadá y la OTAN, que amenazan constantemente la vida de sus residentes. Los supremacistas blancos de EUA se han entrenado con las bandas fascistas ucranianas, algo que incluso el FBI admitió, y adquirieron experiencia militar luchando contra Donbas; experiencia que traen para

atacar a las comunidades oprimidas aquí. Fueron actores clave en la manifestación “Unir a la derecha” en Charlottesville, Virginia, y en el asesinato de la activista antirracista Heather Heyer.

Las fuerzas armadas rusas han llevado a cabo ataques contra al menos 74 bases militares en toda Ucrania, muchas de ellas construidas y mejoradas por la OTAN específicamente para facilitar la guerra contra Rusia. Antifascistas de Rusia, Donbas y Ucrania clandestinos también están trabajando para localizar, capturar o eliminar a las fuerzas neonazis, incluidos los cabecillas de la masacre de Odessa de 2014, cuando al menos 46 personas fueron asesinadas en la Casa de los Sindicatos.

La acción militar antifascista impulsada en Donbas y Rusia por las potencias imperialistas occidentales, principalmente el presidente Joe Biden y el gobierno de EUA, ha expuesto confusión y equivocaciones en el movimiento contra la guerra de EUA, incluso entre socialistas y comunistas.

Estemos claros: la Rusia capitalista moderna no es un país imperialista. No tenía medios para convertirse en uno después de la contrarrevolución en la URSS. Es una potencia regional similar a la India o Brasil, principalmente un exportador de productos básicos, no de capital. Para mantener su independencia, Rusia tuvo que aliarse con otros países en oposición al imperialismo.

El régimen golpista de Ucrania, por el contrario, es un peón del imperialismo estadounidense que ha estado librando una guerra brutal contra sus vecinos en Donbas durante ocho años y se ofreció como base para la

agresión de la OTAN contra Rusia.

Queremos recordar al movimiento los principios establecidos en los albores del imperialismo por V.I. Lenin, el líder de la revolución bolchevique. Al diferenciar la posición comunista de la de los pacifistas, que condenan todas las guerras por igual, Lenin dijo: “Entendemos que las guerras no se pueden abolir hasta que se acaben las clases y se cree el socialismo”.

Si Irán atacó a Arabia Saudita para detener la guerra genocida de Estados Unidos contra Yemen (llevada a cabo por Arabia Saudita a instancias de Washington), que también amenaza a Irán y sus aliados regionales, esperamos que los antiimperialistas reconozcan que esta fue una guerra justa, a pesar de algunas de nuestras diferencias ideológicas con el gobierno de la República Islámica de Irán. Sin embargo, esto es exactamente lo que está sucediendo hoy en Ucrania.

Nuestra responsabilidad es detener el imperialismo estadounidense y sus guerras en todas sus formas, y solidarizarnos con quienes luchan contra la dominación estadounidense.

**¡Victoria para las Repúblicas Populares de Donetsk y Lugansk y sus aliados!**

**¡Solidaridad con la clandestinidad antifascista y los exiliados de Ucrania!**

**EUA/OTAN: ¡Fuera sus manos de Rusia! ¡Fuera de Ucrania y Europa del Este!**

**¡Desmantelamiento de la maquinaria de guerra imperialista de la OTAN – que regresen todas las tropas a casa ahora! 📢**

Granma: Ucrania y la chispa de Donbás <sup>5</sup> Por qué Rusia reconoció las repúblicas del Donbas <sup>7</sup>

## ¿Quién es ese que se escucha? Es el pueblo en pie de lucha.

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Una colonia existe únicamente para el lucro del poder invasor imperial. Y hoy Puerto Rico se encuentra en la mayor crisis de explotación en nuestra historia.

Aparte de todos los planes de austeridad y robo de recursos impuestos por el Congreso de los EUA a través de la maldita Junta de Control Fiscal, el puñal lo han clavado justo en el corazón del pueblo, su clase obrera, la que forma la mayoría de nuestra población, ya esté organizada en sindicatos, o no. Los ataques están dirigidos a empobrecer tanto esta clase que no tenga más remedio que emigrar o morirse lentamente sin recursos ni salud en su patria.

Pero esa clase, indignada y rebelde, está en constante pie de lucha para defender sus derechos laborales, sus salarios y pensiones que les permita vivir dignamente. Exi-

gen el cese de las privatizaciones que tanta corrupción y malos servicios han traído al pueblo.

Comenzaron por el sector del magisterio y de energía y se han sumado casi todos los sectores de servicio público, estudiantes y hasta meseras y meseros que reclaman un justo salario y no los \$2.13 que reciben desde hace treinta años.

El magisterio en lucha está representado por FADEP, Frente Amplio en Defensa de la Educación Pública. Son sindicatos militantes que el gobierno no legitima porque solo avala el “representante exclusivo” la Asociación de Maestros, un sindicato patronal aliado al imperio y al sindicato estadounidense de maestros, la AFT.

Sin embargo, fue la FADEP la que luego de multitudinarias manifestaciones obligó al gobierno a sentarse a negociar, obteniendo una victoria parcial, el aumento de \$1000 dólares al mes. Pero lo más importante, un

retiro digno que represente un 75% de su paga como es actualmente, tanto la Junta como el gobierno se niegan a conceder. Prefieren usar ese dinero para pagar a los bonistas buitres, acreedores de una deuda ilegal que ni siquiera se ha auditado.

La lucha sigue creciendo y se están creando comités de huelga en los sitios de trabajo para adelantar un posible paro nacional en el futuro cercano.

Mientras tanto, la concientización del pueblo va aumentando y todos los días hay manifestaciones alrededor



FOTO: NAHIRA MONTCOURT/EL VOCERO  
Los maestros llevaron su protesta hasta La Fortaleza.

de la isla donde se oye decir ¿quién es ese que se escucha? Es el pueblo en pie de lucha. 📢

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



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